

MINUTES of a meeting of Wellington Heath Parish Council held in the Peter Garnett Room at the Memorial Hall, Wellington Heath on Tuesday 25th September 2012 commencing at 7.30pm.

PRESENT – R. Hurley (RH – in the Chair) P. Adams (PA) and J. Jones (JJ). Also in attendance was County Councillor T. Johnson.

APOLOGIES for inability to attend had been received and were approved from V. Leeds and W. Hill.

CO-OPTION – Unfortunately A. Squires had indicated he was unable to take up the offer of co-option onto the Parish Council. The Chairman asked members to consider suitable applicants to fill the vacancy.

MINUTES – The Minutes of the meeting held on 31st July 2012 were taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

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

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT –

- TJ reported he had been asked to obtain any available information on the Buchanan Trust regarding further development of the Trust as it was possible that there may be some land and housing in the Parish of Wellington Heath. He agreed to let the Clerk have a map to assist in the query.
- He advised there was a financial forecast of an overspend of about £2.5 million, assuming adult Social Care can deliver what it proposed to save.
- Amey have been invited to resubmit a Tender – their current contract expiring in September 2013. He advised three quarters of the Budget was paid by the Government, the remaining quarter from Council tax, car parking etc.
- The Enterprise Zone was filling up fast and the Broadband issue was moving forward.

PROGRESS REPORTS –

Safe Walking Footway – PA advised that the safe walking footway had been brought up at the Cluster Group meeting and that most of the area for the desired footway was in the Parish of Ledbury. Concerns had been raised following reports that approximately 700 houses were proposed on the viaduct site and that Phil Bettinson had offered to attend one of the Parish Council meetings in an attempt to open up better communications between all concerned. TJ offered to speak with Mr. Bettinson about the Parish Council concerns, as a development of this nature could have a drastic impact on traffic cutting through the Village.

Farmers Arms – It was reported that Enterprise confirmed they were discussing with a couple regarding the possible letting of the Pub. A local group of residents have offered support to tidy up the site but, to date, the offer has not been taken up.

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Correspondence had taken place regarding registration of the pub as a Community Asset in the Village and the Council have been asked how it can provide sufficient evidence to support such a registration.

Notice Board at Horse Road – The Clerk confirmed she had placed the order with Ledbury Fencing and it was hoped it would be in situ by the date of the next meeting.

Pool Piece – David Darwood had circulated an update on the proposed re-vamp at Pool Piece and it was hoped work would commence at the first October weekend regarding the cutback of the hedges and removal of unwanted saplings on site. One Quotation had been obtained for the willow tree to be pollarded but under the Council's Financial Regulations it was felt necessary to obtain a second Quotation. It was confirmed that local residents adjacent to Pool Piece are to be informed of the first stage of the clear up and **on a proposal** by J.J. seconded by PA and carried, it was agreed the Parish Council pursue lottery funding of £40,000. to be applied for in the name of the Council as owners of the land to enable the remaining improvements of facilities at Pool Piece to be carried out.

Cluster Group – PA confirmed he had attended the recent meeting of the Cluster Group and advised that he would circulate the Minutes to all Councillors for their information. Issues had been raised about communication with Ledbury Town Council and a presentation had taken place by Liz Harvey about proposed increased parking charges in Ledbury. It was hoped comments had been submitted before the closing date. PA advised he had also raised concerns about the state of many footpaths in the Ledbury rural area which were considered to be in an appalling state.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION –

Local Telephone Kiosk – An e-mail had been sent to the Chairman regarding the unclean state of the local telephone kiosk within the Parish. A local Group would be formed to clean up the kiosk and the Clerk was to enquire of BT regarding latest useage of the box to enable the Parish Council to consider whether to take up the offer to buy the box for a £1 or ask for it to be removed.

Adoption of the Code of Conduct – It was hoped full attendance of Parish Councillors at the next meeting would enable the Herefordshire Code of Conduct to be adopted following changes in the Localism Act. Once adopted, the Clerk advised the Parish Council would then need to review their Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.

Local Transport Plan Consultation – This was reported to be a far reaching transport review covering public transport, new roads and it was felt the PC needed to establish their priorities. It was felt the PC should write a specific letter raising the following items

- (a) To maintain the bus service and improve the road surfaces.
- (b) If the proposed residential development adjacent to the viaduct were to proceed, a new road should be constructed connecting the Bromnyard road to the Worcester road through Frith Wood to prevent traffic using the village roads as a rat run to Malvern.
- (c) The need to consider a 20mph speed limit in certain parts of the Parish for pedestrian safety, and
- (d) Lack of co-ordination between transport services.

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The Chairman agreed to submit a draft letter for the Clerk to send in response to the Consultation.

FINANCIAL MATTERS - the following Accounts had been received for payment –

• Inland Revenue, PAYE x 2	£96.40.
• R. Hurley, P3 expenses incurred	£24.19.
• Mazars – audit fee	£144.00.
• Ledbury Fencing @ Pool Piece for August inc hedge cut	£95.00
• Ledbury Fencing @ Pool Piece for September	£50.00.
• Ledbury Fencing – Lengthsman services for August	£37.00.
• Ledbury Fencing – Lengthsman services for September	£50.00.
• P Adams – travel to Cluster Group meeting	£20.00.
• Clerk, expenses & allowances	£78.25.

On a proposal by JJ seconded by PA and carried the above Accounts were approved for payment and cheques signed.

REPORTS -

Memorial Hall – JJ advised the Big Chill event had been successful. Plan proposed to use new equipment and query whether extra charges should be made. New signing out procedure put into effect.

Finance Report – The Clerk reported new external Auditors had been appointed for 2012/13. The Annual Report had been approved as drawn and agreed to let all Councillors have an expenditure guide to the 30th September 2012.

Newsletter – RH advised Marc Low had now taken over production of the Newsletter.

Planning – RH advised three matters had been considered by the P/C, as follows –

- (1) Extensions and alterations to The Brambles, W/H to which no objections has been raised.
- (2) Proposed replacement bungalow on land at 3 Pegs Farm, W/.H to which no objections had been raised, and
- (3) Amended plans for outbuilding adjacent to Swallow Farm, W/H including conversion of agricultural outbuilding to dwelling to which no objections had been raised but previous existing comments were repeated.

CORRESPONDENCE –

- (a) Letter from Cllr. W. Hill requesting leave of absence for three/four months later in year.
- (b) Letter regarding change of external Auditors appointment for five years.
- (c) Letter from Herefordshire Council regarding registration of The Farms Arms as a community asset.
- (d) Letter from Lloyds TSB regarding the Parish Council bank accounts.

LITERATURE file handed to Chairman for distribution.

ITEMS for October Agenda discussed and agreed.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.58.

R. Hurley

30th October 2012.

Signed..... Chairman Dated.....