

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

**Minutes of the Vowchurch Group Parish Council meeting held on  
Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2019 at 7.30pm in Vowchurch & Turnastone Memorial Hall**

**PRESENT** – Councillors T Williams (Vice – Chair), E Williams, S Cole, E May, J Kernahan, H Franklin, A Picton and R Lloyd.

**IN ATTENDANCE** – PCSO Pete Knight and Mrs L Cowles (Clerk).

*In the absence of the Chair due to illness, Councillor T Williams chaired the meeting. Councillor T Williams passed on best wishes to Councillor Mason on behalf of the Parish Council.*

1. **ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – Councillor P Mason and Ward Councillor Peter Jinman.
2. **RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & CONSIDER ANY WRITTEN APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION** – Councillor T Williams declared a non-disclosable interest in agenda item 7.1; the declarations book was signed accordingly. There were no written applications for dispensation.
3. **ADOPT MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ORDINARY MEETING** – 17<sup>th</sup> October 2019 – The minutes were signed as a true and accurate record.
4. **OPEN DISCUSSION** - No members of the public attended the meeting and therefore no specific points were raised.

**5. REPORTS**

**5.1** Local Police – PCSO Knight reported that it had been a relatively quiet month with no major crimes.

West End Garage in Turnastone has had a sign stolen from the outside of the building. PC Sarah Smith has been appointed as Rural Crimes Officer in South Herefordshire. There have been a number of serious courier fraud offences within the county with 50 reported cases in this month alone. They have been targeting vulnerable people. These criminals have been arriving by car or train, spending approximately an hour in the county before leaving. This is a reminder to never part with any of your personal information, bank cards, money or valuables. The police and your bank would never ask for details such as your PIN or account numbers over the phone. Please spread the word and be vigilant

**5.2** Ward Councillor – Ward Councillor Peter Jinman was unable to attend the meeting.

**5.3** Lengthsman report and any new road defects including salt requirements for this winter to be kept locally. The Lengthsman was unable to attend the meeting. The Clerk reported that she had contacted the Locality Steward for an update regarding the drainage issues near Maerdy Farm on the U75015 he has advised that it is unlikely to be completed as per the initial plans as discussed earlier in the year. This was part of a larger scheme which is at best delayed because of the withdrawal of certain budgets. He suggested that this maybe something the Parish Council would like to discuss with the Ward Councillor and seek his views. He also confirmed that he would like the Parish Council to be the first port of call when raising drainage issues with local residents pointing to their responsibilities as Riparian Owners and providing them with a copy of the leaflet. Councillor Cole advised that this was not the case in other parishes and Locality Stewards have a standard form that they can send to landowners. As this can sometimes cause bad feeling within the local community it was agreed that the Parish Council would like the Locality Steward to approach landowners to remind them of their responsibilities.

Councillor E Williams agreed to have the one tonne of salt offered by Balfour Beatty to be stored at his home in Craswall for local use.

Potholes reported on the U75015 between Maerdy Farm and Tanners Place.



- 5.4 Footpath Officer** – Mr Neil Lewis was unable to attend the meeting. Councillor May reported that she has now walked all of St Margarets footpaths apart from two and will be reporting defects as soon as possible. Both Footpath Officers had attending a training session with Balfour Beatty recently which was very informative.
- 6. CLERKS UPDATE** – Herefordshire Councils 2020/21 budget and corporate plan consultation runs from 7<sup>th</sup> November – 4<sup>th</sup> December 2019. There is a Parish Briefing on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2019 at Balfour Beatty's Thorn Depot from 2pm. There is another opportunity to attend a Core Strategy and Neighbourhood Planning review meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> December between 0930 -1100 at Herefordshire Council, Plough Lane, Hereford. The Neighbourhood Planning team have sent a questionnaire requesting feedback on the Parish Councils previous experiences of neighbourhood planning as well as any future intentions. It was agreed to invite Councillor Mason to complete the questionnaire. The Clerk has received a letter of thanks from a local resident regarding the removal of the tree guard opposite the church in Vowchurch and enquiring after the memorial plaque. The Clerk has advised that the Parish Council did agree to have a new post made and the plaque would be re-installed as soon as the post was ready. Planning number P192917 has been received for prior notification for a proposed implement and tool building at The Long Barn, Michaelchurch Escley. HR2 OJW. Herefordshire Council are not accepting comments for this planning application.

## 7. CONSIDER PLANNING

### 7.1 PLANNING CONSULTATION

**Site:** Castle Ibo Farm, Newton St Margarets, Herefordshire. HR2 ORF  
**Description:** Application for discharge of planning obligation (S106) accompanying planning permission ref. SH930017PF  
**Application No:** 193622 **Grid Ref:** 332708:235326

#### NO OBJECTION

### 7.2 PLANNING PERMISSION GRANTED

**Site:** The Old School, Vowchurch, Herefordshire. HR2 ORB  
**Description:** Remove single storey lean to at the rear of the house and construct a new 2 storey extension.  
**Application No:** 192211 **Grid Ref:** 336155:236528

### 7.3 PLANNING PERMISSION GRANTED

**Site:** Wells Green, Newton St Margarets, Herefordshire. HR2 OQG  
**Description:** Proposed extension to the curtilage of the existing dwelling together with a Relocated vehicular access, new off-road parking and turning area and a static caravan providing temporary ancillary accommodation for the existing cottage. Retrospective.  
**Application No:** 192983 **Grid Ref:** 332910:234878

### 7.4 PLANNING PERMISSION GRANTED

**Site:** Upper Maes-coed Methodist Church, Newton St Margarets. HR2 OQQ  
**Description:** Proposed change of use from church to a dwelling and first floor rear extension.  
**Application No:** 192708 **Grid Ref:** 332616:235120

## 8. FINANCE

- 8.1** Confirmation of updated bank balance - £14,670.17 Statement Sheet No. 139 issued 17<sup>th</sup> November 2019.
- 8.2** Receipts – £5607.50 2<sup>nd</sup> precept payment.
- 8.3** Payment to Mr T Griffiths, invoice no. TGC0900 for roads account September 2019 (1) of £364.00 plus VAT, invoice no. TGC0922 for roads account October 2019 (1) of £364.00 plus VAT and invoice no. TGC0923 for roads account October (2) of £364.00 plus VAT – **Payment agreed.**



- 8.4** Payment to Mrs Linda Cowles for October & November 2019 Clerk's hours, 2017-18 back pay, £38.02 plus VAT for Ink cartridges and £7.48 plus VAT for stationery – **Payment agreed.**
- 8.5** Donations for 2020/21 – It was agreed to donate £30 each to St Margarets Parish Church, Michaelchurch Escley PCC, Newton Parish Church, Turnastone PCC and Vowchurch PCC along with £50 to Dore community Transport. It was noted that whilst Turnastone PCC and Vowchurch PCC had officially merged and are now administered jointly it was agreed to donate £30 for each church.
- 8.6 FINANCIAL REGULATIONS** – It was agreed to adopt the new Financial Regulations.
- 9. B4348 & C1206 SPEED LIMITS** – The West Mercia Police Traffic Management Advisor has advised that there have been three injury RTC's in the last 5 years on the B4348, none on the C1206. Two were slight injuries and one serious. The two slight injury collisions were both in 2018 and the serious injury was in October this year. The two slight injury involved snow/ice and mud on the road causing vehicles to lose control and the serious injury was as a result of a pedestrian crossing the road in the dark emerging from a footpath into the path of a vehicle travelling on the B4348. He confirmed that they do not keep a record of non-injury RTC's other than their own incident logs, and when considering any changes to the highway, e.g. speed limits, junction engineering measures etc. only injury RTC's are taken into account. The Parish Council noted that there did not seem to be much evidence for a reduction in the speed limited where RTC's were concerned but requested that the Clerk contact Ward Councillor Peter Jinman for him to continue to pursue the Traffic Regulation Order with Balfour Beatty.
- 10. MEETING DATES** – It was agreed to continue to meet on the third Thursday of every month apart from December.
- 11. DECEMBER NEWSLETTER** – Latest fraud offences targeting the vulnerable & elderly, Parish Councillor vacancies.
- 12. NOTE THE CORRESPONDENCE SHEET** – The correspondence sheet was noted.
- 13. RAISE MATTERS FOR THE NEXT ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** – Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at 7.30pm in Vowchurch & Turnastone Memorial Hall – None at present.

The Vice-Chair declared the meeting closed at 8pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....