

WELLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Regular Meeting of the Parish Council held at 7.30pm
on Thursday 7th March 2024 in the Community Centre

Item	Minutes	
	Present: Parish Cllrs: Mr Stephen Crane (Chair), Ms K Parker, Mr B Prince, Mr A Spittle, Mr C Williams Also in attendance: Ward Councillor Pauline Crockett, Mrs Chris Bucknell (Parish Clerk) and 13 members of the public including Jen Jarrett (CLP Group) and Nigel Cooper (Play Area Project) 1.0 To Accept Apologies for Absence – Cllr Sean Marron, Shirley Edgar (CLP Group) 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 1st February 2024 Resolved: The Minutes were confirmed and signed by the Chair. 4.0 To Receive Brief Reports 4.1 Ward Cllr Pauline Crockett Cllr Crockett gave the following report Herefordshire Council Meeting – this was taking place on Friday 8th March. Agenda items:- • 2024/25 Council Tax Setting Report to set the Council Tax and Precepts for 2024/25. This report seeks approval for Council Tax amounts for each category of dwelling in Herefordshire including precepts for West Mercia Police, Hereford and Worcester Fire Authority and Hereford Town and Parish Councils for the financial year 2024/25 • Adoption of the Herefordshire Minerals & Waste Local Plan • Amendments to Constitution. To propose amendments to the Constitution in relation to: the Members Code of Conduct and functions of the Standards Panel; functions of Audit and Governance Committee; Co-opted Member recruitment to Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee; and functions of Planning and Regulatory Committee Leader’s Report and Chairman & Chief Executive Reports set out what they have been involved with over the past month. Artwork Around Hereford City - this was the new Art + People + Place programme, commissioned in partnership with Studio Response, and was part of the £6 million Hereford City Centre Improvements (HCCI) project. The overall project aimed to refurbish the historic core of Hereford through investment in the streetscape, landscaping and public realm, and was funded jointly by the Council and Marches LEP. The public art project had been years in the making, bringing together local people, students, businesses and stakeholders from across the city to add creativity and vibrancy to Hereford City streets. There was a public consultation session in June 2023 which provided themes, ideas and locations that have fed into the final artworks. Ongoing Consultation - Have Your Say on The Licensing of Sex Establishments: Statement of Licensing Policy which is running from 27 February to 24 March 2024. Locally Cllr Crockett had been involved in ongoing Planning Applications, the Wellington Play Area Project, concerns around Wellington Ford and other issues raised by the residents.	

	A resident raised a concern about the Recycling Centres and whether there would be closures in the county. Cllr Crockett responded saying that the local recycling centres were looking really positive with around 78% of what was taken to the centres in Hereford, Leominster and Bromyard being recycled. 5.0 Communications and Updates 5.1 Update on Play Area Nigel Cooper reported that a draft lease had now been issued by Herefordshire Council and this would be forwarded on to WCA together with comments from Lambe Corner, solicitor. Quotations for equipment had been received and would be updated once the lease was signed. The Chairman of Wellington Community Association, Nick Doe, had resigned with immediate effect and a new Chair would be appointed in due course. Cllr Stephen Crane paid credit to the work that Nigel Cooper and others had put into achieving this positive result. 5.2 Update on Community Pub Marc Willimont was not at the meeting and an update on the Community Pub had been put on their Facebook page. 5.3 Police Priorities The Local Policing Team had asked for an update on local priorities for the coming 3 months. It was agreed these would remain as Speeding, Anti-Social Behaviour and Burglary. The Team was promoting the We don't Buy Crime Smartwater Project at the recent village meeting and had asked if they could come to a Parish Council Meeting to advertise this. It was agreed to ask them to attend a future meeting. 6.0 Open Time – to Note Matters Raised by Residents Relevant to the Parish – issues raised were related to highways and have been minuted under agenda item 9.3 7.0 Financial Matters 7.1 Report from the RFO Bank Balances: Treasurer's Account £20,669.58, Business Instant Access £64,144.67. Income since the February Meeting March Shop Rent - £700 Interest - £70.82 Grant from Tarmac for Wildlife Project - £813.45 (to be discussed under item 12.4) 7.2 To Approve Invoices Paid Since February Meeting <table border="1" data-bbox="212 1518 1394 1845"> <thead> <tr> <th>Payment</th><th>Expenditure</th><th>Amount</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>BACS</td><td>Clare Lloyd Cleaning of Parish Room, Foyer and Toilet and cleaning materials</td><td>£40.80</td></tr> <tr> <td>BACS</td><td>Nhbs Wildlife invoice Q49604 Wildlife Project (to come out of Tarmac Grant) £190.37 + VAT</td><td>£228.45</td></tr> <tr> <td>BACS</td><td>Paul Jones Work to fence on car park behind shop</td><td>£449.50</td></tr> <tr> <td>BACS</td><td>Reimbursement to Clerk 50 x 2nd class stamps</td><td>£37.50</td></tr> </tbody> </table> Resolved: Payments noted and approved	Payment	Expenditure	Amount	BACS	Clare Lloyd Cleaning of Parish Room, Foyer and Toilet and cleaning materials	£40.80	BACS	Nhbs Wildlife invoice Q49604 Wildlife Project (to come out of Tarmac Grant) £190.37 + VAT	£228.45	BACS	Paul Jones Work to fence on car park behind shop	£449.50	BACS	Reimbursement to Clerk 50 x 2 nd class stamps	£37.50	Clerk
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7.3 To Agree Payments of Outstanding Invoices

Payment	Expenditure	Amount
BACS	BGS Intelligent Door Solutions. Repair to automatic door sensor in Community Hub £671.18 + VAT	£805.42
BACS	Zoom invoice 244565359. Subscription for February £12.99 + VAT	£15.59
BACS	D C Gardening invoice SI-1798 Grounds Maintenance for February £4,139.58 +VAT	£4,967.50
BACS	Ink Cartridges for CLP Group - to be paid out of CLP Grant £34.92 + VAT	£41.90
BACS	Gazebo for CLP Group - to be paid out of CLP Grant £174.99 + VAT	£209.99

Resolved: Payments noted and approved

Resolved: To Cancel Zoom Subscription

Clerk

Clerk

8.0 To Consider Planning Matters**8.1 To Note Planning Applications Commented on Between Meetings**

Reference Number	Application
240247	6 Wellington Court Barns, Wellington - various young garden trees to be reduced up to a maximum of 30% inc. birch and fruit trees. Fell and remove nearest of two empress trees in rear garden, closest to waste treatment plant, due to overcrowding and potentially property damage from root system to drainage system that services 8 properties. <i>Shirley Edgar had visited the site and was fully supportive of the application, saying the trees were very close to the water treatment station. On this basis Wellington Parish Council supported the application.</i>

Reference Number	Application
240342	Plough House, Wellington – Reduce holly tree, on western boundary of property by 50% to reduce shade to neighbour's garden. Remove dead branches and long leaders from Cherry tree on the bottom boundary of the property to make safe. <i>Shirley Edgar had visited the site and approved the proposed work. On this basis Wellington Parish Council supported the application.</i>

8.2 To Consider New Applications

Reference Number	Application
240499	1 Wellington Court Barns Wellington - application for prior notification for proposed agricultural general store building and track. <i>Comments were not being accepted for this application</i>

8.3 To Note Any Decisions/Notifications Received

Reference Number	Application	Decision
240247	6 Wellington Court Barns, Wellington – Tree works	Approved
240342	Plough House, Wellington – reduce holly tree on western boundary of property by 50% to reduce shade to neighbours’ garden. Remove dead leaders from Cherry Tree on the bottom boundary of the property to make safe. <i>Not yet on website</i>	Approved
233651	Kingcup Cottage, Wellington - Proposed erection of a two-storey extension to include demolition of the integral double garage with room above.	Approved with Conditions
233093	Wellington Quarry, Haywards Lane – approval of details reserved by conditions 11, 14, 17 attached to planning permission 224058.	Awaiting Decision
231088	Wellington Chapel, Wellington – Proposed single storey extension and application of render to existing south (front) elevation.	Awaiting Decision
223767	Honeysuckle Cottage, Poultry Lane, Auberrrow - Demolition of existing dwelling and proposed replacement dwelling	Awaiting Decision
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. <i>(see also item 8.4)</i>	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

8.4: To Consider any Other Planning Issues

Update on Application 220769 – Land East of A49 - Cllr Marron attended a meeting with the Planning Officer, Rebecca Jenman and Cllr Crockett and had circulated a report to all Cllrs on 22/02/24. Cllr Crockett gave a brief update saying that if there was no legal planning reason for the application not to be granted then it had to be approved. The application was now going for re-consultation. Cllr Crockett and Cllr Marron were thanked for the work they had put into this.

On the issue of long-standing applications that had not been decided, Cllr Crockett said that phosphate issues were still being used as a reason not to approve or to refuse applications. This was moving very slowly because of the new wetlands credit scheme. Luston Wetlands were given as an example of how phosphates were being removed from the rivers. It was also possible for developers to buy phosphate credits.

Herefordshire Local Plan Regulation 18 Consultation – the latest consultation will be launching on Monday 25th March 2024 and all residents are encouraged to participate.

Update on Concerns Regarding Condition of Buildings in Bridge Lane – Jason Steeple had given the following update

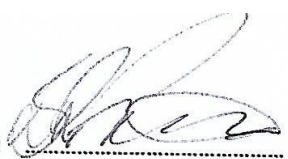
In respect of the untidy bungalow, I revisited after I had asked for it to be tidied up, I can confirm that this work has now been completed and the property is a lot tidier / in an acceptable state. Pictures were taken and placed upon my case file.

I contacted Building Control for the Listed Barn to be assessed as to whether the current state of it was a danger / posed a risk. They updated me a few weeks back to say someone will be out to assess, not heard back as yet. In the interim period of me asking Building Control, I emailed Debra Lewis, to ask if she had any further information. And she advised me that a Pre-app was in place with a view to making acceptable repairs.

	A copy of the pre-application was circulated to all Cllrs in advance of the meeting. Resident's Concern over Unauthorised Work to G2 Property – Cllr Marron formulated an explanatory response to these concerns which was sent to the Enforcement Team. A response is awaited. Update on Section 106 – there is no further update	
9.0	To Consider Highways Issues 9.1 A49 Issues – there was no further update Road Safety Issues on Dinmore Hill – Cllr Crockett had been updated by the Welsh Water Area Manager, Emlyn Young, who had confirmed that an unusual amount of surface water was causing problems. The water level had now reduced, and Welsh Water were going to investigate where the water had originated from. 9.2 To Receive any other Highway Issues Drainage at Auberrow Crossroads - Cllr Prince had spoken to Phil Pankhurst to ascertain whether there was any additional work that needed doing in addition to that identified during the site visit and Phil felt that the ditch needed digging out or lowering to stop water coming over the crossroads. Cllr Prince had visited the site with Dave Campbell, the Lengthsman, and had identified one pipe which went under the field to Auberrow Crossroads where work had been carried out by Dave Campbell. It was noted that the original trench had been dug out to prevent travellers parking there, but this was a trench, not a drain and it needed backfilling when the water had dropped a bit. Cllr Prince was going to attend a site meeting with Richard and Lyn Langford to see what work could be done and what could be reinstated. It was also suggested that if a trench was dug it would drain the ditch temporarily so that the work could be carried out. Moreton Brook – a request had been made from a resident to ask if Moreton Brook could be included on the agenda as the annual inspection and clearance that used to take place had now ceased and he wanted to raise the issue with the Parish Council. Cllr Crane felt that whilst the resident lived within the Parish boundary Moreton Brook was outside of it and the Clerk was asked to contact Moreton Parish Council to see if anything could be done. 9.3 Identification of Work to be Carried out and any other Updates Potholes – At Vinery Corner along the top road and the other side of crossroads. Also, Vinery Corner to The Ridges and on the upper road near Wootton Cottages, which, it was noted, were in a dangerous condition and had been reported several times by various people. It was stressed that any road issues should be reported directly onto Herefordshire Council website. If any pothole is becoming a safety issue this should be included in the report as this would automatically escalate it in terms of prioritisation. Broken drain at end of Auberrow Road at the junction of Main Street. Cllr Crane to report it. White Lines - Coming into the village past Doctors Corner the white lines have been obliterated by potholes and tarmac. Water rushing down road in front of Holland House. Cllr Prince has reported it and Phil Pankhurst is aware of it.	Clerk
10.0	Report on Footpaths 10.1 Update on Footpath Maintenance Cllr Crane said one of the big issues was dog excrement with people clearing up their dog waste but then leaving the bags on hedges etc. If people were seen not clearing up after their dog it should be reported to the Parish Council who would follow up on it.	SC

	Cllr Crane noted that there was also an increasing disregard for the footpaths with gates being left open despite the placing of signage asking for them to be closed. Cllr Crane had met with Herefordshire Council's Footpath Officer and discussed a number of issues, including the steps at Pottery Cottage which had still not been replaced and were a safety hazard. The Dingle had been reported nearly a year before and work still had not taken place. Cllr Crane was assured that this would be looked into. There was a large puddle in front of the stile on the footpath from Bridge Lane to the blackcurrant fields. House bricks had been put into the puddle which was very dangerous and needed to be stopped before there was an accident. There was now a volunteer Co-ordinator for Footpaths whose role it was to co-ordinate the work and it was felt things would now improve. The new owner of Bankside was at the meeting had met with Cllr Crane and suggested the path will be fenced off giving a 3-meter path, which is above the minimum requirement. The footpath broadly followed the hedge line, and this would provide the plan for installing the fence. The surface of the path had been discussed and, if it was not a natural path, there should be no surface holes that could cause a hazard to walkers. Cllr Crane said that from a footpath perspective there were no issues in what the owner was suggesting. The resident said their main intention was to separate their horses and the dogs by putting a short fence up, around 4ft high and 325 yards long, and it was proposed this would happen in the next 2/3 weeks with horses arriving shortly afterwards. A 10ft gate matching Dick Makin's would allow Richard Hesbrook to be able to drive his engines up the bank and the D Day celebrations would be accommodated with access to the hill being easily available. Derek and Maureen and Robertshaw's benches would be returned to their original position. Cllr Crane said once the fences were installed there was a need to promote wild flowers and enhance the wildlife and he would work closely with the resident to ensure the pathway was safe for people to walk on.	
11.0	Wellington Brook 11.1 Brook Officer's Report Jules Shaddick had stepped back from her role as Brook Officer, giving a short briefing of outstanding issues (see below) Fallen Tree Over Brook at Rear of The Chapel - In July/August 2023 the IDB wrote to the church requesting them to remove it. It is still there. Overgrown land at rear of The Cott - Letter has been sent to the owner by the IDB. No acknowledgement of the letter and there is no update. Eroding Bank at Rear of Brookside Close - The work should be carried out this year. The IDB are monitoring this progress. Cllr Crane also noted that there had been considerable erosion of the bank on the field side and this needed to be reported to Anne-Clare Landolt at the IDB. The Ability to Close off The Ford when needed – Covered under item 11.1 of the February meeting. If Cllrs wish to pursue this, they will need to contact Jennifer Allen at Balfour Beatty. Jules was thanked (in her absence) for all the excellent and valuable work she had done in maintaining The Brook. Cllr Crane spoke about the bank behind Brookside (the field side) which had been eroding over time and a significant piece of ground have fallen away. This needed to be reported to Anne-Clare Landolt at the IDB. The Parish Council were asked to consider how they could recruit a new Brook Officer and, in meantime, any issues need to be reported to the relevant people. Cllr Parker suggested it was something that could be brought up at the APM. A leaflet drop in the area of the Brook was also suggested and it could be included in the next Parish Newsletter which was delivered to every house.	SC

12.0	Jenni Gowan had sent in a short note which she had asked to be read out, thanking Jules for all her efforts and expressing the sincere hope that the Parish Council would continue with this valuable work and ensure someone else took up the role. Cllr Crane repoded to this saying that he fully understood the importance of flood prevention and the Parish Council would continue to follow this up. Community Led Planning Group 12.1 Update on Projects and Activities Jen Jarrett gave the following report Community Library - The Community Library continued to be well supported. It was advertised in the Marden Magazine in return for Wellington advertising the Marden Repair Cafe. There was an increasing membership both in Wellington and from Marden, Moreton and Dinmore and children were now coming along. With the internet connection borrowers could now be shown information on books and volunteers would also be able to answer other questions posed by those attending. Coffee Mornings - 50 people attended the last coffee morning in February. This was enabling the CLP to continue to regularly donate £100 to local charities chosen by attendees. Notice Boards - Thanks to John Allender the group are refreshing the Notice Board in the garden of Ashley House and, with the permission of the owner, placing a new one in The Row on the green triangle opposite Bankside. Talk Community Grant - there was £620 funding available, which had been used for purchasing a heavy duty pop up gazebo available for all to use (£210 inc VAT) and a noticeboard (£150 - £200 no vat). The balance has paid for the WIFI connection in the Parish Room. Parish Information Pack - Further packs have been delivered to and welcomed by new comers to the village. Fun Week – the CLP Group have plans to contribute to the Fun Week by putting on a D Day Community Coffee Morning, Open Library Fun Saturday, organising a music evening on the opening Saturday and possibly a photo competition. 12.2 Speed Watch Cllr Williams reported that he had now met up with the team providing the training and still had another couple of potential volunteers to contact to ensure that there were sufficient volunteers to trained to undertake the activities. 12.3 Report from the Green Team Shirley Edgar was not at the meeting but reported that the team had carried out further sessions in the sleet, rain and sunshine on the hedgerow at the Football Field and have a further session planned. It was noted that some of the plants have reached above the fence line and been cut back to that height, and small, free, saplings from the Woodland Trust have been used to fill in gaps where there were no trees, or where they had been damaged by stray footballs. Mulch from Bridge Farm had been used to maintain moisture levels in the ground and reduce weed growth. Shirley gave thanks to the very reliable, industrious Green Team and to Linda Wolsey. Despite the Welcome magazine request and posters in the village there had been no further volunteers coming forward. 12.4 Wildlife Group Grant Funded Projects Viv Quinn said that the WhatsApp group continued to grow. There were several activities going on including a Finch Project in conjunction with a local farmer & Herefordshire Ornithological Club. Some members of the group were involved in carrying out a full farm bird survey locally.	
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	In total there had been 11 events this year around the village including walks, foraging and wildflower meadows. Several events were planned for 2024 including a pond visit, dawn chorus, wildflower meadow walk & fungi forage to name a few. A big thank you was given to Tarmac for giving the group the funds to get 10 people trained in river fly surveying and the equipment to and carry these out. This survey would be ongoing and would help to ascertain the quality of the water in the Brook. Thanks was given to Viv and her team for all their hard work and dedication. 12.4 To Approve any Expenditure – there was no expenditure other than that listed under agenda item 7.2.	
13.0	Community Hub 13.1 Update on Community Lottery Project - there was £2,625 remaining which needed to be spent by the end of March 2024. Cllr Prince said he would get a quote for refurbishment of the benches. The cost of upgrading the fence would be taken out of the grant. 13.2 Update on Proposal for WiFi in the Parish Room Jen Jarrett confirmed that the WIFI in the Parish Room was up and running and thanks to John Allender the router would be fixed to the wall. It was agreed that there would be one guest password that was pinned up in the room but changed at regular intervals. 13.3 To Consider any Other Issues or Expenditure There were no other issues or expenditure	
14.0	To Note the Information Sheet (March 2024) and any other updates Resolved: The Information sheet was noted. There were no other updates.	
15.0	To Raise Issues for the next Regular Meeting of the Parish Council (no discussion) Police Smart Water Project, Parish Newsletter, Annual Parish Meeting	
16.0	To Note Date and Time of the Regular Meeting of the Parish Council Thursday 4th April 2024 at 7.30pm in the Community Centre. The meeting closed at 21.20  Signed Acting Chairman of Wellington Parish Council 4th April 2024	