

MINUTES of a meeting of Wellington Heath Parish Council held on Tuesday 25th October 2011 in the Peter Garnett Room at The Memorial Hall commencing at 7.30pm.

PRESENT – P. Adams (in the Chair – PA), R. Hurley (RH) W. Hill (WH) J. Harrison (JH) and District Councillor T. Johnson (TJ). Also attending the meeting was Mrs. V. Leeds.

AN APOLOGY for inability to attend the meeting was received and accepted from Mrs. J. Jones.

MINUTES – The Minutes of the meeting held on 27th September 2011 were taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

CO-OPTION – It was unanimously agreed that Mrs. Vivien Leeds be co-opted onto the Parish Council. Mrs. Leeds signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office in the presence of the Clerk and joined the meeting.

REPORT by District Councillor TJ –

- (1) It was reported that one of the risks to the Council Budget was due to the fact that the existing waste disposal site would shortly be filled. He advised that the Council were looking for another site in partnership with Worcestershire County Council.
- (2) It was also reported that there was an overspend of approximately three million pounds on Adult Social Care and that a two year plan was in hand to bring this back in line with the use of some reserves.
- (3) Business rates at present were collected by them and all money sent on to the Government who in turn give some money back which the Council benefit from. It was now proposed that the Council collect their own which would result in a shortfall but the Government had offered to make this shortfall up for a couple of years. The Council were looking at cuts of 10.3 million pounds in the current year and over 6m cuts next year resulting in lots of cuts to services they offered.
- (4) TJ also advised on the New Charter to include more consultation between Councils and he indicated that the Parish Council could invite appropriate officers from Herefordshire Council and ask them to attend a PC meeting. The Parish Liaison Officer would also attend some Parish Council meetings.

Some questions were raised regarding the landfill problems and also regarding the Local Development Framework whereby between 700/800 houses for Ledbury were proposed. District Councillor Tony Johnson then left the meeting.

PROGRESS REPORTS –

Safe Walking footway into Ledbury – PA advised nothing further to report.

Notice Boards – Despite considerable attempts by WH to obtain Quotations from local firms she had been unable to come forward with any figures/Quotations for the meeting and it was agreed she continue her efforts in the hope of obtaining Quotations for consideration at the next meeting.

Play Area – a meeting with Mr. Allsopp regarding the use of some of his land for a level play area had failed to produce any agreement and a subsequent telephone conversation with Mrs. Fraser regarding some of her land had also resulted in a refusal. PA agreed to

discuss the matter again with Mr. Allsopp and he also said he would ask Cllr. Jenny Jones to arrange a meeting with Mr. Cobb to discuss any possibility of using some of his land.

Mobile Library – WH advised nothing further to report.

Plaque at Oak Tree – JJ reported that the plaque had been cleaned and that no replacement was required. RH reported Ben Andrews had agreed to start work on the tree on 2nd November 2011 and he agreed to advise nearby residents that work would commence on that date but that it was not deemed necessary to close the road.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION –

Queen's Diamond Jubilee – Article had been written in the Newsletter seeking ideas for this celebration and Ledbury Town Council had invited people to attend a meeting they were holding to discuss their proposals.

Finance Meeting – Agreed for 22nd November 2011 at 7.30 in the Memorial Hall.

Colwall LDF meeting – PA advised that at this meeting it had been reported that W/Heath would not be expected to have any major housing development as the Parish did not meet the criteria to enable this to take place. Over a twenty year period Colwall would be expected to provide an additional hundred houses, and Ledbury to provide between 700/800 additional homes. It was agreed the Parish Council would need to comment on this proposal as the additional properties in Ledbury could have a detrimental knock-on effect for W/Heath. In-fill building could continue in the Parish together with affordable housing if any local land owner decided to make any land available. The Parish should now consider producing a "Neighbourhood Plan" which is likely to be a requirement of the Localism Bill. It was again stressed that we join the proposed Cluster Group which would be a significant body carrying more weight whilst also retaining our independence and identity in the forthcoming plans affecting the area.

Winter self help scheme – JJ had reported that at the Memorial Hall Committee meeting members had indicated they did not want to have salt in their carpark and that as there was not another suitable area in the Parish where this could be stored, the Parish Council could not take up this proposed offer from Herefordshire Council.

FINANCE – The following Accounts had been received for payment –

- Ledbury Finance, grass cutting at Pool Piece £50.00.
- Inland Revenue, PAYE £48.20.
- Herefordshire Council, election expenses £62.72.
- Herefordshire Council, speed indicator £120.00.

RESOLVED – On a proposal by PA seconded by WH and carried, these Accounts were approved for payment and cheques signed.

The Clerk presented a Budget expenditure list for six months to the end of September 2011 reporting on items paid and balances remaining under each heading until the end of the financial year.

REPORTS from various Committees –

Memorial Hall – JJ had advised very little to report from the last meeting when the group had been mainly concerned with compliance matters and security. It was confirmed that increased charges were proposed for use of the Hall.

Planning – RH confirmed that he had replied at length to the proposal for a Tesco Store on the **Ledbury Welding site**. He had sought opinions from approximately sixty local residents, receiving about 27 replies, twenty of which were against the proposal, six in favour and one non-committal. A further application had been received for a small dwelling at **Pipers Gate, Floyds Lane** (which fronted onto Horse Road). A previous application for the site had been objected to, and it was unanimously agreed that a further objection should be raised for the recent application.

P3 Scheme – RH advised approximately £93. remaining in Budget for this year, and it was proposed to repair two stiles in the Parish and also to fit a spring to the gate at Dogberry Field as this had recently been left wide open which could have allowed the cows to roam onto the road. PA requested that if sufficient funds remained, the thistles could be removed on the footpath owned by the Bickham family and he agreed to take the matter up with Chris Gardiner regarding the trees which had been planted adjacent to the footpath, which when fully grown, would encroach onto the footpath itself.

HALC – WH advised she had attended the HALC Conference and felt that the Parish Council should take more advantage of what HALC have to offer, particularly with regard to their training schedule. She also reported that Peterchurch had commented on their lack of transport and it was queried whether some rural communities should be especially for retired people. She also advised that it was reported there was money available for a Village Warden Scheme from the Red Cross.

Newsletter – RH advised latest edition due out next week. With regard to the web-site proposals were in hand to improve this and make it more user friendly. A request had been received for a grant from the Parish Council to provide business-type cards advertising the new Village web site. This was to be considered at the next meeting of the PC. RH reported he had enquired at the Farmers Arms about an advertisement for the Newsletter, but the Landlord had commented that there seemed to be very little support for the Pub from local residents. Thanks were expressed to RH for his work on publishing the Newsletter.

Bus Service – WH advised that the service for Wellington Heath had not been included in the List of services which are due to be cut or reduced.

Items for next Agenda – The Chairman felt it was vital that the Parish Council respond to the new housing proposals by the viaduct at Ledbury. Items for the next Agenda to include SIDS, dog fouling, P3 Scheme, grant of £30. for cards advertising the new Village web-site, Notice Boards, Play area, approval of Budget/Precept, winter awareness, Cluster Group and the usual updates.

Next meeting to take place on Tuesday 29th November 2011.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.45.

P. Adams

29th November 2011

Signed..... Dated.....

Chairman.