

Annual Parish Meeting 5th April 2022

Agenda Item 7 Questionnaire to be collated for presentation at HPC meetings

Final version for Parish Council meeting 7th February 2023. For posting on the website February 2023.

Questions - from members of the public

Parish Council Reply

The Councils budget for 2022/23 was agreed December 2021. Looking forward how would you like to see your funds spent?

Parish Hall problems resolved	New Parish Hall Representative Cllr K Pratt
If the Parish Council do not know themselves how the budget should be spent, why did they consider it necessary to increase the Precept by 49% with the cost of living crisis as it is.	The budget was created in 2021 and signed off by the full Council December 2021. The headers within the budget show how funds will be spent .
Why is the landscaping budget around the Parish Hall being cut back to a minimum	Hall Grounds budget 2020/21 set at £500 , of which £400 used. As the budget of £500 not all used in the previous year the FC and PC felt it was not necessary therefore to increase this section for the year 2022 -2023.
Increase in flower tubs making Hartlebury bloom	Grant awarded September 2022 to the Gardening Club for three more barrels
On attracting end employing a fully qualified Parish Clerk who would be able to advise members on legal matters and assist in matters of professional development in their role. They did not feel any Parish Council should be expected to rely on the advice of an unqualified clerk who is not fully conversant with legal background and knowledge of custom and practice. At the very least an unqualified clerk should work with a mentor who has the necessary qualifications.	Staffing Committee consideration -meeting Tuesday 7th February 2023. The Clerk worked with a mentor for over a year and is currently studing towards her ILCA qualification. She seeks the support of CALC and can call flor advice if anything is unclear. An advertismnt was placed for a CILCA qualified Clerk but nobody applied. Had the current Clerk not agreed to take up the role the Parish Council would have ceased to exist. The current Clerk is more than capable of fulfilling and exceeding the needs of the role.

In June 2021 the recycling pods were removed from the car park at the village hall 1) Continual fly tipping 2)Their removal to raise the area's appeal 3)The car park surfacing did not allow for the emptying of the pod by heavy goods vehicles. Where else could they be sited?

The industrial estates	Hartlebury Trading Estate - no interest. Enquiry to Hartlebury Castle made as requested but they are unable to help on this occasion.
On concrete plinths at the Parish Hall where numerous parishioners have said they were conveniently located. The fly tipping could be improved by providing a suitable skip and improved monitoring and management. The PODs always overflowing before they were emptied	The recycling pod base is already on concrete. The problem presently encountered is that the POD;s are collected by heavy goods vehicles which the present surfacing of Breedon Gravel does not allow for.
Unused patch of land through which the footpath traverses from Old Worcester Road (service road towards Crossway Green) and the pedestrian access across A449 to Waresley Park.	Cllr Newman - The used patch of land acts as a sound break for residents from the noise from the A449. It's also woodland and you'd not want to see the trees cut down. It would not be appropriate to place the recycling bins in this area, not on the discussed old Worcester Road. This area is used by highways for storing sand and gravel, but I cant see that they would be prepared to give this up. The other concern would be the traffic , its a main bus route and having cars pulling in and parking would be a real concern.
NEW 10/10/22 - To use part of Highways Compound - continuation from the above.	Business Liaison & Events Advisory Group - this area is locked thus not available for any pods.
New 10/10/22- Pods to be located on the carriageway and engineered in such a way to provide the chi bane and calming effect on traffic .	Business Liaison & Events Advisory Group- ownership concerns if located on the carriageway.
The Heras Fencing were design and installed to provide the protection required and not cause an unnecessary obstruction in the car park and routes.	There would normally be a footfall area between the offending wall and the fence to allow for any falling debris. Building Control contacted 5th May . The PC would have liked the fencing returned to the fencing contractor end of April as per their request. A meeting with Building Control on Thursday 23rd June to reposition some of the fencing to allow car flow.
The car park, cleaned , weeded and repaired and maintained as required.	Playing Fields & Parish Hall Surrounds Advisory Group. The car park is sprayed under the existing contract to keep the car park free of weeds. Potholes to be repaired in the new year 2023
Some pride in the care and maintenance of the landscaping were taken.	Playing Fields & Parish Hall Surrounds Advisory Group, the new Contract signed off for the year 2022/23 includes that area to be maintained.

The appeal of the Parish Hall Car Park, would be vastly improved if the concrete block blocking the car park were removed from the site entirely	Following a meeting on site with Building Control & Enforcement 23rd June, as soon as the Heras Fencing is repositioned to the side of the hall, the concrete blocks can be removed.
The White Heart car park for the PODs	Waiting to hear of any interest
The pods were removed without consultation. Fly tipping was rare, or even unheard of although cardboard was occasionally pushed in the gap between two of the receptacles. Continual fly tipping is very misleading. The vehicles never turned inside the car park and managed the collection and delivery of the pods very well without damage to the surface of the car park. There is no other suitable site within the area and the return of the pods should be arranged as their removal has taken away a valuable and well used facility. The clothing and shoe banks a real loss to the village and the charities.	The Parish Council issued a statement June 2021 as to why the PODs were removed. Some good alternative locations suggested to the PC following the APM which are being looked at.

Other comments for Parish Council consideration?

The Parish Council to be a welcome group, friendly and to introduce themselves when speaking.	Welcome board introduced before Christmas at all full council meetings to include a list of councillors name and related membership groups
To truly listen to parishioners even if there are no answers	Noted
The behaviour at the Annual Parish Meeting by some of the councillors was appalling and embarrassing.	Noted
Residents should be treated with respect and practice of a proper question and answer session at the beginning of Parish Council meetings. These should also be reinstated within the minutes this is good practice and ensures that future interested parties can find out what their concerns were. To omit them from the record is insulting to those who take the trouble to ask questions and show interest in their village.	To be considered next year 2023
That Parish Council meetings be held in the parish hall as has been tradition since the hall was built and the hall referred to by its correct title Parish Hall.	Procedure of a Local Council (7 B 7.2) - if the local council owns a suitable room in the locality which it can use free of charge, meetings must be held there. If not the local council may use free of charge a room in any school .
That the Parish Councillors make themselves known in the village and support the organisations which work hard to flourish.	Duly noted

Why was a new car park associated with the community project (minute 240 February) mentioned in the minutes.	The new car park may be required at the village hall . As this relates to the Community Project and in closed session due to litigation nothing can be added at this time.
Where was this car park to be sited.	There is no new car park this refers to the existing car park.
Why has the new car park been withdrawn.	The new car park has not been withdrawn.
Was the decision to withdraw the new car park a decision made by the full agreement of the Parish Council.	The new car park has not been withdrawn.
Is the withdrawal a temporary pause in intention or a permanent decision for the foreseeable future.	Not known at this time
When will the wall and fencing around the patio at the Parish Hall be repaired?	Letter agreed jointly by the HPHMC and PC sent to the Contractors 14th June 2022, no reply despite 2 x letters 3 x emails and a phone call.
When will the Parish Council carry out some maintenance to the Parish Hall Car Park.	Pot hole repairs planned- ref Finance Committee meeting December 2022
When will the Parish Council re-open the permissive path that has been used for many decades from the allotment land to Rectory Lane so allotment holders can get to the pub, children can use to get to school. Parishioners can walk the route with or without a dog. This route maintained open previously by the Parish Council	The sign at the entrance of the allotment ground states "no public footpath or right of way across the allotment field"
The village core is visually weak. To move the Post Office to the car park at the White Hart, along with a medical centre or pharmacy, possibly Hair 2000 and some low cost affordable homes, more appealing than a tarmac car park. Parking for the White Hat would be provided on the same land behind the Castle Lodge which could be enlarged to provide parking for the school and events at the Church and an overflow for the Castle.	Business Liaison & Events Advisory Group- the Post Office is owned by an individual/s, the Parish Council do not have ownership of land by the White Hart
Buy the Post Office a new outdoor doormat and improve the paving around the shop	Business Liaison & Events Advisory Group, private ownership .
Install "what's on" web controlled electronic screens at prominent points in the village to advertise village events.	Business Liaison & Events Advisory Group - costs to be considered by IT
Move the Parish Council Notice Board from the other side of Inn Lane and install it on the blank splay/old door to the Post Office which is not otherwise used.	Business Liaison & Events Advisory Group- this is a freehold property and not owned by the parish council.

Physically restrict the width of the roads at the top of Inn Lane and the Old Worcester Road such as to make the road too narrow for vehicles to park there without blocking the road, and install a mini roundabout to through slow traffic. Raise the kerbs or install bollards/planters so vehicles can not park on the pavement. Allow the increase in paved area be used for decorative street furniture and or provide an outside retail space for the post office to use.	Business Liaison & Events Advisory Group - to consider with Highways
Install a screen around the ugly new electricity transformer next to the bus stop by the Birches. This could be in the form of a decorative lattice with shrubs and climbers. Perhaps the Art Group might design a lattice and the Gardening Club install the planting as a joint community project.	Business Liaison & Events Advisory Group - concerns over visibility when pulling out of Inn Lane and closing off the transformer owned by third party and not the parish council
Re-position the pocket of landscaping at the top on Inn Lane. The lovely lavender bush which is just about to flower is obstructing the visibility turning out of Inn Lane and will have to be cut back. Happens every year, could the landscape pocket be moved.	Business Liaison & Events Advisory Group - lavender bush planted by the gardening club - could ask the gardening club for advise/help
Allotment security - install a robust fence and kissing gate at the Rectory Lane junction to discourage fly tipping which has always been a problem at that location	Allotment Advisory Group - in terms of the security , the Council have nothing to do with the lane, it belongs to the farm to the left of the site.
Provide a solar powered free water supply for the allotment holders from a borehole. There are community grants available from Severn Trent Water for such installations	Allotment Advisory Group - borehole consideration, chased in November but still waiting reply from land owner .
What services has the Parish Council provided in the past year to the outlined hamlets of Summerfield, Torton, Waresley Park, Orchard, Crossway Green, Lincomb and Charlton.	New bus shelter at Summerfield. Help on going to retain an RAF building on the Ikon Trading Estate
What service will the Parish Council be providing for the hamlets in the coming year.	Business Liaison & Events Advisory Group - possible village gates at Chadwick Bank
To cut back verges and hedges to allow safe use of the pavements around the village. Rural footpaths are well maintained.	All members of the public and Parish Councillors are encouraged to take a photo/details and send into the Clerk
Ensure gullies and verges to the sides of the roads swept. There is still debris strewn over the road and pavements after hedges flailed in the Autumn still lying there in late Spring.	Clerk contacted D Cllr Bateman ,no sweepers in Hartlebury. Yes there are issues with road cleaning services in Wychavon because of the shortage of drivers and he would raise with WDC
Allotments - cut the vacant allotment plots and field to prevent the seeding weed causing a nuisance to allotment holders. Strict rules on plot maintenance issued, this should apply to the parish council who are responsible for vacant plots they have not let.	Allotment Advisory Group - this has been addressed, the field is cut so should not pose a problem. Only 3 plots may be available in March 2023 and interest already shown to take them on
What has happened to the project at the allotment ground that Councillor Tranter tried to present at the Parish Meeting.	Please refer to the minutes of the Annual Parish meeting now online or the draft minutes of the Parish Council meeting 3rd May 2022

That the Parish Council whose responsibility it indubitably is for with arrange with the Contractor for the rectification work to repair the latent defects in the patio wall, such work to be undertaken as soon as the contractor can schedule the work into their schedule.	Letter agreed jointly by the HPHMC and PC sent to the Contractors 14th June 2022, no reply despite 2 x letters 3 x emails and a phone call.
The Parish Council could publish a "what's happening at the Parish Council " each month in the Parish Magazine to improve communications.	The Parish Council minute their meetings and place said minutes on the Councils website so members of the public can already read what's happening.
The Parish Council to encourage/sponsor community events such as Live and Local arts events and community sporting activities	Business Liaison & Events Advisory Group - the parish council to consider free fitness demonstrations to encourage users of the outdoor gym items
Provide a Parish Council mini bus to get outlying parishioners to local shops , access to and from the station, schools and other important facilities	Business Liaison & Events Advisory Group - with present financial costs it would be unlikely to consider this project at this time. Why not consider Dial a Ride instead.
Organise a community transport system to encourage car sharing.	Business Liaison & Events Advisory Group- the parish council to further consider perhaps allowing the car park to be used (park and ride) parishioners to catch the 303 bus into Kidderminster or Worcester
Organise activities for the youth of the village.	Business Liaison & Events Advisory Group - under 16's football team using the councils football pitch on a Saturday. Consideration of combining with Ombersley to provide activities
Lobby the County Council to provide a footpath along the verge of the A449 from Rectory Lane and a new access pedestrian and cycle track up onto the old railway line to access leapgate Linear Walk without having to cross the A449 to reach the pavement or walk in the road under the old bridge abutment	Clerk contacted Worcestershire County Councillor Tony Miller 27/8
Provide financial support to enhance the facilities within the Parish hall as the Hall is owned by the Parish Council who hold it in trust for the people of Hartlebury.	The Parish Hall is not a Parish Council asset. The HPHMC own and insure the hall.
Reduce the number of street signs and install some street art to improve the appearance of the parish	Business Liaison & Events Advisory Group- this is a Highway responsibility and the parish council should not consider.
Start a dialogue between the Parish Council and it's Parishioners, publish all the questions that parishioners raise and the answers the parish council give	To be considered next year 2023

<p>Since the closure of Stourport Power Station years ago and it's subsequent redevelopment into residential , the surrounding countryside has been blighted with a plethora of old ugly high tension electricity distribution pylons. Accepting that some may be required lobby to get many of the older pylons removed and rationalised down to a few as are absolutely necessary. This should have been done years ago</p>	<p>Cllr S Tranter to look at with a further email on this subject to ST 13/8. There is nothing the Parish Council can do on this subject - line at Bishopwood part of the NGC National Supply has a separate line to Stourport that shuts down to 66/33k hence smaller towers. It may look as if the powers lines aren't used this is because the power lines go underground. If the lines were decommissioned they would have to take the cables down for safety. Another reason for them to not decommission is the fact that more power will need to be transmitted in time. Out of interest the main grid was developed back in 1935 directed by the Central Government which is of National importance. The last power created at Stourport Plant A 1979 and Plant B 1984.</p>
<p>Improve the car parking at the station. The existing area could be widened and laid out with white lines so that a far more efficient use of the existing space achieved. Create a larger station car park in the future.</p>	<p>Planning application already submitted to improve the car parking at the train station , this application can be found online at WDC planning portal reference W/22/00537/OUT</p>
<p>The Parish Magazine has articles telling the village what's happening Church etc. and articles of what's coming up the only body missing is the Parish Council. Why doesn't the Parish Council publish an article in the magazine explaining what they are doing with parishioners money, what problems encountered . The parish council could possibly request back ground information about future projects. If consultation with parishioners were made the recent bench gate debacle of the problems over a new allotment agreement would probably not arisen.</p>	<p>The Parish Council has already started to publish upcoming events in the Parish Magazine starting with the Christmas Fayre last year and will continue to do so this year. With regards what the Parish Council is doing with parishioners money , budgets are produced for ever meeting and minutes taken about every spend.</p>
<p>Website - improve the speed and management of the website to find out what the Parish Council is doing</p>	<p>Website and Social Media Working Party- the websites speed has been increased</p>
<p>Website difficult to find postings on the website.</p>	<p>Website and Social Media Working Party- the committee are reviewing the structure of the website and will be engaging the services of the web developer to iron out any issues</p>