

PEMBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Held Wednesday 18th April 2012 in the Parish Hall

Present: Cllr. G. Evans (Chair), Cllr. R. Pierce, Cllr. D. Owens, Cllr. P. Rogers
Cllr. Ms. C. Fothergill, Cllr. P. Thomas, Cllr. A. Stokes, Cllr. Mrs. C. Evans
Cllr. Mrs. J. Mifflin, Cllr. R. Phillips, Cllr. A. Pace + 1 member of the public

F037 **Apologies:**

Cllr. K. Duggan, Cllr. K. Myers

ACTION

F038 **Announcement of any interests from councillors :**

None.

F039 **No Police Report this month**

F040 **Guest Speaker – Mrs. Lynda Wilcox – CEO: Herefordshire Association of**

Local Councils

The new General Power of Competence is due to be introduced under the Localism Act. This gives qualified local authorities the freedom to spend money as they wish provided it is spent within the law, and does away with the restrictions of the Section 137 'Free Resource' of the Local Government Act 1972. S.137 has until now allowed local councils to spend in a single financial year up to a prescribed limit for any purpose which in its opinion is in the interests of or will directly benefit the area or its inhabitants, or a part of it, or of some of them. Once the General Power of Competence is introduced, there will no longer be those financial restrictions; provided the council is 'qualified' – by having sufficient 'elected' members (80%) and a trained clerk in this new power.

Lynda went on to explain the benefits to parishes of membership of HALC, and she handed out a sheet of this information. Councillors were encouraged to regularly look at HALC's website for information on a multitude of topics. HALC's publication : 'Information Corner' is now being published weekly since April 2012, and this will be circulated by the clerk, or can be viewed on the website. Legal information for all parish council members can be gained through HALC, who have a direct link with NALC (National Association of Local Councils) – free of charge. This could be a great saving over having to visit a local solicitor.

It was noted that there are some concerns about the proposed HALC new Constitution, and Lynda explained that there was never a suggestion by HALC to introduce another level of local government between parishes and Herefordshire Council. No control of parishes was being sought by HALC – they exist to advise and to educate by offering training courses to Clerks and Councillors. The proposal to form nine Localities, with the local one here being 'Kington' locality, has now been dropped. Instead there will be a readjustment of the already existing Area Meetings for parish councils to attend, with a change to the boundary inclusions for these to achieve better equality of size of the area groups. Pembridge will remain in the 'Northern Area Meeting' group. These meetings are held quarterly, and councillors will be advised of them by the clerk.

At the end of Lynda's talk, the Chairman asked the meeting whether there was approval to continue membership of HALC and to pay the subscription for 2012-13 : All were in agreement.

HH

F041 **Minutes of last meeting/matters arising from them – 21st March 2012**

The Minutes were signed as a true record and there were no matters arising.

F042 Financial Report: - Clerk**ACTION**

Reconciliation of bank accounts for March has taken place.
 Clerk has looked into a Bank Investment Account for Reserve monies to possibly be transferred into, which give a slightly higher interest rate.: £10,000 minimum deposit. No withdrawals for 3 years, 2% gross interest offered. Clerk to first check any penalties if withdrawals would need to be made.
 National Savings Account annual interest of £22.74 has been added on to figure below.
 New External Audit Fees will be announced in May.

HH**Balances at end March 2012**

Current Account:	£15,050.12
Tracker Account:	£5,928.29 (£2.96 interest included)
National Savings Account:	£11,393.23

Receipts since last meeting:

Magazine Advertisers Fees x 2 @ £50	£100.00
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Additional Payment Made: Lengthsman Administrator salary '12. £129.25

Requests for payment:

Cleaner – public toilets & bins for April	£217.00
Parish Hall	£52.00
Subscription – Local Council Review magazine	£15.50
Subscription – HALC 2012/13	Comprising: £273.25
Affiliation Fee	£120.00 Annual fee per council
NALC Element	£43.90 Per Elector @ 0.0542
HALC Element	£109.35 Per Elector @ 0.135
WMS Electricity for public toilets	£5.50
WMS Electricity for public toilets	£21.85
Printing of Parish News Magazine April/May	£289.00
HALC Training Fee	£25.00
Pembridge Amenity Trust Annual Charge	£1,460.78
Lengthsman – final 2011-12 payment Inv. 2621	£1,360.50

All above payments approved**F043 Planning****Applications which were considered this evening:**

N120777/FH Rose Cottage, Lyonshall, Kington, Herefordshire
 Erection of a two storey rear extension.

COMMENT: NO OBJECTION

N120491/FH Court of Noke, Pembridge
 Erection of 68.5 m2 carport attached to utility wing and screen wall and open on other two sides. Home grown timber posts and corrugated iron roof. Twelve solar panels to be mounted on tow South facing roof slopes.

N120492/L As Above

Listed application

COMMENT: NO OBJECTION

N120719/FH The Leas, Bearwood, Leominster
 Erection of two storey extension to rear

Some confusion apparent as to whether or not Councillors had been advised of the application at The Leas, so no decision on that could be taken this evening. Clerk and Cllr. B. Pierce would liaise and ensure the information gets circulated to all shortly, do that views could be sought on it and a decision arrived at prior to 25th April.

HH/RP

Treeworks Applications – sent to Tony Norman (Tree Warden) for consideration:

DMN/120936/K	Rectory Cottage, Parsons Walk, Pembridge Crown raise 2 x Yew trees to 5m from ground level
DMN/120970/K	Pembridge Church Yard, Pembridge Remove 4 x branches from 1 x Ash tree over seating area. Remove 1 x branch and reduce 2 others by 50% over driveway.

F044 Behaviour by Parish Councillors towards Residents attending P. Council meetings – Chairman:

The matter was deferred to the end of the meeting in private sitting with no members of the public in attendance. The Chairman advised those present that concerns had been raised with him by members of the public and by fellow councillors.

The Chairman reminded the council of the Nolan principles and that in accordance with s28 of the Localism Act, 2011 every council must adopt a Code of Conduct consistent with those principles of conduct in public life, which are selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership. A schedule stating the Nolan principles is enclosed for councillors to refer to.

The Chairman also reminded councillors of the correct protocol to be followed at meetings. All comments should be addressed to the Chairman and any difficulties should be dealt with by the Chairman. The Chairman has powers to ask any member of the public to leave the meeting and may adjourn the meeting if necessary.

F045 Problems with the Post Office Outreach Van Service in the Village : Chairman:

The problems with the service over the last 2-3 weeks were highlighted. It was explained that the Clerk had been requested to write to the Post Office, and that a reply had been received stating that a more detailed response would be sent within 10 days. In the meantime Cllr. Phillips had been advised that the reason for the problems was that Kington Post Office staff (who provide the Outreach service for several nearby villages) had experienced a vehicle break-down, and this was followed by another break-down of the replacement vehicle.

The Chairman was concerned that because of the unreliable service, many would-be customers may no longer be prepared to wait for a van that doesn't reliably show up when it is contracted to do so, and that they may prefer to travel elsewhere. This would have a knock-on effect of reducing the number of regular customers to the service, and may eventually allow the Post Office to say that this has led the service to become unsustainable and financial unviable, and cease the service altogether.

Cllr. Phillips agreed that he would follow the matter up and report back at the next meeting.

RJP

F046 ROYAL JUBILEE PARISH EVENT UPDATE – CLLR. MRS. MIFFLIN

Saturday 2nd June - Afternoon – From mid-day there would be a family event on the Millennium Meadow. Items already booked are: Marquee, Public Toilets, Generator, Barbeque, Band.

Events planned for the afternoon are: childrens games, welly-wanging, children's fancy dress, children's sports, bouncy castle, a wheelbarrow/soapbox race. A collection of reptiles will be on display to be handled.

Volunteers are needed to help with the children's events. Prizes are needed, and there is the possibility that these could be provided by Border Oak.

The Women's Institute is organising a weekend village Royal Scarecrow competition. Picnic lunches can be brought along. There will be afternoon tea and cakes served.

At 6.30 pm there will be a Children's Disco and a BBQ with the food provided by Townsend Farm Shop. The food will be sold rather than provided free of charge, to recoup some of the outlay made by the Parish Council, and because there may well be quite a number of visitors/holidaymakers attending that are not parishioners.

At 8.30 pm there will be a Live Band called 'Business as Usual' playing in the marquee. There will also be a Beer Tent and BBQ.

It has been decided that there will not be any fireworks at this event.

Everyone is encouraged to get out their bunting for the occasion.

An offer of a further £300 was proposed, in order to purchase additional bunting etc. if needed, over and above the £1,000 already offered for the event. **All in agreement.**

Sunday 3rd June - Morning -

There will be a Folk Group playing under the Market Hall, which has a wide repertoire. There will also be Roast Pork Baps served until 2.30 pm, generously provided by The New Inn staff.

In the afternoon there will be a Church Festival showing information about the Queens Coronation in 1952/3 etc. and Cream Teas will be served in the grounds.

F047 .Pembridge in Bloom – Cllr. Stokes:

Two meetings of the organising group have been held so far, and the Judging Date will be **10th July 2012**. A gift of timber has been kindly received from Border Oak for some planters. Village clean-ups will be started imminently.

The route that the judges will take around the village has not been finalised just yet. A visit has been made to the Hereford and Wye Valley in Bloom umbrella group.

Amey are providing funding for parishes that have entered the competition.

F048 War Memorial Clean-Up – Clerk

Clerk has received information from The War Memorials Trust, following them seeing the photographs recently sent to them of Pembridge's War Memorial, and offering the opportunity for consideration of some grant funding towards a clean up of the War Memorial by first completing their Expression of Interest form. Clerk was requested to complete the form and send it in to the Trust.

HH

F049 Reminder to those councillors to write their Reports in time for the Open Meeting on Wed. 16th May, and to bring a written copy to the meeting for the Clerk to retain.

The meeting was closed for the next items

F050 Parishioners Questions:

- 1) Concern was raised about the state of the pavement edge by Suckley Lane Junction, and how the stones are collapsing/crumbling. This problem exists through the whole village really, and could cause someone to slip and hurt themselves, as well as proving difficult for mothers with pushchairs etc. The Highways department has been made aware of this situation.

Cllr. Phillips said that he would speak to the Herefordshire Council's contractors - Amey about this matter, as it has been raised before and the quality of the repair work has not been very sturdy.

The Clerk was also requested to write a letter to the Highways department.

F051 Ward Councillor's Report: Cllr. R. Phillips

A copy of Cllr. Phillips' report has been circulated in advance, and a hard copy will be

ACTION

In addition, Cllr. Phillips raised the following matters:

Thank you to those councillors who had recently attended the trip to the Recycling Centre in Worcestershire.

With regard to new Neighbourhood Plans being considered, the Conservation Area will still stay the same for some time yet. There are no immediate changes under the Localism Act, with the Unitary Development Plan (UDP) still being the operating planning system used.

Cllr. Phillips will write to three local Ward Councillors from parish councils in the Kington area, suggesting that he, and they, all get together once a year to discuss topics of mutual local interest.

The meeting was then re-opened.

F052 Youth Services – Reduction in spending for the service across Herefordshire –

Cllr. Phillips

Cllr. Phillips explained that the Local Authority is withdrawing funds from this service and handing responsibility over to the Voluntary Section to ask for grants. Under the Localities Scheme some money will be given to Voluntary Youth Groups, but only in Shobdon at the moment. There will inevitably be a reduced youth service and less money to run it.

Information Items only

- F053**
- * A new seat has been ordered for the Millennium Meadow, and this has been received, and will be firmly fixed to the ground shortly.
 - * The Saturday Markets will be recommenced in the Market Hall during the summer months, starting at the end of May.
 - * No response yet from Mrs. Boyles regarding doctors surgery queries, following her visit.
 - * Clerk will follow up on plaques for the 5 Oak Trees, and one for the tree by the lower Almshouses donated previously, around which is the metal seat.
 - * Clerk will attend a new HALC training course specifically for Clerks on the General Power of Competence, on 19th April – This power follows the introduction of the Localism Act, and local councils will need to demonstrate that they have an electoral mandate and a qualified Clerk in order to be eligible to use the new power. This Power follows on from the Wellbeing Power – which has ceased on 31st March 2012.

Next Meetings:

Wednesday 16th May – Parish Open Meeting – An opportunity for any parishioners to raise points of local interest or concern, for attention of the Parish Council.

Wednesday 23rd May – Parish Council's Annual Meeting and election of officers

All meetings take place at 7.30 pm in the Parish Hall.

Meeting Closed at 9.30 pm