

W/HPCMINUTES

April 2013/10

MINUTES of a meeting of Wellington Heath Parish Council held on Tuesday 30th April 2013 in The Peter Garnett Room, The Memorial Hall, Wellington Heath, commencing at 7.30pm.

Present – Councillors R. Hurley (RH – in the Chair) P. Adams (PA) M. Low (ML) W. Hill (WH) V. Leeds (VL) and J. Jones (JJ).

In attendance – The Clerk, County Councillors T. Johnson and C. Attwood and H.Ransome-Williams.

Minutes – The Minutes of the meeting held on 26th March 2013 were taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

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

County Councillor Report –

- Cllr T.Johnson (TJ) advised that many job cuts were planned within Herefordshire Council in addition to those which had already taken place. Further cuts in the budget were also proposed with £21m cut over the last two years, a further £9m cut this year and a predicted £20m over the next two/three years meaning that the County Council will be greatly reduced which will have a knock-on effect on the services they are able to offer. He confirmed that Parish Councils will be notified of this in due course and may well be asked to take up some services which they are no longer in a position to offer. The Chairman was fearful of the effect these drastic cuts would have on Parish Councils. TJ advised that the Contract with Amey was up for renewal and that in addition, two other Quotations were being considered. TJ agreed to take up the serious potholes in the Village with Amey which had been reported many months ago.

Public Question Time – Hugh Ransome-Williams (HR-W) advised that the main entrance to the Church is being slabbed with Yorkshire stone slabs offered by Gavin James and also that a footpath near the Church will be re-tarmaced. The planning officer had indicated that planning permission was not required and as HR-W had been unable to contact Mark Watkins at Amey via telephone, it was suggested that a recorded delivery letter be sent to him advising what work was proposed. Work was ready to proceed and the Councillors advised they were in full support of the work. HR-W also reported that approximately £4,000 was being spent on refurbishing the Church.

Progress Reports –

1. Farmers Arms – The Chairman reported that various meetings had taken place during which it had been agreed that the matter should proceed to the next stage by submitting a business plan and seeking approval for a Loan from the Public Works Loan Board for an unspecified amount to enable the Working Group to place a bid for the property, especially as two thirds of the people at the community meeting had indicated they thought the Parish Council should look into taking over the Pub. RH advised that it was thought the independent bid for the Pub remained on the table, which could be withdrawn at any time and that whilst other viewings had taken place, we were not aware of any further offers in the pipeline.
An application for funding specified that a Valuation by the District Valuer should have taken place but that this valuation would not merely be for pub use, but would also look at other alternatives for the site should the pub idea fail. A figure of up to One thousand pounds plus VAT has been quoted for a valuation . A structural survey might still be required at an additional cost, and the Chairman confirmed that a further public meeting would be held before the Parish Council

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make a formal bid for the property. To date, the information sought from HALC had not been received.

RESOLVED – PA proposed that the Parish Council spend up to £1,000 plus VAT for a valuation of the pub. This was seconded by WH and carried.

2. Pool Piece – Replies for funding applications were awaited, but it was confirmed in the meantime that the surface of the carpark adjacent to Pool Piece boundary had been cleared and the drain dug out enabling surface water to run away freely.
3. Parish Plan – Questionnaire has been sent out and replies will be collected by hand after 15th May. Once replies to hand, a further meeting will take place.
4. Parish Meeting – The Chairman offered to contact Cllr. T. Johnson to see if he would act as Speaker on the night to emphasise the news regarding the serious nature of the County Council's financial situation.

Items for consideration –

1. Valuation of Farmers Arms by District Valuer budget requirement of £1,000 – approved as above.
2. Change of date of Annual Meeting of Parish Council – The Clerk advised that she would be away on that date – 28th May – but Cllr JJ kindly offered to take the Minutes.

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

- HMRC – PAYE £56.60.
- Ledbury Fencing at Pool Piece £50.00.
- Lengthsman, various jobs £205.00.
- C.O'Neil, strimmer service £126.35 (P3 scheme).
- R. Hurley, repayment for spike £10.43. (Lengthsman scheme)
- R. Hurley, repayment for envelopes £12.29. (P/Plan questionnaire).
- R. Hurley, Ordnance survey licence £65.70 (P/Plan questionnaire).
- Truprint Litho Ltd (various printing) £625.00.

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

Report – Memorial Hall – JJ advised that the telephone and internet connection had been renewed. The Memorial Hall might lose its 20% discretionary business rate from Herefordshire Council and that a search was taking place for a "Shure Diversity receiver" which appears to have gone missing from the Hall. Some of the trees by the fire door may have to be taken down. The annual spring clean will take place on 18th May and the Annual Meeting of the Committee will take place on 1st July. It was also reported that Tony Cooke has taken over the 200 Club.

Correspondence –

- Letter from Herefordshire Council renewing Lengthsman allowance at £945. for 2013/14
- Letter from Herefordshire Council renewing P3 Scheme allowance at £505 for 2013/14.
- Advice from Herefordshire Council that first half of precept had been paid.

Literature – handed to Chairman which included News Release from Herefordshire Council about the need for drastic measures to reduce spending.

Next Meeting – Annual Meeting of Parish Council on 28th May 2013 to elect Chairman for the year and other members to sub-committees. Clerk to look into problem with bonfires in the Parish. The meeting closed at 9.30pm

Signed.....
R. Hurley
Chairman.

28th May 2013
Dated.....