






CLERK'S INFORMATION SHEET FOR
BRILLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON 14 MARCH 2017

4.1 Your team: PC 3911 Jo ELLIS, PCSO 6115 Dick ALLFORD, PCSO 40067 David BODEN

 **101** to talk to your local SNT or report a crime.

 kw.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

 www.westmercia.police.uk

 /  @NHfdShireCops

Kington Safer Neighbourhood Team:

PC 3911 Jo ELLIS - Work mobile 07977 098394. Email: joanne.ellis@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

PCSO 6115 Dick ALLFORD - Work mobile 07968 462523. Email: richard.allford@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

PCSO 40067 David BODEN - Work mobile 07970 176814. Email: david.boden@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

OR RING DIRECT ON 101. Only call 999 in an emergency, when a crime is in progress or life is in danger
Weobley

Crimes of local interest

Weobley Ois reference: 0201S 070117

Three sheds situated in Hereford road in Weobley have been damaged. Extensive damage has been caused to the frame of the doors to gain entry but nothing stolen.

Lyonshall Ois reference: 0361S 140117

A quad bike has been stolen from a detached workshop in Lyonshall between the 10th and 11th of January. The quad bike is described as an Arctic cat quad, no model or chassis number known.

Kington Ois reference: 0270S 210117

Between the 20th of January and the 21st of January an electric fencing unit has been stolen from a field adjacent to Lower Hergest road.

6.1 Lengthsman work in February –

Defects from drive-round on 1 February:

1. Road sign at C1072/C1073 junction – logged for BB to reposition upright
2. C1073 – overgrown hedge, Norman Anthill, Woodbine Villa – Lara to action
3. C1073 – halfway between Lane Farm and 90612 – broken culvert logged for BB
Flooding – Lara to contact Welsh water
4. C1073 – collapsed pipe by Lane Farm entrance – logged for BB
5. 90614 – on parish boundary at the dingle – edge patch x1 logged for BB
6. 90614 – from dingle to 90612 junction – potholes x2 and patch x4 logged for BB
7. 90614 – past 90612 junction – potholes x3 and patch x3 logged for BB
8. 90604 – between C1073 and BE20 – potholes x3 and patch x1 logged for BB
9. 90604 – by Trenewydd pothole x1 and by Glenavon potholes x2 logged for BB
10. 90606 – by Pound Farm – potholes x2 logged for BB
11. 90612 – potholes x4 logged for BB

The following ditches have been reported by the Lengthsman as in need of attention to clear them out. It is the riparian landowners' responsibility to clear ditches:

90604: The ditch on the S. side W. of Trenewydd is full of debris.

90605: The ditch leading to the culvert in the dip N. of Tan House is full of debris to above road level.

90602: Road E. of entrance to 'The Bush Farm'. All ditches blocked with leaves, hedge trimming detritus, fallen timber, etc.

90605: Very shallow ditch on west side towards top of Cefn Pitch.

C1072: Side of ditch west side just below drive to Brilley Court – pushed in by vehicles.

The following letter has been received by a councillor from the Lengthsman:

HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL'S POLICY ON DITCH MAINTENANCE

We spoke the other day about Herefordshire Council's new policy to make riparian landowners responsible for roadside ditch maintenance.

Until recently, Herefordshire Council has maintained these ditches but now as a 'cost-cutting' measure, it has been decided that, as the strictly legal onus for maintenance lies with adjacent landowners, the council will require them to do the work. This is a completely impractical, unworkable and unwise policy for the following reasons: -

- 1) Roadside ditches are of far more importance to the Highway Authority than they are to any landowner. Although they serve the obvious purpose of draining surface water from the road, they are equally, if not more, important for the purpose of keeping ground water levels under the road below the level of the lowest layer of the road construction. For which reason the ditch inverts (the lowest point in the ditch) should be well below the foundation level (the ground level on which the road is built). If water is allowed to rise into the road construction layers by the ditches silting up or becoming blocked, the freeze/thaw cycles during winter weather will quickly destroy the road, leading to additional cost for reconstruction.

- 2) There is an implication in the new policy that all riparian landowners are farmers with the resources, in terms of plant and labour, to carry out ditch maintenance. This is not so and many ditches run past small properties the owners of which, many of whom are elderly, have no way of carrying out this work.
- 3) Many ditches run past several different properties. Even if the riparian owners are, individually, very conscientious in fulfilling their responsibilities, it is unlikely that they will all dig out their respective lengths at the same time, so the ditch will always be blocked somewhere.
- 4) Most ditches run through culverts at some point e.g. at field or property entrances or in places where the verge is not wide enough for a ditch. Even farmers who own a digger are unlikely to own pipe jetting equipment, so culverts will remain blocked.
- 5) All property owners will have their own opinions regarding the frequency and standard of maintenance, which will probably not coincide with the standard needed for proper highway maintenance.
- 6) Apparently Herefordshire Council intends to have staff chasing up or writing letters to recalcitrant property owners and, if that has no effect, the property owners will be taken to court. Since one court case would probably cost more than the annual ditch maintenance budget for the entire county, this seems somewhat idiotic. I also find it absolutely disgusting that the council is prepared to use my council tax money to fund bureaucracy and litigation, but not maintenance.
- 7) The legal liability for maintenance of ditches might well lie with the riparian owners but Herefordshire Council has been carrying out this work until now, so there can't be any legal reason why they cannot continue to do it.

There is bound to be somebody who will ask what qualifications I have for commenting on this issue so, without trying to be pretentious, I should add that I have a degree in civil engineering, and that before retiring, and among other things, I worked for many years in the fields of roads, bridges and soil mechanics, designed the drainage system for the north end of the M23 motorway and spent 10 years at the Greater London Council designing and building flood defences along the River Thames. I was a Member of the Institution of Civil Engineers, before the fees for retired members were raised beyond the level that I could afford, and I remain a member of the Chartered Institution of Highways and Transportation (the current fancy name for what was the Institution of Highway Engineers).

It would be good if all the parish councils could band together to persuade Herefordshire Council to reverse this decision, but, at the very least, I would like to see Brilley Parish Council lobby the county to the same end.

Yours sincerely,
Peter Watts

- 6.2 Road and drainage defects reported to BB –
 - 90604: The road surface for 50m west of the entrance at 258504 is breaking up & large potholes have formed.
 - 90613: Pothole 100m from C1072
 - C1072: Flytipping of cardboard & expanded polystyrene on west side 60m south-west of drive to Arbour Farm
- 6.3 NDP examination process is complete. Various modifications have been made to the Plan by the examiner. Once final amendments agreed by Herefordshire Council a referendum date will be set.
- 6.4 New website will be online shortly.
- 6.5 Request from parishioner to consider purchase of an AED (automated external defibrillator) and cabinet to be sited at the village hall.

Scheme currently providing funding is being managed by Sue Watkins for Herefordshire and Worcester First Responders. PC or village hall has to pay £500 and then the Four Acre Trust matches the funding and pays it to HWFR. It's an unlocked cabinet that goes on the outside wall and a reasonable AED (automatic external defibrillator). The problem is that the ambulance service who would direct a caller to collect the AED only work on a very limited radius from the site of the AED, as otherwise any response will be outside the golden 3-minute time limit for any hope of restarting a heart.

So ideally there need to 2 units, one at the hall and one at the church.

Ongoing maintenance costs are for electricity, minimal as only a trickle charge to maintain temperature of cabinet.
- 7.1 The following letter has been received:

The way in which Herefordshire Council now received requests to discharge conditions placed on planning permissions has changed.

A large proportion of these requests are now being received electronically through the Planning Portal and automatically download to our Planning system as separate applications, previously these requests were attached to the original planning permission and all information uploaded to the website under that application number. The fact that these requests are being recorded as separate application numbers is causing some confusion and I would just like to clarify this for you.

Discharge of Condition (DOC) requests are not subject to public consultation and as such no comments are invited, the Planning Officer will check samples etc. received in relation to any conditions imposed and will issue a decision accordingly.

For information – the description field on these types of notifications will identify the original planning application to which the request relates to e.g. Application for approval of details reserved by conditions 3 & 4 attached to planning permissions 163717 & 163718.

8. Brilley meetings clash with Kinnersley Group meetings at various times. To allow the Ward Cllr to attend both meetings, Clerk suggests changing dates as follows: 16 May (instead of 9 May), 5 September (instead of 12 Sept), 7 November (instead of 14 Nov).
9. Total subscription is £139. Pro-rata is £28.95 (5/hrs per week out of 24 hrs/wk total for all 3 parishes).
10. Correspondence – received as follows:
 - From Clerks and Councils Direct – January and March newsletters
 - From HALC – Training diary
 - From parishioners x2 – Emails of thanks to PC for getting war memorial repaired
 - From HC – Waste charges consultation for residents – go to <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/environmental-protection/waste-management/waste-costs-consultation>
 - From Archdeacon Paddy Benson – Email of grateful thanks and congratulations for war memorial repair
 - From parishioner – email re community defibrillator
 - From HC – Great British Spring Clean info
 - From HALC – Information Corner
 - From Warwickshire & West Mercia Probation – Letter re Community Payback project

Alison Sutton – Parish Clerk. 7 John Davies Place, Westcroft, Leominster, Herefordshire HR6 8JD. Tel: 07789 322771.
Email: brilleypc@gmail.com