

MINUTES of a meeting of Wellington Heath Parish Council held on Tuesday 26th July 2011 in The Peter Garnett Room, Wellington Heath Memorial Hall at 7.30pm.

PRESENT - P. Adams (in the Chair – PA) R. Hurley (RH) J.Jones (JJ) W. Hill (WH) and J. Harrison (JH). Also in attendance was District Councillor T. Johnson.

MINUTES – The Minutes of the meeting held on 28th June 2011 were taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST in items on the Agenda – None declared.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT _ Cllr. T. Johnson reported that Herefordshire Council had received a Government grant of 14.5million pounds towards Broadband for the Herefordshire, Gloucestershire had received a similar amount, and it was hoped that Suppliers would come forward with the balance of funds required. There was a considerable amount of interest from the Defence Industry which would bring with it a minimum of 6K new jobs dependent upon Broadband being available. He reported that Graham Powell was co-ordinating matters in the County, and it was hoped that Parish Councils would offer their support. There was certain criteria to be met and the project had gone out to tender for further support. A handout on the project was included in the Literature circulation for Councillors to read through. Cllr. T. Johnson then left the meeting.

The Chairman closed the meeting to allow public question time

Attending the meeting was Hamish Skinner with his son who had organised a Petition of many signatures in connection with the proposed level play area adjacent to the Memorial Hall. It was reported that Ian Mackie had met the Planning Officer who advised that planning permission was required who recommended that included in the application should be a note on how the impact would be minimised in response to any objections that might be received. It was reported that the Hall Committee were in favour of the proposal and that the Hemingway family thought there had been some arrangement whereby the land was given to the Parish Hall which was supposed to include a play area on the land to the side of the Memorial Hall. It was estimated the cost would be about £8,000.

The Clerk was to obtain a copy of the Lease from Masefield Solicitors in Ledbury to enable any conditions attached to the Lease to be inspected and include an item regarding the matter on the Agenda at the September meeting.

The Chairman thanked Hamish and his son for attending and assured them the matter would be discussed by the Parish Council.

The Chairman then re-opened the Parish Council meeting

PROGRESS REPORTS – Safe Walking Footway into Ledbury - The Chairman advised he had nothing further to report but expressed concerns about the overgrown footway on the main road into Ledbury.

Notice Board Quotations and relocation of Horse Road Board – RH agreed to obtain prices for two replacement boards for consideration at the September meeting. JH agreed to gauge local opinion when he was delivering the newsletter regarding repositioning the board at present on the corner of Horse Road to an area nearer the bus stop, and if the general opinion was that this should remain in the current position, it was agreed that a Quotation should be obtained for cutting steps into the bank to enable easier access to the board in its present position.

Best Kept Village and Welcome Signs – JJ confirmed she had brought the matter up at a meeting and a lot were in favour of taking down the Best Kept Village Sign which no longer appeared relevant and advised no one had shown any interest in re-entering the Competition again. RH agreed to put an item in the November Newsletter about its removal.

RH confirmed he had painted some of the “Welcome” signs around the Village including the one of The Common and will do the others around the Village. Two or three Parish Councillors agreed to clean off and repaint the steps to the Pub.

Co-option – The Clerk advised that Herefordshire Council do have the right to call an election regarding the existing vacancy on the Parish Council. An item had been included in the Newsletter regarding the vacancy and the Chairman agreed to ask Peter Williamson whether he would be interested in joining the Parish Council.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION –

ROSPA Report – RH advised that the Report for 2011 included many of the items which had been raised in the 2010 Report and that the majority of the work had been carried out. He confirmed he had waited on site for the Inspector, but that they had not turned up when they were supposed to. The Clerk was to enquire when the inspection had been carried out, and report to them that the work requested in the 2010 Report had been put in hand and ask why certain items were raised again in this year’s report. No payment was to be made until replies to our questions had been received.

Parish Website Forum Page – RH has spoken to Richard Lee Buxton and asked if he could set up a Forum Page, but at the present time there appeared to be some difficulty. It was suggested a possible link to Facebook, and the Chairman agreed to speak to Richard Lee Buxton at the next “CAP” meeting in the Pub.

Changes to Mobile Library Service – The Clerk had circulated details regarding the fact that the mobile library was to be withdrawn, which it was proposed would be replaced with a home delivery service. WH had spoken to John Chedgzoy regarding the withdrawal, and he confirmed he would be willing to come to a Parish Council meeting to discuss the changes and criteria for the Home Delivery Service. It was however agreed in the first instance that WH would write an article for the next edition of the Newsletter regarding the proposed changes.

Safety of Fruit Pickers – WH reported that following meeting a group walking five abreast in the Ledbury Road she had contacted the Road Safety Unit in Herefordshire who advised that they could not provide high-viz jackets but had called on her with a supply of equipment which was available including jackets, tabards and arm-bands along with posters for display and cards available in different languages. The cost of the arm bands was £17. per thousand purchased.

PA considered this an excellent idea, not only for fruit pickers but for residents in the Village.

JJ agreed to speak with Mr. Peter Bourne, showing him the items which were available and suggesting that he might consider obtaining some of these for his staff and thanks were expressed to WH for her action in approaching the Road Safety Unit.

The results of the recent SID were produced.

TRAINING SCHEDULE – A copy of the Training Schedule up to and including March 2012 had been circulated to all Councillors and the Chairman urged Councillors to attend some of the training courses available.

FINANCIAL MATTERS – The following Accounts had been received for payment –

- Ledbury Fencing, grass cutting £50.00.
- Lengthsman – July £87.00.
- Inland Revenue, PAYE for July & August £96.40.
- R. Hurley, repayment of expenses £12.99.
- Herefordshire Council, ROSPA Report £53.06.

RESOLVED – On a proposal by RH seconded by WH and carried, the above were approved for payment with the exception of the Account for the ROSPA Report pending a reply to our query regarding the date of inspection and the fact that certain items had been duplicated from last year despite the fact that the recommended work had in fact been carried out.

REPORTS –

MEMORIAL HALL – JJ reported that Mike Bain had been appointed as the new Chairman following the resignation of Ian Mackie as Chairman, but advised that he remained on the Memorial Hall Committee. No interest had been shown in re-entering the Best Kept Village Competition.

PLANNING – RH advised only one application had been received for a one year extension of time regarding one of the conditions attached to the Planning Consent for Pegs Farm to which no objections had been raised. RH also advised that the Planning application for a detached property adjacent to Elm Tree Cottages had been approved.

HALC – WH advised nothing to report but that she would be attending a meeting the following evening.

NEWSLETTER – Latest edition had been printed and was handed out for distribution.

BUS SERVICE – WH advised nothing to report.

CORRESPONDENCE received – ROSPA Report and confirmation that the Parish Council had been registered under the Data Protection Act.

LITERATURE – File handed out for distribution, including the Report received regarding the Broadband project from Herefordshire Council.

ITEMS for September Agenda – P3 Scheme, Road Safety, Dog Fouling, overgrown verges and updates on outstanding issues.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.30pm.

NEXT MEETING to take place on Tuesday 27th September 2011.

P. Adams

27th September 2011

Signed.....

Dated.....

Chairman.