

**CLERK'S INFORMATION SHEET FOR
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON 21 FEBRUARY 2019**

- 4.1 Get in touch: Tel: 101 to talk to your local SNT or report a crime. Email: kw.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk
Website: www.westmercia.police.uk Facebook /Twitter @NHfdShireCops

Useful information: Please find the links to the Fly Tipping prevention guides, currently viewable on the NFPG website. Always worth a read if you ever have the misfortune to encounter such waste.

Householder - <http://www.tacklingflytipping.com/Documents/NFTPG-Files/NFTPGAdviceforHouseholders.pdf>

• Businesses - <http://www.tacklingflytipping.com/Documents/NFTPG-Files/NFTPGAdviceforBusinesses.pdf>

• Landowners - <http://www.tacklingflytipping.com/Documents/NFTPG-Files/NFTPGAdviceforLandowners.pdf>

Dean Wall PC 07773 053846

Emma Dune PCSO 07971 051474

Felix Rawlingson PCSO 07971 051480

Report a crime Police 101 Ext 61216

Alerts and information

Take extra care on rural roads this winter

West Mercia Police is encouraging motorists to take extra care on rural roads this winter where there is mud on the roads, and reminding farmers and contractors of their legal responsibilities around keeping the highways clear of mud and debris. A particular hazard on rural roads is mud and debris being brought onto the roads from adjacent land. Water running off fields and property will bring mud with it, this will be reduced if land and property owners can do all they can to meet their duty to maintain roadside ditches, along with the drainage systems throughout their property. All traffic exiting gateways to fields, yards and other premises can track mud onto the road. In poor weather, any mud on the carriageway can be easily spread by moving vehicles over a much wider area, this presents a great risk to road safety over the winter period. Excess mud on the road is a danger to cars, motorbikes and cyclists and can change the way a vehicle handles, causing skidding, especially in wet conditions and freezing temperatures.

Under the Highways Act (1980), all have a legal obligation to ensure their vehicles are cleared of any mud or debris before entering the public highway, to ensure mud is not deposited on the highway. Superintendent Paul Moxley for West Mercia Police comments: "Every year we face problems with mud and debris being left on rural roads, which poses a real danger to anyone using those roads. While the majority of farmers and contractors take steps to ensure they keep the roads clear and safe, not all are as diligent. "We would like to remind farmers and contractors of their responsibilities under the Highways Act. We have already taken action against offenders who haven't complied with this legislation and will continue to take a tough stance against anyone who we believe is being reckless and irresponsible. "If you see mud on the roads, please drive with caution and treat this the same way that you would with icy or slippery roads. Slow down, be patient and avoid driving on verges where you can, as this can lead to mud on the road surface."

Anyone wishing to report any issues regarding debris or mud on the road can contact the following agencies: Balfour Beatty - Living Places: 01432 261800.

Appeal to trace burial stone stolen from St Mary's Church, Linton, Herefordshire

Police are appealing for information about the disappearance of an ancient 'heart burial' stone which has gone missing from St Mary's Church, Linton in Herefordshire. This rare religious item was last seen on Boxing Day at its normal location by the west door of the church. The burial stone is about one foot in diameter and some two inches thick. It has a single prominent cross carved into the stone, with a smaller "tailed" cross in the centre. It is believed the stone originally marked a burial.

Anyone with information about its whereabouts is asked to contact 101 quoting incident 95S of 1 January 2019. Please ask for the information to be passed on to Neil Darley of Crime Bureau North, Battlefield, Shrewsbury.

4.2



FEBRUARY UPDATE

PEMBRIDGE, SHOBDON, LYONSHALL, EARDISLAND &
TITLEY GROUP PARISHES

From your local County Councillor

Roger Phillips. Email: rjphillips@herefordshire.gov.uk

Dear Residents

I hope you are all keeping warm, safe and keeping an eye on any vulnerable neighbours in this cold weather. We have enjoyed a mild winter so far but as with any freezing and wet weather the highway surfacing will start to break down so please use the links in this update to report any problems.

I am pleased to see a second community project supported by the European LEADER funding in my ward. Last month Shobdon Playground project has received a grant of £20,000 which, with £12,000 already raised, means equipment can be ordered and hopefully it can be opened this Spring. The previous project was the installation of a toilet, kitchen and open space in Titley Church. Most of the grants go towards private business initiatives of which several have benefited in our parishes. I serve as the council's representative on the Leader programme but all local schemes and projects are independently evaluated.

Amidst all the goings on in Westminster we must remember our own processes and I delighted to say that Pembridge and Shobdon Neighbourhood Plans will be having their referenda on Thursday 28th February. This is the final stage of a long process which identifies specific land and policies for local planning and will sit alongside National and County policies. Polling stations open in the two village halls from 7am – 10pm on the 28th with the count taking place in Hereford afterwards. The second voting day this year which will be on May 2nd when the 53 seats on Herefordshire Council and all the Parish Councils in the County are up for election. It is my intention to stand again for election as your representative for the Arrow ward in May.

In this month's update I cover the emerging budget setting process and some of the work I have been involved in with getting extra rural funding. I am pleased to share the new traffic layout at one of road accident blackspots in north Herefordshire at Lawton's Cross.

As ever if I can be of any help please do hesitate to contact me.

ROGER

Council Budget 2019/20

The Council will be setting its budget for 2019/20 of £150 million later this month (£146m in 2018/19). The increase reflects the increase in care costs and again the continued reduction in Revenue Support Grant from government. In 2010 the Government gave a revenue support grant to Herefordshire of £60 million, next year that grant is £600,000. A 99% cut in nine years! This together with a £30 million increase in care costs has necessitated over £90 million worth of reductions, savings and cuts from 2010 to 2020 to remain financially stable. Many larger authorities who did not make the reductions are now causing financial concerns and in Northamptonshire's case they will long longer exists. To balance the budget the Council Tax increase will 2.9% plus 2% social care charge, meaning a 4.9% rise. The Police, Fire and Parish precepts are added to finalise the Council tax increase. The £150 will be funded from: Council Tax £104 million; Business Rates £36m; Rural Services Grant £5m; New homes Bonus/social care grant £5m. It will still be necessary to find £3.9m worth of savings in 2019/20.

Where the Government has supported us is in the Rural Services Delivery Grant. I am the Council's representative on SPARSE which is a lobby group from English rural councils who have been working to make the case for extra funding for providing services to sparsely populated areas. We have provided evidence to the Minister Rishi Sunak who is also the MP for North Yorkshire so has some understanding of these matters. Indeed we did a discreet piece of work on their waste collection service identifying costs (extra mileage and time taken) to collect bins was 17% higher in villages and up to 59% higher in hamlets and isolated areas. Our care workers clock up more miles and have less potential contact time than urban carers again meaning that there is a premium cost in rural areas. This is all very obvious to us living in north west Herefordshire but to the civil service and an urban thinking nation of the UK, I'm afraid without our evidence they think we are making it up. So in the budget the grant to English rural authorities was increased from £65m to £81m and I am delighted to say on the methodology used we received £5.1m. I have asked Cabinet members and officers to give a clear audit of that funding. I am pressing for that money to be ring fenced for U and C highways, rural transportation, rural care costs (adults and children) and some of the issues we have in recruitment to critical positions.



Lawton's Cross junction – Accident blackspot. Those of you who travel to Leominster or Hereford and use this junction will know that it has a long over 30 year history of collision problems including a local resident this last month. I have been working with officers and Eardisland Parish Council on a proposal to introduce a "rural roundabout" and change the traffic priority status of the highways to all traffic having to give way. Older residents will recall that the B4529 from Leominster was originally the A44 but that main highway was diverted through Monkland via Golden Cross junction and as a result now the more senior A4110 from Hereford to Leintwardine has to give way. Whilst the last minor works implemented during 2016 appear to have addressed the recent issues (at least for the short term), its long history of personal injury collisions (dating back over at least 30 years that many of you will remember) suggest that we need to consider a physical solution that addresses the alignment and slightly "unusual" traffic patterns/behaviours that exist.

The junction is in Kingsland Parish and their PC want HGVs diverted away from the Cobnash route to this junction which will result in more traffic using the junction. A redesign therefore is a priority.

This design should accommodate all current movements for all sizes of vehicle, whilst remaining within the existing highway land constraints (removing the likely prohibitive costs involved with land acquisition).

It is paramount that the design has a strong visual presence for all approaches, in order to influence driver behaviour, and it is this which underpins the design (and

what some may feel is a slightly "urbanised" feel with the use of red surface etc.) Kerbed refuges will be used on the approaches, together with solar powered bollards, however no street lighting is proposed but a speed limit will be imposed. The roundabout will be 14 feet across (the size of the Headbrooke roundabout at Kington) but would be level with the highway so that HGVs can go over parts of it to safely complete their manoeuvre. I attended Eardisland community consultation day and received great support from everyone for the proposals. I intend to work with colleagues to place this in the 2019/20 highway projects budget.

LOCAL ROAD CLOSURES

B4457 Golden Cross to Stretford Road, Eardisland Thursday, 28 February 2019 to (and including) Tuesday, 5 March 2019 Road closed 09.00 hours to 17.00 hours daily. No weekend working.

Highways. I am still waiting to see the proposed resurfacing programme for next year but I have submitted many highways for inspection.

FREE CAR PARKING DAY IN HEREFORDSHIRE The pilot enabled residents and visitors to enjoy free parking for up to 4 hours after 10am on all council car parks in Herefordshire (except Friar Street, Hereford) on Saturday 9 February 2019.

Monitoring and information-gathering will determine the wider impact of parking concessions on businesses, traffic flow and car park usage. Parking Enforcement Officers observed traffic and parking patterns, but customers were required to purchase tickets. The event did not apply to on-street paid for parking.

Did you know that can get tweets automatically to [@HfidsStreets](https://twitter.com/HfidsStreets) 24/7 to let road users know when conditions are bad and we will be out gritting. Get family, friends and colleagues to follow so they know when to take extra care.

Herefordshire Council website is the one-stop-shop for up to date information

Go onto Herefordshire Council website and download the pothole App to help report potholes

Maps and timetables for grass cutting and pot holes are now available on the Council's website.

Please report any problems on highways or footpaths using the links below or phone 01432261800.

<https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/transport-and-highways/maintenance/potholes>

<https://myaccount.herefordshire.gov.uk/report-a-pothole>

<https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/transport-and-highways/footpaths-byways-and-bridleways/cg-report-prow-problem>

if you wish to make a claim as a result of damage to your

vehicle https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200196/roads/206/highway_claims please use

Report fly tipping it will be dealt with in a much quicker time frame. by either calling the Contact Centre on 01432 261800 or by logging the fly tipping via the council website on the links below as your enquiry

https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200226/report_a_problem/98/fly_tipping

If you want to discuss a planning matter, please contact Adam.Lewis@herefordshire.gov.uk

If you have an enforcement concern, mttansley@herefordshire.gov.uk

Parish Council CONTACTS.

Pembridge – clerk@pembridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk Shobdon - shobdonparishclerk@gmail.com

Lyonshall – lyonshallparishclerk@gmail.com Eardisland – parish.clerk@eardisland-pc.gov.uk

Titley Group – rachaeljones.titleypc@gmail.com

DATA PROTECTION ACT

The Data Protection Act places obligations and responsibilities on any company, organisation and individual who hold and process personnel information. The new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) that supersedes the Data Protection act came into force on the 25th May 2018. I hold a list of emails of local people that I have built up over the years which I retain and use on my council computer and email. I can give you all the reassurance that I do and will not share those email addresses with any third party. In seeking legal compliance I am requesting that if anyone is unhappy with me holding your email contact please advise me and I will remove you from the list. Otherwise I will retain your email contact and continue to send you monthly updates and occasional key information.

7.1 Work in February: digging out grips on C1035 either side of village

7.3 Response to Questionnaire on Proposed Community Garden

40 questionnaires were returned from the consultation event on 2nd February 2019.

1. Do you support the general idea of a Community Garden including a Children's area? Yes: 45 No: 0
2. Do you support the idea that it should be on the recreation ground so it is central in the village, easily accessible and on public land? Yes: 43 No: 2
3. Do you support the PC giving £150 a year funding the Garden? Yes: 44 No: 1
4. What do you think the garden should contain?
 - a. Vegetable beds for children to experience growing food Yes: 42
 - b. Flower beds for cut flowers for Village Hall events Yes: 31
 - c. Herbs for community use Yes: 32
 - d. Perennials for colour and to attract pollinating insects Yes: 36
 - e. Fruit trees for community use Yes: 30
 - f. Seating / picnic bench Yes: 32
5. Would you personally like to be involved in this project? Yes: 14 No: 31
A number of contact details were left
6. Are you part of a group that would like to be involved in this project? Yes: 5 No: 40
The only groups suggested were The E-Team and The Children's Allotment

7. Any other comments about this project?

The plot looks, from the plan, to be rather 'tucked away', so would it get enough light and be sufficiently 'open' to attract locals and visitors to involve themselves in it? Space may not permit all of the items in 4... I know some people in the church have discussed it as something to get involved in. A location in the village. Patch at end of Lyme Lane. Lovely project, very supportive of the idea. I think raised beds would be better than dug ground. This would discourage animals from defecating on the ground. I'd hope to be involved in one off events – planting trees, apple pressing in later years, wassailing? Behind the Bowling Club House, as illustrated, seems a good idea to me. Not on the proposed site as nothing will grow under trees! Fantastic resource for children of the village. Project to be encouraged. Good idea! Great idea. Current position of proposed plot is not ideal, bad light, situated over septic tank of bowling club. May be worthwhile approaching owner of Staick House to use on permanent loan the currently derelict site of the old kitchen garden adjacent to his property. Approach local landowners adjacent to Village Hall land?? Excellent idea. Outdoor 'sports'. Something low maintenance and managed to a professional masterplan is probably best to help offer a continuation through the ages. Query light and moisture in this area for best growing potential. Great idea. Plot behind the Bowling Club probably too shady and fertility too will be poor because of trees. Great proposed location. Yes, it is a good idea, especially for our children. The present proposed site suffers from shading (more so as trees grow) and very close proximity to bowls club septic tank / soakaway which can be quite smelly in late spring / summer. Propose an alternative site to be from bowling green to entrance to children's play area, alongside School House and garden following external line of bowls club. Added advantage: water supply from village hall downspouts collected in butts.

7.4 Meeting with representatives of Environment Agency and Balfour Beatty on behalf of Herefordshire Council as highways authority. PC understand the following was discussed and agreed:

1. Highways (Balfour Beatty on behalf of Herefordshire Council) is responsible as riparian owner for the bridge
2. Highways would not clear the silt and berm under the bridge unless the berm alongside the private road was cleared
3. The berm alongside the private road is the riparian responsibility of the landowners of the houses - the house deeds would need to be checked to see if includes private road or not
4. Private road is unadopted and ownership not known
5. Environment Agency modelling shows that with the current level of blockage of the bridge and the extent of the berm narrowing the river there is no increase in flooding risk
6. The EA was asked to and could bid for funding to remove the berm along the roadside back to the original wall, but no guarantee that funding would be given unless situation should change and the level of risk increased
7. If the parish council worked with landowners to fund removal of the berm, a permit would be required from the EA (possibly with a cost currently unknown)
8. In summary, it is believed there is no current risk of increased flooding from the level of silt and berm and therefore nothing will be done currently by Highways or the EA

9. Officers of Balfour Beatty and EA will confirm their agency's position in writing so this can be shared with concerned parishioners

Following the meeting, the ability of the parish council to discharge its duty of care to the parishioners does not appear to have improved, though when the next flood occurs the agencies could be seen to have responsibility, as the parish council has brought its concerns to the attention of the agencies.

7.10 Cost of SID deployment now £250 +VAT.

7.11 HALC general training to end of March:

'LEADING LIGHTS' ... Monday 25th February 19.00-21.00 at HALC offices ... £30 per delegate.

Are you an effective councillor? Do you understand your duties & responsibilities? Does the Code of Conduct worry you? Are you aware of new financial risks to your PC? If you are a new councillor or simply want to update your knowledge, this is the course for you.

'IN THE HOT SEAT' ... Monday 4th March ... 19.00-21.00pm at HALC offices ... £30 per delegate

Hot tips for chairmen to ensure that their PCs are well-oiled decision-making machines via meetings lasting no longer than two hours! As a chairman, you need to understand the laws regulating your role, including all aspects of the Code of Conduct. You are in total control of your PC meetings so plan ahead to ensure that they are enjoyed by councillors and residents alike.

'A NIGHT AT THE OSCARS' ... Thurs.14th March ... 19.00-21.00 at HALC offices ... £30 per delegate

Come along and find out how your PC can become accredited under the 'Local Council Award Scheme'. Your PC can achieve Foundation, Quality or Quality Gold status by proving that you are working in an effective manner. Funding opportunities will improve if you can display one of the accreditation logos on your communications!

'SUMMING UP' ... Monday 18th March 19.00-21.00 at HALC offices ... £30 per delegate

Especially for Parish Clerks! Be ready for the next external audit by PKF Littlejohn by picking up some helpful tips from HALC's Internal Auditor. Does your PC formally appoint your internal auditor each year? Should your PC have ticked all the boxes in the Governance Section of the AGAR form this year? What are the legal deadlines for submission of your papers and did you meet them or incur a fine? Come along to the first of two sessions to ease your furrowed brow!

'ELECTION SPECIAL' ... Tuesday 26th March 19.00-21.00 ... £30 per delegate

What will your PC need to budget for next May when the four-yearly elections take place for all parish councils across Herefordshire? If you haven't been through this process before, either as a clerk or councillor, what exactly happens? What are the clerk's responsibilities? When do current councillors leave office and during which dates must you hold your Annual Meeting of the Parish Council? What are the criteria for your PC to access the General Power of Competence? Make sure you are in the know!

Clerk's training:

As unable to attend 2 regional training seminars last year due to hand surgery and personal bereavement, Clerk requests funding to attend seminar on 10 April. Cost £80 in total, pro-rata £26.66.

Cost of pro-rata membership of SLCC is £60.40, total £175.

7.12 Proposed dates in line with 2018:

- 21 April Birthday of Her Majesty the Queen
- 23 April St George's Day
- 2 June Coronation Day
- 10 June Birthday of the Duke of Edinburgh
- 14 June Official celebration of Her Majesty's birthday
- 10 November Remembrance Day (second Sunday in November)
- 14 November Birthday of the Prince of Wales
- 6 February 2020 Her Majesty's Accession

7.13. Suggested date Thursday 14 March at 9.30

9. Correspondence – received as follows:

- From Balfour Beatty (BB) – Remapping and filling of grit bins
- From Herefordshire Tree Warden Network – Subscription request
- From Friends of Mortimer Forest – Notice of service
- From BB – SID deployment request form – £250/deployment
- From HALC – Jan-April training schedule
- From HC – Consultation on draft Minerals and Waste Plan
- From HC – Consultation on Enterprise Zone
- From Catcher Media – Request to put film on Herefordshire Life on website
- From BB – Expression of interest form for Lengthsman/P3 scheme 2019-20
- From HC – Competition to design a county flag
- From HC – Great British Spring Clean 22 March to 23 April
- From HC – Cabinet update 4.2.19
- From HC – Briefing note on NPPF and NDP
- From Community Shop – Payment of Dovecote insurance for 2019-20
- From HALC – Information Corner on Code of Conduct
- From HC – BeACouncillor campaign to encourage people to stand for election – www.herefordshire.gov.uk/beacouncillor

Alison Sutton – Parish Clerk

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