

MINUTES of a meeting of Wellington Heath Parish Council held on Tuesday 25th November 2014 in The Memorial Hall commencing at 7.30pm

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

Also present - County Councillors C. Attwood (CA) and T. Johnson (TJ), Councillor Liz Harvey(LH), Mr. & Mrs. Packman and the Clerk.

Minutes – The Minutes of the meeting held on 30th September 2014 were taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

Declarations of Interest – The Chairman and JJ declared a personal interest in the payment to the Memorial Hall.

County Councillor Reports –

- CA reported on the death of the former Chairman of the Council Mrs. Olwyn Barnett and advised that the Vice Chairman had taken over for the time being. He advised the Budget was under consideration and that savings needed to be made. New Care Act coming into force which will have financial requirements but added that some monies have been ring fenced. There will be joint funding of some activities, in particular to the CAB which has left them feeling somewhat vulnerable, but the Council have given them a grant of £117,000 which they feel should be more than adequate, but in addition they have been asked to bid for activities which have been commissioned. Their surgery attendance in Ledbury will continue.
- TJ advised that the Treasury are looking to save 45 billion out of the next Government to save money indicating that local funding will continue to decline. He also advised that confusion about use of "red diesel" had now been clarified and that this was in order.
- LH mentioned the match funding offer regarding the extended Lengthsman Scheme which may be interest as the Parish Council does employ a Lengthsman and also the Welfare Invasion Fund offering small contracts from 5K to 25K for groups bidding to do activities in rural areas in support of social care, rural isolation and help with elderly residents about how to remain in their own home and how local pubs can offer use for activities in the Parish for outreach work in the villages.

Invited Guest – Cllr Liz Harvey reported on how Ledbury are progressing with their NDP which has reached the objective setting and draft policies stage. Consultation with adjoining parishes will take place and that whilst the safe walking foot route into Ledbury from Wellington Heath has been included in the plan, she was interested to hear how this could be achieved and discuss where the Parish Council envisaged this route would enter Ledbury town. She advised that their NDP plan has come up to the boundary and that Wellington Heath will come into the Ward for Ledbury so there may be a need for more contact between us to facilitate this safe walking route. She advised there was guidance on the web site about NDPs and that the CPRE have published guidance which has been found quite beneficial and that they have employed a consultant to help with drafting up their policies adding that the AONB directions carry influence in the area and that their policies should also be helpful to us.

The strategic housing site for Ledbury is north of the viaduct for 625 houses which takes into account the canal and may include a school and that whilst Network Rail have not discounted entrance to the site under the viaduct, they may well require a significant Bond in this respect although it is realised that this entrance will have a considerable impact on the junction close to

the railway station. Quite a few applications have gone in for housing, including one on the cricket pitch for approximately 320 houses half way up the by-pass by a private developer.

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She also felt that advice from John Stock at Colwall should also be beneficial to us as he has also been dealing with the Colwall NDP. ***At this point in the meeting Cllr Frank Rozelaar indicated that he had written in a personal capacity to support the proposal for the development on the by-pass rather than the viaduct site.***

LH added that whilst the NDP team were continuing to put their plan together they did not wish to undermine the Core Strategy. Consideration also had to be given to an employment site for the town but it was hoped that something similar to the Bromyard proposal could be achieved. Funding under the 106 Agreement will need to be reached to help with the infrastructure and much consultation with immediate neighbours would continue.

TJ felt it was appropriate for Wellington Heath to pursue a NDP and advised that Herefordshire Council would be in a position to help this adding that there was a Grant Scheme and Bridging Scheme were available to assist with funding. LH confirmed that Ledbury have been successful in obtaining funding under the "Awards for all Scheme".

Thanks were expressed to CA, TL and LH for their guidance in this matter and they left the meeting.

Progress Reports –

- a) Actions under Parish Plan – the Chairman indicated that the telephone box had been adopted and that some of the equipment has been removed. There was nothing to report on the hedge cutting, a survey has been carried out on salt bins and it was agreed that there are sufficient in the area. He added he has been in touch about the gritting arrangements to help people during bad weather and provision of transport to bring in provisions to residents unable to travel adding that about fourteen positive replies of interest had been received.
- b) P3 – Meeting had that day taken place with Neil James, Locality Steward and he had agreed to chase up supply of equipment under the P3 scheme. Resurfacing of The Common may not now take place but Neil James was of the opinion that work needed to be done by Swallow Farm although it had been indicated that the wall needed to be rebuilt by a professional builder before the road works could be carried out.
- c) Welcome Party – all arrangements in hand.
- d) Lengthsman Scheme – The Clerk again urged the need for the monies under this Scheme to be spent before the end of the financial year. FR raised the need to level off the concrete steps on the path that lead up from the Farmers Arms car park to Floyds Lane. It was agreed that the Chairman would contact Richard Hurley and Alan Wood to get this onto their works schedule for the lengthsman as soon as possible.
- e) Building Design Guide - FR had, as previously requested, carried out a review in support of AONB and the recent survey and this had been forwarded to all Councillors for consideration before adoption and submission to Hereford Council . On a proposal by ML seconded by WH and carried it was unanimously agreed to adopt the revised Building Design Guide which although it does not have any statutory powers, it was felt that this could be beneficial in connection with the proposed Neighbourhood Development Plan.
- f) NDP – FR advised he had met with the Neighbourhood Plan Team Leader and FR was of the opinion that the Parish Council apply for designation as it was not possible to proceed until this had been done. The matter was discussed and it was agreed that we apply for the whole Parish to be included in the NDP and on a proposal by DW seconded by FR and carried the form for Designation was handed to the Clerk for her to complete and forward to Herefordshire Council.

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Note – at this time the Clerk advised FR that as he had written to Herefordshire Council to personally support the proposed development on the Ledbury By pass rather than the viaduct site, this would prevent him from voting as and when any discussion came up with regard to the proposal at a full Parish Council Meeting.

Items for consideration –

Adoption of Standing Orders and Financial Regulations – copies of both these documents as recommended by NALC had been handed to Councillors at the Council meeting in September for their consideration prior to adoption. Although it was agreed some of the content did not appear to be relevant for a small Parish Council such as Wellington Heath **on a proposal** by JJ seconded by WH and carried it was agreed to adopt them as drawn.

Budget/Precept for 2015/16 – Copies of the recommendations drawn up at the Finance Meeting had been circulated to all Councillors and the Clerk confirmed that the document had been displayed on the Notice Board at the Memorial Hall inviting comments from Parishioners regarding the proposal to increase the Precept to **Seven thousand five hundred and fifty pounds** in response to a new budget total of £8,005 during 2015/16. **On a proposal** by DW seconded by WH and carried, it was agreed to apply for a precept of £7,550 and accept the Budget as drawn.

Finance – the Clerk advised the following Accounts had been received for payment –

- Lengthsman £56.00.
- Truprint Media £250.00.
- F. Rozelaar, repayment of expenses £23.02.
- M. Low repayment of expenses and purchase of BT phone kiosk £13.98.
- Memorial Hall, hire charges £46.80.

RESOLVED – On a proposal by WH seconded by DW and carried the above Accounts were approved for payment and cheques signed accordingly. The Chairman handed the clerk £40. cash received for banking representing the cost of an advertisement from The Farmers Arms.

Reports –

Memorial Hall – JJ confirmed arrangements for the Welcome Party and advised that the CAP equipment would be displayed for sale at the event, the bank mandate and Account have been changed, a profit of £127. had been raised at the D. Fletcher talk and that the Halloween event had also been a success. Pantomime and Christmas Fayre to take place shortly.

Pool Piece – JJ advised Biffa had inspected the site and were happy with the outcome and that the ground maintenance will continue.

Cluster Group – FR had circulated details following the last meeting of the Group which had been poorly attended. The next meeting will take place at Wellington Heath on 18th February 2015.

Planning – The Chairman advised Hereford Planning had been in touch regarding some of the Parish Council comments regarding gas tanks, drainage, reinstatement of pub lane and the conifer trees and an amended response was agreed.

Correspondence – Letter from Herefordshire Council regarding submission of Precept requirements for 2015/16.

Literature – Clerks & Councils Direct magazine.

Councillor Reports and items – FR raised need for assistance during the forthcoming NDP.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.35pm.

The next meeting will take place on 27th January 2015.

M. Low

27th January 2015.

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

Chairman.