

MINUTES of a Meeting of Wellington Heath Parish Council held on Tuesday 24th April 2012 in the Peter Garnett Room at the Memorial Hall, Wellington Heath commencing at 7.30pm.

PRESENT – R. Hurley (in the Chair –RH) J. Jones (JJ) V. Leeds (VL) and W. Hill (WH).

Also in attendance were Lynda Wilcox, Chief Executive at HALC and County Councillor C. Attwood (CA).

APOLOGIES for inability to attend the meeting were received and approved from P. Adams & J. Harrisson.

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

MINUTES – The Minutes of the meeting held on 27th March 2012 were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chairman.

GUEST SPEAKER – Attending the meeting was Lynda Wilcox, Chief Executive at HALC who was attending at the request of the Parish Council to advise Council Members on the following subjects raised by them –

- 1) The Localism Act.
- 2) Neighbourhood Plan/Parish Plan.
- 3) Outline of benefits of being a member of HALC, and
- 4) Participatory budgeting in the future.

A question/answer session took place, after which Councillors thanked Lynda for attending and she left the meeting.

REPORT by County Councillor – CA advised on the current situation regarding the proposed development of the old Market site in Hereford and also that he was seeking greater transparency on the various “Partnerships” of Herefordshire Council as he felt that these should be open to greater scrutiny.

PROGRESS REPORTS –

Safe Walking Footway – Nothing further to report, but large pothole by the sewage pumping station to be reported.

Notice Board at Ledbury Road/Horse Road junction – A Quotation from Ledbury Fencing had not been received for replacement of the existing board and the Clerk was to request a Quotation for this and also for Ledbury Fencing to provide some support to the banks on either side of the new standing area.

Jubilee Celebrations – WH advised all planning was well in hand for the local celebrations including the planting of daffodils, mugs for the children, the party (including food and drink) in the Memorial Hall and the recipe book.

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Pool Piece Play area – It was reported that following a meeting last week, the initial proposals for Pool Piece had been considerably reduced to an improvement of the area rather than major proposals. Consent needed to be obtained from Herefordshire Council for the proposal to culvert up to two thirds of the brook but it was understood the Council appeared negative about the proposal.

Following complaints of a smell of sewerage in Pool Piece, it was confirmed that a water test was being carried out by the Environment Agency to ascertain whether there was a problem. The Parish Council remained hopeful of obtaining a level area at the bottom of Dogberry Field owned by Roger Allsop who has asked the Parish Council for a formal application including setting out their proposals. In the event of this being obtained, there would be a need for planning consent due to change of use, fencing would be required, but the level of rent was not known at this stage. Clerk to chase the Chairman to draft a letter to Roger Allsop setting out the Parish Council wishes.

Lengthsman – The Clerk confirmed that the final report had been submitted to Herefordshire Council which included the improvement to the standing areas in front of the notice board at Horse Road and also by the Post-box and notice board near the Church. The Clerk had also confirmed that the Council wished to remain in the Lengthsman Scheme for the year 2012/13, but was not, as yet, aware of the funding available.

Parish Meeting – all plans well in hand. A free draw was to take place with a prize of a £30. meal/wine voucher at The Farmers Arms. JJ agreed to arrange the refreshments for the meeting.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION –

Jubilee Notice Board – The Clerk confirmed a Grant of £628.50 or “75% of eligible project costs (whichever is the lesser)” had been obtained and that the formal letter of acceptance had been sent off within the required acceptance time limit. The two Quotations/Options were reviewed and discussed at length and it was **RESOLVED** on a proposal by WH, seconded by RH and carried that the Council accept the Quotation from Village & Urban in the sum of £640. plus a charge of £50. for the supply of a logo for the Queen’s Jubilee. Clerk to advise them accordingly and advise that the work must be finalised by 30th June 2012 and that photographic evidence of the various stages of the project must be submitted with the final report and request for payment of the Grant.

RH advised that the success of obtaining a Grant had been reported in the Newsletter and he proposed a vote of thanks to the Clerk for her tenacity in dealing with the numerous questions and points raised before the Grant had successfully been obtained.

Farmers Arms – It was reported that the Landlord had agreed to remain at the pub on a temporary agreement at a reduced rent which was subject to a review in the Autumn. An article had been printed in the Newsletter seeking the views of Parishioners about whether the pub was still required in the Parish and asking for their true views about why they no longer go to the pub if this was applicable.

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

- Inland Revenue, PAYE £48.20.
- HALC Subscription £190.38.
- Aviva Insurance £351.59.
- Ledbury Fencing £50.00.

RESOLVED – On a proposal by W. Hill seconded by JJ and carried the above Accounts were approved for payment and cheques signed accordingly.

REPORTS –

Memorial Hall – JJ reported on change of Suppliers for gas and electricity to obtain a better deal on prices, change to hire Agreement for the hall, Grant received for projector in the main hall, query regarding film club Licence and attempts were being made to trace various files to condense them for future use. A new booking clerk had been appointed and a Little Chill event was planned for July.

Planning - RH advised no planning applications received since last meeting.

Newsletter – Latest edition should be received from printers any day and plans were agreed for the next edition to contain coloured photographs of the Jubilee celebrations.

CORRESPONDENCE – Notification received for payment of the first instalment of the Precept and a Neighbourhood planning event to be held locally in Bosbury Village Hall.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.55.

Next Meeting - Annual Parish Meeting on the 1st May 2012 followed by Annual Meeting of the Parish Council on the 24th May 2012.

Signed.....
R.J. Hurley
Chairman

29th May 2012
Dated.....