

Minutes of a meeting of Wellington Heath Parish Council held on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2014 in the Memorial Hall commencing at 7.30pm

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

Also in attendance – The Clerk and County Councillor C. Attwood (CA).

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

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

Report by County Councillor – CA advised that Balfour Beatty have prioritised road repairs which they intend to look at on receipt of additional funds and he agreed to let us have a copy of the proposal in due course. He also advised that a Locality Steward has been appointed for each area, and recommended that we invite Cllr. Liz Harvey to attend one of our meetings in the future.

Progress Report on 2013 Parish Plan action list

- SIDS - Chairman confirmed still awaiting data for previous displays from Herefordshire Council. No display during 2013/14 due to building site on the Ledbury Road.
- Bus times have not as yet been updated on the website and no further date agreed at the moment for public consultation meetings on bus services in the area.
- P3 – Report submitted for last year. Await hearing regarding funds for current year.
- Police – Clerk has made contact and they will attend at either the June or July meetings – details to follow. Suggested topics for discussion to include crime reports, neighbourhood watch and road safety campaign for young people.
- NDP – agreed to defer this until next year, although grant might not then be available. FR attended training with HALC and advised that Herefordshire has a 60-70% take up of the NDP. The Core Strategy has not as yet been finalised and it would appear sensible to wait until this is available.
- Planning sites for future – Agreed to seek views from Herefordshire Planning in due course.
- Design Guide – FR has gone through this and thought that some update would be beneficial in the future. The Chairman agreed to meet with FR to discuss to enable this to be brought back to full Council for consideration in due course.
- Broadband – Chairman advised on talk with Andy Sims who has some ideas to try to force Open Reach to bring improved broadband facilities into the Village by involving many residents in a formal request via the PC. It was agreed to set up a working party to include Andy Simms to progress this. ML & FR agreed to progress this.
- Crop spraying – Replies received from relevant parties but it would appear it was unlikely the PC could publish anything meaningful to residents. However Council agreed to on-going dialogue with both farms in the parish.

- Shop at the Pub – RH felt it was still early days to approach the Landlords at The Farmers Arms who have given themselves three months to see how the business progresses and it was agreed to approach them later in the year.
- E-mail – ML has created an account on line and will send this to Councillors but advised it would only be sent to additional members who have agreed to be volunteer group leaders.
- Road safety campaign for young people – agreed this would be raised with the police when they attend a meeting later in the year.

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#### Progress Reports –

- (a) Vacancy on Council – No election called following resignation of Viv Leeds, so Council free to co-opt in the future. The Chairman said he had approached Gordon Kirk who advised he was too busy and it was agreed to make further contact with Mr. Packman again.
- (b) Pool Piece – JJ advised Phase 1 had been completed at the end of March. Phase 2 has been done at a cost of over Seven thousand pounds. In Phase 3 additional drainage has been installed and the bridge installed at an overall cost of £7,600 to meet Health & Safety requirements. Installation of play equipment will start on 12<sup>th</sup> May at a cost of £7,500. which leaves a balance of approximately £5 thousand pounds, In addition to this, the shelter is being built, signs erected, additional seating and tree planting will cost approximately another £600. It was unanimously agreed by all Councillors to hold an “open evening” in June when it was hoped the pub may also get involved with the possibility of a barbecue to help the celebrations.  
  
JJ advised attempts were still being made to get the VAT back on the project which would bring in another £6-£7 thousand pounds back into the fund.
- (c) Bus Service – no date yet available for the planned public consultation meetings into the future of the service, but as and when date was available the Clerk would notify all Councillors.
- (d) Dog Bins – Cost of emptying bins as quoted by Balfour Beatty on behalf of Herefordshire Council would add up to about £3,500 a year, as a result of which the Council would need to rely on volunteers if they wished to proceed with the provision of three/four in the Parish. As a one off, the Chairman agreed to volunteer to empty one on a regular basis at approach to Dogberry Field and the Clerk was to get quotation for provision of one to enable a final decision to be reached at the next meeting.
- (e) Annual Parish meeting – to be held on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2014 in The Farmers Arms at 7.30. RH confirmed the Landlords had agreed not to make any charge this year for the use of the pub.

#### Items for consideration –

- (1) New Notice Board by Church – In view of the cost of new boards, it was agreed to ask Ledbury Fencing to provide new posts for the existing board and to lower the board to a more acceptable height when carrying out the work.
- (2) Terms of Reference for Cluster Group – On a proposal by WH seconded by JJ and carried, the new terms of reference were agreed whereby each Parish Council only have one vote but that two members may attend the meetings, and that the Chairman of the Cluster Group need not be a Councillor with any Parish forming part of the Group but would need to live or work in the geographical area.
- (3) Adoption of Phone Box – Options had been circulated and following discussion it was agreed on a proposal by RH seconded by JJ and carried, that the Parish Council would take up Option 1 offered by BT whereby the Parish Council would adopt the phone box at a cost of £1. Clerk to request that the payphone equipment be removed ASAP to enable the adoption to proceed.
- (4) Request for donation to Ledbury CVA – Following a reduction in funding from Herefordshire Council, the Community Action were now seeking to establish a group of Founder Firms and Friends, the initial cost of which would be £10. The benefits of joining were discussed and on a proposal by WH seconded by ML and carried (with one abstention) it was agreed the Parish Council would become a friend of the CVA – cheque for £10. to be signed at the meeting in May.

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Financial – The Clerk advised the following Accounts had been received for payment –

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|--------------------------------------|----------|
| • HMRC – PAYE                        | £58.20.  |
| • Lengthsman services                | £80.00.  |
| • Viking Direct                      | £33.92.  |
| • M. Low, repayment of expenses      | £11.55.  |
| • M. Griffiths, pay roll for 2013/14 | £55.00.  |
| • HALC – two training charges        | £102.00. |

On a proposal by WH seconded by JJ and carried the above Accounts were agreed for payment and cheques signed accordingly.

The Clerk had circulated unaudited figures for expenditure for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014 and replied to queries raised. It was confirmed the books were with the Internal Auditor for preparation of the audited accounts.

Reports –

Memorial Hall – JJ reported the recent Quiz night had been well attended, the Ceilidh had made approximately £217. and that there plans to hold a “pamper” evening. The annual spring clean will take place in May, the container needed tidying up and there were proposals to look at buying some staging. It had been confirmed that there were no business rates to pay on the property.

Planning – ML reported one outline application received for a detached house on land at Ochre Hill. Whilst there were no objections to the proposal, it was felt some concerns should be raised over drainage and the fact that the property could affect the properties at the rear of the site. It was agreed to consult the neighbours before submitting a response.

Correspondence –

- Letter – Balfour Beatty advising on donation of £945 for the Lengthsman Scheme for current year.
- E-mail regarding options for adoption of the phone kiosk.
- Letter – CVA seeking donation following cuts by Herefordshire Council.
- E-mail Cllr. Tony Johnson advising he does offer surgeries from his home.
- Herefordshire Council advising no election requested following resignation of V. Leeds.
- BACS advice on payment of £3.700 first instalment of Precept and final quarter of Lengthsman allowance of £236.25.
- Minutes of Cluster Group meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2014.
- Letter of resignation and retirement as a Councillor from Richard Hurley following the Parish Meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2014. As a result of this resignation, the Clerk advised Councillors of the need to appoint a Chairman and Vice Chairman at the Annual meeting of the PC on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2014.

Literature –

File handed to Chairman which included draft Financial Regulations, Standing Orders and guidance on Declarations of Interest for consideration by Councillors.

Public Question time – No public in attendance but ML reported on request from resident in Victoria Row for some signage to their properties. This was agreed in principle, and ML agreed to talk with other residents to see if they have any objections.

Items for future Agendas were agreed.

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There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10;23pm.

Annual Parish meeting to take place on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2014.

Annual meeting of the Parish Council to take place on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2014.

Signed..... M. Low ..... Dated..... 27<sup>th</sup> May 2014. ....  
Chairman.