



KENTCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of Kentchurch Parish Council
held in the G V Community Café Pontrilas
on Wednesday 20th March 2024 at 6.30pm

No KPC/MW/107

Present

Councillor Mr K John Chance Chairman
Councillor Mr John Pring Vice – Chairman
Councillor Mrs Heather Adams
Councillor Mr Trefor Edwards
Councillor Mrs Jennifer Evans

Clerk Mr M Walker

Also Present

Ward Councillor Mr Matthew Engel and one further member of the public

Meeting declared open at 6.30pm by the Chairman

Councillor Mr Trefor Edwards welcomed Councillor Mr John Chance Chairman,
due to recently being unwell

1.0 Apologies

No apologies were received as all Parish Councillors were present
Lengthsman/Contractor Mr Terry Griffiths, BBLP Locality Steward Mr Paul Norris and
Representative from the Police not present

2.0 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

2.1 No Declarations were made

2.2 No written applications for dispensations were received

3.0 Minutes

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council No KPC/MW/106 held on
Wednesday 17th January 2024 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman

4.0 Financial Report

4.1 Receipts

HMRC VAT Claim 2022-2023	£1,664.95
Balfour Beatty / Herefordshire Council Invoice for Lengthsman Works TGC 2469	£350.00
Balfour Beatty / Herefordshire Council Invoice for Lengthsman Works TGC 2570	£330.00
Balfour Beatty / Herefordshire Council Invoice for Lengthsman Works TGC 2387	£220.00

4.2 Invoices for Payment

Clerk's Salary February 2024 Gross	£364.95
Mileage	£30.33
Postage	£9.45
Tax £73.00 NIC £0.00	
Nett Pay £331.73	
Cheque 101179	
C A R E Herefordshire CIC	£20.00
Meeting Room Hire KPC03/20/2024	
Cheque 101180	



Clerk's Salary March 2024 Gross	£383.10
Mileage	£7.74
Back Pay	£199.61
Tax £116.60 NIC £0.00	
Nett Pay £473.85	
Cheque 101181	
HMR&C 4 th ¼ Payment January February March	£262.60
Cheque Number 101182	
{payment to be made 31/03/2024}	

All payments **Unanimously** approved by the Parish Council

4.3 Bank Balances as per Barclays Internet Printed Bank Statements

Community Account	@ 1 st February 2024	£4,408.58
Community Account	@ 1 st March 2024	£5,015.38
Community Account	@ 19 th March 2024	£4,683.65
Business Premium Account	@ 29 th February 2024	£10,751.63
Business Premium Account	@ 19 th March 2024	£10,791.84

Bank Reconciliations signed for both accounts

{The Parish Council Cheque Signatories are Councillor Mr K John Chance Chairman, Councillor Mr John Pring Vice – Chairman. Councillor Mrs Heather Adams and Councillor Mr Trefor Edwards}

5.0 Reports if available from:-

5.1 Ward Report from Ward Councillor Mr Matthew Engel

Lengthsman Grant now increased to £120.00 per kilometre for “C” and “U” Class Roads
 Lengthsman Drainage Grant now available from Herefordshire Parishes Balfour Beatty Living Places
 Clerks to “Express an Interest” by 30th April 2024
 Footpath Grants also available
 Attended Planning Committee Meeting last week
 Lidl Supermarket Planning Permission Granted

5.2 Memorial Hall Delegate Report

Nothing new to report

5.3 Police Report {Contacted re Traffic Issues through Pontrilas Village}

No Police present and no update available reference Speeding problems through Pontrilas Village and drivers using mobile phones whilst driving

5.3i) Police & Crime Commissioner West Mercia Police Joint Meeting

Meeting with Police & Crime Commissioner Mr John Campion

Held in Abbeydore Village Hall Thursday 22nd February 2024 at 7.00pm

Attendees

Abbeydore & Bacton Group Parish Council

Parish Council Chairman Cllr Mrs Ann Booth

Cllr Mr Melvin Jenkins

Ewyas Harold Group Parish Council

Cllr Mr Alex Culpin

Kentchurch Parish Council

Parish Council Chairman Cllr Mr John Chance

Kilpeck Parish Council

Parish Council Vice-Chairman Cllr Mr Mark Parsons

Cllr Mr Roger Probert

Longtown Group Parish Council

Cllr Mr Stephen Cook

Cllr Mr Richard Fenton

Parish Council Clerk Mr Malcolm Walker

Cllr Mrs Jenny Evans

Cllr Mr David Howie



Vowchurch Parish Council

Parish Council Chairman Cllr Mrs Elizabeth May

Golden Valley South Ward Councillor Mr Mathew Engel Jeff Rouse PC 3687

Jemma Towers PA to Mr John Champion

Mrs Sheila Walker (taking notes for the Parish Council)

Abbeydore & Bacton Group Parish Council Chairman Mrs Ann Booth welcomed everyone and following introductions invited Mr Champion to give an overview of his role as the West Mercia Police & Crime Commissioner.

Mr Champion clarified his role explaining that he is responsible for the Governance of the force which included budgeting which related to Council Precepts .His role also includes the appointment of the Chief Constable.

The issue of the level of Rural Policing being one of the main local issues, it was stated that there were 500 more Police Officers than there were five years ago which brought the force up to 2,500 Officers, however it was pointed out that this only returns the Officer numbers to that of the pre Government “cut backs” in 2010.

A prominent initiative being Rural Crime Prevention with the theft of agricultural vehicles and relevant equipment being highlighted. Currently the “Smart Water” type of marking being encouraged so that the recovery of stolen equipment can be identified thus assisting in prosecutions.

Question:- *How does the closing of rural police stations such as the one at Peterchurch In an effort to save money the police now share the Fire Station in Peterchurch as their base, although there is no counter service, something which will not in the foreseeable future be a service offered. The Commissioner emphasised that emergency calls should be made to 999 with other issues being reported on 101. There is also the facility to make a report online which reflects the questions that would be asked by the telephone operatives at the 101 centre.*

Question:- *Why is there an apparent poor response to rural crime in particular poaching which can involve firearms?*

All “live” issues relating to firearms should be reported using 999 where the call handler will arrange the appropriate response.

Other suspicious incidents should be reported using 101 or contacting your local force so that all such intelligence can be collated to possible assist future operations.

Clearly crime is very different to that of 2010 in particular online fraud or email scams these should be reported to www.ncsc.gov.uk/collection/phishing-scams/report-scam-email

Question:- *Why do we not receive feedback following incidents Direct feedback to victims of crime should take place with more general updates being provided in the Safer Neighbourhood Publication*

Question:- *We would like to see more police presence in the area is this likely to happen? With the existing West Mercia Police budget being approximately 280 million pounds which has to cover Officers as well as 800 vehicles and ancillary equipment, the cost of more Officers would have to be reflected across the West Mercia Area in the Police precept part of everyone’s Council Tax*

Question:- *What is the situation with regards to Special Constables The level of Special Constables is down currently to approximately 50 this in part is due to the level of resource required for training purposes although this has now been resolved and the aim is to have 120 Specials with a view to increasing this the 160*

Question:- *What is the situation regarding Drug & Drink Driving Currently Drug Driving is on the increase with what appears to be an increase in the recreational use of drugs such as cocaine on nights out and the effects still evident in the system during the next day(s) Dedicated traffic teams are now able to conduct road side spot checks and test for drugs as well as alcohol The use of unmarked cars can sometimes create the impression of a lack of police patrols, however statistics prove that the use of these vehicles greatly improves intelligence gathering and as a consequence operational successes.*



Operation SNAP is also assisting in the report of dangerous driving with members of the public being encouraged to report using dash cam footage which will then be reviewed and acted upon as appropriate. There are reportedly as many as 3 million dash cams in use in the UK.

Question:- Is domestic burglary taken as seriously as it should be with the emphasis appearing to be on providing a crime number with many incidents not receiving (if at all) a visit until days later. Burglary is always taken seriously and there is a commitment to attend every incident. However in practice due to other ongoing operations this may not always take place as soon as it should but to repeat it is a commitment which we endeavour to fulfil.

Question:- Can victims be assured that they will receive feedback about an investigation Again this is always a commitment to keep victims as up to date as possible

It had become apparent during the meeting that the Parish Council areas were covered by to different forces.

With the Golden Valley Safer Neighbourhood Team being considerably more visible in the area they covered than the parishes covered by the South Wye SNT and it was the general opinion that this was because the South Wye Team were Hereford City based and the parishes which they covered were on the fringes of their operational area.

The Commissioner advised that there was a small budget for crime prevention schemes and more information was available from their local policing team. There is also some funding available from the West Mercia Police Towns and Village Project which is being administered by the "We Don't Buy Crime" Co-ordinator Amy Brice 62966 and can be contact for more information by email: amy.brice1@westmercia.police.uk

There being no further questions the Chairman Cllr Mrs Ann Booth thanked the Commissioner and Councillors for attending and declared the meeting closed at 8.20pm. Malcolm Walker Clerk

6.0 Public Question Time

Designated maximum period of 10 minutes to accommodate members of the public who may wish to either raise issues or ask the Parish Council questions

No matters raised

7.0 Highways and Footpaths

7.1 To receive **new** information on any Parish Highway including Public Footpath Issues

Pontrilas Shop Car Park Ramp damaged, health and safety concern

Property Services have been contacted and reply received see below

20 March 2024 11.042

Good morning, Kentchurch Parish Council have instructed me to write with regards to the Pontrilas Business Park properties HR2 0BA

Pontrilas Post Office / Shop and the Golden Valley Community Café and Gymnasium (as well as the other units) have by their very nature of their businesses many vehicles and pedestrians come and go during the course of their business activities.

Essential speed humps where installed some considerable time ago to slow down vehicles to protect pedestrians who may be entering or exiting the Post Office /Shop however a number of the individual speed hump section have come loose and are a trip hazard to pedestrians.

Could you please make arrangements to make this traffic calming installation safe as soon as possible as well as arranging a permanent repair. Thanking you

Malcolm Walker Clerk to Kentchurch Parish Council

"20 March 2024 17.00

Hello Mr Walker- just to update you, we have identified who is responsible within the Council and a job will be raised to re-fix the sections. Many thanks Sarah"



Junction Ewyas Harold B4347 – A465

Joint Meeting with Welsh Water, BBLP Locality Steward Mr Paul Norris and Parish Council Representatives etc.

Works started

Up the road from Gwern Gounsel, left hand side drain blocked

“No Road Marking Signs” still outside Pontrilas Sawmills

KZ7 footpath dug up by Telephone Kiosk

Railway House Footpath steps - wooden hand rail rotten in several places

Clerk instructed to contact Mr Edward Bradford Head of Highways and Traffic at Herefordshire Council reference reported items but no action

7.2 Agree future work for the Lengthsman

Maintenance works agreed

8.0 **Planning Consultation 240444 Application for Approval of Reserved Matters**

Rocklands Railway Terrace Access Pontrilas Hereford HR2 0BH

Application for approval of reserved matters following Outline Approval 212128

Proposed detached dwelling, garage and new parking for Rocklands

“**Nature of your feedback:** Submitting a general comment

Comment: The Parish Council considered consultation 240444 HR2 0BH at their March 2024 meeting. The Parish Council expressed considerable concern about the condition of the un-adopted road which leads from the property to the C1233 in Pontrilas village. The track has no drainage system and is in a poor state of repair and as such during heavy rain gravel and other detritus washes down the track onto the highway causing drains to be blocked and previously property flooding. Can consideration be requested that the additional traffic will not exacerbate the issue.

FS-Case-598609140”

9.0 **Information Sheet**

Sheet to include update on previous action points and a list of correspondence received

Planning Applications Update

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 4 th August 2023 | Planning Consultation No 232297 Land Opposite Spitehouse Rise Pontrilas
Proposed construction of a single dwellinghouse
Planning Permission Granted 20th February 2024 |
| 20 th December 2023 | Little Penylan Farm Railway Terrace Access Pontrilas Hereford HR2 0BH
Change of use of rural buildings as well as physical alterations to the buildings
and adjacent land to create three individual new dwellings
Application Still Valid |
| 23 rd January 2024 | Letter sent to Chris Blanford Haulage reference HGV Parking
01 st February 2024 Reply received |

Correspondence

No correspondence received

Received after correspondence list was printed

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 19 th March 2024 | Herefordshire Council
Draft Local Plan Consultation and Local Transport Plan Early Engagement
{ Leaflet given to all Parish Councillors } |
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10.0 Matters Relayed to the Clerk for Agenda of the Next Meeting

Subject to Council Resolution Item 11 may be held in Closed Session

11.0 To Review Clerks Weekly Hours

To consider a request for an increase in weekly paid hours

The Parish Council considered the request and unanimously resolved to increase the Clerk's hours to Six Hours per week

Proposed by Councillor Mr K John Chance Chairman and Seconded by Councillor Mrs Heather Adams

12.0 Confirmation of Date, Time and Venue of the Next Meeting

Annual Parishes Meeting and Annual Parish Council Meeting in G. V. Community Café Pontrilas
Wednesday 15th May 2024 at 6.30pm

Meeting declared closed at 7.45pm

Signed..... 

Parish Council Chairman Councillor Mr John Chance

Dated this day the 15th May 2024