

NEWLAND PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD
IN CLEARWELL MEMORIAL HALL ON 29th APRIL 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.
FOIA Freedom of Information Act **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. **NWWTW** Newland Waste Water Treatment Works **SLCC** Society of Local Council Clerks
WVNL Wye Valley National Landscape **WW** Welsh Water

PRESENT

Cllr Davies (Chairman), Henson, Norris, Purvis & Wright
Mr R Crighton, Clerk. 5 members of the public.

6556 APOLOGIES

6556.1 This meeting: Cllrs Evans & Wheeler, County Cllr McFarling
6556.2 It was **resolved** to approve leave of absence from meetings for Cllr Evans for 6 months (to be
reviewed no later than the July 2025 meeting)

6557 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Minute	Cllr	Type	Reason	Action
6566.1.4	Wright	Other	Acquainted with applicant	Refrained from discussion and vote
6566.3.1	Davies	Other	Associated with application	Refrained from voting

6558 DISPENSATION REQUESTS None

6559 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

6559.1 MEETING OF 25 MARCH 2025

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

6559.2 MEETING OF 15 APRIL 2025

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

6560 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

6560.1 MEETING OF 25 MARCH 2025

6560.1.1 re minute 6530.2: it was reported that following the initial response, two further emails
had been received; Chairman to respond.

6560.1.2 re minute 6539.1: to note response from CRG still awaited re constitution

6560.1.3 re minute 6546.4: Cllrs Purvis & Davies reported on the history of the development of

the site (but see minute 6565.1 below)

6560.2 MEETING OF 15 APRIL 2025.

6560.2.1 re minute 6554.2: it was agreed to deal with the FOIA issue on 6 May at 19:00.

6561 CLERK'S REPORT

6561.1 It was reported that the vote by member Councils to (a) alter GAPTC's status and (b) change the name had both been carried.

6561.2 It was reported that the revised audit requirements from 2025/26 require the use of government email addresses, failing which the audit will be 'qualified', indicating non-compliance or deviation from expected standards.

6562 COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT No report (Pre Election period)

6563 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT No report (Pre Election period)

6564 PARISH COUNCILLORS' REPORTS None

6565 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

6565.1 Two residents of Redbrook advised the meeting of the issues on land on the Welsh side of the border adjacent to the Incline bridge saying that it was originally an area for vegetable cultivation, with a greenhouse has been developed by the construction of a shed and a yurt in which a family of 4 (2 children) are living with no mains services. This development had taken place without planning permission and MCC had recently issued an Enforcement Notice which had resulted in a retrospective planning application to be submitted. It was **resolved** that the Parish Council, having received details from the complainant, would lodge an objection to the current application.

6565.2 Clearwell resident, referring to the previous meeting, expressing surprise so much credence was given to Dr Payne's views on the caves; what qualifications he has to make his statements about the caves; why did the Parish Council contact GH on the word and photographs of Dr Payne; why was Parish Council seeking a weight limit on the road. Astounded at decisions made on the opinion of one person who "clearly has a vested interest and is very biased". It appears that the Parish Council is against Noble Foods - jobs there are important.

A. The question of a weight limit and requests for engineering surveys have been raised repeatedly over recent years; the evidence provided by Dr Payne led to the Council taking the action it did. It was agreed to defer to GCC as the appropriate authority.

Response from GH advised that any weight limit would not apply to vehicles accessing the site; the aspect of site visit and underground survey was one which should be addressed to the mine owner and Mill owner as the fault is not under the public highway. (See minute 6568)

6565.3 Clearwell resident – why was the agenda for the confidential meeting not placed on Facebook?

A. Was on website and notice boards, little point as the meeting was not open to the public (also not a legal requirement to place on Facebook)

Resolved to contact Noble Foods and the mines owner to discuss issues.

6566 PLANNING

6566.1 FOREST OF DEAN DISTRICT COUNCIL – APPLICATIONS RECEIVED: to note response(s)

	LPA Ref / applicant	Location	Proposal	Response
6566.1.1	P0361/25/FUL Ms S Blandford	Clearwell: 2 Church Cottages, Church Road	Widen existing driveway and introduce new dropped kerb	No objection

6566.1.2	P0382/25/FUL Mrs K Pitt	Stowe Green: Rose Cottage	Single storey rear extension	No objection
6566.1.3	P0481/25/TCA Mrs T Chance	Clearwell: The Post Office, The Cross	Fell & remove 2 confers located in front garden of property. Trees have grown to un- manageable size, causing damage and risk of collapse to stone boundary wall, which is adjacent to a public footpath.	No objection
6566.1.4	P0414/25/FUL Mr R Macdonald	Clearwell: Castle Farm, Church Road	Erection of oak framed building to use as workshop	No objection

6566.2 FOREST OF DEAN DISTRICT COUNCIL – DECISIONS NOTIFIED - None

6566.3 FOREST OF DEAN DISTRICT COUNCIL – OTHER APPLICATIONS RECEIVED: to note response

	LPA Ref / applicant	Location	Proposal	Response
6566.3.1	F/25/00147/PRMV Redbrook Village trust	Redbrook: Football Field	Variation of premises licence for 3 marquees – 1 with bar operating 1200-2300, 1 with live music from 1200-2300	No objection

6567 FINANCE

6567.1 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT. It was **resolved** to authorise the following transactions – authority Localism Act 2011 s.1(1). Cllrs Wright and Henson to authorise at bank.

Ref	To	For	Amount	VAT	Payment
25/01	Broxap	Clearwell recreation ground equipment	663.00	132.60	795.60
25/02	R S Crighton	Reimburse anti-virus protection	56.98		56.98
25/03	Clearwell Recreation Ground	Reimburse electrical certificate cost	75.00		75.00
25/04	Forest Sensory Services	Grant	100.00		100.00
25/05	GAPTC	Annual subscription	296.15		296.15
		TOTALS	1191.13	132.60	1323.73
	Transfer	Cheque a/c to Interest a/c			15000.00

6567 INCOME RECEIVED, to note:

Reported at last meeting	-
Additions – 50% precept	16000.00
Total year to date	16000.00

6567.3 EXTERNAL AUDIT

It was **resolved** to approve each of the following prior to submission to External Auditor

- 6567.3.1 Annual Internal Audit Report (AIAR)
- 6567.3.2 Annual Governance Statement (AGS)
- 6567.3.3 Accounting Statement (AS)
- 6567.3.4 Bank reconciliation form
- 6567.3.5 Explanation of Variances
- 6567.3.6 The dates for the exercise of public rights (20/6/25-1/8/25)
- 6567.3.7 Year end reserves analysis

6567.4 GRANT APPLICATION

It was resolved to approve a grant request for £500 from Friends of Scarr Bandstand

6568 HIGHWAYS & RIGHTS OF WAY

6568.1 The response from GH re mine instability under the driveway to Clearwell Farm was noted (see minute 6565.2).

6568.2 It was agreed a need to follow up on the issues discussed with GH at a recent site visit. (Drop box facility to be arranged by Cllr Norris)

6568.3 Cllr Norris reported no response from motorcyclist he met recently.

6569 CLIMATE ACTION WORKING GROUP

6569.1 It was reported that the application to Greener Gloucestershire Climate Change Fund was unsuccessful. Interest in a community garden would continue to be sought.

6569.2 Arrangement for the event on 17 May in Clearwell Memorial Hall were in hand.

6570 BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN

6570.1 It was **resolved** to formally adopt the plan.

6570.2 There will be an exhibition board at the meeting on 17 May (see 6569.2), the primary aim is to develop partnerships, and free seeds to be distributed.

6571 NEWSLETTER

6571.1 The final format and content were approved, subject to any final changes to be advised by 30 April.

6571.2 It was **resolved** to accept the quotation of £375 for printing.

6571.3 Hard copies to be delivered by hand (as per previous arrangements)

6572 PARISH PLAN

6572.1 The final format and content were approved, subject to any final changes to be advised by 6 May.

6572.2 It was **resolved** to accept the quotation of £745 for printing

6572.3 Plan to be launched at the Annual Parish Meeting; method and timing of delivery of hard copies to be agreed.

6572.4 Thanks were offered to Cllr Davies for her work in preparing the document.

6572.5 It was **resolved** to form a Working Group to take the project forward. Group to comprise minimum 3 Councillors plus members of the public. No delegated powers to the group.

6573 WYE RESTORATION PROJECT / CONSORTIUM OF WYE VALLEY COUNCILS (CWVC)

6573.1 Agenda for next CWVC meeting to include two speakers (WVNL and FODDC Officers)

6573.2 Nothing to report on restoration project; Cllr Davies to update for the CWVC and Annual Parish Meetings.

6574 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

6574.1 Speaker invited

6574.2 Refreshments purchases organised.

6574.3 Cllr Henson to contact owner of land opposite Village Room, re parking.

6574.4 Invitation issued.

6575 CORRESPONDENCE

6575.1 FOR INFORMATION ONLY

6575.1.1 Gloucestershire Constabulary – Rebalancing Neighbourhood Police Teams

6575.1.2 FODDC re EV charging points in Redbrook car park. *Clerk to enquire why costs have risen so dramatically, and request tapes and bollards to be removed.*

6576 MINOR MATTERS

6576.1 'Megasecur' flood defence system to be investigated and potential sites identified.
6576.2 Kerb repairs at Swanpool only partially completed.

6577 PUBLIC COMMENT

VE event in Clearwell Memorial Hall on VE Day at 13:30

6578 ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

May – review all Governance policies, specifically:
Standing Orders (no change),
Complaints Policy (re-written),
Responding to Freedom of Information requests (re-written)
IT policy (new)
Review Risk Assessment policy
May – In house checks
Jun – arrange Clerk's annual appraisal for July
Jul – review Cllr Evans leave of absence
Jan 2026 – re visit FODDC Housing & Employment survey

6579 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS AND ASSOCIATED TIMETABLE

Date	Time	Meeting	Venue
13 May	1830 for 1900	Annual Parish Meeting	Newland Village Room
15 May	1900	Consortium of Wye Valley Councils	Redbrook Village Hall
27 May	1900	Annual 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 21:08

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