

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF Wellington Heath Parish Council  
held on Tuesday 25th March 2014 in The Memorial Hall commencing at 7.30pm

Present – Cllrs. R. Hurley (in the Chair – RH) M. Low (ML) F. Rozelaar (FR) and J. Jones (JJ).

Apologies for inability to attend the meeting had been received and were approved from W. Hill.

Minutes – The Minutes of the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2014 were taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

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

County Councillor Report – Apologies received from Cllr. C. Attwood. Cllr T. Johnson's latest Report had been sent to the Chairman for circulation to all Councillors.

Progress Reports –

- A. Pool Piece – bridge installed and question of ability to reclaim the VAT on purchases was being looked into. It appeared there were still some drainage problems on the land.
- B. Parish Plan Action Plan (see Minutes February 2014/05 to refer) –

**Items 1,2 3 & 5** have been attended to - no further action required.

**Item 6** – Gordon Kirk will meet with potential contractors once quotes have been obtained for the work and will be dependent upon number of residents interested in the scheme.

**Item 7** – Chairman to chase requested information.

**Item 8** – FR to check who he had forwarded this on to, but timetable not on the website to date. Consultation meeting taking place shortly in Ledbury and it was hoped W Hill would be able to attend.

**Item 9** – Annual Return for P3 Agreement on the Agenda under Items for consideration.

**Item 10** – Meeting to be arranged.

**Item 12** – It was hoped a Police Officer would attend a regular PC meeting in June or July.

**Item 13** – ML agreed to check reports of problems on the website.

**Item 15** – Neighbourhood Development Plan will be looked into annually, but in the meantime FR attending a training Session with HALC later in the month.

**Item 17 & 18** – Planning applications continue to be considered in conjunction with the Parish Design Guide, but FR will look into whether the Guide should be updated following the recent survey.

**Item 19** – ML had contacted BT and had "Infinity Broadband" installed which had improved broadband speed dramatically. ML will put something in the Newsletter and suggest residents make demands on BT to improve their situation. The long term requirement for BT is to install fibre optic cable to all rural villages by the end of 2016.

**Item 20** – Chairman waiting to hear from George Leeds about their spraying policy.

**Item 21** – Drainage work ongoing by the Lengthsman.

**Item 22** – Verge cutting in the Parish entirely dependent upon the weather and it would appear difficult to pinpoint precisely when the work is carried out.

**Item 25** – Clerk to ascertain "in writing" whether Herefordshire Council do empty dog litter bins on the roadside, to enable consideration of purchase of three/four bins for the Parish.

**Item 26** – JJ advised this was discussed and the cost effectiveness was raised. M. Bain to look through the Questionnaire to see how many wanted the various proposals, and if they did, would they be prepared to pay and run the project themselves. Whilst there are free hire slots in the daytime, most evenings appear to have events during the week.

**Items 27,29 & 30** – See individual item under Items for consideration.

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**Item 31** – ML had looked at various options and put forward “Outlook.com” for consideration. This was free of charge, secure, and enabled creation of contacts, groups, sub-users including volunteer groups, auto reply feature, calendar for dates to see what is going on/keeping in touch whilst maintaining security and included Facebook and Skype. The project was discussed at length and ML agreed to speak with Richard Lee Buxton and Mike Bain about this and possibly set this up with a full report back at the next meeting.

- C. Farmers Arms – Now open and trading. RH sought permission to advise the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government that the borrowing facility was no longer required. This was agreed with a proposal that we express our thanks for the consent to borrow and advise that the property had been purchased by an individual, is continuing as a pub and that should the need arise in the future, we will contact them again.
- D. Bus Service – It was hoped Cllr W. Hill would be free to attend the forthcoming Consultation. Note: the original dates are cancelled and are to be re-arranged.
- E. Parish Meeting – to be held on 8<sup>th</sup> May in The Farmers Arms. Val Javens had agreed to speak on “Healthwatch Herefordshire”, Chairman to report on finances (unaudited Accounts), ML to advise on planning applications received and JJ to talk about upgrade of Pool Piece.

Items for consideration –

- 1. New Notice Board – brochures in Literature file for replacement of board by the Tree/Post Box. Cllrs requested to bring their suggestions to the April meeting.
- 2. Telephone Box adoption – Box is available for £1. Two options available for the power supply to the box. Suggestions for future use include tourist information centre, or book exchange facility. Clerk to update WH and it was hoped a final decision regarding adoption could be agreed in April.
- 3. P3 Footpaths Scheme Annual Return – ML to let the Clerk have the relevant figures for the Return to enable the reply to be submitted by 4<sup>th</sup> April. Clerk also to include request for items during 2014/15 for the North and East footpath programme during the year already agreed to include wooden gates, posts, handrails etc.

Financial – the following items were due for payment –

- HMRC – PAYE £56.60.
- Lengthsman £75.00.
- Ledbury Fencing P3 expense £73.00.
- W. Hill, laminating expense £5.00.
- Clerk, expenses to year end £90.00.
- HALC subscription 2014/15 £293.27.

On a proposal by RH seconded by JJ and carried these Accounts were approved for payment and cheques signed accordingly.

Reports – Memorial Hall – JJ advised quiz night to be held on 26<sup>th</sup> April, the recent ceilidh had been successful, and it was hoped to hold one good event every month as the whist is no longer taking place. Recent redecoration had cost £1,550 - the annual spring clean will shortly take place. Planned maintenance will be budgeted for in the long term and concerns expressed that the present level of 100% relief from Council tax may be cut.

Correspondence – Several e-mails regarding items on the Parish Plan action plan and the Annual Return had been received from the external Auditors.

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Literature - file handed to Chairman for circulation including numerous brochures for the proposed replacement of the Notice Board and possible purchase of dog litter bins for the Parish.

Items for future Agendas/Councillor Reports – The Clerk advised that following recommendations from HALC, the Parish Council should review their Standing Orders and Financial Regulations in the not too distant future. These items to be included in the Literature file for consideration in the near future.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.53pm.

Next meeting to take place on 29<sup>th</sup> April.

R. Hurley

29<sup>th</sup> April 2014.

Signed.....  
Chairman

Dated.....