# **Hewelsfield and Brockweir Parish Council**

# Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 6th September 2016 in The Loft, Village Shop, Brockweir.

**Present:** Cllr Fox,Cllr. Sinfield, Cllr. Harris, Cllr. Endersby, Cllr. Wilson, Cllr. Bowen and the Parish Clerk. Six members of the public were also present. District Cllr. Patrick Molyneux also joined the meeting.

**2652 Apologies for Absence**

All present.

**2653 Declaration of Interest**

None declared

The Chairman closed the meeting for members of the public to raise matters.

* Two parishioners raised the issue of a new entrance created in a field very close to St Mary Magdalene Church, Hewelsfield and on a junction where two roads meet. The field is owned by James Simmons and is the site of a listed ancient monument – Hewelsfield Caste. There is concern that heavy farm machinery entering and exiting the field will be a danger to traffic, as will the volume of mud on the road as the weather worsens.
* Neighbours of a planning application at West Wood, Sandy Lane, Hewelsfield raised several points of objection to this retrospective application.

The Chairman reconvened the meeting and brought forward Agenda Items A10 and A12 for discussion.

**2654 Planning Application P1179/16/FUL West Wood, Sandy Lane, Hewelsfield**

After full discussion this application was opposed unanimously by all Councillors by a show of hands. The clerk was asked to submit this objection to FODDC Planning Department on the basis that this appears to be a new dwelling and not a change to existing garden store and woodshed as stated.

**Action: Clerk to submit objection**

**2655 New Entrance Cut Into James Simmons Field**

Councillors decided that more information was needed about the intended use of the new entrance and frequency of use and whether planning consent was needed or merely recommended to be obtained and decided that the matter should be brought to the attention of the FODDC Planning Department. The Clerk was asked to write to the Planning Department.

**Action: Clerk to write to FODDC Planning**

At this point the Chairman again adjourned the meeting as Cllr. Patrick Molyneux had joined the meeting to give an update on several areas of concern.

The Chairman outlined the various issues where the Council feels it is not receiving the level of support from District Council to be able to resolve them satisfactorily and invited Cllr. Molyneux to comment:

* The fence along the footpath to the Moravian Church had at last been repaired.
* Car parking in the layby at the bottom on Mill Hil. Brian Watkins agreed to investigate the situation as Peter Naylor had offered up some of his land, in return for a lowered curb to his property, to facilitate the deepening of the car park to allow parking at 90 degrees to the road allowing vehicles to park off the road. **Patrick Molyneux to raise with Brian Watkins**.
* Brockweir had been declared a priority area to receive funding for flood defences but there has been lack of communication on this. It was originally suggested that defences would be put in place ahead of Autumn 2016 and the high tides. Cllr. Molyneux informed the meeting that a plan was progressing to decide how much funding would be needed and then the resources would be sought. The timescale was still ‘Autumn’. **Cllr. Molyneux undertook to follow this through and keep us informed.**
* The bridge on Quayside is to be repaired but as yet the Parish Council have not received any communication although the area has been surveyed several times. **Cllr. Molyneux agreed to follow this through with Brian Watkins and provide an update on progress.**
* Cllr. Molyneux was under the impression that machinery had been purchased for cleaning mud from Quayside following high tides flooding the road. This is not the case. Purchase of equipment etc. had been agreed but funding had not yet been provided**. Cllr. Molyneux agreed to progress the matter.**
* Drains on Underhill and Scotts Lane had been cleared and repaired very recently but nothing carried out in Merricks Lane which continues to be in a dangerous state in places. A new ‘Lengthsmen’ list had been sent to Brian Watkins which **Cllr. Molyneux agreed to follow up.**
* **Cllr. Molyneux also agreed to investigate** the re-surfacing of Brockweir Bridge as soon as possible as it will further deteriorate over winter.
* Cllr. Molyneux outlined the current situation with high speed broadband as it appeared that Brockweir had not been included in the latest phase. He reported that Brockweir would be included in Phase 3 as BT were being pressed to increase coverage. He said that the parish was originally included in the pilot roll out, but this became a political issue and the pilot scheme was dissolved. He suggested that the Clerk resend the original letter of complaint addressed to Wendy Jackson with a copy to him and identifying the two ‘cabinets’ in question and **he will continue to progress the matter.**

**Action: Clerk to resend the email**

* Cllr. Molyneux agreed that the latest planning application for Gregory Farm appeared to be only slightly changed from the original application which was refused. **He agreed to speak on our behalf at the Planning Committee** and requested that a brief be prepared and sent to him. Cllr. Molyneux stressed that if an appeal was made FODDC would fight it if there was a good chance of succeeding. This was not dependant on cost implications, but more on the likelihood of a positive outcome. Cllr. Sinfield stressed that this was a major issue for the parish and we do need more support from our district council and councillor.

**Action: Cllr. Sinfield to prepare and send a brief**

* Several parishioners had expressed concern over the development of a dwelling in Bailey Lane known as Dusty’s Barn, seemingly without planning consent. Cllr. Molyneux was aware of the situation and confirmed that the newly appointed Enforcement Officer planned to visit the site. **Cllr. Molyneux would update us on this situation.**

Cllr. Molyneux then gave an update on some of the major issues affecting the district:

* The Allocation Plan which deals with possible sites for development and preventing speculative development plans, is underway.
* 20/20 Collaboration was progressing. A TEKL company (one which operates on behalf of but outside of the Council) would be set up, to run services across the three areas to share resources and keep costs as low as possible.
* Devolution – A devolved Gloucestershire. He is pressing for a more adventurous approach to this.
* Proposed third Severn Crossing and new M5 Junction. This could be possible with Stroud District Council proposing and carrying the major infrastructure costs to enable development of the area adjacent to the M5. The crossing would open into Lydney and possibly use the foundations of the original railway crossing. It could be a fairly modest investment of £50m. Still under very early discussions.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Molyneux for attending the meeting, his anticipated support and for the update of current issues. The meeting was then reconvened.

**2656 To Confirm Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 2nd August 2016 and the Extraordinary Meetings of 18th and 25th August 2016.**

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 2nd August were confirmed. Proposed by Cllr. Sinfield and Seconded by Cllr. Wilson.

The Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 18th August were confirmed. Proposed by Cllr. Bowen and Seconded by Cllr. Sinfield.

The Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 25th August were confirmed. Proposed by Cllr. Endersby and Seconded by Cllr. Bowen.

**2657 Clerk’s Report**

The Clerk’s Report had been circulated and read by all Councillors. There were no matters arising.

**2658 Councillors’ Reports**

The Councillors’ Reports had been circulated and read by all Councillors. There were no matters arising.

**2659 Finance**

**2659.1** The Financial Statement for August 2016 was agreed.

**2659.2** Payments were agreed and cheques signed by Councillors for Renewal of Website Hosting £111.75; Tools & Equipment for Sign Making £117.95; Mackenzie Hall Committee for Room Hire £26.25; Clerk’s Wages & Expenses £249.76 and Pleasant View Landscapes & Maintenance for £160.00

**2659.3** It was agreed that the detail supplied in the latest invoice from Mr Price was sufficient and the Clerk was asked to thank Mr Price for his co-operation.

**Action**: Clerk to write to Mr Price

**2659.4** There had been a delay with the paperwork for the transfer of the account.

**Action: Clerk to progress**

**2660 Report from the Public Rights of Way Working Group**

There was nothing to report from this Group.

**2661 Report from the Parish Improvement Group**

There was nothing to report from this Group,

**2662 Planning Applications**

**P1102/16/FUL – Gregory Farm, Brockweir**

Comments had been posted on the planning portal from all interested parties plus twelve public entries – overwhelmingly objecting to the latest application. It is unlikely to go to the October meeting of the Planning Committee. Cllr. Sinfield agreed to appraise the draft response drawn up by Cllr. Bowen incorporating parishioner comments. The final document will be circulated to Councillors and Patrick Molyneux before sending to the Planning Authority.

**Action: Cllr. Bowen to send draft to Cllr. Sinfield**

**P1169/16.FUL – Alexandra Bungalow, Coldharbour Road, Brockweir**

Although it was agreed that the Clerk would inform the Planning Dept. that the Parish Council had no comment on this application, it was noted that continuing vigilance was needed where applications were made to considerably change the vista and housing stock in the parish.

**Action: Clerk to write to Planning Dept.**

**P1179/16/FUL – West Wood, Sandy Lane, Hewelsfield, Lydney**

This had been discussed earlier in the Agenda.

The Chairman informed the meeting that two further applications had been missed off the agenda and that there were two ways to overcome this. The first was to call an Extraordinary Meeting for Monday 12th September to discuss both applications, or (following advice from GAPTC) there could be an informal discussion as Councillors had received copies of both applications three weeks ago and there had been no comments received from parishioners. After discussion, and as an emergency measure, Councillors voted by a show of hands to record an unofficial remark of no comment on both these applications.

**Action: Clerk to write to Planning Dept.**

**2663 The Future of the Brockweir Country Inn**

Nothing further to report at this time as the figures had not yet been provided by the owners. It was noted that a recent headline in a newspaper article about the potential purchase, had caused comment as it could suggest that this was a decision already taken, which is not the case.

**2664 Progress of Possible Flood Defences**

This item had been discussed earlier and Cllr. Molyneux had agreed to progress the matter and keep the Council informed.

**2665 Casual Vacancy**

As there had been no applications received by the deadline of 20th August, the Clerk was asked to put another notice in the Parish Magazine and replace the original notices on notice boards.

**Action: Clerk to place notices.**

**2666 Jet Skis Using The River**

The Harbour Master had provided detailed information on the bye-laws governing use of the River Wye by Jet Skis, which had been circulated to all councillors. As long as the speed limit was adhered to, their use is permitted.

**2667 Fund Raising**

There was nothing to report on this subject, but the item is to be included on the Agenda for the next meeting.

**Action: Clerk to add to next Agenda**

**2668 Lack of Response from Mark Harper MP**

A meeting with the parish council had been offered on 21st October 2016 in Brockweir. Confirmation of this meeting had not yet been received. The Shop Committee had asked for a meeting to brief the parish council on issues to be raised with Mr Harper. Cllrs. Endersby, Harris and Sinfield to attend the briefing.

**Action: Cllr. Endersby to arrange the briefing.**

**2669 Dog Fouling – Bailey Lane**

It was decided that placing a bin for dog waste was not appropriate and that the problem was the responsibility of the Street Warden.

**2670 Dusty’s Barn – Bailey Lane**

This item had also been discussed earlier in the Agenda. Cllr. Sinfield read out a draft letter which was intended for Cllr. Molyneux who asked for the letter to be sent to him and repeated that the Enforcement Officer was aware of the situation.

**Action: Clerk to send letter to Cllr. Molyneux**

**2671 Council Meetings Format**

It was agreed that this item would be carried forward to the next meeting Agenda and would include the procedures for dealing with planning applications and Clerk and Councillor reports.

**Action: Clerk to include on next Agenda**

**2672 Wye Valley AONB Partnership Trip**

It was agreed that Cllrs. Endersby and Fox would accept the invitation to join this trip.

**Action: Cllr. Endersby to write to AONB**

**Part B Confidential Items For Discussion**

The Chairman asked members of the public to leave the meeting at this point.

**Part C Clerk’s Probationary Period**

The Clerk was asked to leave the meeting at this point.

It was unanimously agreed to confirm the Clerk’s appointment.

**Action: Cllr. Endersby to write to Clerk**

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed.

**The date of the next meeting is Tuesday 11th October 2016.**