

The Minutes of Wellington Heath Parish Council meeting
held at The Memorial Hall on Tuesday 27th November 2012 at 7.30pm

Present: R. Hurley (in the Chair-RH) P. Adams (PA) J. Jones (JJ) V. Leeds (VL) & W. Hill (WH).

In attendance – The Clerk, County Councillor C. Attwood (CA) and two members of the public.

Apologies – An apology was received and accepted from County Councillor T. Johnson.

Minutes – The Minutes of the meeting held on 30th October 2012 were taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

Declarations of Interest – None received.

County Councillor Report – CA reported that the Boundary Warding Arrangements for Ledbury were out for consideration, which if adopted would mean that Wellington Heath would become part of North Ledbury and Colwall would become a single ward under the proposed changes with effect from 2015. He advised he was not aware of any intention to change any Parish Boundaries. The Parish Council agreed to make as many people as possible aware of the proposed changes. CA also indicated that under the new Social Care arrangements, patients might be means tested.

Progress Reports –

1. **Farmers Arms** – Herefordshire Council confirm that this has been registered as a Community Asset under the Localism Act. This will remain in force for five years, after which date a new nomination would have to be submitted. The Chairman had been advised by Enterprise that a planned second viewing by possible Tenants had not taken place as they had simply failed to turn up, but Enterprise assure the Parish Council that they are seeking new Tenants as a matter of high importance.
2. **Pool Piece** – Willow tree due to be pollarded this week. Many hedges have been cut back allowing far more light into the area. Whilst the initial applications for funding had failed, the Steering Group had been advised to put in a second application, and it was confirmed that if and when a Loan has been secured, the proposed plans for the area would be put out to public consultation.
3. **Cluster Group** – The Minutes of the last meeting had been distributed. At the latest meeting of the Group held at Brockington, all Council members were represented and the meeting was also attended by Council Officials, Highways and the Police. General concern about speeding in the County and although the possibility of "sleeping policemen" were dismissed, suggestions had been made that Villages could adopt a "gated area", although this would not be suitable for Wellington Heath. There was however a possibility of making the whole of Wellington Heath a "20mph zone" but no firm decisions were made. For the next meeting of the Group on 7th December, PA was requested to raise the appalling condition of many roads in the Parish. Clerk to obtain latest SIDS report and JJ agreed to take on the SIDS reporting following the resignation of John Harrison.
4. **Vacancy on Council** - Attending the meeting was Jackie Skoron who had expressed an interest in joining the Parish Council and would give the matter further consideration and advise us in time for the January 2013 meeting.
5. **Welcome Party** – to be held on 8th December 2012 in the Memorial Hall to be attended by new residents and local Groups. Parish Council to provide drinks including mulled wine which JJ will arrange.

6. **Parish Plan update** – two meetings of the Neighbourhood Planning Group had taken place when it had been agreed not to undertake a Neighbourhood Plan at this time. It had however been agreed to consider an updated Parish Plan in the New Year. The Chairman suggested inviting all original members of the Parish Plan group to the meeting to

commence proceedings, but then felt it should be left to the Parishioners to appoint a Chairman of the Group to be independent from the Parish Council and consider their wishes for the area for presentation to the Council.

7. **Flooding update** – many areas in Parish affected during recent bad weather when cars had been written off after entering the floods in Hollow Lane. The Chairman advised that during the forthcoming week that he, the Lengthsman and Alan Wood would be clearing the ditches in Hollow Lane. The Clerk confirmed that two pallets of sandbags had been ordered for use by Parishioners to be stored at Priors Court, in addition to those ordered by Peter Williamson for his own use.

Items for consideration –

- a. **Proposed Boundary Changes** – See Report by County Councillor above.
- b. **Footpaths** – PA advised nothing further to report regarding mud on Harry's Walk nor the footpath going through the newly planted orchard. RH indicated it may be necessary to write to Chris Gardener about this footpath. He also confirmed that he had received a Quotation of £250. for three gates to be erected on footpaths on the edge of the Village crossing Darren Hill's land which would be erected under the P3 Scheme.
- c. **Grit Bins** – Three delivered, two however to be moved to a new position which the Lengthsman will be asked to attend to in the Spring when the bins are lighter in content.

Budget/Precept for 2013/14 – The proposed figures had been advertised on Notice Boards and website and no adverse comments had been received by the Chairman or Clerk. **On a proposal** by RH seconded by JJ and carried, the figures as drawn were formally adopted; Clerk to put in claim for Precept with Herefordshire Council.

Financial matters – the following Accounts had been received for payment –

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| • Inland Revenue (PAYE) x 2 | £96.40. |
| • Ledbury Fencing, Lengthsman services | £32.00. |
| • Ledbury Fencing, new Notice Board | £245.00. |
| • Viking Direct, filing cabinet for Clerk | £86.99. |
| • Clerk – expenses and allowances | £119.80. |

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

REPORT – **Memorial Hall** – JJ advised ramp not being installed before the Pantomime, recent events had been successful resulting in a profit, ballroom dancing to be introduced weekly after Christmas, demonstration proposed on use of new equipment and a suggestion received that the Hall should open on a Friday night during the time when the Farmers Arms was not open.

Correspondence – Letter Herefordshire Council regarding registration of community asset.

Letter Herefordshire Council regarding precept for 2013/14.

Letter Herefordshire Council regarding sandbags.

Letter regarding boundary changes.

Literature file handed to Chairman for distribution.

Public Question time – attending the meeting was Frank Rozelaar who advised he had joined the newly formed Group called “Rail for Herefordshire” because as both he and his wife were regular users of the train service, he considered it to be vulnerable. He also advised that Ledbury Town Council were doing a Consultation as a first stage towards a Neighbourhood Plan and he kindly agreed to keep Councillors informed on these issues.

Councillor Reports – WH reported she had been approached by St. Michaels Hospice about advertising a new store opening in Ross on Wye, all proceeds from which would go to the Hospice. The Chairman confirmed that the Parish Council do not charge for Charities advertising in the Newsletter. WH said she had also be asked by the local Archive Group about how the profits from the Jubilee funds would be distributed, confirming a profit of approximately £700. plus the proceeds from the cookery book. The Chairman proposed that requests should be forwarded in the first instance to the Jubilee Group as it has yet to be decided whether the group will continue to administer the funds or hand over to the Memorial Hall Committee or the Parish Council.

Items for next meeting – on 29th January 2013 to include the Cluster Group plus usual updates.

There being no further business the Chairman wished all members a Happy Christmas and closed the meeting at 9.45pm.

R. Hurley

29th January 2013

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