

NEWLAND PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD
IN REDBROOK VILLAGE HALL ON 25th MARCH 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 **WW** Welsh Water

PRESENT

Cllr Davies (Chairman), Henson, Norris (from 19:01), Purvis, Wheeler & Wright
Mr R Crighton, Clerk. 3 members of the public.

6526 APOLOGIES

Cllr Evans, County Cllr McFarling

6527 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Minute	Cllr	Type	Reason	Action
Henson	6539.2	Other (Personal)	Committee member of beneficiary group	Did not vote
Norris	6549.2	Disclosable pecuniary	Related to enquirer	Left the meeting
Norris	6549.3	Other (Personal)	Related to complainant	Did not participate in discussion.

6528 DISPENSATION REQUESTS None

6529 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD 25 FEBRUARY 2025

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

6530 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- 6530.1 re minute 6507.1 – minutes of “Thriving Communities” meeting had been circulated and were noted.
6530.2 re minute 6508.1 – a response to an email highlighting issues around ‘Green Lanes’ was agreed
6530.3 re minute 6513 – to note advice received that Nick Sargent is not Staunton’s handyman
6530.4 re minute 6515.1 – to note grant application for Community Garden submitted to GCC with a decision expected imminently.

6531 COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

Cllr McFarling’s report is attached to these minutes.

6532 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

Cllr Wheeler reported:

- The appointment of Helen Blundell as the FODDC's Monitoring Officer
- Biosphere designation agreed for Forest of Dean
- Local Government reorganisation
- Agreement of revised plans for Five Acres site at Berry Hill

6533 PARISH COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

6533.1 Cllr Davies – Devolution seminar. Plans for the reorganization of the County's councils

6533.2 Cllr Davies – met Redbrook school who have ideas for green spaces in the village

6533.3 Cllr Wheeler – 'Meet the Planners' evening. NPPF, Local Plan and 5 year land supply explained; considered a missed opportunity to share facilities at The Main Place.

6533.4 Cllr Purvis – Hall's Charity. 4 new members and some grants provisionally agreed.

6534 CLERKS REPORT

6534.1 Advice re registering open spaces as Village Greens – to be advised to Redbrook Millennium Green committee.

6534.2 Further evidence required by Unity Trust Bank ref Cllr Wheeler's mobile phone number.

6534.3 Cllr Purvis and Clerk attended funeral of James Blanch

6535 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

6535.1 Seeking details of the grant submitted for Community Gardens, and evidence of need.

6535.2 Seeking clarification of some expenditure.

6536 PLANNING No applications or decisions.

6537 FINANCE

6537.1 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT. It was resolved to pay the following accounts; authority - Localism Act 2011 s.1 (1). Cllrs Wright (Davies as substitute) and Henson to authorise at bank

Ref	To	For	Amount £	VAT £	Payment value £
24/61	R S Crighton	Net salary	CONFIDENTIAL		
24/62		Travel	59.85		
24/63-64		Allowance, I/T, telephone	207.21		CONFIDENTIAL
24/65	HMRC	PAYE	CONFIDENTIAL		CONFIDENTIAL
24/66	Broxap Ltd	Play equipment - Clearwell Rec	2198.00	439.60	2637.60
24/67	Broxap Ltd	Play equipment installation	1200.00	240.00	1440.00
24/68	Viking	Stationery	159.89	31.98	191.87
		TOTALS	CONFIDENTIAL	711.58	CONFIDENTIAL
	Transfer	Cheque a/c to interest a/c			8000.00

6537.2 INCOME RECEIVED: noted

Reported at last meeting	£35919.23
Changes	NIL
Current figure	£35919.23

6537.3 PROVISIONAL YEAR-END POSITION

The report was noted

6537.4 FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

It was **resolved** to adopt the NALC March 2025 version

6538 HIGHWAYS & RIGHTS OF WAY

- 6538.1 Issues arising from meeting with Nathan Choat were noted
- 6538.2 Up date on local footpaths initiative; further action shortly.
- 6538.3 Dr Payne reported on the potentially unstable condition of the mine beneath Lambsquay Road and the drive to Clearwell Mill. Parish Council supports Dr Payne's efforts and will press for the 17 ton weight limit to be reinstated, for an underground site visit by GCC and for a new geotechnical survey to be commissioned.
- 6538.4 Dates for closure of A466 Wye bridge Monmouth were reported.

6539 CLEARWELL RECREATION GROUND

- 6539.1 The meeting was advised of the legal position regarding the respective roles and responsibilities of the Custodian Trustee and the Management Committee. It was noted that the Parish Council is awaiting further a response from the committee regarding the constitution.
- 6539.2 It was **resolved** to repay £75 to the committee for the electrical safety certificate for the pavilion, on the basis of no commitment to covering this cost in future.

6540 PARISH PLAN

- 6540.1 It was agreed to hold a Working Group meeting on 7 April during the day at the Chairman's house and a further meeting at 1900 in Redbrook Village hall (tbc) to finalise the plan.
- 6540.2 Articles for the newsletter to be sent to the Clerk by 10 April
- 6540.3 Both documents to be sent for printing by 30 April

6541 CLIMATE ACTION WORKING GROUP

The notes of the meeting held 13/3/25 are attached to these minutes. Event planned for 17 May with several outside bodies expected to attend.

6542 BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN

- 6542.1 It was reported that the first review of the policy was due in April
- 6542.2 It was resolved to purchase (max) £60 of flower seeds for public distribution
- 6542.3 It was suggested to invite a speaker on the subject to a meeting

6543 CONSORTIUM OF WYE VALLEY COUNCILS (CAWG) & WYE RESTORATION PLAN

- 6543.1 It was reported that the inaugural meeting of CWVC held 6/3/25 was mainly attended by town Councils, but nevertheless was considered a success.
- 6543.2 It was reported that a recent visit to the NWWTW was useful with Welsh water staff seemingly "surprised" at the quality of questions put to them. It was established that they do not test for e-coli related to raw sewage discharges.

6544 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

It was agreed to supply cheese and wine and non-alcoholic drinks and to invite a guest speaker from Gloucestershire Prepared. Final details to be agreed at next meeting.

6545 FODDC HOUSING & EMPLOYMENT SURVEY

It was agreed to send no response but to review in time for the 2026 update

6546 MINOR MATTERS

- 6546.1 EV charging points to be installed in FODDC Redbrook car park
- 6546.2 Property on Welsh side of border by Incline bridge subject to Enforcement Notice
- 6546.3 Willow staves planted along river bank in Redbrook
- 6546.4 Further meeting with WW on 1/4/25 to discuss sewage discharges
- 6546.5 Cases of Avian Flu reported in the area
- 6546.6 Suggestion of forming a NPC public WhatsApp group (broadcast only)

6547 PUBLIC COMMENT

- 6547.1 (Question) regarding Dr Payne's qualifications
- 6547.2 (Question) What are the objectives and follow-up for the wild flower seeds initiative?
- 6547.3 (Question) Are meetings still recorded?

6548 ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Apr – Finalise arrangements for Annual Parish Meeting.

6549 CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

6550 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS AND ASSOCIATED TIMETABLE

Date	Time	Meeting	Venue
29 Apr	1900	Council Meeting	Clearwell Memorial Hall
13 May	1900	Annual Parish Meeting	Newland Village Room
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 22:09

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

REPORTS

County Councillor report for Newland Parish Council 25th March 2025

Gloucestershire County Council

Gloucestershire County Council are coming to the end of their 4 year term. Elections for new county councillors will take place on 1st May 2025 and those that are elected will need to determine how a major government reorganisation is processed. It is possible that these county councillors will be elected for only 2 or 3 years before having to seek election once again for whatever unitary or super-unitary is formed to deliver services more efficiently. The County Council's proposals for unitarisation were put to government by the 21st March.

The County council met on Wednesday 12th March for the last time as full council. To get an idea of the 6 motions that were on the agenda, see below.

Motion 952

Proposed by Cllr Chloe Turner (Green)

For the Council to formally endorse the call for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty and make that endorsement public;

Motion 953

Proposed by Cllr John Bloxham (Lab)

Following the disturbances last summer, for members to reaffirm our commitment to challenge racism in all its forms. We therefore commit to doing all we can to build cohesive communities...

Motion 954

Proposed by Cllr Wendy Thomas (Lab)

That Council welcomes the pledge to introduce a ban on trail hunting and looks forward to that legislation. Further Council urges that, prior to enactment of this strengthening of the law, private landowners and tenants of County Farms do not to permit trail hunting on their land.

Motion 954

Proposed by Cllr Alan Preest (Con)

Devolution. This Council calls for:

- Close collaboration with district councils to ensure a smooth and efficient transition to a single Unitary Authority.
- A clear rejection of any proposals for two separate Unitary Authorities, as they offer no financial, organisational, or practical benefit

Motion 956

Proposed by Cllr Andrew Miller (Con)

Supporting Gloucestershire's Farmers: Opposing the Family Farm Tax.

That the Council write to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and Gloucestershire's 6 MPs to express strong opposition to these tax changes and urge the Government to reverse its decision on Agricultural Property Relief and Business Property Relief restrictions

Motion 957

Proposed by Cllr Lisa Spivey (LibDem)

A Call for a Fresh Start and Accountability in Gloucestershire.

That this Council calls for a fresh new administration following the May elections.

In the time allotted, only the first two motions were debated and determined.

Motion 952, "For the Council to formally endorse the call for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty" was amended by Labour with an exception for the freeminers of the Forest of Dean. The substantive motion was then voted out 24:21, and lost.

Motion 953, "... for members to reaffirm our commitment to challenge racism in all its forms" An independent amendment to expand the motion to include the fight against illegal immigration provoked a heated debate. Though this amendment was modified, it still included the need to clamp down on illegal immigrants. The motion was voted through 24:21.

Highways

In order to avoid duplication of effort, these issues will be determined directly between the Clerk and the Highways Manager. I will continue to respond to difficult and complicated and emergency highways matters as necessary.

If you have any questions or queries please let me know

Cllr Chris McFarling

chris.mcfarling@fdean.gov.uk
chris.mcfarling@gloucestershire.gov.uk

CLIMATE ACTION WORKING GROUP

CAWG meeting 13.03.25 at Stank Farm

Present: Sally, John, June, Nicky (chair) Jill, Richard (notetaker), Alex

Apologies: Anwen, Mark

1. Welcome and thanks to Sally for offering to host the meeting

2. Matter arising from last meeting

- The parish council is putting out a newsletter in April. We should aim to get any items ready to send

to Richard Crighton by the end of March.

3. Positive news

- Richard mentioned the 'Greener Gloucestershire' application he has submitted to benefit the establishment of a Newland Parish 'community gardens' initiative.

- Alex mentioned some interesting new items that people in Clearwell are interested in growing on the plot on Andrew Baker's land in Pingry Lane e.g. licorice and echinacea

- Sally mentioned kids at Branches Out school at Stank Farm are growing vegetables from seed and will be having a 'planting out' event on 12th April

- John mentioned the visit to Old Ham mine in Clearwell by a group to look at the condition of the mine roof and the ongoing disruption on the road to Bigsweir (including the discovery of a sinkhole). June is aware of an imminent engineering inspection there.

There was a consensus that many of the road instability issues that seem to be happening more regularly are likely to be affected by heavier rainfall and that the parish council should keep abreast of local authority responses to these situations.

- June mentioned the first meeting of the Wye Valley town and parish council consortium. This will be a coming together of representatives of local councillors from along the River Wye to look at issues related to river pollution, climate resilience and cross-border cooperation.

- Nicky mentioned the activities of the district council's Climate Action team – they are doing a lot

- Sally added the news that heat pumps have been installed by Clearwell Memorial Hall.

We thought we should send an email to Two Rivers Housing to congratulate them on the number of heat pumps (with solar panels) they are currently installing in their properties.

4. Story of the Month

We thought we should repeat last month's 'S of the M' - the acquisition of an Infra-Red camera for checking domestic heat loss.

Richard apologised for not having produced the lending out documents which had been forwarded to him – but he will make sure this gets done soon

In the meantime, the parish council has been offered another camera which can be acquired from the district council.

Richard is liaising with Sam Clarke who has recently been appointed as the FoDDC's retrofit engagement officer and part of his brief is to support local residents assessing their own home insulation needs.

Sam is very keen to attend the CAWG event on 17th May

Alex and June are very keen to have a go with the camera we have already.

5. Resilience Hubs

We mentioned again that there has been some activity to set up local resilience hubs to support local climate action. These could be very helpful but rely on groups of people setting them up. We will continue to be supportive of this activity.

Sally mentioned

6. Any new initiatives we could try and launch?

Resilience hubs?

The parish council is already involving itself in promoting ‘resilience’ and engaging with other agencies – but we could ask FoDDC if they could provide any information leaflets which we could hand out at the CAWG May 17th event

There could also be a sign-up sheet for people to register their interest in these

7. The Great Collaboration

Ask the parish council if the questionnaires composed by Nicky and Richard for the G.C. could be sent out to people in the parish (approval for this was given in January 2024)

8. May 17th event planning

Possible stalls (in addition to those planned from the last meeting could be:

- Parish council Will be able to share copies of the Parish Plan and discuss issues contained within
- Sustainable food Need an exhibition board for growing (Community gardening etc.)
+ seed swapping and sales Alex is not available on 17/5 but will help set up
- National Landscapes To be invited
- Save the Wye – with emphasis on citizen’s science To be invited
- Rewilding Lamsquay Woods John? Noxon Farm Invite Abi and Will?
- FoDDC Sam Clarke (Retrofitting) + General initiatives being taken Piers Cardiff + Katie Clubb
- Warm & Well to be invited
- Clearwell School Maybe a song on climate issues (or 2?) Contact headteacher
- Clearwell Rec Committee Will be contacted
- Heat pumps Table for information
- Bees and local honey production Nicky will contact Gareth
- Clothes swap Contact Kate Openshaw
- We thought we could have a ‘Climate stripes’ display to show how global temperatures have risen over

last 2 centuries. See link: <https://www.reading.ac.uk/planet/climate-resources/climate-stripes>

9. Next meeting: Date to be suggested Second or third week of April?