

09/27

MINUTES of a Meeting of Wellington Heath Parish Council held in The Peter Garnett Room, Memorial Hall, Wellington Heath on Tuesday, 24th November 2009 at 7.30pm.

PRESENT – P. Adams (in the Chair –PA) R. Hurley (RH) H. Ransome-Williams (HRW) J. Harrison (JH), J. Jones (JJ) & W. Hill (WH).

- **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** in items on the Agenda – None received.

MINUTES – The Minutes of the Meeting held on 27th October 2009 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

PROGRESS REPORT –

SIGNS/SIGNAGE – The Clerk had received an e-mail from Andrew Middlecote at Herefordshire Council that he would chase the outstanding remaining work, but to date this had not been carried out. In view of the time of year, this may well now have to wait until Spring/Summer 2010.

RH suggested it might be an appropriate time to look again at the flashing speed signs and JH agreed to look into the cost of this.

SAFE WALKING FOOTWAY INTO LEDBURY – The Chairman reported he had been unable to contact Ledbury Town Clerk but will continue to press forward with the Parish Council wishes.

SIGNS FOR HGVs at Floyds Lane – Sign erected in the position requested.

P3 Scheme – RH advised meeting of the Committee had taken place, and it had been agreed to continue with this scheme during 2010. At the Committee meeting they had identified some areas where money could be spent such as handrails at Oakeys Lane and Ochre Hill, and in addition some stiles were in need of repair. RH was now endeavouring to arrange a meeting with Chris Gardner, Vince Playdon and Richard Wilcox to obtain advice as to what can be done to the bridge leading up to The Frith which requires an additional hand-rail.

Area of land owned by Mr. Cobb – JJ advised she had spoken to Mr. Cobb who confirmed he had plans in the future to develop the land but hoped to negotiate some affordable housing or some suitable alternative which would benefit the Village. Mr. Cobb had spoken to the Planning Dept. about this and advised he hoped to come to one of the Parish Council meetings to discuss his wishes. The Chairman stated that this land was looked at when the affordable housing survey was carried out, and that the planners did not think it a suitable site. The land also did not meet the criteria laid down in the UDP.

Dr's appointments in conjunction with local bus service – The Chairman circulated a draft letter for approval which he proposed should be sent to the Ledbury Doctors. This was discussed, and it was agreed the Chairman would let the Clerk have another letter for submission to the Doctors enquiring what the current rules are regarding appointments at their surgeries, so that Councillors could discuss the matter further.

The Pleck – RH advised Hamish Skinner had done some clearance work and trodden down a circular route through the site. A small bridge with some steps has been provided into the site, and Hamish plans to finish off the road frontage and carry on with the work. It was reported no adverse comments has been received.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION –

Hedges in Parish – The only hedge still causing a problem was at Ochre Hill. Clerk to write to Mr. Taylor advising that his hedge had encroached onto the public footpath and request him to cut it back by about a yard. The Chairman advised Councillors could report any problems direct by e-mail to streets@ herefordshire.gov.uk

Adoption of local telephone kiosk – RH had written to BT regarding their offer to the PC that this could be adopted for £1. The item had also been included in the Newsletter with only one comment received regarding the cost involved. BT had advised that they were not going to remove it at the moment, but may take some of the equipment out in the future. Discussion followed regarding the cost involved and possible use in the future, and on a proposal by HRW, seconded by JJ and carried, it was agreed RH ask BT if they would consider “not closing it because of the lack of coverage by mobile telephones in the area”.

Transition Villages/Towns – The Chairman explained what Transition Villages involved and advised that Ledbury is joining a Transition Scheme. The idea was discussed and it was suggested that Wellington Heath might be able to link up with Ledbury to make this a transition village. WH agreed to invite Beverley Kinnard to come to our January meeting to discuss the benefits of such a scheme.

Bench/seats around the Village – RH advised he had looked the cost involved for one or two decent hardwood benches around the Village at a cost of approx. £450/£500 each, one of which would replace the damaged seat at the top of The Common. The matter was discussed, and it was generally agreed not to purchase any additional seats for placement around the village.

RESOLVED – On a proposal by JJ, seconded by PA and carried, it was agreed WH would obtain three Quotations for buying and fitting the new bench to replace the damaged one near the bus stop at the top of the Common.

Welcome Party – This will take place in Memorial Hall, letters have gone out to new residents. Village Hall Committee were providing nibbles, and it was agreed Parish Council would supply tea/coffee and mulled wine which JJ agreed to purchase on behalf of the Parish Council.

NEWSLETTER – RH advised next edition due in February with a deadline of mid January for items to be included.

FINANCIAL MATTERS – Precept - Following a meeting of the Finance Committee, RH proposed that there should be no increase in the level of the Precept for the year 2010/11. This was seconded by JJ and carried, with the Precept set at £7,300.

Budget – Following a meeting of the Finance Committee, draft Budget figures had been circulated to all members. Discussion took place and on a proposal by PA, seconded by HRW and carried, the budget was agreed for 2010/11 in accordance with the figures proposed by the Finance Committee.

The following Accounts had been received, and were approved for payment -

- Lengthsman – £100.00.
- Ledbury Fencing at Pool Piece £25.00.
- Mazars, external auditors £138.00.

- Memorial Hall hire fees £66.00.
- Clerk – salary £471.72
- Clerks expenses £51.20.

- Although payments to the Lengthsman had used up the funds received from Herefordshire Council, on a proposal by RH, seconded by JH and carried, it was agreed the Parish Council would pay the Lengthsman the sum of £50. a month for four months to ensure drains were cleared and unblocked during the winter months.

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- **MEMORIAL HALL REPORT** – JJ advised worktop in kitchen had not been fitted, new shrubs had been planted in the grounds and the position for the container marked out. The October Lecture had been attended by 65 people and the 70's night had been a sell out. Dates for future reference were the Spring Show on 16th May and the Summer Fete on 10th July 2010.

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- **PLANNING APPLICATION** – RH reported that only one planning application had been received for change of use of agricultural land to enlarge garden at Rosebank, The Common, Wellington Heath and no objections had been raised to this application.

Report on LETS – WH reported that the AGM had taken place, the annual charge was covering all the costs and it had been agreed to continue with the Scheme, which was in some ways linked to the Transition Village scheme.

CORRESPONDENCE -

- Letter – Mazars Auditors, reporting a satisfactory audit had taken place to 31/03/09.
- Letter – Environmental Agency regarding change to some internal operational boundaries.

LITERATURE – File to be circulated.

Public Question Time – Report received that some residents had been advised they were exempt from having a wheelie-bin for recycling purposes. Clerk to write to Herefordshire Council advising some unhappiness amongst residents about this exemption and ask them to contact people affected to discuss and review the situation.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING – Phone box, Transition Village, The Pleck, Safe walking footway to Ledbury, Quotation for Bench at bus stop, Dr's appointments in conjunction with the local bus service, speed signs and on-going report on various outstanding issues.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Signed

Dated

Chairman.