



WELLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Regular Meeting of the Parish Council held at 7.30pm
on Thursday 2nd April 2026 in the Community Centre

ITEM		ACTION
	Present	
	Parish Councillors:	
	Cllr. C Williams (Chair), Cllr. S Marron, Cllr. K Parker and Cllr. B Prince	
	Also in attendance:	
	Emyr Saer (Parish Clerk) and 8 members of the public including Ward Cllr Pauline Crockett and Mrs. Viv Quinn, Wildlife Group.	
1.0	To accept apologies for absence:	
	Cllr. A Churcher and Mrs. Jen Jarrett, CLP and Mrs. Shirley Edgar, Green Team.	
2.0	To Receive Declarations of Interest:	
2.1	To Consider Written Requests for Dispensations:	
	There were no written requests for dispensation.	
3.0	To Adopt the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 5th March 2026	
	Resolved: The Minutes were confirmed and signed by the Chair.	
4.0	Receive reports	
4.1	Ward Cllr Pauline Crockett	
	Herefordshire Council Leader's Update here <u>Locally</u> Concerns and comments I have been involved with are:- • Safety concerns on the A49 whilst Welsh Water continue with their pump house water transfers via lorries – At present this is resolved as no traffic lights or lorry transfers of water are necessary • I have forwarded raised concerns to HC Highways Team regarding the increase of traffic (speed & numbers) throughout the Village, possibly due to the traffic lights on the A49 (see above). I have NOT received any comments from HC at the moment; I will chase this but hopefully now that the lights have been removed this concern will get resolved • A resident raised a concern regarding a large tree that is adjacent to her Mill Way property. HC tree department were contacted, and it was resolved that there were NO immediate concerns for safety in the area. The resident could seek private removal (even though on HC land) at her own cost but if she would like this to be considered HC would need to accept an official plan. • Concerns were raised regarding the Flood management training for Parish Councillors; I was advised this had not been completed due to 'technical' errors. I have asked Tom Barrett (leader in this area) to review and correct. • Planning applications remain ongoing	
4.2	Update from Local Policing Team:	
	No report was forthcoming.	
4.2.1	Public Consultation re Police Commissioner	
	Notification to parishioners that the consultation paper and access to make comments has been added to website under community interest and Police Safer Neighbourhood page.	

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5.0	Communications and Updates:	
5.1	APM – debrief and preliminary assessment of 2027 date	
	Discussion on best day/date and need clarification as to when it must be held by (with the elections of May 2027 in mind\$). Resolved: Clerk to ascertain when the meeting is required to be undertaken.	Clerk
5.2	Parish Newsletter	
	Suggested contributors: 1) Flood update – Cllrs Williams and Churcher 2) New dog walking laws – Lyn Langford 3) Defibrillator and 'blood kit' details – Lyn Bavin 4) Speed Watch volunteers – Cllr Williams Clerk to follow up	Clerk
5.3	Parish Charter response	
	Comments prepared and now need to be sent to HC Resolved: Clerk to action	Clerk ✓
5.4	Parishioner seeking reduction in speed limit at Marsh	
	Email received and circulated to councillors prior to meeting. David Gardiner, new resident to The Marsh sought to have the speed limit on A49 reduced. This is outside PC remit and suitable response to be sent advising contact to National Highways.	Clerk ✓
5.5	Request for assistance with Fun Week (July 17th – 26th)	
	Email request for assistance from Phil Smith. Resolved: Cllrs wish to know how much has been donated previously. Once this is known, email details to all Cllrs so a firm decision can be easily made at May meeting	Clerk
6.0	Open Time – to Note Matters Raised by Residents Relevant to the Parish:	
	Miss Elizabeth Tyte raised a point re the NDP, where Canon Pyon have begun preliminary work to be ready when HC seek an update. Pros and cons discussed, Cllr Marron will be undertaking some research as to the feasibility/wisdom in beginning work that may become redundant and be expensive as there is no central funding for any update. Resolved: To keep matter under discussion in item 8.4 (or equivalent) on an ongoing basis.	SM
	Mrs Jan Lyke sought to have a sign for 'The Row' to assist delivery drivers. It is a matter for HC and Ward Cllr Crockett provided contact details to Mrs Lyke.	
	Mr. Pete Mason commented re. the road sign opposite end of Upper Wellington Lane (Leominster/Hereford) has a rotten post, which has been reported to NH on more than one occasion. Again, this has been reported correctly and the hope is it will be repaired/replaced prior to falling into road.	
	Email item from Jenni Gowan: Emyr - please can you read this out in open time at the PC meeting so that I get an answer: Thanks Jenni The Parish Council are already aware that March/April was the given timing for the Environment Agency and Defra to announce the funding for Property Flood Resilience measures which it was then up to Herefordshire Council to apply for and distribute. I would like to know the latest situation and what steps the Parish Council has been taking in the last couple of months to ensure that Wellington is going to be recognised for this funding and what the current position is. Cllr Williams read comments from part of Cllr Churcher's report, which is noted below in its entirety (11.1)	
7.0	Financial Matters:	
7.1	To Receive a Report from the RFO:	
	Bank Balances as at 01/04/26: Treasurer's Account £22,339.29 Parish Council Instant Access (H&RBS) £64,144.67 Income since the Last Meeting Shop Rent – £700 Apr VAT refund - £1,877.54	

ITEM				ACTION
7.2	To Approve Invoices Paid Since Last Meeting:			
	Payment	Expenditure	Amount £	
	BACS	Clerk salary Q4 per contract	1,994.40	
	BACS	Clerk expenses for 2025/26 (£125.13 + VAT)	125.50	
	BACS	HMRC	129.75	
	BACS	HMRC	111.66	
	Direct	Service charge	4.25	
	BACS	APM refreshments	18.48	
	Resolved: All Payments Noted and Approved.			Clerk
7.3	To Agree Payments of Outstanding Invoices:			
	Expenditure		Amount £	
	Room hire 2 X regular meetings and 1 X Annual Parish meeting		48.00	
	Resolved: All Payments Noted and Approved.			Clerk
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			
8.3	To Note Any Decisions/Notifications Received:			
	Reference Number	Application	Decision	
	250301	Land adjacent to Graveyard, Wellington. Application for approval of reserved matters following outline approval/O (Proposed erection of 15 dwellings and construction of new access).	Approval of Reserved Matters	
	260306	The Beeches, Wellington. HR4 8AZ. Works to Trees in a Conservation Area. T1: Cherry (x3) - reduce all three trees by approx. 1-2m and light prune only. Remove mistletoe. T2: Leylandii hedge (from solar panel to boundary edge) - reduce top crowns by half or just below panel height, hedge trim roadside only. T3: Leylandii shrub (driveway) - remove to ground level the two stems sticking out into road, hedge trimming the shrub between.	Trees in Cons Area Works Can Proceed	
	253553	Corner End, Auberrow Road, Wellington. HR4 8AZ. Listed Building Consent. Internal and external works and installation of mains water to property.	Approved with conditions	
8.4	To Consider any other Planning Issues			
	Herefordshire Local Plan and implications for NDP and future development			
	Nothing to report until HC makes announcement on local plan. Keep on agenda until matters materialise.			

ITEM		ACTION
9.0	To Consider Highway Matters:	
9.1	A49 issues:	
	Covered previously	
	SID update:	
	Clerk reported he is unable to access the software to amend the speed trigger on the 'free' SIDs provided by BBLP. Long discussion on that expenditure -v- benefits and value for money (for background, each proposed site has a cost of £1,700) and new SIDs are approximately £2,600 each (ex VAT). Other methods of speed reduction discussed and Resolved: Clerk to contact Simon Hobbs at HC traffic department for advice. Aside, the policeman scarecrow on island at Bridge Farm during Fun Week appeared to be effective whilst in place.	Clerk ✓
	To review any other Highway Issues	
	None	
9.2	Identification of Work to be Carried out and any other Updates:	
	Cllr Prince advised the meeting that he had reported a pothole outside Millway recently via HC website, he was given an incident number by email and the work was carried out in a timely manner. Email then sent to confirm works completed and seeking any feedback. Please use the website to report, as the system works.	
10.0	Report on Footpaths	
10.1	Update on Footpath Maintenance:	
	Cllr Crane reports that with the drying of footpaths, work on replacing some finger posts can now begin. Other works are being collated, with some feedback from meeting to be investigated.	
	From Ward Cllr Crockett: Message from the Chief Exec:- 'I also dropped in on the Public Rights of Way (PROW) team's meeting this week, where we discussed plans for 2026-27 right across what I know is a high priority topic for many residents. There's been real progress in the past year, growing membership of the Local Access Forum, and providing new equipment and a wide range of specialist training to the network of Parish Footpath Officers. The PROW team is rolling out an equipment loan service to this group to help cut back vegetation this year, and our new Public Realm contract will also be valuable in supporting new arrangements for local, Herefordshire contractors to deal with small works and more complex repairs and vegetation clearances. All this is on top of the bridges installed, and footpaths reopened during 2025-26, and the success of the PROW grant scheme. It's a good example of how Members, our officers and Parish Councils come together to deliver positive, visible improvements for local people.'	
10.2	Update on Dingle	
	Cllr Crane raised concerns that contrary to the message from HC Chief Executive, the HC footpath officer system was not working, was "worse than it's ever been", and that he thought that HC was expecting the PC to resolve the problem that HC had caused with the Dingle and at the PC's expense.	
11.0	Flooding Issues	
11.1	Update Flood Group:	
	Aquasacs nearly all distributed. Cllr Williams to contact BBLP re road sweeper	CW
	WPC Flooding Action Report April 2026 Wellington Parish Council is managing a dynamic action plan to oversee the breadth of flooding mitigation and response work with the aim of reducing the likelihood and impact of flooding events within the parish. The action plan is a live document and it is intended that mitigating actions will be added as identified. There are currently 21 live actions across seven categories.	

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	An updated version of the Action Tracker will be published on Parish Council Papers of the website next week (w/b 6/04). Key Updates The community sandbags scheme Previously flooded properties in Wellington have been written to and offered an allocation of AquaSacs. Not all took up the option and the remaining AquaSacs will be offered on a first-come-first-served basis to all residents who are potentially at risk of flooding, later in April This will be communicated out through a parish newsletter and through the Wellington Parish Council page and the Wellington Village group on Facebook. Relationship with Herefordshire Council While Wellington Parish Council can work with parishioners to support them with Property Flood Resilience schemes and other local stakeholders, there is a limit to what can be achieved without working with statutory partners and authorities. A key focus for the Spring is to build an ongoing and collaborative dialogue with Herefordshire Council's Flood Resilience Team. This team, along with the Internal Lugg Drainage Board have expertise in flood mitigation, especially Natural Flood Management and therefore can support us with understanding how we can develop flood mitigations in the Wellington Brook catchment area. Formalising regular meetings with the team will help us progress key elements of our Action Tracker. The following key items will be discussed at each meeting: ∞ Public realm works – especially at this period of transfer for the public realm contract, and to cover drain maintenance (and the issues identified in the 2025 village drains survey), road cleansing and the work in the Dingle ∞ The Dingle as a wider project a channel for flood water ∞ Current thinking on flood mitigation schemes to the West of Wellington, including features which present potential greater risk ∞ Progress on going live with the road closure scheme ∞ Working together to advocate with Welsh Water to ensure work in Marsh is maintained ∞ Access to funding for flood mitigation measures, including Property Flood Resilience measures Announcements on new government Funding for Flood Mitigation During the first two years of this Parliament, the Government have been developing a sustainable grant funding programme for flood mitigation. The updated Programme of flood and coastal erosion risk management (FCERM) was published on March 17th with a funding package for the next ten years. Grants will be administered by the Environment Agency and will need an outline plan which identifies effectiveness and value for money. There is potential for the Parish Council to work with the Internal Lugg Drainage Board to develop proposals for, most likely, Natural Flood Management schemes although it should be noted that previous assessments of possibilities have not been able to demonstrate value for money according to the required formula, and so it may be difficult to access such funding. Funding for Property Flood Resilience schemes are not included within the FCERM and no further updates have been provided by the Government. We will continue our dialogue with Herefordshire Council to ensure that Wellington residents are given access to this funding. Development of Flood Groups in Wellington Parish Councillors have limited time, and the most effective way to manage flood risk is collaboration across the community. Within the newsletter which will be sent out during April will be a proposal for Flood Groups and responsibilities of those groups. Their work will oversee specific elements of the action tracker, be managed by the Parish Council and ensure work can move forward at a greater pace than is currently possible. It is proposed that these groups will be established during the late Spring.	
12.0	Community Led Planning Group:	
12.1	Update on Projects and Activities	
	Mrs Viv Quinn advised the toad crossing signs were out. Mr John Hayward advised of a 'Falls Prevention Service' talk is scheduled for 29th April with posters in hall. Green Team have commenced work on the new orchard within the extended graveyard.	
12.2	To approve any expenditure	
	None requested.	
13.0	Community Hub:	
13.1	To Consider any Other Issues or Expenditure:	
	No current issues, plumber has been requested to complete the Legionella Report recommendations per quote approved last meeting.	

ITEM		ACTION
13.2	Shop Expenditure	
	Analysis of expenditure in 2025/26 accounts provided to meeting but this had several one-off items. It was suggested there will always be some one-off expenditure each year. Cllr Williams requested a breakdown of expenditure for the past 3 years and then revert to next meeting to analyse prior to making decision on way forward.	Clerk
14.0	To Note the Information Sheet and any other updates:	
	Cllr Prince advised this meeting would be his last as he has a major operation scheduled for 29 th April and will not be well enough to attend May meeting, where he will not be standing again. Cllr Williams thanked Cllr Prince for his 30+ years on PC and the invaluable work he had done and contributed to the wellbeing of the community. Mr John Hayward reiterated the sentiments from the community. The meeting, including the members of public wished Cllr Prince well with his operation and speedy recovery.	
15.0	To Raise Issues for the next Meeting of the Parish Council (no discussion).	
	None	
16.0	To Note Date and Time of the next Meeting of the Parish Council:	
	Thursday 7 th May 2026 at 7.30pm in the Community Centre	Clerk
	The meeting ended at 21:14	
	 Signed (Councillor Williams): Chair, Wellington Parish Council 7th May 2026	