


CLERK'S INFORMATION SHEET FOR
THE MEETING OF MARDEN PARISH COUNCIL ON 26 MAY 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. **Herefordshire Council – Virtual Meetings**

Herefordshire Council is now set to conduct its public committees as virtual meetings that can be viewed live online, following a recent change in legislation due to COVID-19. Until now it was not possible for any English local authority to hold public meetings without members physically present in a council committee room; the legal rules were changed on 4th April 2020, in order to take account of the social distancing protocols currently in place.

The first virtual meetings included the Cabinet meeting on 30th April, the Audit & Governance Committee on 5th May and the Planning & Regulatory Committee on 12th May.

The new format will allow committee members to meet 'virtually', and for members of the public to watch via their smartphone, tablet or personal computer. This service will temporarily replace the audio-minute service while the public health emergency measures remain in place.

Details about the new meeting format can be found at Herefordshire.gov.uk/virtualcommittees

Hereford & Leominster Household Recycling Centres opened on 9th May 2020

Herefordshire Council have reopened **Hereford and Leominster** Household Recycling Centres for **essential use only**. They are open from 8.00am to 6.00pm every day.

Government guidance will be followed to ensure these sites can safely operate, and strict social distancing measures will be implemented to protect both the public and staff. Only limited numbers of vehicles will be permitted entry at any time, hence long queues and delays are likely.

If you are able, take additional measures to protect yourself and others such as using gloves, disinfectant and sanitary wipes.

Anyone who is self-isolating due to Covid-19 symptoms must not visit a household recycling centre.

Herefordshire Council also continues to offer a bulky item collection service. Please call 01432 260051 to make a booking.

For more information please visit www.herefordshire.gov.uk/recyclecentres

Update from - NHS England and NHS Improvement Midlands

RE: ACCESSING DENTAL SERVICES IN THE WEST MIDLANDS – COVID-19

In line with national guidance issued in response to the Covid-19 pandemic dental practices in the West Midlands are currently closed for routine "face to face" dental appointments.

People seeking help with dental problems should phone their normal practice or contact NHS 111 for advice. Most practices are offering telephone or video-link consultations and can prescribe pain killers and antibiotics if needed. They will also be able to refer those patients in need of urgent treatment to a service where they can be seen.

*People seeking help should **not** visit A&E departments or GP surgeries for dental care.*

Life under lockdown archive

Life under Lockdown is a joint project between Herefordshire Council and the Hereford Times to capture how the coronavirus lockdown has affected everyday life in the county.

To submit photos to this Herefordshire History archive please use the online form

<https://herefordshirehistory.org.uk/contribute> or tag the photo with #lifeunderlockdownHT on social media.

A collection from the pictures will be kept for posterity on herefordshirehistory.org.uk

I would like to add my heartfelt thanks to all NHS staff and keyworkers continuing to provide our essential services during the Covid-19 pandemic. In addition, many thanks to all the dedicated volunteers and community groups looking after the vulnerable and shielded.

With all good wishes to everyone during these difficult times - Stay safe & well

- 9.1 Work in April: Mowing x2.

Designated areas for mowing by Lengthsman, currently mown twice a month:

Area No. 1:

Triangle of grass in road on road junction from Marden to Moreton-on-Lugg by Old School House. Grass verge on bend of the junction. Long grass verge under newly planted hedge which has road signs placed within verge

Area No. 2:

Mowing of grass verge from the bridge running over the brook on left to the brick wall leading up to the Church (this does NOT include the war memorial as this has always been done by someone else)

Area No. 3:

Patch grass opposite Volunteer Inn which has the bus stop located on it

Area No. 4:

All of the grass verge leading from the School past the Shop to the farm entrance on the right

Area No. 5:

Small grass verge to the right of the junction to aid visibility looking down the road towards Sutton St. Nicholas

~~Large area of grass opposite road junction adjoining the Sutton St. Nicholas to Bodenham road~~ No longer mown as agreed with Herefordshire Wildlife Trust. Will be mown twice a year by Balfour Beatty.

- 9.6 In 2018 NALC gave a legal opinion to all councils that considered the conflicting legal position in the Local Government Act 1894 and the Local Government Act 1972. The conflicting positions are whether councils are prohibited from being involved in the property relating to the affairs of the church eg. maintenance or improvement of building or land or contributing to the costs (as set out in the 1894 Act) or whether a council is permitted to maintain a closed churchyard (as in the 1972 Act). NALC considered that grants to maintain church property are prohibited under the 1894 Act.

NALC summarised as follows: There is no case law to resolve the question of whether or not the 1894 Act restrictions override the provisions of later Acts of Parliament and that ultimately the courts will have to decide. This would be expensive and time-consuming. Parliament could clarify in new legislation but does not consider it is required as it's view is that the 1894 Act provisions do not override the provisions of later Acts. **Whilst there is no consensus on this issue, a council that considers making a payment in these circumstances needs to consider whether it is prudent to take a course of action that it cannot be certain is legally valid.** This opinion was confirmed in a further document from NALC in December 2019, following a document from ChurchCare which stated that councils are not prohibited from awarding funding to churches.

Marden Parish Council has previously given £1,150 to Marden PCC annually towards the maintenance of the closed churchyard but ceased doing so following the NALC legal advice. Following representations from Marden PCC, in March 2020, the parish council agreed in principle to give the PCC a grant for the maintenance of the closed churchyard as previously and requested details on the annual cost of maintenance for this area and the breakdown of costs involved. These have been provided as follows, using a summary of the last 4 years' costs:

Mowing £4,529

Tree work £2,640

TOTAL £7,169 giving an average cost of £1,792 per annum.

10. **Correspondence – significant items received as follows:**

From parishioners –

- Letter re flooding and S&A lorries
- Email re enforcement issue in Litmarsh
- Emails re S&A workers and social distancing
- Email from PCC Treasurer – re breakdown of maintenance costs for closed churchyard
- Email re gifting of land for new Community Centre and village green
- Emails and phone calls re current planning applications

From other sources –

- From Herefordshire Council (HC) – various emails re Covid 19
- From various sources – emails re Covid 19
- From S&A – various emails and phone calls re management of Covid 19 social distancing and working practice
- From Power For People – re Local Electricity Bill to empower local communities to sell locally generated clean energy directly to local customers by establishing a statutory Right to Local Supply
- From HC – S38 plan for NHF application
- From Age UK Hereford and Worcester – request for grant
- From HC – re letter sent to residents who received flood recovery funding
- From police – Crime Prevention newsletter from Rural Crime team
- From Orphans – quotes for accessibility and upgrade work

Important items sent

- Letter to parishioner re flooding and S&A lorries
- Emails to HC – re correct plan for S38 agreement for NHF
- Emails to Orphans re website work
- Multiple emails and phone calls re above matters

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