


**CLERK'S INFORMATION SHEET FOR
THE MEETING OF MARDEN PARISH COUNCIL ON 9 MARCH 2020**

- 4.1 West Mercia Police Safer Neighbourhood Team – PS Gareth King, PC Bart McDonagh, PCSO Skye Jenkins

Get in touch

 **101** to talk to your local SNT/report a crime

 herefordrn.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

 www.westmercia.police.uk

 /  @HerefordCops

Only call 999 in an emergency, when a crime is in progress or life is in danger. If you would prefer to report a crime anonymously please contact West Mercia CRIMESTOPPERS 0800 555 111. For all non emergency reports please call 101. For all other enquiries please email herefordrn.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

- 4.2. **Re: Extensive Flooding in Herefordshire**

The council has set up a new **Community Relief Scheme**, which will offer up to £500 for eligible affected properties and up to £2,500 eligible affected businesses. Applications are now open and those who are entitled to make an application are being encourage to do so. **Council tax relief and Business rate relief** is available for properties affected by the recent floods.

Resilience Grant Properties and business can apply for up to £5,000 to help make them more resilient to future flooding. Herefordshire Council is currently finalising the details of this grant with Central Government – for further information please visit the Herefordshire Council website.

Help with removing flood damaged items Herefordshire Council are providing a free service to collect flood damaged household items from outside residents' houses. For more information or to apply, please visit the Herefordshire Council website.

Sutton Walls Ward Highways – currently there are three road closures in place as follows:

- 1) **Haywood Lane C1122**
- 2) **Moreton Road to Marden C1120**
- 3) **On Bend at Small Ashes on C1125**

Indeed, there are ongoing drainage problems at Old School House junction with C1120, on bend at Small Ashes on C1125 and on village road C1126 Sutton St. Nicholas – all these drainage problems I am following up with the Drainage Team and I have requested information on how these matters are going to be resolved and when.

Please view Herefordshire Council website for the latest updates www.herefordshire.gov.uk/dennis For further information call the Environment Agency's Floodline **0345 988 1188** for recorded flood warning information in your area or speak to an operator for advice 24 hours a day and follow @EnvAgency on twitter. To monitor flood warnings and alerts for your area or to sign up for flood warnings visit www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings

- 8.1 Work in February: Grit bin check – 4 damaged bins reported online by Clerk; drain tops and grips checked and cleared as required through village.

Response from Knowledge Centre Manager, 19.2.20:

Good to hear that your parish drive arounds are still proving useful.

Due to the significant rainfall and numerous flooding events we have experienced over the last few months our drainage teams are extremely busy with a large number of enquiries across the county. We regret that this has meant that we have not been able to provide updates in all cases where an enquiry has been raised by the locality steward. Our drainage technician for your area currently has approximately 70 open cases which contrasts to a normal workload of 5-15 cases.

The flooding events have had a significant impact on the network with a total of 174 roads closed due to being submerged in flood waters – not to mention impact on the PROW network. In the aftermath, our stewards have found and continue to find during their cyclic inspections many other additional locations of damage including significant safety related carriage defects, landslips, bridge parapet tree impacts, road erosion and undermining related defects, all of which must be visited by our drainage technician. This was all before the flooding this weekend.

As a result of the flooding we have not been able to attend the site as yet but would be happy to provide an update. Due to this increase in workload, it would not be the best use of our drainage technician time to attend the parish council meeting.

Lengthsman and P3 Expression of Interest Form – PCs required to join scheme if going to employ a Lengthsman or P3 contractor, even though no funding is available. The following information is included on Expression of Interest Form – 'Please note, we have been advised by Herefordshire Council that there is likely to be additional funding available to parishes for Lengthsman **drainage** work. Early indications are that up to a few thousand pounds will be available to each parish. Parishes will be able to claim this once evidence of spending has been provided. We will send further information about this separately when more details become available.'

Prices for work in 2020-21 by current Lengthsman: Hourly rate £20/man hr, as current year; digger work £420/day to include hire of digger/diesel and labour x2 men, as current year; mowing/strimming of designated areas £75/visit, as current year; spraying of designated areas £320/application, increase from £190 current year.

Agreed schedule of work for 2020-21 as below, decisions needed about weed spraying and digger work to clear grips:

January – No work

February – Strim round grit bins and remove rubbish from inside as required; Check Drain Tops and Grips through parish (Small Ashes down to School House and all village roads, Burmarsh, Litmarsh, Sutton Lakes, The Vauld, Venns Green, The Vern), clear as required

March – Splays and Signs – safety cuts & clean up (complete by 31st March); 1st mow; Strim/cut either side Laystone Bridge

April – Mow x2; Check Drain Tops and Grips through parish, clear as required; First application of Weed Control (**If PC decide to continue with this**)

May – Mow x2; P3 strim/cut circular path; Strim/cut either side Laystone Bridge; Splays and Signs – safety cuts & clean up (Check for Nesting Birds)

June – Mow x2; P3 strim/cut circular path; Check Drain Tops and Grips through parish, clear as required; Strim/cut either side Laystone Bridge

July – Mow x2; Splays and Signs – safety cuts & clean up (Check for Nesting Birds); P3 strim/cut circular path; Strim/cut either side Laystone Bridge

August – Mow x2; Check Drain Tops and Grips through parish, clear as required; P3 strim/cut circular path; Strim/cut either side Laystone Bridge

September – Mow x2; Splays and Signs – safety cuts & clean up (Check for Nesting Birds)

October - Mow x1 (Final for Season); P3 strim/cut circular path (Final for season); Strim/cut either side Laystone Bridge; Second application of Weed Control (**If PC decide to continue with this**); Strim round grit bins and remove rubbish from inside as required; Cut grips with digger throughout parish (**If PC decide to continue with this**)

November – No work

December – Check Drain Tops and Grips through parish, clear as required

- 8.2 I have been unable to make progress identifying landowners for MR32 & MR18A and Marden Court Farm has declined my request for gates instead of stiles on the upper part of MR24 and MR45 to the church. Sadly given my lack of time to do a good job I am happy with, communication issues and lack of interest/response from the questionnaire, I feel it is time for me to step down. I can remain in post until end of April if required until a replacement is found.
- 8.3 Donation of £261 received from Fundraising Group from enjoyable Quiz Night. £490.10 received from Group from Italian Night, which was very well attended with almost 60 people enjoying their pasta meal and very well received by those at the event.
- 8.5 Hereford Music Shop advise same make as previously considered, QTX QX. 2 options suggested:
- 10 inch speaker UHF, with 1x hand held radio microphone, £199 inc. VAT – could have a wireless head worn microphone (approx. £40) as well but cannot use both at once.
 - Or 12 inch UHF, with 1x hand held microphone and 1x head worn microphone, £225 inc. VAT.
- 8.6 The landowner has been served with an Environmental Improvement Notice to remove some items from the site. This will be monitored by the Community Protection team of Environmental Health. However, the landowner has a U1 Exemption from the Environment Agency that allows him to take hard core etc to his site.
- 8.7 Although lower branches of tree snagging flagpole used by school have been pruned, the higher branches have not. 6ft clearance above and around in every direction is needed. Flagpole used by PC, halliard is stuck at top of flagpole. Last repair of flagpoles was in December 2017 when both poles were serviced, one lock was repaired, with labour and mileage, cost was £390. Both flagpoles will ne needed for VE75 commemorations in early May.
10. Clerk will be using new laptop for both parishes, working from a separate external hard drive for each parish. This will increase data protection and be easier for the Clerk than running 2 laptops as currently, with Marden PC work on own laptop. Current 2TB hard drive will continue as storage for backups. New smaller hard drive required for every day working, 1TB Western Digital drive available from Argos for £39.99 on 1.3.20.
11. **Correspondence – significant items received as follows:**
- From parishioners –
- Email offering help for clean-up of church
 - Email re flagpoles
- From other sources –
- From Herefordshire Council (HC) – Multiple emails re flooding, recovery and grants available
 - From Police and Crime Commissioner – Road safety strategy
 - From River Lugg Board – Requesting data on flooded properties in RLIDB area
 - From HC – County Plan 2020-24
 - From HC – Parish Council Summit 2 April
 - From Balfour Beatty – Highways Maintenance Scrutiny Review
 - From S&A – re problems with Spanish lorry drivers opening flood gates and ignoring signage, also damaging car in village
 - From MobileUK.org – re 5G health and network
 - From HC – Coronavirus update

Alison Sutton – Parish Clerk.

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Marden Parish Clerk takes no responsibility for the accuracy of reports submitted for inclusion in this briefing sheet