

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY 21st SEPTEMBER 2022
AT MANSEL LACY COMMUNITY HALL

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm

Present: C.Edwards (Chairman), A.Davies, S.Hallett, M.Mangan, D.Gwynne, A.Powell,
M.Jones (Ward Councillor)

In Attendance: R.Hallett (Clerk),

- 1) Draft Minutes of both the Annual and General Meeting held on 4th May 2022 were accepted and signed by C.Edwards as a true record. The Council stood in silence, as requested by the Chairman, to honour the memory of Queen Elizabeth II
- 2) Matters Arising
 - a) The parish council expressed their great sadness at the death of Queen Elizabeth II
 - b) A letter had been received from the Mansel Lacy Community Association, thanking the parish council for their grant toward a celebration street party
- 3) Finance
 - a) The regular report was presented (see Agenda). Whilst the account has a healthy balance of £7,666.78 we are about to start the majority of the Lengthsman's work for this year.
 - b) The proposal for a process for awarding grants (copy attached) was approved. R.Hallett will now implement this.
 - c) Apparently there is an anonymous donor willing to fund the replacement pads and batteries for the defibrillator. C.Edwards to confirm this.
- 4) Highways
 - a) Drainage grant activities will start soon and be phased to ensure that the work can be done, and the Lengthsman paid promptly while we reclaim grant money from Herefordshire Council
 - b) M.Mangan raised the issue of our Lengthsman cutting verges, only a few days before Balfour Beatty's contractor does his scheduled cut. R.Hallett to ask the Lengthsman to co-ordinate directly with the contractor (Adrian Hill) to improve communication and co-ordination.
 - c) M.Mangan said he believed that, in some instances, culvert jetting was taking place in drains that are collapsed. R.Hallett to follow up with BB.
- 5) Planning
 - a) There has been a suggestion that the demolition and rebuilding of Former Dairy Buildings may involve some residential use. This to be monitored.
- 6) Any Other Business
 - a) Andrew Apps was proposed by S.Hallett, seconded by D.Gwynne to be co-opted as a member of the council. This was unanimously approved. R.Hallett to take care of the formalities to implement this.
 - b) The We Don't Buy Crime initiative was discussed. Under the scheme, homes in the area are provided with free SmartWater kits, subsidised by the parish council. It was agreed that details of the scheme would be posted on the website to check how much local interest there was (70% take up required to go ahead)
 - c) It was confirmed that insurance cover was maintained after expiry of the previous policy but there was an increase in the premium from £148 to £212 (+43%)
 - d) M.Jones presented his report (copy attached) plus a couple of significant additions
 - i) The recent Ofsted report on Herefordshire Children's Services concluded that service had worsened from Requires Improvement to Inadequate

- ii) A scheme has been launched to build a cycle lane in St Owen's Street to enhance links to Rotherwas

7) Next Meeting: Wednesday 2nd November at 6.30pm in the Community Hall

The meeting closed at 7.25pm

Col Cornwall
Chairman

Dear Councillors

PROCEDURE FOR GIVING GRANTS

In the interest of transparency I would like to propose that we have an agreed process for approving grants.

In order to start discussion on this I've put together an outline proposal and draft application form for you to review/amend.

1. What is the criteria for awarding a grant?
2. Timetable?
3. How is the grant to be applied for?

Suggestion for timetable: September advertise grant availability; October deadline for receiving applications; November meeting approve award of grants

Draft Application form:

GRANT APPLICATION FORM 2022

The Parish Council gives grants from public money to support ideas/initiatives/activities which benefit the wider community. Your application should show how your application would fulfil these objectives.

Applications should be sent to the Parish Clerk at by

A decision will be made on applications at the Parish Council Meeting on Wednesday November 2022

1. Reason for the grant application. Please give a brief outline of the proposal and how it will benefit the community
2. Amount being applied for:
3. Do you have any other sources of funding for this project? If yes, please give details of the amount and source.
4. If you received a grant from the Parish Council in the previous year please provide evidence of how that funding was spent and any amount still unspent.

Ward Councillor report July 2022

Some National Demographic statistics have just been released for Herefordshire. Currently there are 187,100 residents which is 3,600 more than in 2011. 82,800 households up by 4,500 since 2011 and we are getting an older county with aged over 65 increased by 24.1% in last 10 years. More statistical information is available on the Hereford Council website.

The General Lengthsman Grant scheme will soon be available to receive applications for grants from parish councils. £250,000 will be available each year for the next Five years. So work on Parks and playing fields along with other works which Balfour Beatty are unable to carry out can be completed by the valuable Lengthsman.

Hereford Council have submitted bids to central government for over £50 million pounds, £8.5 Million is for the Library relocating to Maylord Orchard and also work on the upgrade and development of the Museum into a state of the art visitor centre. £44 Million pounds is targeted for the market towns of Ross on Wye, Ledbury, and Leominster.

86 children from Ukraine have now been placed in schools around the county, 51 in primary schools and 35 in secondary. This is since the beginning of March. To date there have been 350 Ukraine people and 118 Afghan refugees moved into Herefordshire.

There will be free school meals over the summer for families on low incomes and also there is free summer activities of sport, dance, drama, pottery and cooking available to children.

The spatial planning consultation for Herefordshire going forward to 2041 is still open for resident comments up until the 29th July. On line zoom meetings as well as meetings in village halls and around the market towns have been taking place. The latest figures for Hereford housing land supply are now at 6.19 years which has dropped from 6.9 years. This is still above the 5 year target and means the planning department will place a lot of weight on Neighbourhood Development Plans.

Details of the new rubbish and recycling of material for disposal have been made available. There will be 5 bins for house holds, 3 x 240 litre wheelie bins, 1 x 180 litre wheelie bin and 1 x 23 litre bin for food waste which will be collected weekly. The other bins will be collected on a one every week basis on a three week cycle. This incentive comes from central government and could save the council up to £2 million pounds each year with more efficient recycling and less to pay for rubbish disposal.

Hereford Council staff will be returning to work from Plough Lane in August. There still will be a mixture with some people working from home on a couple of days a week. Hopefully this will make getting hold of staff easier which has been complained about by some of residents.