

MINUTES of a meeting of Wellington Heath Parish Council
held on Tuesday 27th January 2015 in The Memorial Hall commencing at 7.30pm

Attending – Cllrs. M. Low (in the Chair – ML) F. Rozelaar (FR) J. Jones (JJ) W. Hill (WH) and D. Williams (DW).

Also attending – The Clerk, County Councillor T. Johnson (TJ), Mr. & Mrs. Packman, Clive Setter and Simon Williamson from AED Locators.

Minutes – The Minutes of the meeting held on 25th November 2014 were taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

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

County Councillor Report – TJ advised that the Council would end the present year within budget by approximately £2m. due to major savings being achieved in method of delivery. In the forthcoming year, the most expensive single spend will be "care" in the existing forms which cannot be cut down as there is a statutory responsibility to supply it. Hereford Football club land has been taken back into the ownership of the Council with no appeal taking place from the football club. New short term Leases are being considered which will be compatible with the FA terms and requirements and reported that whilst there is no intention to build on the land at the present time, the Council does have a responsibility to look at the best use of the land for the benefit of local people in the long term. New boundaries will come into effect in May, with Wellington Heath forming part of the Ledbury constituency. TJ advised he would be standing for election but reported that Carl Attwood is not standing again this year. He also advised that the existing P3 scheme would continue in the new financial year and that both the existing scheme and a new Lengthsman scheme for 2015/16 were planned.

Guest Speakers – Attending the meeting were Clive Setter and Simon Williamson who gave a detailed explanation of the use and benefits to the community of a Defibrillator unit which could easily be installed in the recently purchased old telephone kiosk, and kindly offered to return to give a public demonstration to members of the Parish if required. The overall cost would be in the area of £3k and the Parish Council agreed to look into this possibility in the future, although no expense of this nature was included in the Budget for 2015/16. In the meantime, WH offered to arrange a "Heartstart training session" in the Village Hall and this was unanimously agreed.

Parish Plan action list update – The Chairman advised only three local residents are having their hedge cut under the hedge cutting scheme and that he now has twenty two names on his list for help under the Snow Volunteer scheme.

Progress Reports –

- 1) Vacancy on Council – The Clerk advised that in view of the forthcoming election in May there was no urgency to co-opt prior to the election.
- 2) P3 Scheme – Although work on steps up from the pub had previously been discussed, it was generally felt that Oakeys Lane was in more urgent need of attention. Following receipt of a Quotation from the Lengthsman, the Clerk advised she had received permission for funds from this scheme to be used to carry out urgent work to Oakeys Lane, rather than under the P3 Scheme, and it was unanimously agreed to ask Ledbury Fencing to carry out the work in accordance with his Quotation for the sum of £395. as soon as possible.
- 3) Lengthsman Scheme – Arrangements were being made for attendance at the forthcoming training session and that Wellington Heath would continue with the old scheme for the time being but may consider the new "match funding" scheme in the future.
- 4) Telephone Kiosk – See report by Guest Speakers above, and it was agreed that if in the future the Parish Council considered the purchase of a Defibrillator, some fund raising may be required.

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- 5) NDP – FR reported on recent meeting and advised that Carla Johnson had now been designated as the Parish Council support officer. The Chairman signed the Service Level Agreement for submission to the support officer. It was reported that new funding scheme from April 2015 with up to £8,000 may be available in the event of the Parish Council wishing to employ a Consultant A steering committee will need to be appointed and a decision made on the close working relationship between that Committee and the Parish Council. It was suggested that perhaps Richard Hurley would Chair the group. FR closed his report adding that it was hoped that the Core Strategy will come into force some time during the summer of 2015.

Item for consideration –

Pension Scheme for Clerk - The Clerk reported receipt of a communication from the Pensions Regulator indicating that “every employer with staff in the UK must automatically enrol those who meet certain criteria into a workplace pension scheme and contribute towards it”. ***The Clerk advised that whilst it would appear she was eligible to “opt into the Scheme” it was her wish not to take up this offer, and that she would advise Marion Griffiths who dealt with the PAYE on behalf of the Parish Council that this was her wish.***

However, the Clerk did advise that when a new Clerk was appointed in the future, they would be obliged to look into this new legal requirement.

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

- Lengthsman duties for November and December £202.00.
- PAYE – two months £116.40.

On a proposal by WH seconded by DW and carried, these accounts were approved for payment and cheques signed accordingly.

The Chairman handed the Clerk a cheque for £30. advertising revenue received from Forever Living.

Reports –

- 1) Memorial Hall – JJ reported there was subsidence in the Memorial Hall – this was being investigated and it was queried whether the Builder was liable for the cost of repairs. Committee still meeting every two months and forthcoming events and proposals were reported.
- 2) Pool Piece – JJ advised nothing to report and the Clerk confirmed she had not received any Invoice for grass cutting on the site.
- 3) Cluster Group – FR advised next meeting to take place at Wellington Heath on 18th February 2015 but there were concerns whether the Group would continue due to lack of membership. FR agreed to discuss the Lengthsman scheme and possible purchase of a defibrillator at the next meeting.
- 4) Planning – The Chairman advised that an application had been received to move the static caravans to a different position at Uplands Farm, to which no objections had been raised. He also advised that following a refusal by Hereford Council to the proposed development of a detached property on land adjoining The Farms Arms, this was going to appeal – it was noted that the Parish Council had raised no objections to this proposal when the matter had come before them for consideration.

Correspondence – Letter from Pension Regulator regarding pension for the Clerk and letter from Herefordshire Council about Parish Tax Base and Grant allocation.

Public Question Time – Mr. & Mrs. Packman queried about the future of land adjoining The Farmers Arms and agreed to send the Chairman notification regarding an event in Bromyard which was to be attended by the Deputy Police Officer.

Next meeting to take place on 31st March 2015 – the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10.45pm.

Signed..... Marcus Low Dated..... 31/03/15
Chairman.