



Hello,

Unfortunately, we were unable to hold the meeting scheduled for the 5th July as the meeting would not have been quorate. The quorum is the minimum number of councillors required to attend a meeting; we are quorate at 4 but for a variety of reasons had only 3 able to attend.

We are scheduled instead to meet on the 12th July, which of course means that I am writing this ahead of the meeting. Therefore, I shall need to direct you to the draft minutes for any discussions and decisions which will have been uploaded onto the website by the time you read this.

Parish Council Vacancies:



Sadly, Cllr Stuart Eames has decided to step down from his role as both Chair of Fownhope Parish Council and as a Councillor.

Stuart has been a very engaged councillor for the past four years, chairing the Highways Working Group, in his role as Vice Chair and most recently taking on the Chair. He has put an enormous amount of time and effort into each of the roles he has taken on, including organising the Community Speed Watch teams, working with Herefordshire Council to coordinate our proposed traffic calming scheme and managing numerous maintenance projects throughout the village.

We have already expressed our gratitude to him for his contribution and I am sure full council will wish to endorse that at the next meeting. Stuart has kindly offered to complete a number of maintenance projects that were ongoing and is willing to continue managing the SIDs and CSW programme and we are pleased that we can continue to work together in some capacity.

However, this means that the Parish Council now has four vacancies and we are keen to fill these as quickly as possible.

I am delighted that one local resident is keen to be co-opted at the September meeting, but we are still looking for three more residents who feel they can offer some time to supporting the Parish and its residents.

The Parish Council is a busy, pro-active council - current projects include a circular Coronation walk, designed to take in the best bits of Fownhope; a traffic calming scheme funded by a grant awarded by Herefordshire Council, together with ongoing work with the B4224 Multi Parish Strategy Group; and an application for Quality Gold status of the

National Local Council Award Scheme, which demonstrates that a council is at the forefront of best practice and is achieving excellence in governance, community leadership and council development.

If you would like to join the team and help care for Fownhope and its residents, please get in touch – we do need you!!

Summer Bus to Ledbury



We are halfway through the summer bus service to Ledbury - the bus will run again on Friday 28th July (you might just get this in time) and Friday 25th August. The timetable is available on the noticeboard outside the West End Stores and on the noticeboard page of the website: <https://fownhopeparishcouncil.gov.uk/noticeboard>.

Please use the service to support it.

I have been asked whether it is possible to change the day of the Ledbury bus next year to coincide with market day in Ledbury. I have spoken to Nick Maddy Coaches and they would be able to consider a change to a Tuesday so I'd like to ask anyone who uses the bus to feedback whether they have a preference to stay with the fourth Friday or would wish to change to the fourth Tuesday of the summer months. Could you please email clerk@fownhopeparishcouncil.gov.uk with your comments? If there is sufficient support for a change, I shall present it to the Parish Council for consideration.

Giant Hogweed:



We are aware that there are small areas of Giant Hogweed in the village and with the support of the Wye Usk Foundation, local landowners and some local volunteers are trying to deal with them safely to prevent them from spreading. In the meantime though, please take extra care.

Signs like these have been positioned to warn of any areas that have been identified, but if you do make contact with the plant, you need to protect exposed skin from sunlight and wash with soap and water as soon as possible. Do not touch clothing that has been in contact with this plant.

Highways:

We are continuing to seek a progress report on the £175,000 Traffic Calming Scheme with Herefordshire Council and Balfour Beatty which is frustrating, but at a recent meeting of the B4224 Strategy Group, Officers for Herefordshire Council confirmed that the funding allocation is secure and will proceed. When I have more to report, I will certainly do so.

Data from the Speed Indicator Device continues to be monitored and is available on the website: <https://fownhopeparishcouncil.gov.uk/traffic-calming>

Environment:

We are continuing to run the Fownhope Community Saturday events with the last one on Saturday 24th June. The focus was on Recycling and Upcycling and we were delighted to welcome **The South Hereford Repair Café** who demonstrated some of the repairs they are able to carry out.

They have a team of repair experts who are handy with repairing:



- **toys**
- **household goods**
- **electrical appliances**
- **electronic equipment**
- **garden tools (excluding those with petrol engines)**
- **furniture and other wooden objects**
- **clothing and other textile repairs**

In addition, sharpener John provides a **tool sharpening** service for kitchen knives and garden implements such as loppers, secateurs and shears.

They can normally only tackle repairs that can be completed in the hall in a reasonable time – typically half an hour – and all repairs should be pre-booked. So, if you have a repair and would like to book a slot – you can do so by visiting their website:

<https://repaircafesouthhereford.org.uk/>

We were also delighted to welcome **Ginn Downes** who was demonstrating her beautiful embroidery inside the teepee.



Ginn offers a variety of **Creative Workshops and Sewing Sessions** tailored to your own experience and abilities. You can learn how to upcycle and alter clothes yourself, how to embroider or to learn as a complete beginner. To find out more information or to book a session, please go to her website: <http://www.ginnscreativeworkshops.co.uk/>

The next event will be on 23rd September when we'll be all about **Keeping Warm and Winterproofing**.

We'll be talking Winterproofing ideas and home energy and are organising Q&A with a combination of 'experts at our tables' and locals with experience who are happy to have informal chats about simple, accessible fixes for our homes, including keeping our bodies warm when our homes are cold; and information on available grants that may support households through the winter.

Environment Group Meetings:

The next meeting for the Environment Group will be on Tuesday 5th September at the Green Man. The meetings are open to anyone with an interest in the environment, so please do come along and join us. We start at 7pm and generally finish by 8.30pm.

Housing Support Fund Extended

HC's Talk Community Team have announced that residents struggling with essential living costs may be able to receive extra support through the Council.



“The Household Support Fund is available to help those in most need during the cost-of-living crisis, including people who have not been eligible for the other types of support the government has made available.

This extension to the fund provides immediate help for people, emergency support towards day to day living such as food, and energy bills for a limited time, as well as other essentials such as clothing and hygiene products.

To make the process as easy as possible, people can apply online, or phone our friendly Talk Community customer services team on 01432 383838.

For further information about who can apply and the application process, visit the Talk Community Directory website.”

Consultations:

Consultations are posted on the ‘Consultations’ page of our website and if this is of interest, you are currently able to respond to:

1) Woolhope Parish Council’s NDP Regulation 14 Consultation: open for comments until Tuesday 1st August. Download the documents from their website: <https://woolhope-pc.gov.uk>

2) Herefordshire Council’s Consultation on the Minerals and Waste Local Plan (MWLP) Main Modifications

A Minerals and Waste Local Plan (MWLP) is being prepared to guide mineral extraction and the management of waste in Herefordshire up to 2041 and beyond. As part of the process of preparing the MWLP, it is subject to an Examination in Public. Public hearings took place in November 2022 and the Inspectors advised that various amendments, known as ‘Main Modifications’, to the submitted MWLP are necessary to make it legally compliant and sound. You can find more information and respond to the survey on the HC website until 21st August:

<https://consultations.herefordshire.gov.uk/consultations/article/101/consultation-on-the-minerals-and-waste-local-plan-mwlp-main-modifications>

And finally, just a gentle reminder to keep an eye on the website for updates and information, or subscribe to my emailed newsletter if you don’t already receive it.

<https://fownhopeparishcouncil.gov.uk/>.

Dates for your diary:

- **Parish Council Meeting: Wednesday 12th July, 7pm, Pavilion**
- **Environment Group Meeting, Tuesday 5th September, 7pm, Green Man**
- **Parish Council Meeting: Wednesday 6th September, 7pm, Pavilion**
- **Fownhope Community Saturday Event, 23rd September, 2-4pm, Pavilion**

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