# **Hewelsfield and Brockweir Parish Council**

# Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on 7th June 2022 at the Mackenzie Hall.

**Present:**  Cllr. Sinfield, Cllr. Harris, Cllr. Davies, Cllr. Sinfield, Cllr. McFarling and the Parish Clerk. There were two parishioners in attendance.

**3382 Apologies**

Cllr. Fox and Cllr. Haythornthwaite

**3383 Declaration of Interest in Agenda Items**

None declared.

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

The parishioner enquired about progress regarding the commemorative bench and was informed that the Jubilee Committee had decided on one bench to be placed on the field next to the Village Shop, funded by the Parish Council. She also reported difficulty in accessing information from the parish website. This would be reviewed and updated.

The Chairman reconvened the meeting.

**3384 District/County Report**

As reported at the last meeting, Cllr. McFarling has a pot of money (the Highways Local Fund to be spent locally on general highways repairs and maintenance. Last year’s funding for this parish included £3000 of lengthsman work and £500 for badger signs on the B4228.

None of the lengthsman works took place and so this activity will be carried forward to this year. The badger signs weren’t exactly put up correctly and one of the signs has been stolen. I hope to have the signs correctly located and replaced this year.

For this year, there is £4k for highways (and footpath) projects that you feel deserve more urgent attention.

The St Briavels Assembly Rooms are welcoming Ukrainian guests and their hosts in a get together with refreshments on a weekly basis. The last event was very popular.

Raw sewage discharges were recorded and photographed at Redbrook last month. The River Wye is dying from pollution and its resilience to climate change and particularly to drought has been compromised by historic abstraction and the increase in toxic algal blooms. Since the River Wye is such a part of this parish’s culture, we would do well to help look after its health. The Save the Wye group are active in this respect and would certainly benefit from more local voices joining them as they lobby government to help turn the tide on the river’s demise before it is too late.

At GCCs Environment Scrutiny committee meeting last month, a report on the decarbonisation of transport was presented. In order to meet county targets on reducing carbon emissions a number of interventions and investments will be needed together with a commitment to change in the way we travel. In order to reduce the emissions gap identified, changes in travel behaviour will be necessary for all of us. I think it would be wise for members to at least view the report and consider its consequences. The presentation is available online under Environment Scrutiny Committee 24th May agenda reports pack, item 4.

At the GCC Full Council meeting on the 18th of May, 4 motions were proposed but only 2 had time to be considered. These 2 involved a motion requesting that there be an inquiry into GCCs handling of the covid-19 pandemic (motion lost) and the need for a more pro-active road safety commitment in the County. This motion was amended and then passed. Motions on Knife crime and violence against women and girls were timed out. All minutes are on the website if you are interested.

At the FODDC cabinet meeting last month, the recommendation to add the potential to designate the Forest of Dean as a UNESCO Biosphere reserve to the council’s project register was approved. The initiative will be progressed with support from partners including Hartpury university, the FEP and the BR Action Group. Work is ongoing to develop a prospectus to engage interested stakeholders and to develop a funding strategy. The aim of Biosphere Reserves is principally to reconcile the protection of biodiversity with its sustainable use.

**3385 Confirm Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 5TH April 2022**

The 5th April Minutes were approved. Proposed by Cllr. Harris. Seconded by Cllr. Groves-Bond

**3386 Finance**

3386.1 The Financial Statement to 1st June was approved.

3386.2 The following payments were approved and cheques signed:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Payee** | **Service** | **Amount** |
| AEB Price | Strimming | £100.00 |
| Iain Selkirk | Internal Audit | £110.00 |
| Playground Project | Annual Maintenance | £1000.00 |

3386.3 The Clerk was asked to request more information regarding possible donations to the Jubilee Celebrations and Ukraine Community Support. Clerk to request a report of all outgoings and expenses from the Jubilee Committee to be send to Cllr. Sinfield to share with the CIC.

**Action:** Clerk to report at the next meeting.

3386.4 The decision to pay the annual contribution to the Brockweir Playground maintenance costs in one amount was agreed.

3386.5 The Internal Audit of the Year End Accounts were approved, as were the Certificate of Exemption, the Accounting Statements, and the Annual Governance Statement. The Clerk was instruction to complete the AGAR for 2021/22 and submit the Certificate of Exemption.

**Action:** Clerk to submit Certificate of Exemption

**3387 Bids for funding for Highways and PROWS from the Local Fund**

The parishioner currently taking the lead on Parish Footpaths, had put forward the following bids, which were agreed and will be forwarded to Cllr. McFarling.

Repairs to HE 15 AND 16. These are the 2 Byways that run from Belmont Lane to the Brockwier Road. They need substantial repairs as they have been damaged by heavy rain, making them very rutted. The rubble then washes down the hill during heavy rain, contributing to the drains becoming blocked and adding to the flooding risk to properties further down the hill.

Footpaths 42A, 43 and 44 which are situated in the Clay and Folly wood opposite the entrance to Clanna . The footpaths are currently unusable due to the overgrown shrubs and fallen trees. The woods are popular   with locals and visitors to the area and form a circular walk for many residents Jeff Wheeler PROW Officer has had 43A on his database since 2020 waiting to be cleared but has not been able to do this due to insufficient funds. Due to the number of trees and the size of the trees that are blocking the paths this will require contractors to clear these paths.

Repairs to flooded area in Barnage Lane, just down from the junction of Barnage Lane /Hewelsfield (to Woolaston and Woodside). The road floods regularly in heavy rain resulting in traffic either being unable to pass through it or getting stuck. The heavy water has also washed away the sides of the road causing deep gullies which are a danger and damage cars.

**3388 Parish Footpath Group**

The group will be starting work again in September. Parishioners can report footpaths needing work to Sue Smith, who is taking the lead on footpath maintenance liaising with Cllr. Haythornthwaite.

**3389 Ash Dieback Planting**

There are currently two schemes running which offer free trees to be planted in the parish. One is for individuals, and one directed at Councils. The Garden Society are co-ordinating the one for individuals. As the Parish Council don’t own any land, and threes planted on the highway verges can cause problems, it was agreed to contact the Garden Society for their views on any additional planting in the Parish that might be appropriate.

**Action:** Clerk to contact the Garden Society

**3390 Request to Renew Life Saving Equipment/Traffic Mirror at Brockweir Bridge**

This was a request received from a parishioner. The life saving equipment on Brockweir Quay was badly damaged in the last big flood. It was agreed that it should be removed, and the Clerk was asked to investigate a possible replacement.

**Action:** Cllr. Groves-Bond to remove the equipment

Clerk to investigate a replacement.

It was decided that the traffic mirror did not need replacing.

**3391 Review of Polling Stations**

FODDC are conducting a review of premises used as Polling Stations throughout the district. It was agreed that the Mackenzie Hall is an excellent location for the purpose and should continue to be used.

**3392 Planning Applications Received**

No planning applications had been received.

**3393 Commemorating the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee**

Following the decision of the Jubilee Committee’s decision to place one commemorative bench, councillors agreed a budget up to £500 for the purchase, delivery, and commemorative plaque.

**Action:** Clerk to action.

**3394 Community Resilience Plan – Update**

Cllr. Harris agreed to update the current plan and circulate it to councillors.

**Action:** Cllr. Harris

**3395 Progress of The Brockweir Country Inn/Sale of Former Oil Yard**

It was reported that the Freehold of the Brockweir Inn had been offered for sale as a Development Project on an agent’s website. The current owner of the Inn informed the meeting that this was not the case – The Brockweir Country Inn is not for sale.

The former Oil Yard is being sold by Auction. It was agreed to continue to closely monitor the situation.

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

**The next meetings will be on 2nd August 2022, 7pm at the Mackenzie Hall. All are welcome to attend.**