

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY 1st FEBRUARY 2023
AT MANSEL LACY COMMUNITY HALL

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm

Present: C.Edwards (Chairman), A.Davies, S.Hallett, D.Gwynne, A.Apps

In Attendance: R.Hallett (Clerk), M.Jones (Ward Councillor)

Apologies: M.Mangan, A.Powell

In reference to agenda item 6d (Coronation), S.Hallett declared an interest as Chairman of Mansel Lacy Community Association

- 1) Draft Minutes of the General Meeting held on 2nd November 2022 were accepted and signed by C.Edwards as a true record.
- 2) Matters Arising
 - a) The situation regarding the anonymous donor was clarified. A donation of £500 was received in 2017 for the maintenance of the telephone box. To date, £76.80 of this has been used. The donor would be happy for the balance to be used on a worthy community cause, as agreed by the parish council. It was agreed that since the defibrillator batteries and pads needed replacement, that this donation would cover the cost. R.Hallett to organise their supply and to feed back to the donor.
- 3) Finance
 - a) The regular report was presented (see Agenda). Cash flow has been better than expected with the payment of the drainage grant, much more promptly than last time.
- 4) Highways
 - a) The first phase of drainage grant work covering ditch clearance, gripper reinstatement and clearance of an obstruction in Yazor Brook under the A480. The blocked drain at the bottom of the Parks has also been jetted and pumped out.
 - b) Approval was given to appoint R.Mills as Lengthsman for 2023/24. Scope would remain the same albeit with an overall cost increase of 8.3%.
 - c) C.Edwards spoke to the owner of Coach House Interiors who said that he had the necessary permission for the sign at the Brinsop/A480m junction. It was agreed that R.Hallett would confirm this through Balfour Beatty. *(post meeting note: BB visited the owner to confirm that he did not have permission and the sign needed to come down. The owner, however, said that he had been visited by a member of the parish council who informed him that the sign was ok to stay where it was. Balfour Beatty are now handling this directly with the owner).*
- 5) Planning
 - a) A.Apps and S.Hallett updated the meeting that during the consultation on the Rural Spatial Strategy they had emphasised the importance of having affordable housing as part of any scheme and that infrastructure needed to be in place before associated development was started. These views were common to all the other contributors
- 6) Any Other Business
 - a) M.Jones presented his report (see Appendix 1).
 - b) No policing priorities were set at this time, pending feedback from West Mercia on the purpose and effect of such prioritisation.
 - c) Local elections will take place on Thursday 4th May. For the first time, voters will need an acceptable form of Photo ID. This message should be passed on by all possible means e.g. Foxley News, Foxley Flyer, website. M.Jones was asked to clarify the procedure for voters who did not have a form of photo ID.

- d) For the coronation on 6th May there were two points:
- i) A proposal was made to provide souvenir mugs for all children in the area. Councillors will feed back to R.Hallett the number of children in their parish area and he will research costs/designs before coming back, via email, for a final decision on choice, order quantity, etc.
 - ii) S.Hallett, on behalf of the Community Association, offered to organise a coronation celebration for the Foxley Parish Group community, similar to the recent jubilee celebration that was so well received. Agreement was given that the Association will organise and run the event and reclaim from the council, the actual cost, up to a maximum of £800.
- e) C.Edwards gave a speech (see Appendix 2)
- 7) The next meeting had previously been fixed for 3rd May. Since this is only the day before the local election, the meeting was postponed and will now take place on Wednesday 10th May.

The meeting closed at 7.50pm

R.Hallett

10/5/23

Appendix 1

First Ward Report 2023

Eleanor Brazil who was appointed by the secretary of state to look into Hereford Council Childrens services and produce a report on her out come by the 15th of December has been delayed probably to around the end of January. It is likely that she will recommend that the service is transferred out of the Hereford Council to an independent body. Children in care numbers have dropped in the last few months and case loads have dropped for social workers to around 18 per social worker. Interim agency social workers still make up 2/3 of staff with a 1/3 permanent.

Hereford City Masterplan is open for consultation. You can enter onto the council website and make comments up to the 3rd February. Please take the opportunity to post your comments.

Please report any pot holes and highway defects through the council website so they can be properly recorded and tracked through the system. In urgent cases tel 01432 261800 to report the problem and also you can work with Philip Pankhurst the locality steward who is now back in work.

The winter resilience plan for the county revealed that there are 16 gritters spreading over the roads of Herefordshire. Each run over the county costs £8,000 in grit and a total of £20,000 with all the other costs involved. Depending on the severity of the winter this can be a considerable cost to the council.

Bus journey fares will capped at £2.00 over the next Twelve months. Bus companies have signed up to the scheme to encourage more use of buses. So for example if you wanted to take a bus to Ross from Hereford and the normal cost was £5.00 you would only pay £2.00 At the Full council meeting on the 9th December 3 motions were unanimously passed on 1 A multi- storey car park with one level for Hospital staff be built on the bus station site once it has been relocated to the train station. 2 Writing to our MPs about the cost of living crisis and that future funding be maintained from central government to Hereford Council. 3 The third motion was on Proportional representation used for voting in election.

At the next Council Elections in May, to be able to vote you will have to bring proof of identification to the polling station. Failure to do this will mean you are not eligible to vote. The next full council meeting is on the 10th February. The main debate will be on the proposed budget for the next financial year and the possible increase in Council Tax of 4.99%.

Councillor Michael Jones

Appendix 2

Having been a Councillor for the last 40 years and having reached the age of 88 I have decided to retire, so will not be standing for re-election at this year's May elections.

I started in 1983 when I was elected to the Leominster District Council whilst still working for British Telecom. BT was quite generous and gave me 18 days per year to attend to Council meetings.

I became Vice Chairman of the District Council in 1989 and Chairman in 1991 and so attended the garden parties at Buckingham Palace for three consecutive years. In 1994 I became Leader of the Independent Group on the Council and Chairman of the Finance & General purposes Committee.

In 1994 I was also elected Vice Chairman of the Herefordshire Working Group, working towards amalgamating the 4 district Councils into a Unitary Herefordshire Council

1996 appointed Company Director of Leominster Development Trust

In 1998 I was elected to Herefordshire Unitary Council serving on Finance & Resources, Highways & Transport & Social Services and on Library & Museum Committees

2003 I was elected to the Foxley Group Parish Council. was Vice Chair from 2010 and Chairman on the demise of the late David Davenport.

During that time I was involved in a few other organisations as well. But now is the time to sit back a little and watch other people do their thing

I will remain your Chairman until the AGM to be held just after the election in May 2023

Thank you for listening and good luck to you all in the future