

MINUTES of a meeting of Wellington Heath Parish Council held on  
Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2013 in the Peter Garnett Room, The Memorial Hall commencing at 7.30pm.

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

In attendance – The Clerk, County Councillor A. Johnson, D. Darwood and M. Low.

Minutes – The Minutes of the meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2012 were taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

Declarations of Interest in items on the Agenda – none received.

County Councillor Report – Cllr. T. Johnson advised that the funding to HALO (Leisure services) was being reduced to zero at the end of this financial year. Receipts at the door had been reducing, but it was expected that some people might still be eligible for a subsidy. He further advised that Council Tax had not been increased since 2010/11 but an increase would be presented to full Council in February for ratification to increase this during 2013/14 by 1.9%. Some of the main priorities for the Council during 2013/14 were to promote jobs for young people and care of the vulnerable. He also reported on the subject of pot-holes which were a major factor following the bad weather and concerns were raised by Councillors over the lack of gritting particularly on The Common. There being no further questions, Cllr Johnson left the meeting.

Progress Reports –

- 1) Gritting of Roads – as discussed with Cllr. Johnson the Parish Council were very disappointed with the lack of gritting during the snow. Although three new grit bins had been provided and installed by Herefordshire Council it was decided to discuss the previous proposal for the Parish Council to buy a hand pushed gritting machine, although the storage of grit and the machine might present a problem.
- 2) Farmers Arms – Parish Council Liaison Officer Anthony Bush had notified the Clerk that the Farmers Arms was up for sale at a price of £295,000 although despite being registered as a Community Asset with Herefordshire Council we had not been officially notified by Enterprise that they had decided to sell the property. A meeting of the Group monitoring the Pub had been set up for Thursday evening and the Chairman advised that the Parish Council had six weeks to notify that we intend to bid for the property, and a total of six months to conclude our bid. It was agreed a public meeting should also be held to discuss the situation.
- 3) Pool Piece – Attending the meeting was David Darwood, member of the Action Group set up to explore how Pool Piece could be updated. He advised that Stage 1 of the proposals was nearly completed and that Stages 2 & 3 were dependent upon funding being obtained. A request for funding from Biffa was almost completed for submission, but the Group had to be in a position to deposit at least 10% of the funds required. He confirmed that fund raising would continue, but hoped that the Parish Council could offer a donation of £2,400. to top up the deposit to the required amount, thus enabling the funding application to be lodged. The Chairman advised Councillors that funds had been regularly set aside for the updating of the equipment at Pool Piece, and that the latest ROSPA report had commented on the age of the Oplay equipment.

**RESOLVED** – On a proposal by PA seconded by WH and carried, the Council agreed to support the bid with an donation of £2,400. A letter to this effect was handed to D. Darwood and thanks were expressed to him for the huge amount of work which he had put into this project over the last twelve months.

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- 4) Cluster Group\_– PA advised he would distribute the Minutes of the last meeting of the group which had primarily dealt with speeding problems through Villages. PA confirmed the Parish Council had asked for a 20mph speed limit within the village although it would obviously be necessary for a public meeting to take place before this could be agreed. It was generally felt that the SIDS were not proving very effective and advised that an extension of the 30mph zone had also been requested along the whole of Beggars Ash to the main Bromyard Road. The AGM of the Cluster Group would take place in June at Wellington Heath.
- 5) Vacancy on Council\_– Marc Low had expressed an interest in joining the Council and was in attendance at the meeting. It was agreed to appoint Mr. Low onto the Council at the next meeting.
- 6) Parish Plan update\_– The Chairman advised a meeting was taking place on 6<sup>th</sup> February and of the need for the community to get involved. Some volunteers had expressed an interest but it was hoped Councillors could encourage more people to become involved as it was not really up to the Parish Council to plan the way forward for the Village.

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

- Ben Andrews – pollarding of willow tree £480.00.
- Ledbury Fencing, clearing ditches on Hollow Lane £175.00.
- (both of the above Accounts had been paid in December 2012.
- Inland Revenue, PAYE £48.20.
- Ledbury Fencing, P3 work on gates £330.00.
- Ledbury Fencing, lengthsman charges £12.50.
- Memorial Hall hire fees £88.40.
- R. Hurley, repayment for signs during ditch work £12.00.

**On a proposal** by WH seconded by VL and carried, the above Accounts were approved for payment and cheques signed.

Lengthsman allowance – The Clerk advised on the expenditure to date and the remaining allowance which the Parish Council could claim under the Lengthsman Scheme. It was agreed the Clerk claim the funds and Councillors were to let the Chairman know of works which could be undertaken around the Parish. Clerk also to write to Amey Highways requesting that some safety reflective posts should be placed adjacent to the deep open ditch in Hollow Lane between Pegs Farm and Priors Court. The Chairman offered to be present at a meeting with Amey to show them where the posts should be placed.

Memorial Hall Report – JJ advised

- (1) the entrance ramp had been started.
- (2) News awaited as to whether the terms of the Licence is sufficient and that they were looking into the insurance level for children.
- (3) New audio storage rack had been obtained and also new door mats.
- (4) The “Pub night” had been a success and the welcome party had been well attended.

Correspondence received –

- ❖ Letter from Herefordshire Council advising of increased charge for SIDS, so it was agreed that only one deployment be requested for September 2013, particularly in view of the building work on the Ledbury Road which was automatically having the effect of slowing the traffic down.
- ❖ Letter from Herefordshire Council confirming precept of £7,400.

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- ❖ E-mail from Parish Council Liaison Officer advising on proposal to sell The Farmers Arms.
- ❖ E-mail from Herefordshire Council advising of proposed charge to PCs for paper copies of planning application – Clerk to advise that from the effective date (01/04/2013), the Parish Council would opt out of the paper copy scheme thus avoiding the proposed charge.

Literature – the file was handed to the Chairman for distribution.

Agenda items for next meeting to include appointment of Marc Low onto Parish Council consideration to purchase of hand-pushed gritter and/or alternative arrangements during bad weather, update on The Farmers Arms, update on Pool Piece, the Cluster Group activities, and update on Parish Plan volunteers.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.35pm.

The next meeting to take place on Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> February 2013 at 7.30pm.

R. Hurley

26<sup>th</sup> February 2013

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

Chairman .