

**VOWCHURCH GROUP PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Michaelchurch Escley, Newton, St Margarets, Turnastone, Vowchurch**

**Minutes of the Vowchurch Group Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2019  
at 7.30pm in Vowchurch & Turnastone Memorial Hall**

**PRESENT** – Mr P Mason (Chairman), Mr E Williams, Mr T Williams, Mr S Cole, Mr A Picton, Mr R Lloyd and Mr J Kernahan.

**IN ATTENDANCE** – Ward Councillor Peter Jinman, Mr N Lewis (Footpath Officer), PCSO Fiona Witcher and Mrs L Cowles (Clerk).

1. **ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – Mr H Franklin, Ms E May and Mr T Griffiths (Lengthsman).
2. **RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & CONSIDER ANY WRITTEN APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION** – There were no declarations of interest or written requests for dispensation.
3. **ADOPT MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ORDINARY MEETING** – 20<sup>th</sup> June 2019 – The minutes were signed as a true and accurate record.
4. **OPEN DISCUSSION** – No members of the public attended the meeting therefore no specific points were raised.
5. **REPORTS**
  - 5.1 Local Police – PCSO Witcher reported that a disturbing incident had occurred the previous weekend where intruders had been caught on land with equipment potentially used to butcher sheep. Farmers, please be aware. Escleyside Cricket Pavilion has been broken into with 6 tables and a projector stolen. Bag stolen from unlocked vehicle at Vowchurch Court Farm.
  - 5.2 Ward Councillor – Councillor Jinman reported that the first full council meeting was held last week. Items discussed were the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), which the Council does not currently impose but this would be looked at in the near future. This is a levy that should be used to support development by funding infrastructure the council, local community and neighbourhoods want rather than Section 106 payments which go into a central pot.  
Taxi licensing.  
Child Welfare.  
Treasury – A main concern is funding for road repairs. Councillor Jinman has recently been on a parish drive with the Locality Steward. There is now no central government funding and it is a priority to keep ditches etc clear therefore there will be a need to enforce Riparian Ownership.  
Link Road/Bypass – There should be an announcement within the next two weeks.
  - 5.3 Lengthsman report – The Lengthsman was unable to attend the meeting. His monthly report had been forwarded to Councillors prior to the meeting. An overhanging branch was reported on the C1206 near Slough Cottages.  
Mr T Williams left the meeting.
  - 5.4 Footpath Officer – Neil Lewis reported that he has received two further complaints regarding dogs at Stockley Hill Farm where residents are afraid to use the footpath. The Clerk advised that the police had been to visit the landowner and were satisfied that the dogs they saw were not displaying any aggressive behaviour and they would be taking no further action. The Footpaths Officer was unsure if they had seen all the dogs. There is also concern that the footpath has been blocked by a gate which cannot be easily moved. The landowners have recently spoken to Mr Kernahan and have raised concerns that they feel they are being harassed by the Parish Council. It was agreed that Mr Kernahan and the footpaths officer would visit the landowner to explain that the Parish Council has simply acted on concerns raised by local residents about dogs running loose at the farm and about the barrier across the footpath. The Parish Council must act on these concerns if it is to carry out its responsibilities

properly. Footpaths VO85, VO44 and VO33(A) in Vowchurch are overgrown – Clerk to report to Herefordshire Council.

**6. CLERKS UPDATE** – Prior approval is not required for planning application 192179, Wern Willan Farm, Michealchurch Escley.

Herefordshire Travellers Sites Development Plan Inspectors report was published on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2019, details had been emailed to Councillors prior to the meeting.

The C1205 at Michaelchurch will be closed from 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2019 – 9<sup>th</sup> August 2019.

Madley draft NDP consultation runs from 15<sup>th</sup> July 2019 – 9<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

Herefordshire Council has recently reviewed polling districts, polling places and polling stations. There will be no changes for this parish.

Additional correspondence has been received from Verging on Wild and a local resident regarding verges. It was agreed to include in the August agenda to discuss and receive report from the meeting held in Longtown on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July.

**7. CONSIDER PLANNING**

**7.1 PLANNING CONSULTATION**

**Site:** Gwerndwr House, Newton St Margarets, Herefordshire. HR2 0QY  
**Description:** Change of use of the farm yard at Gwerndwr House to light storage and distribution yard (Retrospective).

**Application No:** 191949 **Grid Ref:** 334311:234221

**NO OBJECTION**

**7.2 PLANNING CONSULTATION**

**Site:** The Old School, Vowchurch, Herefordshire. HR2 ORB  
**Description:** Remove single storey lean to at rear of the house and construct a new 2 storey extension.

**Application No:** 192211 **Grid Ref:** 336155:236528

**NO OBJECTION**

**7.3 PLANNING CONSULTATION**

**Site:** Turnastone Court, Vowchurch, Herefordshire. HR2 ORA  
**Description:** Variation of Condition 2 ref 102245/F – internal amendments.

**Application No:** 192262 **Grid Ref:** 335846:236462

**NO OBJECTION**

**7.4 PLANNING RE-CONSULTATION – Amended and Additional**

**Site:** Barn (known as The Cottage) at Old Kate’s Farm, Michaelchurch Escley  
**Description:** Proposed conversion of barn (known as The Cottage) to form residential accommodation.

**Application No:** 183961/183962 **Grid Ref:** 329096:237325

**NO OBJECTION**

**7.5 PRIOR APPROVAL – ALL OTHERS – No comments being accepted**

**Site:** Wern Willan Farm, Michaelchurch Escley, Herefordshire. HR2 0JY  
**Description:** Prior notification of agricultural or forestry development – proposed agricultural building.

**Application No:** 192179 **Grid Ref:** 331980:236651

**7.6 PLANNING PERMISSION GRANTED**

**Site:** The Grove Farm, Michaelchurch Escley, Herefordshire. HR2 OPT  
**Description:** Proposed agricultural building.

**Application No:** 191222 **Grid Ref:** 331092:235078

**8. FINANCE**

**8.1** Confirmation of bank balance - £13,531.59 Statement Sheet No. 134 issued 17<sup>th</sup> June 2019.

**8.2** Receipts – £1061.97 VAT reclaim.

**8.3** Payment to Mrs Linda Cowles for June 2019 Clerk’s hours – **Payment agreed.**

- 8.4** Payment to Mr T Griffiths, invoice no. TGC0785 for Roads account May 2019 (1) of £364.00 plus VAT and invoice no. TGC0811 for roads account June 2019 (1) of £364.00 plus VAT – **Payment agreed.**
- 8.5** Payment to SLCC for Clerks' 2019/20 membership of £89.00 – **Payment agreed.**
- 8.6** Finance Working Group – The quarterly reports were distributed to Councillors prior to the meeting. The Finance Working Group confirmed that the spreadsheets, invoices and PAYE had been checked and all were in order.
- 9. WEBSITE SECURITY** – The clerk has now received recommendations and will update at the August meeting.
- 10. ST MARY MAGDALENES CHURCH, TURNASTONE** – The Clerk has spoken with Wendy Coombey the Community Partnership & Funding Officer for the Diocese. They have been looking at revenue opportunities where a church could still be used as a place of worship and where the building was in a good state of repair, Turnastone was identified as an opportunity. The PCC were interested in exploring the possibility of the church developing a holiday pod with the support of the vicar. The Diocese has just learnt that they have obtained funding from the Lottery Heritage Fund to develop plans, nothing has been designed at present. They will be employing a development officer in the near future. They have already been in communication with some of the local community and will keep the parish council informed of any developments.
- 11. GOLDEN VALLEY GREEN ROUTES** – Councillors had been send the summary of green routes idea and latest version of HGV controlled weight proposal prior to the meeting. Ward Councillor Peter Jinman also advised that he had met with them last week. The basic idea would be for HGV's not to use the B4348 in the Golden Valley as a through route but to travel via Hereford or Abergavenny instead. The parish council have concerns as to how this can be enforced knowing that many signs are advisory. It was agreed that the parish council would respond that whilst they have sympathy with the idea, they also have concerns regarding its feasibility.
- 12. AUGUST NEWSLETTER** – Parish Councillor vacancies and reporting suspicious activity to the Police.
- 13. NOTE THE CORRESPONDENCE SHEET** – The correspondence sheet was noted.
- 14. RAISE MATTERS FOR THE NEXT ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** – Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> August 2019 at 7.30pm in Newton Church room – Verges, website security and report from Mr Kernahan regarding visit to landowner at Stockley Hill Farm.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.35pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....