

Lyonshall Annual Parish Meeting

Wednesday 13th April 2023, held in the Memorial Hall at 7pm

Reports

Chairman – Steve Futcher.

This is my first year in chairman post of Lyonshall Parish Council.

Highway matters:

Made a submission to Balfour Beatty to the village safety scheme including.

- Illuminated sign at the George Junction A480 /C1031
- Warning signs for traffic in middle of road at double bends
- TRO to reduce speeds on A480 to 40mph between Almeley turn and Burgoynes 30mph delimiter.

After receiving drainage grant funding from Herefordshire Council, Holme Marsh drainage investigation works were undertaken providing video footage of the drains – The drains are in poor condition with many blockages and discussions with Balfour Beatty are now taking place and we are hoping to provide solutions to the problems with flooding in the area through reactive and capital works.

Investigated costs with Balfour Beatty to install a footway between the village Hall and the Church – Quite costly and PC agreed to wait for any S106 funding to come available.

Cllr Bevan organised funding from the police commissioner for the purchase solar panels on both Speed Indicators which saves time and effort to our volunteers – Thanks to Cllr Bevan for all he has done in the prevention of speeding in the village.

Installed a new “hump in road” sign along Spond Lane after road work on the culvert.

A new bench has been installed by Lower Lodge along Spond Lane.

Salt bins have been removed along the A480.

Playground works.

- No areas of concern in the annual safety playground report
- Weeding & new bark – few councillors attended
- Repaired posts holding the wooden edging of the bark.
- Vandalism has been a problem in the playground– one bench has been damaged and since removed.

Events

- Successful Jubilee event in June 22– A full weekend of activities. There were many people involved – thanks to all involved and there were many is already recorded in the minutes.
- 3 Pop up pubs have been organised but sadly all have been poorly attended this year.
- Christmas Tree were purchased and delivered to 25 homes again this year.

The Parish Council has supported Mr Hern with the Royal George project and met with him to discuss the phosphate issue in the area which resulted in correspondence with Sir Bill Wiggin over the matter.

White Lion Meadow

- The groups have undertaken clear up works in the meadow and a tree planting event was held in February. The transfer document is being finalised.

Ward County Councillor – Roger Phillips

Councillor Phillips was unable to attend and did not provide a report.

Police Representative – Dean Wall

No report from the local policing team

Footpaths Officer – Kate Lomax

The Footpath Working Group volunteers continued to do minor clearing of footpaths on their walks throughout the spring, summer and into autumn 2022. Some minor works have again been carried out by our contractor.

The maintenance done by our farmers and landowners is very much appreciated. It is always a pleasure to find a cleared path along the right of way. Our footpaths and bridleways are in good general repair, especially when compared to some surrounding parishes. There are plans in the current year to replace more gates as well as continuing the regular maintenance.

Many thanks to the members of the footpath group for their good work during the year, sometimes in challenging weather. It is always good to welcome new members. The work is at your own pace, as is the ambling along the paths. The first expedition for 2023 is on Tuesday 18th April - 2 to 4pm, meeting in Burgage Close. See you there.

Lyonshall Mums & Tots group – Amy Williams

Lyonshall Tots continues to run well, and we currently have a healthy number of parents and children attending weekly. After a couple of quiet weeks in October, we used social media to 'recruit' some new faces which was successful. We also raised the weekly charge from £2 to £3 to allow for the increase in supplies as well as the hall heating-now the weather is warming up hopefully not as much of our budget will go on this!

We have enjoyed lots of craft and messy play activities themed around seasons and festivals/events. We also held a Christmas party and an Easter egg hunt and plan to celebrate the upcoming Coronation. After a few years in charge, Tanya Gouldby stood down as her son started nursery. Her enthusiasm will be missed but we are grateful for all she has done for the group. Hopefully the group will grow in strength and carry-on supporting families of the parish and the wider areas.

Lyonshall Memorial Hall – Chairman Kathy Thompson

The Hall has fully recovered after two unpredictable years caused by the Covid pandemic.

2022 saw a complete return of all regular hall hiring groups and the introduction of two new, once a month groups; Lyonshall Gardening Club and Kington U3A.

Income was boosted in February with one final grant from Herefordshire Council for loss of income due to Covid, by the sum of £2,667.00.

The Hall has also benefitted from an increase in bookings for one off events, including parties, pop-up-pubs, and funeral teas. We also received a generous donation of £250 from the Cwmdru Car Club.

With a healthy bank balance, we are committed to improving facilities and investing in the hall in 2023 to make it an attractive space for the benefit of all.

We need to ensure it is valued as a true asset of our village and community, particularly as the future of our local pub is looking rather uncertain at this present time.

Lyonshall Tree Warden Report – David Griffiths

Activities this year include:

- Maintaining young trees planted earlier.
- Planted 10 oak trees around the parish for Queens Green Canopy project.
- Organised planting of hedging and trees in White Lion meadow
- Replacement trees at entrance to The Close to be planted this week.
- I co-ordinate a group of tree wardens in neighbouring parishes, we work together on several projects. We continue our work with native Black Poplars across the county. We have created several new wooded areas in a neighbouring parish.

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 still dealing with challenges from the continued phosphates issue which has knock on effect to the pub redevelopment. Natural England are supporting a phosphate credit submission made to Herefordshire Council.

There has been no progress or with Herefordshire Council since 14th September 2022 with arranged meeting being cancelled. The next meeting is arranged for 19th April 2023.

There was a public meeting held where parishioner supported the use of a temporary pub at the old chicken shed on Spond Lane, however this project will not now go ahead due to soaring inflation and energy costs.

Mr Hern is in discussions with the bank to secure his position to help push through the current economic challenges.

Signed Chairman

Date: