



Newsletter – Summer 2026

A year has passed since our last newsletter which has also been my first year as Chairman of the Parish Council. I would like to take the opportunity to place on record the Parish Council's gratitude for the service of Councillor Barrie Prince to Wellington and the PC. Unfortunately for us Barrie has decided to retire from WPC which he has served with great distinction over many years, including stints as Chairman as well as Councillor.

This year we have obtained and distributed Aqua Sacks to villagers to help with flood prevention. Also linked to flooding we took the offer from Hereford Council to have The Flood Pod for a day. By kind permission of Wellington Social Club this was set up in their car park. Feedback from this event was very positive. We have a team of trained volunteers to erect barriers and signs to support road closures at Millway and The Ford in the event of flooding. The use of the village road by heavy goods vehicles, in particular cement lorries, has caused concern. We are trying to compile evidence of their journeys through the village. We have one villager who has diligently recorded time, day and vehicle registration and we could do with more evidence.

This year also saw the opening of the Village play area. I would like to thank in particular Nigel for his tenacious commitment along with many others to complete this project. The completion of that project and the many groups and organisations we have in Wellington show that there is a great community spirit and commitment to life in our village.

Finally, I should like to thank the other members of The Parish Council and the Clerk for their support and all the time they spend working on behalf of the PC.

Cllr Colin Williams

COME TO OUR MEETINGS !TELL US WHAT YOU THINK! ?ASK QUESTIONS?

The Parish Council **usually** meets on the first Thursday of every month, with the exception of January and August.

Agenda will be published on the website at least 3 days before meeting: wellingtonparishcouncil.org.uk

How to contact your councillors (Tel at reasonable times):

Cllr C Williams (Chair) (Colin) Mob: 07796131814. colin1901504@gmail.com	Cllr K Parker (Vice Chair) (Kim) Mob: 07782 278137 kimwpc@yahoo.com
Cllr S Crane (Stephen) Mob: 07775 610228 stephencranepc@btinternet.com	Cllr A Churcher (Andy) Mob: 07402653723 andychurcher.councillor@outlook.com
Cllr S Marron (Sean) Mob: 07760 557339 cll.sean.marron@gmail.com	Emyr Saer (Parish Clerk) Mob: 07896746321 clerk@wellingtonparishcouncil.org.uk
Cllr Pauline Crockett (Ward Cllr) Mob: 07803037264 Pauline.Crockett3@herefordshire.gov.uk	

Next Year's Annual Parish Meeting



Following this year's successful APM with its wide range of speakers,

The next Annual Parish Meeting is to be held on

**Tuesday 20th April 2027
@ 19:00
In the Parish Hall**

Wellington Village Fun Week 2026

The consensus seems to be that the village had a great fun week. The family support was incredible at times and hopefully there was something there for everyone in the programme. The number of people walking and driving through to see the scarecrows was noticeably high. This was reflected in the many followers of the village fun week face book page which shot up in numbers of followers to 800. Individual page comments were pleasing to read for the organisers. We had an incredible 90 scarecrows of all shapes and sizes and they were just brilliant.

This year's picnic had an amazing turn out. This has always been aimed at everyone being able to come without barrier, no exclusions and to any family living in the village. Everyone responds brilliantly to this, brings their food and drink and has a great time with their families.

While it's never the intention to generate surplus money from fun week, this year we have. This has been mainly due to the generosity of certain individuals and clubs making a direct contribution to the running costs. The clubs and societies support for the week, knowing that this year there was no grant available, was extremely pleasing. The people in Wellington are at their best when we support each other in this way. There is something very reassuring and humbling when this happens, we really do have good people around us.

It was also a pre-fun week decision not to stretch the budget too far and purchase the firework display. On reflection, because of the dry weather conditions, we were more than happy with this decision.

The fun week has incredible support from the clubs and societies, and it does give them a chance to introduce themselves to the 'new' village residents. Any money they generate from fun week is theirs; they need it.

The many clubs and societies in the village need us all to support them to stay alive. If we lose them, we will not get them back so easily. Please help, volunteer, buy a ticket, buy a cake, join a society, pop in the club and support them when and how you can. They will be pleased to see you.

We do a great job making a difference to our village. Thanks for supporting our community fun week.

Emergency Equipment in Wellington

Could you locate our village emergency equipment if your loved one, a neighbour, or a passer-by collapses?

Adult only defibrillator

This is at the shop to the right of the front door in the yellow cabinet, accessible 24 hours – in a black carry case.

Adult and child (age 1-8) defibrillator

This is on the front of the football pavilion, accessible 24 hours via the main gate during football hours and otherwise to the right of the bowls club.

Adult and child (age 1-8) defibrillator

This is in the school office, accessible during school hours only

Useful to know:

- If in doubt, collect a defibrillator. Even if you're not sure whether a person's heart has stopped, you cannot do any harm because the defibrillator's spoken voice will tell you exactly what to do or not to do.
- If you think a baby's heart (under one year) may have stopped, a defibrillator cannot be used. This would be an extremely rare occurrence. There is very clear advice on the St John Ambulance website "How to do CPR on a baby (under one year old)"

Bleed control kit - all ages

This is also at the shop to the right of the front door in the yellow cabinet, accessible 24 hours - in a red pouch. The contents will help to stop a catastrophic bleed due to e.g. a road traffic accident, an attack, or an incident in the home or workplace.

Are you prepared? Think about what you would do in an emergency where any of the above kit might be needed.

- get professional help - always call 999 before doing anything
- do you know your home postcode and 'what3words' location?

You might not easily recall these in an emergency. If you're away from home, could you find them online if the call handler asks for your location?

- who might you enlist to help – others in the household or workplace, a neighbour, a passer-by, or one of the helpers below *
- the helper can e.g. fetch equipment, guide the ambulance in from the roadside, call relatives, provide reassurance
- be aware that the ambulance call handler will stay on the phone and talk you through what you need to do

***These people are not trained first aiders but if available are willing to be called as potential helpers if you are on your own.**

Lyn Bavin 07530 463074 : Richard Bavin 07792 298271 : David Clayton 07506 759408 : Diane McVey 07868 232148

Would you know what to do if someone collapses and emergency resuscitation might be needed? Here are two short online training courses, free for everyone.

British Heart Foundation – Revivr

"Learn how to identify a cardiac arrest, make a simulated 999 call, perfect your CPR technique and how to use a defibrillator"

Resuscitation Council - Lifesaver

"An interactive game where you learn CPR and find out what it's like to give vital help in an emergency. Make crucial decisions and learn the essential skills needed to save a life through four different scenarios which work together to cover the first three steps of the chain of survival: calling an ambulance, performing CPR, and using a defibrillator. They also highlight what to do when someone is choking, and how to put someone in the recovery position. Playing Lifesaver is your opportunity to learn what an emergency looks like and how you should respond to it."

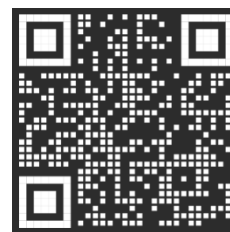
Emergencies are always stressful and it can be difficult to work out what you need to do. But taking a few minutes now to locate the equipment, think through a possible plan, and look at some of the online training is a good way to reduce some of the stress, and it could make all the difference.

If you have any questions having read this article, please feel free to contact Lyn Bavin (number above). If I don't know the answer I'll try to find out.

Aquasacs

Working with Herefordshire Council we have secured a batch of Aquasacs to support residents at risk of flooding in protecting their properties. Aquasacs are a modern equivalent of sandbags and can be used to limit the flow of water coming into properties or divert floodwater. You can find out more about them at <https://aetflooddefence.com/aquasac> or through the QR Code. Our allocation of Aquasacs is not intended to be a complete solution but can help residents reduce the risk or impact of flooding, should that be necessary.

Wellington Parish Council have distributed an initial allocation of Aquasacs to properties that we are aware have flooded in the flood events since 2020 and now want to ensure the remaining Aquasacs are distributed to other properties. If you would like ten Aquasacs, sufficient to protect an external door to approximately 35cm or to create a low channelling barrier approximately 5m long, please contact Cllr Churcher to arrange pickup on andychurcher.councillor@outlook.com or 07402 653723.



Your Parish Needs You!

We have developed a comprehensive programme of measures to reduce flooding risk within the parish, and now we need more people to get involved in mitigation planning and as neighbourhood support when flooding events happen. We already have a road closure team ready to be given the green light by Herefordshire Council to close the Ford and Mill Lane to prevent additional flooding risks, but by giving a little of your time, you could help to reduce the impact of future severe weather.

The parish council is launching three task groups to progress the work we are now doing and we would like to get a small group of people for each group to meet quarterly and take small actions to maintain momentum on our programme.

Our task groups will take the lead on the following areas:

- ⊙ Property resilience – exploring ways to support residents to protect their own properties
- ⊙ Waterway management – developing the ways in which we can ensure our waterways are maintained
- ⊙ Flood event organisation – developing potential early warning mechanisms, flood-event communication methods and deployment plans in readiness to support residents during flood-events.

By ensuring we have well-resourced groups, we will have the best chance to minimise flooding likelihood and impact, so please do consider getting involved.

If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Cllr Churcher on andychurcher.councillor@outlook.com or 07402653723.

What action are the Parish Council taking to minimise flooding risk?

Our Councillors have been working, alongside the Council's other responsibilities, to establish the programme of actions and to begin to deliver those. Much of the work depends on engagement with partners and we have prioritised developing our relationships with Herefordshire Council, Balfour Beatty, the Internal Lugg Drainage Board and Welsh Water. Some of what we have done, and want to do more of is outlined below:

What we've been doing

⊙ Putting pressure on Balfour Beatty and National Highways to be proactive in maintaining and cleansing drains.

⊙ As a result, Balfour Beatty have surveyed the drains and identified required repair works and National Highways have increased the frequency at which they will cleanse drains on the A49.



Drainage & infrastructure

⊙ Establish a road closures team, receive training and equipment to manage road closures during flood events.



Flood event organisation

What we want to do next

⊙ Ensure our relationship with Balfour Beatty is carried across to the new public realm works partner.

⊙ Work with Herefordshire Council's public realm team to make sure the oversight of works in Wellington is maintained and appropriately prioritised based on our elevated level of risk.

⊙ Establish a working group to plan responses to flood events.

⊙ Relook at the possibility of an early warning system based on the height of the brook.

⊙ Develop a flood event communication process and plan.

- ☉ Hosting Herefordshire Council's Property Flood Resilience (PFR) event in November 2025.
- ☉ Securing Aquasacs for properties at risk of flooding.



Property resilience

- ☉ Establish a working group to explore and implement schemes to support residents at risk of floods.
- ☉ Identify sources of PFR information and a resource for residents.
- ☉ Identify grant funding opportunities for residents.

- ☉ Developing our relationship with Herefordshire Council, promoting ourselves as a proactive partner to work with.
- ☉ Beginning to create a schedule of brook management activities in partnership with the Internal Lugg Drainage Board.



Waterway management

- ☉ Establish a working group to look at ways we can help the brook through the village and in the Marsh manage water flow more effectively.
- ☉ Look at further opportunities to work with landowners upstream of Wellington

Understanding New Livestock Protection Laws

From **18 March 2026** the **Dogs (Protection of Livestock) (Amendment) Act** came into effect across England and Wales. to better protect farm animals and support our local farming community. For most dog owners, this won't change your daily routine, but understanding these updates helps ensure the countryside remains a welcoming place for everyone—four-legged friends and livestock alike.

What is "Livestock Worrying"?

It is a common misconception that a dog must physically touch an animal to cause harm. Under the law, "worrying" includes:

- **Chasing or barking** at livestock in a way that causes them distress.
- **Being "at large"** (off-lead or not under close control) in a field containing sheep.
- **Causing panic**, which can lead to animals injuring themselves on fences or, for pregnant ewes, losing their unborn lambs due to the sheer stress of the encounter.

Key Changes to the Law

The new Act introduces several measures to reflect modern farming and provide clearer protections:

- **Wider Coverage:** The law now applies to incidents on **roads and public paths**, not just inside fenced fields. This protects animals as they are moved between grazing areas
- **Increased Penalties:** The previous £1,000 fine limit has been replaced with **unlimited fines**, reflecting the serious financial and emotional impact on farmers.
- **Stronger Police Powers:** Officers now have the authority to **seize and detain** a dog suspected of worrying livestock to prevent further incidents. They can also take **DNA samples** to assist with investigations.

Sheep are particularly sensitive "flight" animals. Even a friendly, playful dog "just wanting to say hello" can be perceived as a predator, causing a terrified flock to stampede. For a farmer, the sight of a distressed flock isn't just a business concern; it's a welfare crisis that can take months of care to rectify.

Simple Steps for a Safe Walk:

- **Lead the Way:** Use a short lead whenever walking through fields with livestock, even if your dog has excellent recall.
- **Check Your Boundaries:** If you live near farmland, ensure your garden is secure so your dog cannot wander into neighbouring fields unsupervised.
- **Follow the Signs:** Pay attention to local signage, especially during **lambling season** (spring), when ewes are at their most vulnerable.

By working together and following these small steps, we can ensure our beautiful local countryside remains a safe haven for dogs and livestock.

No one wants confrontation, so please, keep your dog on a lead in areas where livestock graze.