

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

**Minutes of the Vowchurch Group Parish Council meeting held on
 Thursday 21st March 2019 at 7.30pm in Vowchurch & Turnastone Memorial Hall**

PRESENT – Mr T Williams (Vice Chair), Mr S Cole, Mr E Williams, Mr A Picton, Ms E May, Mr H Franklin, Mr J Kernahan and Mr K Hortin.

IN ATTENDANCE – Mrs L Cowles (Clerk), Ward Councillor Peter Jinman and PCSO Pete Knight.

In the absence of the Chair, Mr T Williams chaired the meeting. Mr Williams wished the Chair a speedy recovery on behalf of the Parish Council.

- 1. ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – Mr P Mason and Mr R Lloyd.
- 2. RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & CONSIDER ANY WRITTEN APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION**
 – Mr S Cole declared a non-disclosable interest in agenda item 8.6; the declarations book was signed accordingly. There were no written applications for dispensation.
- 3. ADOPT MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ORDINARY MEETING** – 21st February 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 Pete Knight reported that the area has been relatively quiet. There has been a heating oil theft between 10th – 14th February. Approximately £400 worth of oil was stolen although this seems to have been a one-off incident. A quad bike was also stolen in Michaelchurch between 16th – 17th February. There have also been 2/3 quads stolen in other parishes recently. Councillors were reminded that the police can come and mark your property free of charge which does seem to reduce the risk of items being stolen. The national seat belt campaign has been running from 11th – 24th March with quite a bit of success in the County. Nitrous Oxide cylinders have been found discarded in the Eaton Bishop/Clehonger area. These do get inhaled, if you find any in the local area please report to the police. The police have recently been to Michaelchurch Escley Primarily School for a talk on internet and general safety along with cycle proficiency training. The NFU Stop that Thief campaign is still running. Please keep reporting any concerns, if you are unable to get through via 101 please contact officers via their mobiles.
 The fire service is currently running a recruitment campaign as they are quite short of volunteers in this area. Members of the public who are 70 yrs. old and over can request a free fire safety check along with free smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.
 - 5.2 Ward Councillor** – Ward Councillor Peter Jinman reported that at the recent council meeting there was a large turnout of student climate change protesters. At the meeting a motion was passed to declare a climate emergency and commit to action with aspirations to have zero emissions by 2030. Whilst Herefordshire Council can commit to certain actions, the Parish Council should consider what they can do within the parishes.
 Herefordshire Council will be encouraging landowners to take responsibility for watercourses on or adjacent to their land and have produced a leaflet with guidance of landowners responsibilities. Herefordshire now has a velocity machine to fill pot holes with some success. Please as always pass on comments regarding planning to Peter. 95% of planning applications are passed by the planning officers. There is a high proportion of applications from people who do not actually need planning.

5.3 Lengthsman report and any new road defects – The lengthsman was unable to attend the meeting. His latest reports had been distributed to Councillors prior to the meeting via email.

Mr Picton reported that he has contacted the Locality Steward regarding the U75015 near Maerdy Farm and will hopefully have a meeting at the beginning of April.

Ms May has kindly offered to be the Footpaths Officer for St Margarets, Newton and Michaelchurch Escley.

6. CLERKS UPDATE – The Clerk reminded Councillors of the Great Herefordshire Spring Clean which runs from 22nd March – 23rd April. It was agreed that it was too late to organise a group for this year but it was something to consider for next year. The Planning Enforcement Officer has visited Wells Green, Newton St Margarets and advised that the caravan is being used on an ancillary basis by family members, they are currently going through the pre-planning process and would expect a formal planning application to follow. The situation will continue to be monitored. The Locality Steward has checked the mirror on the Abbeydore road leading onto the B4348. His thoughts are that it is dependant on what vehicle you drive and how you see the mirror. There appears to be no problem in a higher vehicle, each time the mirror has been adjusted it seems that someone is affected.

Planning Application 190746, Oldhouse Farm, Michaelchurch Escley – Determination made - Prior approval is not required.

Planning Application 190971, Cornel Farm, Newton St Margarets – Proposed Agricultural Building – No comments are being accepted regarding this application.

Councillors have become aware of an application to change a footpath to a byway at Green Lane/Berrington Lane, Vowchurch. The Clerk has not been advised. It was agreed that Mr Kernahan would forward details to the Clerk.

7. CONSIDER PLANNING

7.1 (PART 3) CLASS Q – PRIOR APPROVAL

Site: Castle Ibo Farm, Newton St Margarets, Herefordshire.

Description: Proposed change of use of an agricultural building to residential dwelling house.

Application No: 190915 **Grid Ref:** 332675:235401

The Parish Council cannot object or support this proposal but it was agreed to comment that the Parish Council would like the new vehicular access granted under planning application 183371 to be completed before start of these new works.

8. FINANCE

8.1 Confirmation of updated bank balance - £10,583.88 Statement Sheet No. 131 issued 17th March 2019.

8.2 Receipts – None.

8.3 Payment to Mrs Linda Cowles for February 2019 Clerk's hours – **Payment agreed.**

8.4 Payment to Mr T Griffiths, invoice no. TGC0676 for Roads account February 2019 (1) of £364.00 plus VAT and invoice no. TGC0686 for roads account February 2019 (2) of £364.00 plus VAT – **Payment agreed.**

8.5 Payment to GV Webdesign, invoice no. VC 2/19 for email hosting 3/3/19 – 2/3/20 of £30.00 – **Payment agreed.**

8.6 Payment to HALC, invoice no. H627 for 1st April 2019 – 31st March 2020 Affiliation and Subscription fess of £446.43 plus VAT – **Payment agreed.**

8.7 Expenses – It was agreed to pay councillors allowances and expenses when using their own vehicles for council business but not to attend ordinary parish council meetings.

9. FOOTPATH VO53 & VO57 – Susan White the Rights of Way Team Leader at Herefordshire Council has confirmed she will be recommending the making of an order to the Council in due course as she feels the order is capable of confirmation. Once the order is advertised, the Parish Council will be able to raise any formal objections.

- 10. VOWCHURCH COMMON ROAD SIGNS** – The Clerk has not received a response from Balfour Beatty regarding their latest email. The local resident has been made aware of the situation and responded with a suggestion that it may be better to monitor the situation and not take any further action. It was agreed to wait to get a response from Balfour Beatty.
- 11. WEBSITE** – Mr Kernahan has created a google analytics account linked to the Parish Council website to enable the Clerk to see how many people are visiting the website etc. A usage update will be available at the April meeting. The Clerk confirm that there are no other local Parish Councils that currently have a Facebook page only community pages. It was agreed not to set up a Facebook page at this time.
- 12. 2019 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS** - The local elections will be held on Thursday 2nd May 2019. The Clerk distributed nomination papers to Councillors and advised these must be return to the Town Hall, Hereford by 4pm on Wednesday 3rd April 2019.
- 13. APRIL NEWSLETTER** – No update.
- 14. NOTE THE CORRESPONDENCE SHEET** – The correspondence sheet was noted.
- 15. RAISE MATTERS FOR THE NEXT ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** – Thursday 18th April 2019 at 7.30pm in Newton Church room – Website, concerns regarding St Margarets Church, Turnstone.

A RESOLUTION WILL BE PASSED TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC & PRESS TO DISCUSS THE LENGTHSMAN CONTRACT 2019/20

- 16. LENGTHSMAN CONTRACT 2019/20** – It was agreed to award the Lengthsman contract for April 2019 – March 2020 to Mr T Griffiths.

The Vice-Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.45pm

Signed.....

Dated.....