



Hello,

The Parish Council met on Wednesday 6th March. Here are some notes of interest but the full draft minutes are available to read on the website.

Ward Councillor Report:

The full report from the Ward Councillor can also be found on the website along with the minutes: <https://fownhopeparishcouncil.gov.uk/agendas-and-minutes>.

In brief, Herefordshire Council have secured additional funding which has been allocated in the 2024/25 budget as follows:

- £250,000 allocated to the Lengthsman Scheme;
- £250,000 to the Public Rights of Way network;
- £450,000 to a new drainage grant scheme;
- £10million for resurfacing the road network.

The roads and bypass strategy is due to be discussed during March.

New Hedge on FWB8 at Cherry Hill Rise:

Cllr Biggs continues to seek an answer to the change in planting scheme for the hedge along FWB8 from the new development at Cherry Hill Rise. A meeting is scheduled between all parties concerned to reach a resolution and we anticipate a further update at the next meeting.

Lengthsman:

We are looking to renew the Lengthsman contract for 2024/25. If this is a role that interests you, please contact me via email at clerk@fownhopeparishcouncil.gov.uk.

Planning:

Herefordshire Council will be launching the new Local Plan consultation from 25th March to 20th May – please look out for more information and the link to respond to the consultation in due course. Two representatives from the Parish Council will be attending a webinar before the official launch to learn how the new plan will affect Fownhope.

Neighbourhood Development Plan Review:

The Parish Council have been advised that Fownhope's Neighbourhood Development Plan will need to be reviewed once the draft Local Plan has been published in order to maintain weight. To that end, we shall be hosting an initial consultation event at the Fownhope New Memorial Hall during the afternoons of Saturday 30th March and Sunday 31st March.

The Planning Group will be at the Memorial Hall on both days between 2pm and 5pm and invite you to come along to give your feedback.

Defibrillator Training:

We shall shortly be organising another defibrillator training session and invite you to get in touch to register your interest if this is something you would like to attend. We shall hold the event on a Saturday morning - date tbc – and will publish the date in the next Flag, on the website, Facebook page and emailed newsletter. If you haven't signed up yet to receive the newsletter on email, you can do so via the website: www.fownhopeparishcouncil.gov.uk.

Training is usually focused on familiarising users with the defibrillator and teaching the latest guidance on CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation).

Annual Parish Meeting:

We shall be holding the Annual Parish Meeting on Sunday 19th May at 6pm at the Pavilion. In addition to the regular annual reports, we shall be inviting a speaker to talk about our Dark Skies and how they impact the Wye Valley National Landscape. More information will be forthcoming in due course but for the moment, please save the date and come along to join us.

Community Service Award and Sports Award

Nominations are being invited for the annual Community Service and Sports Awards. The awards are given to parishioners who have made a difference in any aspect of village life, whether in leisure, sport, village clubs, church or business, or in helping to maintain our beautiful parish, or supporting others in any capacity.

We are asking you to nominate deserving parishioners and, to do so, to please complete a Nomination Form (available from the website, the Shop at Coe Corner or the West End Stores) and either deliver it to the Councillors named on the form or to myself (details on the form) in a sealed envelope addressed to 'Community Awards'.

Nominations are also sought for the Fownhope Sports Award recognising persistence and dedication in any sport and is open to all ages.

There is no limit to the number of people who may be recognised but nominations must reach the Council Awards Group by 26th April 2024. The Awards will be given at the Annual Parish Meeting on Sunday 19th May

Parish Council Vacancies:

Finally, we still have vacancies on the Parish Council which we are keen to fill to enable the PC to run at full capacity. Please get in touch if you'd like to find out more.

Dates for your diary:

- **Parish Council Meeting: 3rd April, 7pm, Pavilion**

Helen Tinson, Clerk
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