

Lyonshall Annual Parish Meeting

Wednesday 4th May 2022, held in the Memorial Hall at 7pm

Reports

Chairman – Paul Avery.

- Prepared an aspirational traffic plan
- Purchased a new speed indicator device and installed – thanks to Rod and team
- Made repairs to parish notice boards
- Replaced the cradle seats in the playground
- Replaced the defib pads
- Installed safety measures at HM bus Stop
- Removed tree behind Bus stop damaged by storms in February.
- Planted the village for the summer
- Held 5 pop up pubs
- Set up the Christmas tree
- Installed a box for sandbags in The Close following flooding
- Been allocated grant funding of over £3000 for HM drainage investigation work.
- Transfers are still in motion for the land at Holme marsh & White Lion meadow.
- Following a public consultation, the land at White Lion Meadow will be maintained as a wildlife area.
- Thanks to all Councillors & Clerk
- Held several meetings to support residents regard nuisance from foxhole shoots.

Ward County Councillor – Roger Phillips

Communities and business are moving forward after the worst of the covid pandemic, and we all have adjusted to living as normal a life as we can.

Herefordshire council has received significant funding in various forms from Government to help with post covid recovery and I urge vigilance to spot the various grants the council publishes so that we can secure funding for our local projects and support local employment.

The Councils Children care department has been identified by the Government as a cause for concern and a top priority of the council remains to better function its responsibility to vulnerable children in the county.

The Council is concerned about climate change and has a new Plan which sets an interim target of a 75% reduction in carbon emissions by 2025/26, as part of a commitment to become carbon neutral by 2030/31.

The council is developing a Big economic plan for the county, but it is a struggle to get them to understand the needs of smaller rural economies. I remain of the believe that until proper investment is made in highway infrastructure in the county and especially Hereford City, we will always hit a glass ceiling as we try to develop the local economy and provide better paid jobs.

This summer will see the third anniversary of the ban on planning consents due to the phosphate problem in the wye catchment area. Although pre consents have allowed the developments in Webbs meadow and Holmes marsh to take place we are now at a complete standstill, and this has huge implications on the local construction sector.

The council seem to have progressed a solution to the problem with a reedbed solution at public sewerage plants which will allow development to begin again. Final details have yet to be confirmed but it will require applicants to purchase phosphate credits from the council. Hopefully HC and Natural England will also allow similar schemes to be privately developed also.

The Core strategy is being reviewed by HC and a number of consultations are coming out within a tight timetable. I have some concerns about emerging options to significantly limit housing growth in rural areas – rural sustainability requires housing in the future particularly for economically active and maturing population. I urge residents to take part in these consultations.

Locally I remain committed to support the re-opening of the Royal George and will work with the owner, the council and agencies to ensure clear communications and understanding on all sides to achieve this.

Herefordshire’s 2,000 miles of highways remain a challenge to maintain- not helped by a lack of prioritisation by the local authority – with only Isle of Wight spending less on highways. This year we benefited with a mild winter which resulted in a low an impact on our highways, however, issues of potholes and drainage remain concerns. Late last summer Spod Lane was closed with the bridge at Offa’s dyke requiring repair. I maintained the pressure to get this work done as soon as possible and was grateful to see it re- opened before Christmas. My thanks to our man on the spot Chris Auger for keeping an eye on matters. The repair has resulted in a raised hump, and we await appropriate signage.

I arranged a meeting between the Parish council and a senior HC highway officer to look at potential schemes in the village to improve safety and reduce speeds.

I reported again annually the October traffic figures from the grey box at the curl bridge. I had these installed in 2005 and they record the time, type and speed of all vehicles travelling on the main road every day. The detailed figures were shared with the Parish Council.

Total average daily number of vehicles (Monday- Sunday) through the villages in Octobers from 2016 to 2021.

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Shobdon	4643	4602	4639	4380	4148	4320
Lyonshall	2393	2271	2149	2472	2306	2248
Eardisley	4394	4222	4643	4434	4119	4415
Pembridge	2699	2851	2830	2824	2827	2647

In September our Balfour steward Lara Edwards (she grew up in Lyonshall) resigned which was great loss to the clerk and me, however we have Paul Hunter as our new Steward.

Throughout the year I have regularly attended meetings of the Parish Council; numerous local events and activities and dealt with many resident individual concerns. I produce a monthly email update to all email contacts in my ward and I send out a couple of supplements per year to all households via the parish messenger.

I would place on record my thanks to the Parish councillors, the clerk and Chairman for their support to me and the work and care they undertake for their community. These are challenging times for our world, nation, county and parish but working together we can have a positive impact on our local community.

Police Representative – Dean Wall

No report from the local policing team

Footpaths Officer – Kate Lomax

The Parish Footpath contractor has only made minor repairs this year and no new gates have installed. Letters have been sent to several farmers to arrange clearance of crops and make repairs to stiles & gates.

The Footpath Working Group has continued to do minor clearing of footpaths on their walks installing way markers and clearing vegetation, which has been very much appreciated. The Group has recently started regular walks of our footpaths for the 2022 season.

Lyonshall Mums & Tots group -Tanya Gouldby

Tots group has continued to thrive following the lifting of covid-19 restrictions and the added benefit of the hall renovations. We now have a lovely group of mums returning each week, provide refreshments and snack time for the children and have invested in some new/replacement toys and craft resources.

We plan to break for the summer holidays with the last group being held on Thursday 21st July. Following this myself and Lucie Hill who currently run the group will not be returning to Tots as both our children will be starting school in September.

It is our hope that a few of the regular mums will take the reins and continue the group, however, there has been no commitment made so far.

Lyonshall Memorial Hall – Chairman Kathy Thompson

The Memorial has seen a slow and steady return to normality over the past year. Initially forced to lock down once again for the first half of 2021, by September, we saw the tentative return of all regular Hall user groups.

Although the compulsory closure impacted on our financial status once again, we were fortunate to be supported by an additional grant from Herefordshire Council for loss of business.

Gradually confidence is returning, and the Hall is being well utilised once again. Upholstery class, Bridge Club, Pilates, and Mums and Tots are all operational again on a weekly basis. The monthly Village Coffee Morning is well supported, and a new monthly Gardening Club has been enthusiastically welcomed.

Parish Council meetings have returned, and the Pop-up-Pub events are more frequent to provide much needed opportunities for social gatherings.

The more attractive refurbished Hall is now being used more regularly for family parties and funeral teas. The Hall is also enjoying free Wi-Fi for one year with Gigaclear.

With little progress being made towards the re-opening of the Royal George, the Memorial Hall has become an important facility for the Community. Lyonshall's population is growing, with numerous properties being built, and the new residents moving into these homes have very few opportunities to meet their neighbours and the larger community.

The Hall Committee is committed to encourage as many events and classes as the hall can accommodate in the hope of helping to bring our community together.

Lyonshall Tree Warden Report – David Griffiths

Activities this year include:

- Planting oak trees on the parish boundary and other prominent places for the Queens Green Canopy – 12 oaks planted so far
- Offer of trees to parishioners – poor take up again
- Maintenance of young trees planted over recent years
- Advice to PC re willow at Holme Marsh
- Liaise with residents at The Close re dying trees and organised their removal
- Advice to parishioner re large tree over footpath
- Assistance with ID of trees at request of parishioner
- Co-ordinate local Tree Warden group, we continue with the Black poplar project
- Steering group for White Lion Meadow – advising on trees and meadow restoration.

Royal George Update

Mr Hern attended the meeting and provided a brief update

He is aware of the parishioner frustration about the rate of progress on the pub. However, Mr Hern has been dealing with challenges from the continued phosphates issue which has knock on effect to the pub redevelopment. He has made several representations to authorities and attended nutrient management meetings to try to make progress. He has also suffered continued challenges with Herefordshire Council and will be meeting the chief executive next month to try to iron out delays.

On a positive note, he is hoping to obtain credits from the planned reed bed installation to move forward his planning applications and has submitted a scheme proposal to Herefordshire Council to help alleviate some parish flooding.

Mr Hern said he was committed to the pub renovation and will work hard to try and push through the current challenges.