

4)	Minutes of the Previous Meeting: Members considered the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on the 6 th December 2023. It was RESOLVED : to approve the minutes as a true record of the meeting. The minutes were duly signed by the Chair.	
5) a)	Finance and Policy: Finance Report: Members received a financial report as appended (Appendix A). It was RESOLVED: to approve the report.	
b)	Risk Register: Members considered the risk register for the current year. It was RESOLVED: to add dates when actions are completed and to approve the risk register for 2023/24.	НТ
c)	Investment Strategy:Members considered the revised investment strategy to include the new statement agreed at the last meeting.It was RESOLVED: to approve the Investment Strategy.	НТ
d)	 Defibrillator Pads: Members were asked to consider whether they would take responsibility for the defibrillator at the Pavilion. It was noted that the volunteer currently carrying out routine checks will continue to do so. It was RESOLVED: to take financial responsibility for the defibrillator as proposed (ie the purchase of replacements pads, batteries and other consumables as required) and that the Clerk will 	НТ
e)	liaise with the volunteer to ensure continuation of maintenance checks. HALC/NALC Subscription for 2024/25: Members considered renewing the annual subscription to HALC (Herefordshire Association of Local Councils and NALC (National Association of Local Councils) for 2024/25. It was RESOLVED : to renew the subscription at a cost of £778.07 plus VAT	НТ
f)	 Village Calendar: Members considered a request to financially support the construction of an online calendar for all village events. The idea originated from the Environment Group with the aim of attracting more attendance at events and encouraging more people to get involved with committees, but it was agreed it would make more sense for the project to be taken forward as a Fownhope Flag initiative. A small review team of three parishioners have agreed to support the calendar moving forwards. It is anticipated that the calendar will be ready to launch in mid-March. Funding is required to purchase various software licences. It was RESOLVED: to approve £500 for the purchase of the licences. 	НТ
g)	Churchyard Maintenance: Members were informed that NALC have revised their advice following new legislation and have confirmed that Parish Councils are now legally able to contribute financially to the support of the churchyards. It was reported that the cost of mowing in the churchyard has increased significantly, and members considered a request from St. Mary's Church for a financial contribution of 50% of the annual mowing fees. This would require a contribution of £2000 per year. It was noted that £1000 is held in reserves and £1000 allocated in the budget for 2024/25. It was also noted that the churchyard is the village cemetery and therefore open to any parishioner regardless of religion. A query was raised about whether the mowing contract had been put out to tender or whether volunteers had been sought to assist with the mowing. It was RESOLVED: to approve the immediate payment of £1000 held in reserves towards	НТ
	It was RESOLVED: to approve the infinediate payment of 21000 field in reserves towards Churchyard Maintenance; It was RESOLVED: to clarify whether the contract had been put out to tender and volunteers sought, and to defer the decision about the contribution for 2024/25 until the next meeting.	309/01 /2324 2 of 6

	Г	
h)	 Habitat Grant: Members considered purchasing one box of 50 Hedgehog Highway surrounds with information leaflets from the annual Habitat Grant. It was RESOLVED: to approve the purchase of 50 surrounds at a cost of £150.00. 	нт
i)	 RoSPA Play Inspections: Members considered booking the two annual RoSPA play inspections at a cost of £78.00 plus VAT per play area. An inspection is required for the playground and skate ramp. It was RESOLVED: to proceed to book two inspections at a cost f £78.00 plus VAT each. 	нт
j)	 PCC Road Safety Fund: Members were informed that the Clerk has submitted an application to the PCC Road Safety Fund to support verge maintenance work around the village gateway to improve visual awareness for drivers entering a settlement. It was RESOLVED: to ratify the application. 	
k)	 Payments: It was RESOLVED: to ratify the following payments made between meetings: Suzi Bruce, P3, £639.00 FRFA, Meeting Room Hire December 2023, £20.00 Helen Tinson, Clerk Salary (December), in accordance with contract HMRC, Clerk PAY/NIC (Oct-Dec), £771.37 	
1)	 It was RESOLVED: to approve the following invoices for payment: Nick Maddy Coaches, Bus Service December and January, £180.00 HALC, 24/25 Subscription, £778.07 plus £155.61 VAT Suzi Bruce, Lengthsman, £345.00 Cloud Next, Website hosting, £149.99 plus £29.99 VAT PATA Payroll Services, Arrears Calculation, £15.00 Helen Tinson, Clerk Salary (January) plus back dated pay, in accordance with contract Helen Tinson, Clerk Expenses (Oct-Dec), £242.67 plus £12.66 VAT Helen Tinson, Reimburse expenses The Defib Pad, £48.79 plus £9.76 VAT Helen Tinson, Work from Home Allowance (Oct-Dec), £78.00 Stuart Eames, Reimburse Expenses Hereford Auto Electrical (SID), £120.00 plus £24.00 VAT Acer Tree Services, Tree Works, £1575.00 plus £315.00 VAT 	HT
6) a)	 Environment: Report: Members received a report from the Environment Group meeting on 29th January as appended (Appendix B). Members were also asked to respond to correspondence from Citizen Housing concerning external lighting at The Old School It was RESOLVED: to accept the proposal to install a PIR motion sensor system and to request that lighting is replaced with Dark Sky compliant fittings. 	нт
b)	Grant Offer for EV Charging Point:Members were informed that a grant application for the supply and installation of one EV charging point at the Recreation Field car park has been successful. The Clerk is currently awaiting the funding agreement from the grant provider.It was RESOLVED: to approve the funding agreement between meetings.	нт
7) a)	Highways: Report: Members received a report from the Highways Working Group as appended (Appendix C). The Lengthsman and a local volunteer have been busy clearing the pavements of leaf debris and parishioners were encouraged to keep the area outside their homes clear if they feel safe and able to do so.	310/01 /2324 3 of 6

b)	To consider HC Response concerning Mill Field hedge planting:	4 of 6
11) a)	Other Matters relating to Planning: To note report of Planning Decisions taken by Herefordshire Council (HC): Members noted the report as appended (Appendix D)	311/01 /2324
10) a)	To ratify comments submitted under delegated powers to Herefordshire Council: 233380: Malt House Field, Fownhope, HR1 4PJ. Proposed erection of fully enclosed 2 lane cricket nets with artificial matting. It was noted that a response to support the application was submitted under delegated powers. It was RESOLVED: to ratify the submission.	
b)	Proposed application to site an EE Mast on Hawkers Lane: Members were informed that an application has not yet been submitted to Herefordshire Council and therefore this item was deferred.	
9) a)	To Consider Comments on Planning Applications for Determination by Herefordshire Council: 240129: Ashmead, Fownhope, HR1 4PJ. Works to Trees in a Conservation Area. Members considered the proposal and a recommendation from the Parish Tree Warden. It was RESOLVED: to SUPPORT the application.	
8) a)	FRFA/Recreation Field: FRFA Report: There was nothing much to report though it was noted that Cllr Simmons is still trying to engage with Welsh Water concerning the hedge around the tractor compound.	
e)	Babble Ride Across Britain: Members were also informed that the Babble Ride Across Britain will also pass through the parish sometime during 7-15 September 2024.	
d)	Proposed Hills Ford Stages Rally: Members were informed of a closed road rally proposed to take place in the parish on 13/14/15 September 2024. A public meeting is being held by the organisers of the rally at the Fownhope New Memorial Hall on Monday 19th February and members were encouraged to attend.	
	Members also considered concerns about parking outside St. Mary's Church when a wedding or funeral is taking place. Cars are tightly parked along Capler Lane and it has been observed that access would not be possible for agricultural or emergency vehicles. The sign directing vehicles to the Recreation Field car park is obscured once cars are parked. It was RESOLVED: to explore options and seek permission to move the sign further along the verge.	HT/KB
c)	 Parking: Members considered concerns about the impact parking on the pavement outside Stony Row is having on parishioners using mobility aids and for parents with pushchairs. It was noted that the condition of the pavement is also deteriorating. It was RESOLVED: to investigate the concerns raised and report to the next meeting. 	HT/KB
	The TRO to extend the 30mph speed limit past the new developments has entered the consultation stage. The Parish Council has been awarded an extension for commenting so that an agenda item can be raised for the March meeting.	
b)	Traffic Calming Scheme: Members were informed that the plans have been amended since the last meeting to remove the additional footpath on the basis that the PROW is already there, and to include additional road surfacing between Scotch Firs and Woolhope Road. Members wished to thank ex-councillor Stuart Eames for his work bringing the scheme to fruition.	

	Covered under minute 3b.	
c)	Neighbourhood Development Plan Review: Members were informed that Herefordshire Council's draft Local Plan has now reached the Consultation 18 stage. Public consultation will run for eight weeks from 25th March 2024 to 20th May 2024. HC are consulting with Parish Councils during week commencing 18 th March at which time Parish Councils will be informed of the revised Rural Settlement Hierarchy and the implications for parishes that have a settlement identified for growth.	
	The Parish Council have been advised that the Neighbourhood Development Plan will need to be reviewed once the draft Local Plan has been published in order to maintain its weight. It was therefore proposed that the Parish Council host an initial consultation event at the Fownhope New Memorial Hall during the afternoons of Saturday 30th March and Sunday 31st March. The Clerk has submitted a successful application for funding to carry out the consultation. The funding totals £1835 and must be spent by 31 st March 2024. It was RESOLVED: to hold the consultation events as proposed.	КВ
d)	Dormington and Mordiford NDP Consultation 14: Members were asked to consider a Parish Council response to D&M Parish NDP Consultation 14. It was RESOLVED: that the Planning Working Group would consider the consultation and submit a response via the Clerk on behalf of the council.	PWG
12)	Footpaths: Members were asked to consider additional funding to install two gates (to replace stiles) on FWE1 between Tump Farm and Nash Farm. Permission has been received from landowners. It was RESOLVED: to approve the funding. The Clerk was asked to identify funds to vire to P3.	НТ
	Ward Cllr Biggs left the meeting at 8.45pm.	
13) a)	 Working Groups: Members considered appointing members to serve on current working groups. It was RESOLVED: that Cllr Lavinia Smith would move from Volunteer Support to Highways; Cllr Claire Patel would join Finance and Volunteer Support; Cllr Tony Kelk would join Footpaths and Environment; and Cllr Michael Short would join Community Resilience. 	НТ
	Cllr Braybrook advised members that he intends to step down as Chair at the May meeting as he does not feel it appropriate to continue beyond a third year. Members were encouraged to consider nominating themselves for the role. Members wished to thank Cllr Braybrook for stepping back into the role after his second year and for the enormous amount of work carried out over the last three years. It was agreed that the expectation of the role should be clarified before May.	НТ
b)	Herefordshire Council Town and Parish Council Charter:Members were asked if they would like to be nominated to join HC's working group for the Town and Parish Council Charter.It was RESOLVED: to nominate Cllr Lavinia Smith.	нт
14) a)	Consultations: To ratify response to West Mercia Police Community Charter Q4 (Jan-March 2024). 1) Speeding, 2) Criminal Damage, 3) Thefts from Outbuildings. It was RESOLVED: to ratify the response submitted for Q4.	
b)	To consider response to Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service Consultation (closes 4 th March): It was RESOLVED: that Cllr Tim Jones would submit a response on behalf of the Parish Council.	TJ
15) a)	Clerk Clerk Report: Members noted the report as appended (Appendix E).	312/01 /2324 5 of 6

b)	Forward Plan Review: Members were notified that Q3 and Q4 review of the Action Plan has been carried out by the working group. The review had been shared with members ahead of the meeting. No questions were raised.	
16)	Next Meeting: Parish Council Meeting: 7pm, Wednesday 6 th March 2024.	
17)	 Agenda Items Raised for Next Meeting: To receive and consider update on voluntary registration of Tan Brook Land Ownership To consider D-Day 80 Celebration on 6th June 2024 To consider Traffic Regulation Order Consultation Meeting closed 9.00pm. 	
	Signed Dated Chairman	313/01 /2324 5 of 6

Appendix A: Finance Report

REPORT FOR COUNCIL MEETING:	7 th February 2024
REPORT BY:	Helen Tinson, Clerk/RFO
AGENDA ITEM:	5a, Finance Report

Bank Balances:

Lloyds: £6,260.89 (excludes payments to be approved 7.2.24 £5896.61)

Lloyds Reserve: £29,875.45 *

Hargreaves Lansdown: £21,837.29 (at 5.2.24)

Total funds held across all banks and investments at 5.2.24 = £57,973.63

* £2000 transferred from Reserve account to Current account to meet payments due.

Finance Working Group Meeting:

The FWG met on the 23rd January 2024. Meeting notes have been distributed to all members.

Income/Expenditure Actual/Budget Report Q3:

Members have been issued with a Net Position Report detailing all income and expenditure to 31/12/23. All budget headings are within budget at the end of Q3 with the exception of:

Administration:

- General Admin Expenses: underbudgeted. Work at home allowance = £312/year, plus admin ie Zoom £148 though now cancelled, One Drive £24, HP Instant Ink £120, plus general stationery/postage. Budget has been increased for 24/25.
- Subscriptions: anticipated to be £56.87 overspent (HALC higher than anticipated increase £694.19 for 23/24 but £778.07 for 24/25)
- Website costs: anticipated to be overbudget at year end by £133.20 due to duplicated payment taken for the .gov.uk advance hosting. The renewal date has been set for December 2025 so the 24/25 budget will be underbudget at year end.
- Community Engagement: is overbudget at the end of Q3 two FCS room hire plus Coronation walk room hire, and printing (Flag costs), plus drinks for working group meetings at the Green Man.
- Election Provision: I mistakenly vired the budget after the election was not contested but had forgotten there were admin fees from HC. There is a reserve but I anticipate that the overall Administration budget will be under budget at the year end

Grants:

• No applications for the Habitat Grant so far this year.

Parish Maintenance:

• Lengthsman and P3: will be overspent at year end but £1634 Lengthsman grant is still to claim and lots of work has been carried out this year.

Income:

• Investment income, bank account interest and bus service contribution all expected to be higher than budgeted at year end. Bus service contribution figure contains money received this year that related to last year's bus service.

Investments:

Please see below an Investment Income Received Spreadsheet to 29.1.24.

Investment	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4 (to 31.1.24)	Year End
Regional Reit	41.32	41.32	30.05		112.69
Next Energy	108.16	108.16	119.66	120.24	456.22
HSBC Holdings	153.5	65.72	66.06	65.85	351.13
Central Asia Metals	142.1	0	127.89		269.99
Phoenix Group	266.76	0	266.76		533.52
Skipton BS	0	128.75	0		
	711.84	343.95	610.42	186.09	1852.3

This matches with a report from HL and Scribe to be signed off at the Feb meeting. As the receipts are recorded in Scribe and match HL, and the bank reconciliation balances, this should be sufficient to evidence that all dividends are being received in the correct Lloyds account.

Investment Strategy - revised following resolution at 1/11/23 meeting - for approval at the Feb meeting.

Reserves Balance Report – distributed to members. This shows a number of transfers/expenditure within the year - £10,592.50, £4,902.00 and the receipt of £1,677.75 all relate to the tarmac access road repair carried out in April 2023. It was agreed to transfer the £3000 held for machinery to special projects at the October meeting.

HP Instant Ink:

Fees are increasing from £9.99/month to £11.99/month effective 23rd January 2024.

Appendix B: Environment Report

REPORT FOR COUNCIL MEETING:	7 th February 2024
REPORT BY:	Helen Tinson, Clerk/RFO
AGENDA ITEM:	6a: Environment Report

Environment Group Meeting:

The EG met on Monday 29th January – full notes have been distributed to members and to the Environment Group circulation list.

In summary:

- We reviewed 2023 and its underlying theme of carbon reduction considering our aims and ambitions, what went well and what not so well, and any lessons to take forward;
- We agreed that the theme for 2024 would be Dark Skies and understanding how that affects the environment around us;
- Based on that theme, we aim to plan a series of community events throughout the year midwinter wassail (held on 6th Jan), star gazing, dawn chorus walk, flow worm walk with BBQ and folk dance, autumnal adventure dusk walk – and collaborate with other groups or partners to hold talks and practical workshops. It is quite an ambitious plan and we are mindful of capacity so any volunteers would be welcomed.
- The Superhero challenge for children will be re-focused around the 2024 theme.

Fownhope Wheelbarrows:

A small self-organising Whatsapp group for volunteers who want to be notified when a working party activity is being planned (for example tree pruning, gardening, clearing etc) has been set up. Interested residents should contact me or a member of the Environment Group.

Village Calendar:



A volunteer has been working on a village calendar which will bring all village activities together in one place. Any event organizer will be able to load details of their event though help is available if needed. To be discussed under 5f but here is an idea of what it may look like. A local designer has agreed to have a look and see if she can help in exchange for site sponsorship.

Lighting Audit:

A small sub group will review the current position of lighting in the village to measure against the position at the end of the year, to evaluate any natural change as a result of the information shared during the year.

External Lighting at The Old School: Councillors to consider proposal from Citizen Housing.

Environmental and Sustainability Policy:

A policy has been drafted and shared with the EG email circulation and will be considered further at the next EG meeting, prior to being presented to the PC.

Garden Club:

Are meeting on 28th February, 7.30pm at the Memorial Hall. Speaker – Adam Alexander will be talking about the culture of seed-saving, how our food growing heritage empowers gardens and gardeners, and have available copies of his books for sale. Open to non-members for £3 entrance fee.

Next EG Meeting:

Monday 11th March, 7pm, Green Man – will be confirmed on email nearer the time.

Appendix C: Highways Report

REPORT FOR COUNCIL MEETING:	7 th February 2024
REPORT BY:	Highways Working Group
AGENDA ITEM:	7a: Highways Report

SID DATA:

The updated spreadsheet has been uploaded onto the website. It has been reported that data generated whilst the SID is in 'spy mode' is not downloading correctly and we cannot currently access it. The manufacturer is being contacted to resolve the issue and in the meantime, it is suggested that both displays are left on so that no other data is lost.

PCC's Road Safety Fund:

To be covered under another agenda item – an application has been submitted for costs associated with clearing and maintaining the area around the village gateway. The Clerk has touched base with JACS and they have confirmed they are happy to continue storing the second gateway until we are ready to install it.



New signage such as left has been suggested and, if agreeable, could perhaps be progressed so we are ready to apply on the next round of grant funding.

Lengthsman:

Suzi has been clearing leaf debris from pavements along the B4224; and a volunteer has been tidying the area around Court Garden.

Lengthsman Scheme 24/25:

The Clerk submitted the Expression of Interest form for the 24/25 grant funding, and confirmed our intention to apply for the matched funding as well. The amount of funding has been reduced this year to ± 60 /km, meaning Fownhope can apply for ± 576.00 lengthsman funding an ± 576.00 matched funding.

Mirror on Hawkers Lane:

The Clerk has received emailed correspondence concerning the removed mirror at the junction of Hawkers Lane and the B4224, asking for it to be replaced. The mirror had previously been placed on private land by a resident with the permission of the landowner but it was removed when it was damaged. They are looking for a replacement but it may be cost prohibitive.

The PC is not able to contribute to the cost of placing a mirror on private land, but the Clerk has been in contact with the Locality Steward with a view to placing a mirror on the highway. He has agreed that the junction is difficult and will speak with his supervisor. He has warned though that in the past placing mirrors on the highway is not the easiest thing to do. He will keep the PC updated and the Clerk will report further next month.

Appendix D: Planning Decisions Report

Planning Number	Address	Application	FPC Response	HC Decision
233678	Fownhope House Fownhope HR1 4PE	Application for approval of details reserved by condition 3 attached to PP232840.	Comments not being accepted	Approved
233379	Brooklyn Fownhope HR1 4PA	To pollard a weeping willow tree situated in the lower gardens south west of the property.	Support	Works can Proceed
233338	Ringfield Fownhope HR1 4NN	Yew tree – cut back from house 20%	Support	Works can Proceed
233195	Land at Glen Ridge Common Hill Fownhope	Non-material amendment to approved application 214617 - (Proposed demolition of two storey house and outbuildings and construction of replacement single storey dwelling with detached garage/store/workshop) - amendment to the garage design.	Comments not being accepted	Approved with conditions
233316	Brooklyn Fownhope HR1 4PA	Large willow (T1). Propose to carry out a high pollard retaining some branch structure. Work necessary due to the size of the tree dominating the garden and becoming more likely to fail catastrophically.	Support	Works can Proceed
232308/ 231655	Mill House Farm Fownhope HR1 4PS	Addition of handmade oak framed two storey garden room and bedroom with wrap around balcony.	Withdrawn	Withdrawn
220525/O	Land on the Northern side of the C1297 and the Eastern boundary of Haugh Woods	Outline permission (all matters reserved except drainage) for the re- erection of a replacement dwelling.	Support	Refused
233380/F	Malt House Field Fownhope HR1 4PJ	Proposed erection of fully enclosed 2 lane cricket nets with artificial matting.	Support	Approved with conditions
233401	Scotland House Fownhope HR1 4QA	Proposed existing single storey garage is to be demolished and replacement structure will be as close to like for like as possible.	Support	Approved with conditions
233488/AM	Land adjacent to Fownhope Medical Centre	Proposed non-material amendment to planning 171637(Site for residential development of up to ten dwellings with associated vehicle access). Amending the permitted point of pedestrian access such that pedestrian access to the site will instead be at the northern end of the bank of hedgerow along the site's north western boundary.	Comments not being accepted	Approved with conditions

232905/XA2	Land adjacent to	Application for approval of details reserved by conditions 6, 7, 8, 10, 13 attached to	Comments not being	Approved
	Fownhope Medical	planning permission 171637.	accepted	
	Centre			
232904/XA2	Land adjacent to	Application for approval of details reserved by condition 9 & 12 attached to	Comments not being	Approved
	Fownhope Medical	planning permission 171637.	accepted	
	Centre			
232195/RM	Land adjacent to	Approval of reserved matters following outline approval 171637 (Site for residential	Support	Approved with
	Fownhope Medical	development of up to ten dwellings with associated vehicle access).		conditions
	Centre			

Appendix E: Clerk Report

REPORT FOR COUNCIL MEETING:	7 th February 2024
REPORT BY:	Helen Tinson, Clerk/RFO
AGENDA ITEM:	15a: Clerk Report

BBLP Parish Liaison:

Molly Walters left BBLP on the 9th January and her position remains unfilled. Currently Tony Agate is monitoring the parish inbox.

HALC Information Corner:

Received and shared with members. Of note, NALC have confirmed that PCs are now legally able to support church property and have issued revised guidance.

HALC are asking for councils who wish to reduce their allocated number of councillors to get in touch.

The HALC AGM has been postponed until the Spring (date still to be confirmed). I understand the intention is still to present the Local Council Quality Gold Award at that time.

Defib:

Unfortunately, the defib at the West End Stores remains out of order. The Ambulance service and The Circuit have been informed.

We are continuing to work with Cardiac Science to get it back up and running ASAP. It is under warranty still so will be repaired or replaced FOC.

Email from Parishioner:

I thought I would share this email received before Christmas:

"So sorry as I meant to write ages ago! I just wanted to say that an amazing job was done of clearing the bridleway, it makes such a difference not chancing losing an eye, being strung up/pulled off by a wayward branch and wide enough that the horse no longer has to gymnastic moves of one hoof in front of the other. Please share that you have at least one happy parishioner"