

MINUTES of a meeting of Wellington Heath Parish Council held on Tuesday 26th March 2013 in the Peter Garnett Room, The Memorial Hall commencing at 7.30pm

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

In attendance - The Clerk and Councillor C. Attwood.

An apology for inability to attend the meeting had been received and was approved from W. Hill due to a holiday arrangement. Cllr. T. Johnson had also advised he would be unable to attend.

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

Declarations of Interest – none received.

County Councillor Report – Councillor Attwood advised that all residents should shortly receive notification from Welsh Water that investigatory work will take place in the area on or around 12th-16th April. He also advised that following the ward boundary changes, Cllr. Liz Harvey may become the County Councillor representative for the Parish Council. He further advised that the Core Strategy document was in circulation for discussion.

Following a query about pot-holes Cllr Attwood reported that Amey hoped to come to a different arrangement in the future with Herefordshire Council if their Contract was renewed.

The Chairman commented that whilst the Parish Council were not proposing to consider a Neighbourhood Plan at this stage, an update of the Parish Plan was currently taking place.

Progress Reports –

- 1) The Farmers Arms – The Chairman explained what the working group had been doing to assess the viability of the pub and to investigate funding with particular reference to the sources of grants. It had become clear the main source of funding would be a public works loan. In order to obtain borrowing approval it would be necessary to commission a valuation probably via the District Valuer and a structural survey. The cost of these would amount to approximately £2,000. Pre-feasibility grants were available but only to those parish councils who did not have sufficient reserves to cover this expenditure. Wellington Heath had reserves of approximately £7,800. The agent for the vendors, Enterprise Inns had advised an offer had been received for pub use and although this had been rejected it was agreed to defer the decision to proceed with the valuation and survey at the present time.
- 2) Pool Piece – The Chairman advised that a second application for a Grant would shortly be presented to the Lottery Fund and that work was still continuing to take place on the site.
- 3) Cluster Group – PA had circulated the minutes of the last meeting and advised that the AGM of the Group would take place on 30th June 2013 in the Memorial Hall. Projects for highway improvements have been put forward to the Group by Wellington Heath and it was proposed plans to promote the area to tourists on the website should be considered.
- 4) Parish Plan – The Chairman advised that it was hoped to finalise the Questionnaire at a meeting on 10th April after which this would be circulated in the Parish. On a proposal by PA seconded by ML and carried, it was agreed to set aside a budget of around £350. to

meet the cost of printing and other expenditure for the Parish Plan and the Chairman advised that this sum may need to be increased in the future.

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- 5) Central funding – The Chairman confirmed he had registered for this but was being inundated with e-mails the majority of which were completely irrelevant to the Parish Council and that although there appeared to be a considerable amount of funding available this again was not relevant to our particular needs at the present time.
- 6) Lengthsman – The Clerk advised that the balance of the Lengthsman funding had been received and that some additional work had been carried out. A further list of jobs was compiled in the hope that these could be completed before the end of our financial year, including replacement of the wooden sign indicating “pub lane” which had been damaged

Items for consideration –

- (a) The working group set up to investigate the purchase of the Farmers Arms has authority as a sub-committee of the Parish Council to research profitability and funding to enable a recommendation of the extent of any bid – **approved.**
- (b) Approximately £2,000 to be set aside for a valuation and structural survey of the Farmers Arms thought to cost approximately £1,000 for each item. – **deferred for the time being.**
- (c) Parish Plan review group be given budget of approximately £350.00 for printing and incidental expenses – **approved.**
- (d) Parish Council to pay to replace wooden sign indicating Pub Lane – **approved.**

Financial Matters – to approve payment of the following Accounts

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|----------------------------------|----------|
| • Lengthsman | £108.00. |
| • Lengthsman | £37.50. |
| • Ledbury Fencing at Pool Piece | £25.00. |
| • R. Hurley – P3 Scheme expenses | £6.95. |
| • Ledbury Rural Cluster Group | £30.00. |
| • Clerk, allowances & expenses | £106.20. |

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

Memorial Hall Report – JJ advised annual spring clean had been carried out, Tony Cooke will take over as the 200 Club Secretary from May 2013 and that the pub nights were proving very successful .

Correspondence –

- Letter from Dr. Edmondson Jones with further comments regarding the proposed acquisition of The Farmers Arms.
- Numerous e-mails concerning The Farmers Arms.
- E-mail from Clerk to Chairman advising on balances in hand in the Council's Community Account and Business Money Manager Accounts concerning request for funds to be set aside for The Farmers Arms.
- E-mail from Herefordshire Council regarding the Lengthsman Scheme for 2013/14.
- Letter from Police & Crime Commissioner West Mercia seeking views on innovative local policing plans.
- Latest edition of Register of Electors available for Councillors use.

Literature folder handed to Chairman for circulation.

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Items for Agenda for next meeting – Farmers Arms, Pool Piece and usual update reports.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.25pm.

Next meeting to take place on Tuesday 30th April 2013.

R. Hurley

30th April 2013

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

Chairman