

NEWLAND PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD
IN CLEARWELL MEMORIAL HALL ON 28th JANUARY 2025 AT 19:00

[These minutes remain in draft form until approved at a subsequent meeting of the Council]

Abbreviations used

CRG Clearwell Recreation Ground Management Committee. **CWVC** Consortium of Wye Valley Councils.
EA Environment Agency **FODDC** Forest of Dean District Council. **GAPTC** Gloucestershire Association of
Parish & Town Councils **GCC (RoW)** Gloucestershire County Council (Rights of Way). **GH** Gloucestershire
Highways. **ICO** Information Commissioners Office **NALC** National Association of Local Council Clerks.
NPPF National Planning policy Framework **NWWTW** Newland Waste Water Treatment Works
SLCC Society of Local Council Clerks **VAS** Vehicle Activated Sign(s) **WFCCG** West Forest Council Clerks
Group **WVNL** Wye Valley National Landscape

PRESENT

Cllr Purvis (Chairman), Evans, Henson, Norris, Wheeler & Wright
Mr R Crighton, Clerk. 6 members of the public.

6474 APOLOGIES

Cllr Davies and County Cllr McFarling

6475 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr	Minute	Interest	Reason	Action
Wheeler	6485.2	Other	Member of beneficiary body	Left meeting during discussion and vote

6476 DISPENSATION REQUESTS None

6477 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD 7 JANUARY 2025

It was **resolved** to accept the minutes as a true record of the meeting; they were signed by the Chairman.

6478 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

6478.1 MEETING HELD 26 NOVEMBER 2024 - None

6478.2 MEETING HELD 7 JANUARY 2025 - None

6479 CLERKS REPORT

6479.1 It was reported that submission of the CRG Lottery application had been placed on hold.

6479.2 It was reported that 8 of the 17 councils had responded to the invitation to the inaugural meeting of the CWVC, and it was agreed to proceed with the meeting to be held on 6 March in Redbrook Village Hall at 19:00. Clerk to seek agenda items by 24 February.

6479.3 It was reported that the Internal Audit documents had been submitted to the auditor.

6479.4 It was reported that the CRG committee were still considering the proposed revised draft constitution

6479.5 It was reported that Cllrs Wheeler and Wright had yet to contact Unity Trust to resolve their 'signing-in' issues.

6479.6 It was reported that the Clerk was drafting a policy for the retention / disposal of electronic correspondence, but was advised that there was a method of long term storage of such information on a computer.

6479.7 The Fanout system confirmed.

6489.8 It was reported that the new dog waste bin had been installed in Savage Hill, Newland

6480 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr McFarling's written report concerned the proposed devolution process to create a Unitary Authority in the county.

6481 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Wheeler reported the imposition of a second / empty homes Council Tax levy

6482 PARISH COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

6482.1 CLEARWELL QUARRY LIAISON GROUP MEETING 17/1/25

Cllr Wright reported that the company had satisfied the authority that there would be no effect on the Slad Brook by the proposed restoration method of Clearwell quarry. It was the intention, in the short term, to move the concrete batching plant from Clearwell to Stowe Hill quarry and ultimately to fully restore Clearwell quarry (see planning application below). Breedon's were keen to engage with the public and were willing to hold a public meeting; the minutes of this meeting would be circulated by the Clerk to all residents.

6482.2 CLEARWELL FOOTPATHS PUBLIC MEETING 25/1/25

Cllr Henson reported that a 'useful' meeting was held with a small number of residents attending. There was some interest expressed about walking the footpaths with reporting of their condition, via the Parish Council, to the GCCRoW Officer. It was suggested that such a scheme should, ideally, be parish-wide.

6482.3 CLEARWELL RECREATION GROUND MEETING 14/1/25

The issue of who should pay £75 for the issue of an electrical safety certificate at Clearwell Recreation ground pavilion was discussed; Cllr Henson was asked to establish more information about possible on-going costs.

6482.4 COLEFORD AREA PARTNERSHIP (CAP)

Cllr Wheeler reported that the CAP would be calling a meeting of all councils in their area on 27 February

6482.5 Cllr Norris highlighted blocked drains in Newland and felt more team effort by residents could ease the situation.

6483 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

6483.1 With an increased risk of Avian Flu being imported to the area, is biosecurity at Noble Foods and other Intensive Poultry Units adequate? Clerk to refer to FODDC planning officer.

6483.2 (Statement). Many residents already walk the local footpaths.

6483.3 (Request). Please confirm that the Parish Council agreed to paying for the consumer unit in the Recreation Ground pavilion.

6483.4 (Request). That the council consider the two planning application (below) unbiased and fairly.

6484 PLANNING

6484.1 GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – APPLICATIONS RECEIVED: to agree response(s)

	LPA Ref / applicant	Location	Proposal	Response
6484.1.1	24/0065/FDMAJM Breedon Trading Ltd	Stowe Green: Clearwell and Stowe Hill quarries	Erection and operation of replacement Ready mixed concrete plant	No comment
6484.1.2	24/0060/FDS73M Breedon Trading Ltd	Clearwell And Stowe Hill Quarries.	Variation of conditions 1(Date extraction ceases) and 2(Approved working programme) to extend the end dates for mineral extraction, the removal of buildings, plant and machinery and quarry restoration and for the adoption of revised restoration schemes relating to planning consent DF/2238/X dated 05.01.2007.	No objection but would not wish to see any further extensions of time.

6485 FINANCE

6485.1 INCOME RECEIVED – noted:

Reported at last meeting	£33173.18
Additions VAT refund	£ 715.05
Funds from Clearwell Rec committee	£ 2031.00
Total year to date	£35919.23

6485.2 GRANT APPLICATION – HERITAGE OPEN DAYS

It was **resolved** to make a grant of £200; payment to be authorised at the next meeting.

6485.3 MATCHED FUNDING FOR PLAY EQUIPMENT

It was reported that funds from CRG representing 50% of the net cost of new play equipment had been received and the order placed.

6485.4 VAS BATTERIES

It was **resolved** to order 2 new batteries for the VAS at a cost of £200.95 +VAT

6486 HIGHWAYS

6486.1 RESPONSES RECEIVED FROM GLOUCESTERSHIRE HIGHWAYS (GH)

6486.1.1 Drains by Clearwell school; remedial action proposed.

6486.1.2 It was agreed to a site meeting with Nathan Choat on 4 March at 13:30 at Clearwell, then to Newland and then to Redbrook.

6486.1.3 It was reported that the results of the traffic survey on Lambsquay Road had been received and copied to all members. Copy to be sent to John Payne

6486.2 OUTSTANDING ISSUES WITH GH (all to be discussed at site meeting)

- 6486.2.1 VAS pole installation outside Council Villas, Clearwell
- 6486.2.2 VAS pole adjacent Village Room, Newland
- 6486.2.3 Replacement of 5 yellow grit / salt bins

6486.3 OTHER ISSUES

6486.3.1 Use of Floodsacks, salt and grit. It was agreed that residents have a responsibility for protecting their property and that Floodsacks are intended to prevent water encroaching from the highway. Nevertheless, in cases of imminent inundation of properties Floodsacks are available. Salt and grit is for use on the highway and footway; again, residents should make their own arrangements for surfaces within their property boundary.

6486.3.2 It was agreed to make contact with the 4x4 groups and discuss their possible involvement in maintenance of 'Green Lanes'.

6486.3.3 Wye bridge, Monmouth road works. No further updates.

6486.3.4 Road closure Millend House 29-31/1/25 noted

6486.3.5 Wye bridge (Penalt viaduct). No further updates

6486.3.6 Closure of A466. Locals are ignoring the 'Road Closed' signs as there is no obvious reason for them; also noted that signs are not removed when work has concluded. It was subsequently confirmed that the road from Redbook to Bigsweir would be closed for 3 weeks due to rock movement and general instability of the bank.

6486.3.7 Large puddle on A466 south of Redbrook following heavy rain.

Last two items for discussion at site meeting

6487 ASSETS INSPECTION

The report with proposed actions was noted.

6488 CLIMATE ACTION WORKING GROUP

Notes from the latest meeting are on the website. The group has acquired an infra-red camera to detect heat loss in properties. Arrangements to be made to loan this out to residents.

6489 BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN No report

6490 PARISH PLAN No report. It was commented that devolution may have an effect on this project

6491 WYE RESTORATION PLAN No report

6492 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

It was agreed to stick to the usual format ie local group reports, refreshment, but it was felt a speaker on an issue of interest might attract more to attend. Councillors to consider such a speaker by the February meeting.

6493 CORRESPONDENCE None other than that already dealt with earlier in the meeting.

6494 MINOR MATTERS

6494.1 It was reported that a large music festival (45,000 attending?) was planned on Monmouth Showground over August Bank Holiday, Clerk to contact organiser for details and perhaps

- request he speak at a council meeting.
- 6494.2 Details of someone who might act as the council handyman were handed to the Clerk who would make contact
- 6494.3 It was noted that 2 casual vacancies remained to be filled.
- 6494.4 It was reported that the trash screen in Redbrook was damaged and had been reported to FODDC.
- 6464.5 It was reported that there had been 2 major sewage spillages into the Wye, Cllr Purvis was in discussion about these with Welsh Water.

6495 PUBLIC COMMENT

- 6495.1 Refreshments at the Annual Parish Meeting (APM) are little used and an unnecessary expense.
- 6495.2 Suggestion that speaker at the APM might talk about erosion.
- 6495.3 The traffic survey in Lambsquay Road, Clearwell (6486.1.3 above) was undertaken at two locations.

6496 ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

- Feb – footpaths
- Feb – devolution
- Feb – Finalise arrangements for Annual Parish Meeting.

6497 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS AND ASSOCIATED TIMETABLE

Date	Time	Meeting	Venue
25 Feb	1900	Council Meeting	Newland Village Room
25 Mar	1900	Council Meeting	Redbrook Village Hall
15 Apr	1900	Annual Parish Meeting	Newland Village Room
29 Apr	1900	Council Meeting	Clearwell Memorial Hall
27 May	1900	Council Meeting	Newland Village Room
24 Jun	1900	Council Meeting	Redbrook Village Hall
29 Jul	1900	Council Meeting	Clearwell Memorial Hall
30 Sep	1900	Council Meeting	Newland Village Room
28 Oct	1900	Council Meeting	Redbrook Village Hall
25 Nov	1900	Council Meeting	Clearwell Memorial Hall

The meeting closed at 21:36

NB. Councillors please note:

1. Proposed amendments to draft minutes to be in writing not less than 10 days before the next meeting. The proposal must be specific as to words to be removed and those to be added.
2. Items for the agenda for the next meeting to be advised not less than 8 days before the next meeting.
3. Requests for dispensations to speak on an item in which you have an interest to be advised not less than 3 days before the next meeting.

Rota for undertaking in-house checks prior to these meetings, please arrive by 1830.

May – Cllrs Davies and Norris
September – Henson and Wright
2026
February – Evans and AN Other