



WELLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

**Regular Meeting of the Parish Council held at 7.30pm
on Thursday 2nd October 2025 in the Community Centre**

ITEM		ACTION
	Present	
	Parish Councillors:	
	Cllr. C Williams (Chair), Cllr. A Churcher, Cllr Crane, Cllr. K Parker and Cllr. B Prince	
	Also in attendance:	
	Emyr Saer (Parish Clerk) and 9 members of the public including, Viv Quinn (Wildlife Group)	
1.0	To accept apologies for absence:	
	Cllr. S Marron & Ward Cllr Pauline Crockett	
2.0	To Receive Declarations of Interest:	
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 11th September 2025	
	Resolved: The Minutes were confirmed and signed by the Chair.	
4.0	Receive reports	
4.1	Ward Cllr Pauline Crockett	
	Apologies received and following report read out: A recent decision has been made by Herefordshire Council to acquire and refurbish the John Haider building in central Hereford will offer 28 additional self-contained apartments for people needing emergency accommodation. The number of people presenting to the council as needing emergency accommodation has almost doubled in the past two years, and there is currently a shortage of suitable accommodation. This means that people may be housed in private sector dwellings (where available) or in budget hotel/bed-and-breakfast style accommodation. To help address this, the council is investing nearly £3.8Million to acquire and fully refurbish the John Haider building in central Hereford. Bus services contract change. Yeomans Canyon Travel has been awarded the contract to operate the Leominster, Wigmore, and 76 Hereford bus services following a competitive tender process. Call for communities to celebrate older people and champion active, healthy ageing Community groups and organisations across Herefordshire and Worcestershire are being invited to take part in Positive Ageing Week (Monday 29 September to Friday 3 October). Locally, Positive Ageing Week 2025 will inspire people aged 55 and over to get active, stay connected and try something new. It also celebrates the contribution of older people and promotes the benefits of regular movement for physical and mental health. Locally,	

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	Positive Ageing Week is being delivered by Active Herefordshire & Worcestershire, Age UK North Worcestershire, Age UK Wyvern, Herefordshire Council and Worcestershire County Council. Continuing to invest in Herefordshire roads Herefordshire Council is continuing to invest in the county's roads, with a planned programme of resurfacing works taking place throughout September. Grants available to boost nature and biodiversity in Herefordshire Herefordshire Council and it's recycling collection contractor, FCC Environment, are inviting schools, parish councils, and community groups across the county to apply for Nature and Biodiversity Community Grant funding to support local environmental projects. Deadline for applications is 13th October. Grants of £500 to £10,000 are available to fund initiatives that create or enhance green spaces, improve biodiversity, or support local ecosystems. Work begins on new Transport Hub The £10 million hub will integrate key travel connections, making it easier to move around and connect by train, bus, car, bike, taxi or on foot. This forms part of a wider Local Transport Plan shaped by public input, with strong support for better bus services, active travel options and the Bypass. It is supported by a £20.5 million investment from the UK Government's Levelling Up Fund, aimed at delivering a package of transport and travel measures in and around Hereford city. <u>Locally</u> I have been involved with Planning applications and ongoing flood and drainage options.								
4.2	Update from Local Policing Team:								
	Officer confirmed nothing to report.								
5.0	Communications and Updates:								
	None								
6.0	Open Time – to Note Matters Raised by Residents Relevant to the Parish:								
	None.								
7.0	Financial Matters:								
7.1	To Receive a Report from the RFO:								
	Bank Balances as at 26/09/25: <table><tr><td>Treasurer's Account</td><td>£33,165.06</td></tr><tr><td>Parish Council Instant Access (H&RBS)</td><td>£64,144.67</td></tr></table> Income since the September Meeting <table><tr><td>Shop Rent - £700</td><td>Precept - £13,910</td><td>HCF Grant £77.00 for Green Team</td></tr></table>	Treasurer's Account	£33,165.06	Parish Council Instant Access (H&RBS)	£64,144.67	Shop Rent - £700	Precept - £13,910	HCF Grant £77.00 for Green Team	
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7.2	To Approve Invoices Paid Since September Meeting:																										
	<table><tr><th>Payment</th><th>Expenditure</th><th>Amount £</th></tr><tr><td>BACS</td><td>Service charge to bank</td><td>5.17</td></tr><tr><td>BACS</td><td>JM Jarrett form equipment for Wildlife Group (£21.64 + VAT)</td><td>25.98</td></tr><tr><td>BACS</td><td>JM Jarrett form equipment for Wildlife Group (£8.66 + VAT)</td><td>10.39</td></tr><tr><td>BACS</td><td>BGS door repair (£740.34 + VAT)</td><td>888.41</td></tr><tr><td>BACS</td><td>Shirley Edgar for plastic trays (for River fly Project) reimburse, payment to eBay</td><td>34.20</td></tr><tr><td>BACS</td><td>WCA room hire Jul & Sep</td><td>36.00</td></tr><tr><td>BACS</td><td>Clerk Salary Jun – Sep</td><td>£1,932</td></tr></table>	Payment	Expenditure	Amount £	BACS	Service charge to bank	5.17	BACS	JM Jarrett form equipment for Wildlife Group (£21.64 + VAT)	25.98	BACS	JM Jarrett form equipment for Wildlife Group (£8.66 + VAT)	10.39	BACS	BGS door repair (£740.34 + VAT)	888.41	BACS	Shirley Edgar for plastic trays (for River fly Project) reimburse, payment to eBay	34.20	BACS	WCA room hire Jul & Sep	36.00	BACS	Clerk Salary Jun – Sep	£1,932		
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	Resolved: All Payments Noted and Approved.			Clerk																							
7.3	To Agree Payments of Outstanding Invoices:																										
	None																										
7.4	Consider draft budget for 2026 - 2027																										
	Defer to smaller group of Councillors inc Cllr Marron, led by Cllr Williams.																										
8.0	To Consider Planning Matters:																										
8.1	To Note Planning Applications Commented on Between Meetings:																										
	None																										
8.2	To Consider New Planning Applications:																										
	None received																										
8.3	To Note Any Decisions/Notifications Received:																										
	None received																										
8.4	To Consider any other Planning Issues																										
	Herefordshire Local Plan and implications for NDP and future development																										
	No update, Cllr Marron is dealing and has sent apologies.																										
	Update re Dursley Cottage wall																										
	Cllr Prince reported that Phil Pankhurst of Balfour Beatty is not unduly worried, although he did mention that if a vehicle is damaged on the stones, then the householder can be held liable (as has happened in Marden).																										
	Email received from Shriley Edgar																										
	Email received citing a complete disregard of comments put forward by PC's. Cllr Crane did say that it was to all PC's not just WPC. Once discussed, it was decided that a suitable letter of complaint be drafted (discussed with Ward Cllr Crockett before sending) to be sent to Heads of Council, PROW, Environment, Flooding and Planning, also to relevant Cllr leads on each department. The letter will incorporate issues from the Dingle in a single formal complaint.			Clerk SM SC																							

9.0	To Consider Highway Matters:	
9.1	A49 issues:	
	Cllr. Churcher gave a brief update of the gravel under A49 but contractors cannot move too much as National Highways do not own land either side.	
	Road Closure for C1121:	
	No further forward, Cllr. Marron apologised as has been engaged with other matters.	
	Community Speedwatch:	
	Nothing further to report at present.	
	To review any other Highway Issues	
	A49 junction as above.	
	Notification received that A49 over Dinmore is to have average speed detection within the 50MPH restriction.	
	Reported a speeding vehicle (local) who travels at significant speed through the village. All that can be done is to report to Police.	
9.2	Identification of Work to be Carried out and any other Updates:	
	Seek an update from Ward Cllr Crockett on the work that was meant to be completed on 'Top Road' which appears not to have been undertaken.	PC
10.0	Report on Footpaths	
10.1	Update on Footpath Maintenance:	
	Ongoing maintenance with hedge trimming causing some issues which Cllr Crane is monitoring. Viv Quinn of Wildlife Group stated that Tarmac have cleared the paths around their site to a very good standard.	
10.2	Update on Dingle	
	Cllrs Crockett and Crane have had meetings and it has been decided to make a formal complaint to HC as per above.	SC
11.0	Flooding Issues	
11.1	Update Flood Group:	
	Message from Jenni Gowan for October PC meeting Having spent almost a year, working on my own initiative but under the auspices of the Parish Council, to try to ensure that Wellington can mitigate against the effects of flooding, I have now handed this back to the Parish Council to continue as it sees fit and will no longer be giving updates at meetings. I took it on out of a sense of frustration that the subject did not seem to figure very highly in the PC's work back then and my reason for handling back now is out of an even greater sense of frustration of not having to have been able to achieve anything much at all! Rest assured that many hours have been spent on numerous strands that together could have really made a difference to Wellington. What is seemingly impossible is being able to get any of them to come to fruition. It was especially disappointing that the (very expensive and long winded) study done on the brook resulted in nothing physical being done to the watercourse with only property flood resilience (PFR) being on the table as a future possibility. The two final nails in the coffin of frustration for me rest firmly in the hands of two of the primary authorities involved – Herefordshire Council and River Lugg Internal Drainage Board. Whilst acknowledging that the Council's flood risk team is woefully undermanned, there is no excuse for having given me spurious information which I then reported to the PC and had to retract when it was found to be incorrect. RLBD on the other hand has backed away from what I believe to be a very contentious issue with no real reason given. I believe my work thus far as at least put Wellington on the map with the various authorities and my hope now is that the Parish Councillors collectively will have more weight to be able to get	

	things done in a timelier manner and will continue my work. To some extent it will be up to parishioners to ensure that the subject remains high on the PCs agenda – unless it does, I can assure you, Wellington will be forgotten and left to its own devices. There may be a vague glimmer of light at the end of a dark tunnel in that in Spring of next year when the EA and DEFRA have reorganised the way they provide funding, Herefordshire Council may be able to get some funding for PFR on properties – but how much money, for how many properties, in how many years' time and how many floods later, I could not even begin to predict. I am not even that confident it will happen at all but maybe events of the past year have left me somewhat jaded!!	
	Cllr Williams attended meeting at Town Hall. We are to have sandbags, number and when not known.	
	Dingle drain needs to be kept clear and locals have indicated they will assist as it is to their benefit. When wetter season befalls, matter will be reviewed.	
	It was suggested that a communication be prepared with links to HC on 'protect your home' flood advice.	
	Peter Woodward advised he has emails RLIDB re a tree that is about to fall into the brook, which will cause an issue when it rises in the rain. Clerk to send a copy and then chase Anne-Clare	Clerk
	Cllr Parker and Cllr Churcher agreed to meet before the next meeting to assess the breadth of flood mitigation schemes to ensure WPC take responsibility for continuing to deliver the good work that Jenni Gowan has begun. WPC wishes to formally thank Jenni for her unstinting work on the village flooding issues over many years.	AC KP
12.0	Community Led Planning Group:	
12.1	Update on Projects and Activities	
	Report to come in Nov.	
12.2	Report from Green Team:	
	As above	
12.3	Report from Wildlife Group	
	Two grants applied for, £770 received and awaiting outcome of second.	
12.4	To approve any expenditure	
	None requested this month	
13.0	Community Hub:	
13.1	To Consider any Other Issues or Expenditure:	
	Russell Appleton has 'flagged' need for Legionella risk assessment review. Resolved: Seek quotation and carry out review.	Clerk
13.2	Review parish room opening times:	
	Post Office insurers have advised if the room is not locked correctly, including foyer, then the insurance policy becomes invalid. The liability then reverts to PC.	
13.3	Rent review:	
	To be conducted as part of budget review this month. Cllr Parker has offered to review the lease, a copy of which has been forwarded to her. It was commented by Cllrs that the shop does fulfil a service to the community and ant rent review must be sympathetic to this service.	

13.4	Cleaner Required:	
	Clerk advised two interested parties but neither now wishes to proceed. Cllrs agreed to pay of £15/hr. and clerk to readvertise.	Clerk
14.0	To Note the Information Sheet (October 2025) and any other updates:	
	None	
15.0	To Raise Issues for the Regular Meeting of the Parish Council (no discussion).	
	None	
16.0	To Note Date and Time of the Regular Meeting of the Parish Council:	
	Thursday 4 th December 2025 at 7.30pm in the Community Centre	Clerk
	The meeting ended at 21:03	
	 Signed (Councillor Williams): Chair, Wellington Parish Council 6th November 2025	