

FINANCE REPORT

for WPC meeting 8 July 2009

		Current Account	Deposit Account	Lengthsman Account No. 2	
BALANCE	at 30.06.09	616.71	21,131.30		1,137.80
PAID IN since last meeting	1 st tranche of payment from HC for 2009/10		841.25 (for LM account)		841.25
PAID OUT since last meeting		Nil			
PAYMENTS DUE at this meeting	<i>Clerk – expenses</i>				
	BB connec (vat 1.50)	11.50			
	Tel	14.35			
	Postage	3.51			
	Miles (24 x 58.7p) (VAT 0.38)	<u>31.70</u>			
	Total	<u>49.56</u>			
	July salary	305.38			
	August salary (both post-dated)	305.38			

CORRESPONDENCE

for 8th July 2009 meeting from 10.06.09 to 03.07.09

HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

1. Notice of election for Parish Councillor 30th July if contested
2. Proposed School part-time 20mph speed limits. Draft scheme for implementation of non-prescribed traffic signs incorporating flashing units operating during term-time and at start and finish of school day. In addition they intend to install solar powered vehicle activated lights to help re-enforce existing and proposed speed limits (20/40). Will work in conjunction with other signs. Traffic order should be published in late summer and works programmed to start before end of year. **PLANS TO BE LOOKED AT.**
3. Receipt of 2 sets of nomination papers for election

HALC

LOCAL

1. Telephone call and letter from Clerk of Ruardean PC, offering support for any action that we are taking to make the B4234 safer through Bishopswood. They are to write to HC Highways Dept.supporting our request for 40mph speed limit from Kerne Bridge to Glos boundary.

MISCELLANEOUS

1. The new editor for the Village News from July is Joanna Sparkes from Llangrove at jrsparkes@expedio.net

PLANNING REPORT

for 8 July 2009 meeting from 10.06.09 to 01.07.09

H C Consents

1221 DCSE2009/0804/F Lodge Farm, Deep Dean. Proposed change of use from a bed-sit into an "approved" kitchen. **CONSENT**

Permission to enure- for applicant only. Permitted under Policy E9 – Home based businesses in that Local issues of amenity and highway safety have been addressed

1222 DCSE2009/0869/F Walford Timber Ltd, Walford. Proposed installation of timber drying kiln and extension to storage shed for the storage of kiln dried timber. **CONSENT.**

Materials on extension to match those of existing building. A scheme of noise attenuating measures to be submitted.

HC Refusals

1220 The Cider Barn, Howle Hill. (Because of its massing, appearance and position in relation to main dwelling)

New Applications

1227 DCSE2009/1319/F Paddocks Farm, Deep Dean. Single storey conservatory

To be considered at July meeting

Planning Enforcement Matters

OTHER REPORTS

1. Forest Green

(a) Clerk's Report read out/distributed at June 10th meeting and not included in Appendix D for that date as replies had not been received at time of typing:

I think we ought to make it clear that WPC is not threatening to cover this land with housing or agricultural buildings. We have not been able to trace an owner. We wanted to register it as a green so that it could never be built on.

The procedure for this is complicated and time-consuming. We have to provide evidence that the number of people using the land is sufficient to signify that the land was in general use by the local community for the last twenty years.

In response to letters to The Ross Gazette and The Walford Flier, we have now received 10 replies. Six gave supporting evidence of the use of the land as a green:

1. Passage of cattle, sheep and horses via the green to rented grazing land from 1986
2. Walking the dog and picking blackberries within the last 20 years
3. Visiting there with sister from USA in 1994, with memories of playing there 1939-1946
4. Playing there as children in 1960's and 70's
5. Remembering playing there with other boys c 1994 (Dick Stacey who used to keep the land from becoming overgrown died in 1998)
6. Brief history of the land from Mrs Wilce from 1905 to present day.

Four replies were from people living locally who pass the site almost daily and who could not recall within the last twenty years seeing people gathering at Forest Green to play, celebrate or picnic. One of these letters mentioned that no-one had suggested we needed a 'green' there in the Parish Plan survey. What was needed was a recreation area that was accessible by a good proportion of the residents. Forest Green would not fulfil this need as it is certainly not within easy walking distance from the more heavily-populated areas of the parish.

Perhaps the best solution would be to follow what Mr George Thompson, County Land Agent, recommended on a site visit in November 2008 as one of the options:

"Do nothing and as the Parish exercise your powers to keep a path open if you so wish or agree to someone doing some work but on an unpaid basis, say for the timber that is cut, all on behalf of the unknown owners." We could do this for 13 years and then register it as a green if so wished at that time

(b) Forest Green - Clerk

As requested at June meeting, I copied all letters relevant to the 20 year limit received by WPC in support, and those not in support, to the Property Services Section of Hfd Council. Advice received from HC's Kirsten Lloyd and Mr G Thompson (County Land Agent) is to go ahead with the application for registration as a green. The appropriate form has now been received.

3. Coleraine Planning Applications – Weston-u-Penyard PC meeting- Cllr H Evans

Two points:

- a) They brought up one aspect we hadn't considered, ie light pollution

b) I was concerned that when discussing our meeting & conclusions (at the latter end of theirs) the chairperson gave the impression that we had discouraged our public from hearing our comments when we discussed the matter in council. She made this point as their councillors adjusted their chairs for their discussion, & commented that 'that's not the way WE do things' & the phrase 'best practice' came up.....

4. Rights of Way –Cllr M Downey

The footpath clearance program is progressing.

The written questions from Mark Holland have been answered.

WA 50 remains closed awaiting the outcome of bankruptcy proceeding regarding the owner. When this has been resolved HC will make a decision on how to proceed.

5. New Footway between Whittings Lane and Green Colley Grove – Clerk

Letter has been written, with SAE, to G C Grove Residents' Association asking for a permissive path behind their fence. No reply yet received

6. Walford Links Cycle Way – Cllr P Heath

Still waiting on HC nominating a rights of way negotiator

7. Request made to HC for speed limit on B4234 through Bishopswood- Clerk

8. Election requested by ten electors to fill Casual Vacancy on Walford Parish Council caused by the resignation of Mr G J Jones.

If the election is contested, it will take place on Thursday 30th July.

9. Seminar on Rural Pubs – Cllr L Freeman

It was an interesting meeting which highlighted the importance of villagers to support their rural pubs. The pub industry is struggling and will continue to with government pressures, rising taxes and costs.

Current statistics:-

- there has been a 35% drop in value of licensed premises
- 6 pubs close per day
- average beer price is £2.58 after duty, tax, cost and overheads approx 12p per pint is profit
- pubs are struggling for many reasons including (a) smoking ban (b) supermarket prices (c) lifestyle changes and pressures from government to drink less (d) drink driving laws
- it was suggested that many Herefordshire rural pubs will be forced to close this year and it's unlikely buyers will be found

CAMRA will fight to prevent change of use on pubs but only if villages support their local pub and want to keep it (e.g Vine Tree in Ross, CAMRA campaigned to prevent this being turned into private dwelling)

Parish councils have the Power of Wellbeing i.e power to buy anything to ensure wellbeing of parish - this could include the pub. The Parish Plan should address the question as to

whether the community values its pub should the time come when the pub cannot survive then the Parish Council could apply for grants to purchase or buy into the pub.

Parish Councils should recognise that an increase in housing in villages may make pubs (and other facilities) more sustainable

Community shares and bonds may help pubs/shops to survive. An industrial and provident society is an appropriate vehicle to such venture. Examples were given where pubs had opened shops in villages which were run by the community. eg Yarpole, Whitbourne, Mortimer, Dorstone, Bishops Frome and Eardisland. It's important that the pub becomes the hub of the village and adding more facilities, increasing services available from the pub and using the pub as a public meeting place will all help keep rural pubs in business.

