**Minutes of the WIGMORE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

**held on**

**Monday 9 May 2016**

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| **Attending**: Members of the public – 1 Councillors V Harnett (VH), J Johnson (JJ), H Leclezio (HL) and K Perkins (KP) **Apologies:** Cllr B Casbourne (BC), Ward Cllr C Gandy  |
| **1. Chairman:** VH had chaired the previous meeting and Councillors present confirmed that they were content for him to continue as chairman this year. VH opened the meeting.**2. Minutes:** The minutes of the previous meeting (11 May 2015) were accepted as correct.**Proposed: KP Seconded: JJ All agreed.** |
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|  **Matters Arising from the 2015 meeting :** **Traffic:** VH reported that due to a lack of volunteers the speed gun had been given to other villages that had expressed interest in speed reduction.**Church:** This is not a parish council project but the parish council is given regular updates. See Cllr Casbourne’s report attached to these minutes. **Defibrillator:** See parish council’s report.**Millennium Green:** See parish council’s report.**3. The Annual Report of Wigmore Group Parish Council** was read out. Also Ward Councillor Carole Gandy (Mortimer Ward), who was unable to attend, sent a written report which was also read out. Copies of both reports are attached to these minutes and will be included in the next issue of the Mortimer News.**4. Charities**: JJ as Clerk to the charities confirmed the following balances:**Kevill Davies for the Sick Charity**: This charity’s bank account has now been closed after a year of prolonged discussion with Lloyds Bank. £203.94 in the account was given to the parish council to buy a metal exterior case for the defibrillator. JJ has now applied to the Charities Commission to officially close the charity.**Wigmore Parochial Charities:** Opening balance = £1401.29; Receipts of £63.30 rental from several plots of land around Wigmore bequeathed to the charity many years ago. Closing balance = £1464.59. Ideas for how to spend this money were discussed. The bequests stipulate distributing *‘bread money’* to the ‘*poor*’ of Wigmore. A request for more imaginative/appropriate suggestions was included in last summer’s Mortimer News but nothing was forthcoming. JJ will repeat the article for the next edition of the newsletter. VH noted that there are several small pieces of land dotted around Wigmore that belong to the community and should be registered or risk losing them.**5. AOB:** Concerns were expressed regarding the speed of cars entering the Wigmore 30mph zone especially now there is approval for a new residential dwelling at Wigmore Hall with access onto the A4110. Sleeping policemen are not allowed on A roads. Suggestions include a Traffic Regulation Order for a 40mph buffer zone ahead of the 30mph zone and installing Village Gateways at the entrances to the village which combine the village name and speed limits. The parish council is to make enquiries regarding costs. Litter and dog fouling continues to be an ongoing issue. It was noted that Herefordshire Council and Balfour Beatty are now encouraging volunteers to do litter picks with the ‘Stop the Drop’ campaign and will provide free ‘Litter Picking Packs’ and collection of rubbish.  |
| **The meeting closed at 7.30pm** |

**WIGMORE GROUP ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2016**

**9th May 2016**

**PARISH COUNCIL REPORT**

Wigmore Parish is the largest of the four parishes that go to make up Wigmore Group Parish Council and is represented by five councillors on the council. After the May 2015 full term local elections, Wigmore returned two councillors, Bryan Casbourne and Kevan Perkins, and three more councillors were co-opted onto the council – Vic Harnett, Jenny Johnson and Helena Leclezio.

The parish clerk, Linda Henry, resigned in the autumn and a new clerk, Jano Rochefort, took over as clerk in October 2015.

The Parish Council meets on the second Monday of every month except August. Members of the public are very welcome to attend and are invited to have their say at the beginning of each meeting.

The major topics which the Parish Council has been working on over the year are:

**Neighbourhood Plan** – the Plan is at an advanced stage, representing a huge amount of work from those involved in putting it together. Now that Herefordshire Council has approved its own Local Plan Core Strategy the parish council is moving towards the next phase in the process – Reg 14 (pre-submission consultation & publicity of the draft plan). We have been given a further grant to cover this extra work and we will be meeting with our consultants to discuss this on 19th May.

Another four issues of the **Mortimer News** have appeared during the year, thanks to the very hard work of Bryan Casbourne and of course the many contributors. These are packed with information and interest. We are always delighted to receive news, views, photographs, topics of local interest etc.

The **village website –** [**www.mortimervillages.co.uk**](http://www.mortimervillages.co.uk) – is also full of interesting news and all parish council information – agendas, minutes, neighbourhood plan updates, newsletters and key council documents – can be found there.

We now have a **defibrillator** installed outside the village hall and we will be organising training for volunteers although it must be stressed that anyone can use the equipment in an emergency.

We obtained a grant for the **Millennium Green Garden** which enabled volunteers to tidy it up and to replant the raised beds. The rather large silver birch tree in the middle of the garden is due to be trimmed and re-shaped,

The Parish Council runs a **Lengthsman/P3 scheme** and receives a grant from Herefordshire Council to help with the costs. The Lengthsman scheme covers some parts of the mowing and strimming, hedge cutting on the community field, minor works along the C and U roads in the parish etc. The P3 scheme (Parish Paths Partnership) is designed to ensure that public rights of way are monitored and maintained in good order.

As part of the P3 scheme we have an appointed **Parish Paths Officer**. Our first PPO, David Gardiner, together with help from Herefordshire Ramblers volunteers, has been instrumental in getting the footpath up to the Castle cleared and re-laid during 2015 which has greatly improved access. You can see before and after photos on the village website. David stepped down as PPO this spring and Alan Dowdy has agreed to take on the voluntary role.

We have a new Balfour Beatty **Locality Steward**, Mike Brooks. He has been a great help sorting out pot holes and litter collection to mention just two concerns and he keeps us informed about matters concerning our physical environment, and liaising with Balfour Beatty, Highways, and other contractors.

In August 2015 the **A4110 road** through Wigmore was improved when Balfour Beatty laid a new section of tarmac on the road surface.

However **litter and dog fouling** continue to be an issue in the village. In January Balfour Beatty took over responsibility for emptying the litter bins and dog bins however we seem to be able to fill up the bins faster than they can be emptied. We are looking into buying a bigger litter bin to put on the High Street but how often it is emptied remains an issue. Also litter on verges is a blight on our beautiful environment. Herefordshire Council will provide Litter Picking packs for community volunteers if someone would like to take on organising this. Our Locality Steward has asked for people to report full bins online at [www.herefordshire.gov.uk](http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk) or telephone the Customer Helpline 01432 26180.

The **Community Field** at Bury Lane remains underused due in large part to lack of adequate funding. The football club intend to use it during next season once the mole hills have been dealt with. Wigmore School have said they are happy for the club to use their changing room facilities. The derelict porta cabin will be removed shortly.

The Parish Council are notified of any **Planning applications** that are submitted to Herefordshire Council and are given an opportunity to comment on them. In the last year we have commented on a variety of applications from tree felling, change of window frames, extensions to demolition/rebuild and have alerted the council to unauthorised structures. Residents can also view these applications online at the Herefordshire Council website [www.herefordshire.gov.uk](http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk)

Parish Council responsibilities include the everyday business of **maintenance** in the parish (streetlights, churchyard, playground equipment etc), liaising with Herefordshire Council, and scrutinising any planning applications either within or affecting the parish.

**PARISH BUSINESS REPORT – Bryan Casbourne**

The **Community shop** is thriving under its manager Alison Benwell. Last year it had a turnover of £142,000 with a small surplus. Apart from Alison it relies on its 20 or so volunteers to man the till and Alison is always happy to hear from new volunteers.

The **Wigmore Village Hall** roof is due to be repaired this month. This will be funded by a grant for £3000 from the Garfield Weston Foundation along with a contribution from the parish council and village hall funds.

The **St. James’ Project** has set up Community Interest Company (CIC) and it has received a grant of £6000 from Awards for All for business planning. The CIC have also had a meeting with the Heritage Lottery Fund which went well and the CIC have been invited to resubmit their application for a grant.

**REPORT BY CLLR CAROLE GANDY (MORTIMER WARD) TO WIGMORE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING.**

Unfortunately I am unable to attend this Annual Parish Meeting as I had an already arranged meeting with some parents at Wigmore School concerning school transport.

This is the end of my first year as your County Councillor and during that time I have met many Wigmore residents and I thank them for their support and kindness.

The majority of matters that I have been asked to look into relate to planning and enforcement and the inconsistency of rubbish collection from bins scattered around the parish. Planning enforcement is a serious problem in Herefordshire and I have worked hard over the past year to make that a higher priority for Herefordshire Council. It can bring misery to many people and I believe it to be wrong that someone should be able to flout planning regulations and just get away with it.

During the past 12 months I have seen an increase in both litter along our highways and overflowing litter bins. I am hopeful, with a new Street Cleansing officer in place that this situation will improve.

I have recently received a petition from local parents regarding the lack of a footpath at the top of Ford Street and I will be discussing this matter with parish councillors at the Parish Meeting later this evening.

I have visited Wigmore School and I was really impressed with the work going on and the resources available to the school. I have also been kept advised on the Church Project which I believe is a really exciting venture.

Finally I would like to thank on your behalf, your parish councillors, for their dedication and hard work. At a time when money at County level is so tight, more and more is being asked of parish councillors. They are generally the first port of call for any resident and I sometimes think that residents are not necessarily aware of how hard they work to improve Wigmore.

If you at any time want to contact me about a particular matter or just to have a general chat, please do not hesitate to do so on 01568 780583 or carole.gandy@herefordshire.gov.uk