

Minutes of Meeting of Whitbourne Parish Council held on 8th January 2025

Attendance:

Present: R. James (RJ) (Chair); P. Davis (PD); P. Wood (PDW); S. Knowles (SK) attended via Zoom and did not vote.

In Attendance: K. Phillips (Clerk). No members of the public present.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from N Shaw (NS); M. Clark (MC); J. Bromley (JB); T. Hunt (TH); L. Kershaw (LK); P. Stoddart (PS) Ward Councillor,

2. To receive declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. To approve the minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council meeting held on 4th December 2024

Proposed RJ, seconded PD. All in favour. Approved.

4. Matters arising from the above minutes

There were no matters arising.

5. To appoint footpath officers

RJ had been in contact with two prospective footpath officers who were willing to take on the role between them. They will be invited to the next meeting to introduce themselves.

6. To receive report from Ward Councillor

The Ward Councillor had previously circulated his report and covered the following.

- Herefordshire Council Finance team has won a national award
- Herefordshire badly hit by removal rural support grant.
- Devolution discussions will commence with neighbouring county councils
- Planning reforms mean that mandatory housing targets are for an estimated 27.3K houses
- There has been a crack down on fly-tipping

7. To receive the Clerk's report

- The request for the Precept has been submitted
- The web site has now been updated with the new MP details and photo
- Organised the delivery of the 12m bridge
- Receipt of grant for one of the three drainage applications (bottom of Church Bank drains). A query has been raised with Herefordshire Council on the remaining two.
- Fly-tipping on bottom lane reported

8. Financial matters

- a) To approve accounts for payment.
Clerk Salary & HMRC PAYE and Clerk Expenses, lengthsman, village hall. Proposed PDW, seconded PD. All in favour. Approved. Details of expenditure are contained in a table at the end of these minutes.
- b) To approve bank reconciliation to 31st December 2024 and
- c) To approve Income and Expenditure reconciliation to 31st December 2024. Proposed PD and seconded PDW. All in favour. Approved.
- d) To review current 2024/2025 budget versus spend. No comments were raised on the current budgetary situation.

9. To receive report regarding the Lengthsman Scheme

PDW reported that the bridge works had been completed. The Lengthsman had just completed a round of drain and grips clearing. It was reported that the drain in the dip by the Wheatsheaf bridge was working well during the recent heavy rains and snow melt.

10. To receive reports from the Village Hall, Playing Fields, Manorial Court and Community First

- **Village Hall.** No report
- **Playing Fields.** No report

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- **Manorial Court.** Sk reported on the BCMC meeting held in December. A new Chairman has been appointed and a long term member has retired. The noticeboards have been repaired. The BCMC will now meet every two months.
- **Community First.** No report.

11. To receive report regarding the Glebe/woodlands

PD reported that the woodlands may have been sold. His calls to the agent remain unanswered.

12. To receive report on Smart Water distribution progress

A few more kits had been distributed, but the bulk remaining are for Bringsty Common. The Clerk had contacted the WDBC team, and they have offered help to NS. This should accelerate now that the New Year has started.

13. To report village issues regarding road maintenance, clearance etc.

- The major ongoing concern was with the egress of sewage from a cover mid-way down Church Bank. The effluent was running down the hill and entering the brook at the bottom. A further concern was icy patches with the current freezing temperatures. Severn Trent is onsite tracking the source of the problem.
- The running surface had all but disappeared in places between Acreage and the rectory.
- Badley Wood Common road. Several potholes have appeared.
- Boat Lane has been improved as per agreement with the water authority.

14. To decide date of next meeting

It was agreed to hold the meeting on the 5th March 2025.

15. Public participation

- There were no members of the public present.

The meeting closed at 20:10.

Cheque No	Expenditure	Payment
300617	Clerk Salary	£582.24
300618	Clerk HMRC	£388.00
300619	Clerk Expenses	£199.87
300620	Lengthsman	£204.00
300621	Village Hall	£37.50
Total		£1411.61

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Chairman – 8th January 2025