

WELLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Regular Meeting of the Parish Council held at 7.30pm
on Thursday 6th April 2023 in the Community Centre

Item	Minutes	
	Present: Parish Cllrs: Mr Stephen Crane (Chair), Mrs Lyn Langford (Vice Chair), Ms Kim Parker, Mr B Prince, Mr A Spittle Also in attendance: Ward Cllr Pauline Crockett, Mrs Chris Bucknell (Parish Clerk) and 12 members of the public – including Jen Jarrett (CLP Group), Shirley Edgar (Tree Warden), Nigel Cooper (Play Area Project), Jules Shaddick (Brook Officer) and Julia Ashton (Wellington Stores). 1.0 To Accept Apologies for Absence - Cllr Sean Marron 2.0 To Receive Declarations of Interest – None 2.1 To Consider Written Requests for Dispensations - There were no requests for dispensation 3.0 To Adopt the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 2nd March 2023 Resolved: The Minutes were confirmed and signed by the Chair. 4.0 To Receive Brief Reports 4.1 Ward Cllr Pauline Crockett The Leaders Newsletter had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Ward Cllr Pauline Crockett gave a shorter than usual report due to the forthcoming elections. In mid-March she had attended a meeting with Balfour Beatty, which included the Chair of Wellington Parish Council and a representative from Herefordshire Council, to consider the condition of the roads, in particular the village street, which was considered a priority, and Mill Lane. It was explained that Herefordshire Council had a limited budget, and these roads were not included in the Annual Plan. However, an extra £2.5 million from central government had been allocated and it was hoped that this would move Wellington higher up the priority list; an update on this should be known within the next 6 weeks. It was noted that there were hundreds of U roads which needed repair and Herefordshire Council was trying to address this as quickly as possible, but it was felt that even the ones that had been repaired were of poor quality. A new Interim Service Director for Transport and Highways, Mark Averill, had been appointed. Cllr Crockett had spoken to Richard Timothy of National Highways about Wellington Marsh and was told there were 2 more weeks of data collection to be carried out before the findings were published. It was noted that no data collection had been seen in The Marsh and Cllr Crockett would follow this up. Finally, Cllr Crockett stressed the important of voters taking photo ID along to the polling station as they would not be allowed to cast their vote without it. Cllr Crane added that he had attended several site meetings about Mill Lane and the Village Street and he was fairly confident that the safety issues had been recognised. 5.0 Communication with Parishioners and Updates 5.1 Report on Annual Parish Meeting This had been well attended with some good speakers giving a positive message about issues which concerned local residents.	

	5.2 Update on Play Area Nigel Cooper gave an update on the Play Area, saying that things were progressing, with confirmation that the County’s application to the Secretary of State would be heard by the panel in the following week. A face-to-face meeting with Ruth Jackson, Planning Officer, Quentin Mee, Head of Educational Development and Fran White, Play Area Advisor had been positive but Herefordshire Council expected the WCA to pick up their legal fees which it was felt was unacceptable, particularly as Herefordshire Council had their own in-house legal team. Cllr Crockett said to send her the details of what was being asked and she would investigate it. Cllr Crockett was thanked for all her support with the project. 5.3 Update on Community Pub There was no update.	
6.0	Open Time - To Note Matters Raised by Local Residents Relevant to the Parish Jen Jarrett asked whether a mirror could be installed at Vinery Corner as traffic turning left were causing a potential safety issue. Cllr Crane said that the installation of mirrors was not supported as it had been proved they had caused accidents by distracting motorists. Additional signage may be a possibility, but this would probably be seen as a low priority. The Clerk was asked to mention it to Phil Pankhurst. Following the Annual Parish Meeting Cllr Crane had been in contact with Jamie Audsley from the Herefordshire Wildlife Trust who was keen to progress the relationship with the Parish and the community. Cllr Crane had explained that because of the election period any community meeting would need to be postponed until later in the year, but there were options to discuss how this could best be taken forward. This would be added to the May agenda. Jamie was in the process of applying for a significant grant for development work at Queenswood and throughout the Wye area (around £420k) and had asked if the Parish Council could put in a letter of support to the National Lottery. Cllr Crane explained that this would not mean the Parish Council agreeing to anything but would merely indicate that there was a good ongoing relationship with the Herefordshire Wildlife Trust who were keen to support the local community. This was agreed. Shirley Edgar noted that around 6 years ago Tarmac had given an £800 grant to the village which had been used to install 3 planting troughs. As a result of harsh winters and dry summers the plants were suffering and Shirley suggested investigating buying replacement plants for troughs, with Viv Quinn suggesting that Tarmac could be asked for a further grant. There were no other issues raised.	Clerk

7.3 To Agree Payments of Outstanding Invoices

Payment	Expenditure	Amount
BACS	D C Gardening invoice SI1521. Lengthsman duties for March 2023. £60 + VAT	£72.00
BACS	Theo Ashton cleaning of Parish Room and Bookings for March 2023	£50.00
BACS	ZOOM invoice INV196304041 - April subscription. £12.99 + VAT	£15.59
BACS	Hire of Community Centre for February and March Inv Q1 2023	£75.00

Resolved: All payments noted and approved

7.4 To Agree Renewal of Insurance Policy

The insurance policy was due for renewal on 1st June 2023. Cllr Marron had reviewed the renewal questionnaire and made comments with a specific query about whether the items insured were index linked. The Clerk was asked to contact the insurance company to find this out and also to get a breakdown of costs between the Community Hub building and the other insured items.

7.5 Update on 2022/23 Accounts and Audit

The accounts were currently being prepared and Cllr Langford had approved them for submission to the Internal Auditor. The deadline for submission to the External Auditor was 30th June 2023 so it was proposed that these be reviewed and adopted at the June meeting once the internal audit has taken place.

7.6 To Consider Any Requests for Support for Community Activities

There had been no requests for financial support for community activities related to the Coronation.

8.0**To Consider Planning Matters****8.1 To Consider new Planning Applications**

Reference Number	Application
230982	Ravensholt, Wellington – Tree Works

Shirley Edgar (Tree Warden) had been to visit the site and agreed the proposed works noting that the birch was a potential danger to the neighbouring house for the reasons stated in the application and agreed the other trees would benefit from attention.

Resolved: To support the application

8.2 To Note Any Decisions/Notifications Received

Reference Number	Application	Decision
224058	Wellington Quarry, Hayward Lane, Wellington - Proposed northwest quarry extension and consolidation of existing permissions	Awaiting Decision
224292	Auberrow House, Auberrow Road, Wellington - proposed erection of a bespoke oak framed and timber clad outbuilding for use as a home gym/office to replace a barn that has been destroyed by fire	Approved with Conditions
223962	The Wain House, 1 Wellington Court Barns- tree works	Approved
222734	The Wellington – proposed new 3 bed dwelling and partial change of use of pub garden from sui generis to class C3a. Proposed demolition of conservatory to make way for outdoor seating area.	Awaiting Decision

Reference Number	Application	Decision
223767	Honeysuckle Cottage, Poultry Lane, Auberrrow - Demolition of existing dwelling and proposed replacement dwelling	Awaiting Decision
222648	Crossfields, Bridge Lane, Wellington – installation of a wood burning stove with a flue lining within the existing chimney. Listed building consent	Approved with Conditions
220769	Land East of the A49 south of Hayward Lane, Wellington - proposed restoration of the site to wetlands habitat and construction of a mineral processing plant.	Awaiting Decision
220652	St Margaret's Church, Wellington – proposed change of use from agricultural land to burial ground.	Awaiting Decision
210381	Chiropodist Surgery, Marsh House Farm, Wellington. Retrospective change of use of surgery and office to holiday let.	Awaiting Decision
213456	Maple View, Wellington – additional tree works application – Removal of Walnut tree to the front of the house due to damage being caused to our property and vehicles. Additionally, trimming of oak tree which is along our drive which is encroaching into neighbours' property and also causing their smaller tree to suffer due to the oak tree shading it and overpowering it.	Awaiting Decision
192810	Land at Yew Trees, The Row, Wellington – Dwelling with detached garage and vehicle access. Re - Consultation	On hold due to Phosphates
182878	Land Adjacent to Graveyard, Wellington – proposed erection of 15 dwellings. On hold due to Section 106 and Phosphates	On hold due to Phosphates

8.3 To Consider any other Planning Issues

Update Section 106 Funding

Cllr Langford is continuing to follow this up. Further online briefings were taking place.

9.0

To Consider Highways Issues

9.1 A49 Issues

Following the March meeting, Cllr Langford contacted Bill Wiggin MP and received a response which included a letter from Duncan Smith, Executive Director of Operations at Highways England. This was circulated to all Councillors in advance of the meeting. This letter indicated that the police had agreed to collect vehicle speed data at this location and, once the data had been collected, a decision would be made on the appropriate course of action. As noted in item 4.1 this speed date survey had not yet been completed.

Cllr Prince added that the A49 had been closed twice in the past few days due to accidents.

9.1.1. Road Safety Issues on Dinmore Hill

There was no further update

9.2 To Receive any other Highway Issues

Update on Mill Lane – Cllr Prince had been around the area checking the state of the road surface and reported that the multiple potholes were very dangerous for cyclists. All had been filled with black chippings with no tarmac and were now breaking up.

	Quality of Road Repairs - Following a complaint by a resident the quality of the road repairs had been raised with Phil Pankhurst who stated that most repairs were carried out using a velocity patching machine which carried a binder within the material. The jet patcher working under high pressure, so no compaction was required. Phil stated that both the village street and Mill Lane were degrading on an almost daily basis, and he felt that resurfacing was the only way forward. Cllr Crane said there was a need to prioritise the village road outside the school as this was a danger with there being complaints of children being hit by stones as the whole of the road surface had degraded so badly that it was beyond repair and had not been repaired for over 5 years. Keith Brimley said that the last work had covered the village street, Auberrow Road to Vinery Corner and the stretch of road from the school to the A49. This had been carried out by Amey and no work had been done since. Cllr Crockett said she would contact Mark Averill, Interim Director for Transport and Highways and invite him to carry out a site visit with Cllr Prince and Cllr Crane. Ditch Repairs – Cllr Prince said that through the Drainage Grant he had commissioned work on the ditch at Auberrow and the ditches in North Road had been done on both sides. He had also asked that the sump drain in Bridge Lane be looked at. Wild Flower Verges - Following a request from the Green Team, Phil Pankhurst had looked into the issue of planting wild flower verges in Mill Lane and had reported that Balfour Beatty had agreed to this and purchased the seeds, which would be planted once the undergrowth had grown back. Shirley Edgar asked whether other areas could be planted, and it was agreed Phil would be contacted about this.	
10.0	Report on Footpaths Update on Footpath Maintenance Cllr Crane reported that, as would be expected at this time of the year, there was significant mud on the footpaths. There had been an issue with a stile which Richard and Lyn Langford quickly sorted out and Cllr Crane thanked them for their prompt action. The footpaths along the back of the Brook were designated on the definitive map as permissive paths but Cllr Crane said that was incorrect and they were rights of way from the Church down; there were no permissive rights of way in the Parish. The work that was required to the steps leading up to the woods was being carried out by Herefordshire Council; Cllr Crane did not have any more information on this and will follow it up. Cllr Crane encouraged anyone who had any issues that needed addressing to contact him. Shirley Edgar said that there had been reports on WhatsApp of ASB incidents at the Dingle with litter, bonfires and trees pulled apart. Cllr Crane said that this was not strictly speaking related to the footpaths, but he would raise it with the Local Community Police Officer.	Clerk SC SC
11.0	Wellington Brook 11.1 Brook Officer's Report Jules Shaddick gave the following report. • Debris on Brook bank behind the Chapel – contact has now been made with the Chapel and the debris will be moved away from the bank soon. • A report had been received about a tree which had come down in the Brook across the A49 up by the lakes. This has now been cleared and thanks were given to Tarmac for carrying out the work. • A local resident raised concerns to Shirley Edgar about a tree by the Brook on 'No Man's Land'. The tree has been looked at and it is felt that no action was currently required. This would be kept under review and if action was required the IDB would be contacted. • One of the Ford depth markers was missing and the Ford triangle warning sign had been knocked and is leaning over at about 45 degrees.	

- There was a tree dangling in the Brook from land next to The Cott. Jules Shaddick said she would contact the owner of The Cott to see if he owned this land and, if so, would ask for the tree to be dealt with. If not, it may be something that needed to be dealt with by the Lengthsman.

Cllr Prince reported that there was a pile of excrement by the bus shelter on the main road, by the Brook. He felt this may be chicken manure which was illegal because of the potential for phosphate to run into the Brook. Jules Shaddick said she would investigate this.

12.0 Community Led Planning Group

12.1 Update on Projects and Activities

Jen Jarrett gave a report on the activities of the CLP WellIMP team, saying they continue to be successful and reach out to the community. The group works under several banners e.g. The Green Team (Shirley Edgar) Wildlife WhatsApp (Viv Quinn), Talk Community (John Hayward) but overall, the group remained a Task and Finish group of the Parish Council and were more than happy for that to continue. There had recently been a review of the TC Grant and an extension until September 2023 granted in order that the group could complete their planned projects.

Community Library - the new operational era for the library had begun and whilst it may be too soon to say it has met with success it had received very good support. There has been a steady stream of borrowers and others that like to sit and have a cup of coffee and biscuit but who often left either as a new member or with a loan book. There is a team of volunteers manning the library every Wednesday and the 1st Saturday of the month; it stocks a range of books for the young readers and the team are widening the age group in an effort to attract 6 – 12 year olds.

Coffee Mornings – this is celebrating its 1st Anniversary on April 14th. The numbers attending have increased steadily over the past 12 months and have allowed the group to establish a routine of donating funds to local charities chosen by the coffee drinkers, over £350 in the last year. On 12th May there will be a Coronation Coffee Morning, held in conjunction with the church and there will be a donation made to a representative of the National College for the Blind where King Charles is the patron. The group are also creating closer links with the school and have regular visits by the more senior members of the school children who mingle with the attendees.

Wildlife WhatsApp - this is also going from strength to strength. There is now a Holiday Wildlife WhatsApp and meetings of enthusiasts outside of the WhatsApp Group. e.g moth identification, dawn chorus walks, wildlife identification. The group are also providing information to the Herefordshire Biological Records Centre, encouraging more people to record wildlife not forgetting the star roles Viv Quinn and Sue Griffin played in the recent BBC Countryfile programme.

Keeping Wellington Green - thanks go to Gill Bullock for organising a weekend litter pick and also to Shirley for her team maintaining the trees around the football pitch and Ford Meadow which now has bird feeders. It has been agreed with the Clerk that the main litter picks, organised and attended by a member of the group, with the relevant risk assessments in place, would be covered by the Parish Council public liability insurance, but ad hoc litter picks, by members of the community borrowing the equipment, would not be covered.

12.2 To Consider Wi Fi in the Parish Room

Jen Jarrett explained the background to this saying that it had first been considered 12 months ago but was now being reconsidered as the Library days could be used to demonstrate the use of the laptops purchased through the Talk Community Grant. The set-up cost would be covered by the underspend on the Talk Community Grant but there would be an ongoing cost which would need to be covered by the Parish Council.

Jen Jarrett, in discussion with Russell Appleton and the Parish Clerk, had prepared an options paper to be considered by the Parish Council. This was presented at the meeting.

	Background - The Parish Room in the Community Hub is used regularly by the Community Library group and intermittently by other groups. It has no internet access of its own and in the past depended on the goodwill of the Shop to allow users to link into their internet. Jen Jarrett felt it would be appropriate for a more formal arrangement be in place to protect the Parish Council and users of the Parish Room. As the Talk Community Hub has developed over time, we now have the opportunity to offer information and links to Talk Community Directory website from the parish rooms when the Community run library is open and would like to use the underspend to pay for independent Wi-Fi connection etc. Present Position - The Shop has a fast fibre connection under the name of Carrot and Wine and has a post code HR4 8AX. The Parish Room has no connection and no post code in its own right. It needs a post code to get a permanent broadband connection. The following options were put forward for consideration. Option 1 - The Parish Room registers a post code and applies for a fast fibre connection with a permanent Wi-Fi hub. This provides a land line which may or may not be used. Cost: Fast Fibre to building unknown until a post code available. Monthly cost approx. £30. For: Simplest for users to use Against: On going monthly cost for irregular usage. Post Code for Parish Room needs registering. Option 2 - Mobile Broadband Router This is either a battery operated or mains device that links to a mobile 4G network and enables between 10 and 20 devices to be linked to it. It needs a sim card and data plan with a mobile network. Costs depend upon the supplier. This can be EE or Three or Vodafone Cost: Between £40 and £400 for a router. Monthly cost between £25 and £30 depending upon supplier. For: Can be set up without post code. Contract can be cancelled at a month notice. Against: On going monthly cost. Slower download and upload speeds Option 3 – Mi-Fi This device provides a device (dongle) for each user and creates a Wi-Fi hotspot that can be used anywhere. Costs have not been sought as it does not appear to be a practical solution when more than may one device at a time may require a connection. This was discussed and Cllr Langford and Cllr Crane felt the Parish Room should have its own Wi-Fi connection, separate from the shop supply. There was a query about whether there was the option to pay for a period of time in advance and, if so, what the terms would be. There was a consensus that the focus should be on Option 1 and the Clerk was asked to look into the issue of the postcode. This would be brought back to the May meeting for further discussion and decision.	
13.0	Community Hub 13.1 Drainage Issues Cllr Prince had arranged for the drains to be looked at and there had been no further issues. 13.2 Replacement of Benches and Tables Julia Ashton and Cllr Crane had met and discussed the options and Cllr Crane will obtain quotes which would be brought to the May meeting. 13.3 To Consider any Other Issues or Expenditure There were no further issues or expenditure	Clerk
14.0	To Note the Information Sheet (April 2022) and any other updates Resolved: The Information sheet was noted. Update on May Elections: Cllr Crane noted that Cllr Langford had not put herself forward for re-	SC

	election and he thanked her for all her hard work and dedication over many years. Cllr Crane noted that only 4 people had put their names forward for election and this would prove a challenge for the Parish Council moving forward with issues related to ensuring meetings were quorate and also distribution of duties related to the Parish Council.	
15.0	To Raise Items for the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council (no discussion) Herefordshire Wildlife Trust	
16.0	To Note Date and Time of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council Thursday 11th May 2023 at 7.30pm in the Community Centre. Note that this is a week later than usual due to the elections The meeting closed at 21.20  Signed Chairman of Wellington Parish Council 11th May 2023	