



Hello,

We held our PC meeting on the 1st February and as always covered a wide range of topics. Here are the highlights, with the full draft minutes available from the website:

<https://fownhopeparishcouncil.gov.uk/agendas-and-minutes>

You may have noticed that the domain name has changed to a .gov.uk domain, but all else has remained the same. Councillors also have a new .gov.uk email address and their new addresses can also be found on the website: <https://fownhopeparishcouncil.gov.uk/meet-the-council2>

At the start of the meeting, the Chairman wished to acknowledge the sad passing of Fownhope residents Robin Priestley and Vera Biggs, and wished to send condolences on behalf of the Parish Council to their families.

Herefordshire Council: Ward Councillor Hardwick reported that the recommendation for the council tax increase for 2023/24 will be 4.99%, the maximum allowable without a referendum. 2% will go towards adult wellbeing and 2.99% to general revenue. It was also reported that Herefordshire Council have been awarded £19.9million from the Levelling Up funds towards the Hereford Transport Hub and other improvements.

Traffic Calming Scheme: This was one of the main discussion items of the evening and we received a presentation on the £175,000 traffic calming scheme that has been awarded to Fownhope. Herefordshire Council took away our proposals and are now formalising a costed plan to include:

- Verge narrowing programme through the village;
- Road resurfacing/pothole repairs where necessary, but in particular from Woolhope Road/B4224 junction through the village towards the West End Stores;
- Widening the pavement from the West End Stores towards the new developments. It was reported that this can only be considered in conjunction with road narrowing but it is still not possible to widen the pavements sufficiently to meet current regulatory guidelines. Therefore, HC must decide whether they are prepared to take responsibility for any modifications outside of the regulatory guidelines. Representatives at the meeting understood the reasons for widening the pavement and agreed to put forward a strong case for the parish.
- 20mph speed limits, pending the outcome of the current trial in Pembridge. It was agreed that Fownhope would be a suitable additional location if the trial is extended.
- Extending the 30mph speed limit to include the new developments at Mill Field and Old Potato Barns, in conjunction with S106 money from the Mill Field development.

Some further proposals were not as favourably received:

- The proposal to extend the 30mph speed limit at Nash Pitch was refused, as the area is considered insufficiently built up, there are minimal reported accidents, and the countdown signs are in situ, which are the only ones remaining in the county.
- Staggered speed limits were also not favourably received, though there may be an opportunity for buffer zones and the Parish Council will continue to work on this through the Multi Parish Strategy Group.
- The criteria for speed cameras were not met – insufficient reported accidents or registered speeds, though it was agreed that WMP would review the data on speeding through the village and get more data collection to inform discussions going forwards.

We are now waiting for Herefordshire Council to come back to us with the costed plan but it all feels pretty positive and will address major concerns within the village.

Recreation Field Access Road: Just by way of an update, Welsh Water have confirmed that there are no leaks on the supply pipes or water leakage that would affect or further delay the tarmac repairs on the Recreation Field access road, and so the contractor has confirmed they will start work week commencing 3rd April 2023. Work is expected to take about one working week and vehicular access will need to be restricted during that week.

Our first **Fownhope Community Saturday** took place at the Pavilion on the 28th January and it was a lovely afternoon! There is a full feature with photos somewhere else in this issue so I won't repeat it here, but please save the date and come along to the next event which will be on Saturday 25th March (not February as previously advertised) and will be focusing on Gardens and Habitats.

Fownhope Walks: We were delighted to learn that we have been awarded six more gates from the DEFRA Access for All Funding via the Wye Valley AONB that will replace stiles to make our footpaths more accessible. We are also beginning to work with landowners on a seventh Fownhope Walk, a definitive circular walk taking in the best viewpoints and sites of interest in the parish. If you are interested in learning more or getting involved, please do get in touch.

The Five Flowers for Fownhope project continues and (as I write) the January-February flowers have just been uploaded onto the website. The project encourages the discovery of the wild flowers that grow along the paths, lanes, riverside, and in woodlands, orchards and grasslands around Fownhope – perfect to take with you when you head off for a walk. There is also a full report of the project somewhere else in this issue, so please take a look at that and feel free to feedback any thoughts or comments.

King Charles III Coronation:



Again, there is another article about this so I'll just encourage you to read that and get in touch if you have any suggestions, or would like to be involved, with the celebrations.

Website:

I mentioned in the last article that we have added some new pages to the website, so this is just a gentle reminder that they are there:

Noticeboard page: www.fownhopeparishcouncil.gov.uk/noticeboard

Consultations Page: www.fownhopeparishcouncil.gov.uk/consultations

Parish Council Forward Plan: www.fownhopeparishcouncil.gov.uk/forward-plan-2022-2027

Parish Council Elections: Thursday 4th May 2023



Every 4 years every Councillor must step down and be re-elected by the community. The next local elections are scheduled to take place on **Thursday 4th May 2023** at which time all seats will become available for re-election.

The role of a Parish Council is to improve the quality of community life for their parish and its inhabitants. They can:

- Give views on behalf of their community on consultations, planning applications and other proposals that affect the parish;
- Undertake projects and schemes that benefit local residents;
- Work in partnership with other bodies to achieve benefits for the parish or alert them to problems or work that needs to be undertaken;

If you would like to find out more, please get in touch.

Volunteers:



The Parish Council has an active volunteer programme covering a range of initiatives including litter picking, traffic calming and management of our footpaths and green spaces. We actively encourage residents to help maintain the public space surrounding their property by helping to maintain the verges and footpaths in their locality.

The Parish Council has insurance which covers residents working on approved programmes if you have signed up to our volunteer programme and can also provide Hi Vis jackets, safety cones and a limited selection of hand tools. If you would like to join our team of volunteers, have a proposal for a project, or would like to find out more, please contact me at clerk@fownhopeparishcouncil.gov.uk.

Love Trees? Be a Tree Warden: Finally, we are still looking to fill our vacancy for a Volunteer Tree Warden. The main role will be to include giving advice on planning applications involving works to trees and being aware of the current status and condition of trees within the parish boundaries under the responsibility of the Parish Council, though the annual tree survey is carried out by a qualified local tree surgeon.

The Parish Council subscribe annually to the Herefordshire Tree Warden Network for support and advice.

So, if you love Fownhope and love trees and would like to volunteer to be the next Parish Tree Warden, please get in touch – we would welcome your support.

Dates for your diary:

- **Parish Council Meeting: Wednesday 1st March, 7pm, Pavilion**
- **Fownhope Community Saturday: Saturday 25th March, 2-4pm, Pavilion**
- **Tarmac Repair Works, Recreation Field, week commencing 3rd April**

Helen Tinson, Clerk
fownhopeclerk@hotmail.com
07989 066782