

Abbeydore & Bacton Group Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of
Abbeydore and Bacton Group Parish Council
held in Abbeydore Village Hall on Tuesday 5th November 2019

No ABPC/MW/101

Present

Councillor Mr D Watkins Chairman
Councillor Mr T Murcott Vice - Chairman
Councillor Mr D Bannister
Councillor Mrs A Booth
Councillor Mr D Cook
Councillor Mr R Fenton
Councillor Mr M Jenkins

Clerk Mr M Walker

Also Present

Golden Valley South Ward Councillor Mr Peter Jinman {arrived late due to other commitments}
PCSO Pete Knight and five further members of the public

The Parish Council Meeting was formally opened by the Chairman at 7.30pm

1.0 Apologies for Absence

Apologies received and accepted from Councillor Mrs W Gunn
Parish Lengthsman/Contractor Mr Terry Griffiths and Locality Steward Mr Paul Norris not present

2.0 Minutes

The Minutes of the Ordinary Group Parish Council Meeting No ABPC/MW/100 held on Tuesday 3rd September 2019 were unanimously confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman

3.0 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

3.1 To receive any declarations of interest in agenda items from Councillors
No Declarations of Interest were made

3.2 To consider any written applications for dispensation
There were no written applications for dispensation made

The Parish Council resolved to change the order of business at this time to Item 7.2

7.0 To Receive Reports (if available) from:-

7.2 West Mercia Police

PCSO Pete Knight Safer Neighbourhood Team reported on the following:-

Roger Bradley had retired after 30 years service

PC Jeff Rouse has taken over the area with 17 years experience

Reported crime remains low due to the community being resilient

White vans touting for scrap

Possibly five stolen lambs from Bacton area but four had returned, one still missing

Lighting up campaign making houses look like they are occupied e. g. time switches for lights etc.

Increase in burglaries

Property marking with Smartwater plus free "over marking"

Stop That Thief and NFU – assessment of security / alarms / cameras etc. contact Police

101 number for non-emergencies

The Parish Council resumed the correct order of business to Item 4.0



4.0 Financial Report

4.1 Receipts

Herefordshire Council 2nd Part Precept reference 2697824 £4,600.00
BACS payment 18/09/2019

4.2 Payments

Clerk's Salary September 2019 Gross £360.04
Mileage £6.98
Postage £1.67
TAX £72.00 NIC £0.00
Nett Pay £296.69
Cheque Number 000867
HMR&C 2nd Quarter Payment July August September £216.00
Cheque Number 000868
Clerk's Salary October 2019 Gross £360.04
Mileage £4.50
Postage £0.70 pence
TAX £72.00 NIC £0.00
Nett Pay £293.24
Cheque Number 000869
Terry Griffiths Contracts TGC0921 £436.80
Cheque Number 000870

Worksheet Roads Account October 2019 (1).Red Invoice No TGC0921

Description of work carried out: Routine Maintenance Work

Clear grids and clean out road gully's

Jet connecting pipes

Clear road culverts and jet

Check inspection pits

Clear ditch headwalls

Clear grips and reform leads

Clear minor obstruction from ditches and reform leads

Clean off road signs

Clear minor storm debris off roads

Strim round grit bins and road signs

Strim verges on bends junction splays & areas regularly used by pedestrians & no footway is present

Roads covered on this visit

C1209 From B4347 to parish boundary

C1212 From B4347 to C1225

C1225 From C1212 to Jury Bridge

Materials Marker spray

Notes C1209 Brooklands Cottage Area. Confirming aged notification of road defect

On the north side verge from Brooklands Cottage there are two road drainage inspection chambers.

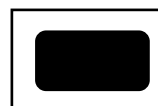
These chambers have concrete slab covers one of which has been damaged by vehicles using the flat verge as a passing area.

We have notified this defect some time ago and no action has been taken by BBLP on our request that these covers be replaced by metal covers.

There is a potential for damage to vehicles and injury to pedestrian walking the verge should these covers collapse especially if the verge is left overgrown and the covers become camouflaged by the long grass,

We have strimmed around both cover to make them more visible and put a cone over the cracked one.

The location of the defect areas have been marked on the road with red marker spray



The Clerk read the following:-

“Payments to church yard maintenance The Clerk reported that National Association of Local Councils (NALC) had put out guidance saying that there was a lack of clarity between the 1894 Local Government Act (which prohibits Parish Councils to contribute to the upkeep of church assets) and the 1972 and 2011 Local Government Acts which appear to allow this; NALCs view being that it was illegal for Parish Councils to make any kind of donation to Churches or to the upkeep of churchyards (except closed churchyards).

The Clerk had approached the Clerk’s professional body Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC), their advice being that this should be discussed with the Parish Council, giving them the NALC advice and letting them make a balanced judgement. The SLCC felt that as long as the Parish Council could show they had considered the issue and could give the reasons why they have come to the conclusion they had, then there should be no problem in continuing to support the maintenance of the churchyard.

Resolved: The NALC view was noted. The Chairman asked for a vote and was agreed to continue contributing to the upkeep of both The Dore Abbey & Bacton Church churchyards. It noted that if any other requests were made from religious organisations or groups within the Parish these would be discussed openly and un-discriminately considered as and when they occurred”

*Dore Community Transport ABPC06/11/19 Cheque No 000871	£150.00
*Abbeydore Village Hall ABPC06/11/19 Cheque No 000872	£90.00
*Bacton Village Hall ABPC06/11/19 Cheque No 000873	£80.00
*Dore Abbey PCC ABPC06/11/19 Cheque No 000874	£140.00
*Bacton PCC ABPC06/11/19 Cheque No 000875	£120.00

Unanimously resolved to make donations to the above *

Proposed by Councillor Mr T Murcott Vice – Chairman and Seconded by Councillor Mr M Jenkins

*Explanation letter to be included with donation

Clerk’s Salary November 2019 Gross	£360.04
Mileage	£6.98
Postage	£6.37
TAX £72.00 NIC £0.00	
Nett Pay £301.39	
Cheque Number 000876	

Plusnet 22 nd September 2019 Invoice No 00002674174-017 (DD payment)	£29.98
Plusnet 22 nd October 2019 Invoice No 00002674174-018 (DD payment)	£29.98

Resolved unanimously that all payments are approved

4.3 Bank Balance as per Bank Statement @ 4 th October 2019 No 62 Business Bank Deposit Account	£13,063.00
Bank Reconciliation to agree with Internet Printed Bank Statement 02/11/2019 £13,063.54 and signed by the Chairman	
Bank Balance as per Bank Statement @ 4 th October 2019 No 19 Treasurers Current Account	£10,107.76
Bank Reconciliation to agree with Internet Printed Bank Statement 02/11/2019 £9,565.09 and signed by the Chairman	

{ Finance Sheets given to all Parish Councillors present }



4.4 Bank Mandate – Amendment Confirmed

Councillor Mr D Watkins Chairman, Councillor Mr T Murcott Vice – Chairman, Councillor Mr D Cook and Councillor Mrs W Gunn are all now Bank Cheque Signatories.

Mrs Margaret Jenkins and Mr Bill Millington and have now been removed

4.5 To consider Website Premium Upgrade

The Parish Council resolved unanimously for the Clerk to upgrade the Website so as to remove unwanted advertisements. Approximately £85.00 per annum

Proposed by Councillor Mr D Cook and Seconded by Councillor Mr T Murcott Vice - Chairman

4.6 Budget 2020-2021 for Consideration

The Clerk produced the Draft 2020-2021 Budget, which the Parish Council considered and approved as presented

Proposed by Councillor Mr T Murcott Vice - Chairman and Seconded by Councillor Mr D Cook

4.7 To set Precept for the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year

The Parish Council unanimously agreed the Precept for 2020-2021 at £9,200.00 the same as 2019-2020

Proposed by Councillor Mr D Cook and Seconded by Councillor Mrs Ann Booth
Information now to be sent to Herefordshire Council

5.0 Public Question Time

A 10 minute period is to be allocated if required to facilitate any member of the public to address the assembled Parish Councillors

The Parish Council had received a letter from a local resident reference Cwm Pitch drainage
Mrs Barbara Lloyd expanded on the letter

The Parish Council unanimously resolved for the Clerk to contact the Locality Steward Mr Paul Norris of Balfour Beatty for a site meeting with Mrs Barbara Lloyd, Councillor Mrs Ann Booth and the Clerk when convenient to all.

The Parish Council resolved to change the order of business at this time to Items 11.0 and 8.0

11.0 Planning Application

Planning Application 193601 Huntsman Cottage, Abbeydore Hereford HR2 0AD

Proposed two storey side extension

Resolved:- Unanimously to support the application as presented

Proposed by Councillor Mr T Murcott Vice - Chairman and Seconded by Councillor Mrs A Booth

8.0 Abbeydore Village Hall Constitution

To review proposed Village Hall Constitution amendments

Proposed Village Hall Constitution approved by the Parish Council with the Clerk making the necessary amendments plus Section “O” update of Trustees required on the Charity Website.

The Parish Council are the owners of Abbeydore Village Hall

The Management Committee being responsible for the day to day running of Abbeydore Village Hall
Copies to be sent to Trustees

The Parish Council resumed the correct order of business to Item 6.0

6.0 Neighbourhood Plan Update Related Issues Update

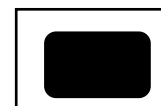
The three parishes (Abbeydore & Bacton, Kentchurch and Ewyas Harold) will meet as and when required. Councillor Mr T Murcott will represent Abbeydore & Bacton Group Parish Council at any meetings. Items to include:- Pontrilas Railway Station, Dore Abbey improvements.

cc email to Councillor Mr D Cook

Parish Councillor Mr Nic Eynon had been nominated as Representative for the Kilpeck Parish Council.

Councillor Mr T Murcott Vice – Chairman reported that Herefordshire Council will be updating their Core Strategy soon.

Then Neighbourhood Development Plan update information will be received from Sam Banks Planning Officer Herefordshire Council but for now the Plan is on hold.



Mr Peter Jinman, Mr Clive Stainton, Monmouthshire County Council and Herefordshire Council are all co-operating reference Pontrilas Parkway Station.

7.0 To Receive Reports (if available) from:-

7.1 Golden Valley South Ward Councillor Mr Peter Jinman

Not arrived as yet, travelling back from London

7.2 West Mercia Police

See item 3.0

7.3 Parish Footpaths

AD 12A New Brook Farm – a new kissing gate has been installed and the footpath has a new bridge over the river due to the Ramblers intervention

Neither the Parish Council or the Clerk had any knowledge of the installation

Finger Posts required at either end of Footpath plus information regarding Footpath improvements

Clerk to contact Locality Steward Mr Paul Norris

7.3i Officer Vacancy

Councillor Mr T Murcott to contact Mr Joe Rumer with A3 map

7.4 Locality Steward Report Mr Paul Norris

Information sent to Parish Councillors by email

Potholes Cockyard – Thrupton require re-filling

7.5 Terry Griffiths Lengthsman

Terry Griffiths not present

Clerk to instruct Lengthsman works to be put on hold for the time being

9.0 Broadband Update

To receive update from Councillor Toby Murcott

Councillor Mr T Murcott reported on the following:-

Fastershire meeting, progress is slow but in the right direction possible two years before completion

10.0 Local Communications

Local communications with parishioners

Councillor Mr T Murcott Vice – Chairman to update/edit policy again

Agenda item for the next full Parish Council meeting

Ward Councillor Mr Peter Jinman arrived and reported on the following:-

Flooding had been a challenge in Ewyas Harold, Kentchurch, at The Rectory Abbeydore and the path leading to Dore Abbey

The constant water is destroying the roads

Pontrilas Parkway Station meeting next week with Cross Border co-operation

Broadband is progressing slowly – 2 companies are interested

Herefordshire Council Budget Setting – wider consultations required

Highways – Southern Link Road and Proposed Western By-pass on hold

Neighbourhood Development Plans reviews to take place

The Charity Commission are now involved with Ewyas Harold Common but the water supply is still an issue for some residents

12.0 Information Sheet

Sheet to include update on previous action points and a list of correspondence received

Planning Result

16th August 2019

Planning Application 192815 Llanderwyn Kerry's Gate Hereford HR2 0AH
Proposed two storey rear extension to dwelling

Planning Permission Granted 25th October 2019

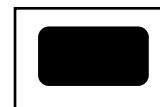
13th September 2019

Application No 193161 Land North of Minns Close Tump Wood Cwm Hill Farm
Abbeydore Hereford HR2 0AB

Proposed agricultural building

Agricultural and Forestry Buildings and Operations

Prior Approval is Not Required 9th October 2019



11th April 2019

Application No 191100 Huntsmans Cottage Abbeydore Hereford HR2 0AD
Retention of a mobile home by a dependent family member

Still Valid

Correspondence

20th September 2019

Herefordshire Council – Parish Council Summit

Working Together for the Well-Being of our Communities

Councillor Mr Toby Murcott Vice – Chairman and Councillor Mrs Wendy Gunn attended

22nd October 2019

Herefordshire Council

Decision to review Major Transport Infrastructure Projects {enclosed}

[October 2019 Golden Valley Safer Neighbourhood Team \(SNT\) Newsletter](#)

Your team, based at Peterchurch. PC 3687 Jeff Rouse 07870150972 jeff.rouse@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

PCSO 6378 Pete Knight 07773 053919 peter.knight@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

PCSO 6173 Fiona Witcher 07773 054582 fiona.witcher@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

News from the Nick As you can see from the front of the newsletter, PC Jeff Rouse has now joined the team, and has penned a few words of introduction.

Hi all. It's fantastic to have finally arrived on the patch after having been informed that I was 'the lucky one' a couple of months ago! Neighbourhood policing is a new challenge for me, with the vast majority of my 17 years with West Mercia Police having been spent on response units across the county. I feel privileged to have the opportunity to work in this beautiful part of the county and look forward to meeting you in the coming weeks and months.

[Crime Trends 1st - 30th September 2019](#) A locked gate leading from a farm track into a field at a farm in [Clehonger](#) was damaged by a vehicle that had been driven through sometime in the week leading up to 4th September. It is thought that poachers caused the damage at night Incident ref 358-s-040919

An unoccupied property in [Lulham, Madley](#), was broken into sometime between Friday 6th September and Monday 9th September but nothing was taken due to the fact that the house was almost empty of property Incident ref 233-s-090919

A silver Ford Fusion motor vehicle was broken into whilst parked in the car park of the Co operative Stores in [Cusop](#) between 4pm - 5pm on Tuesday 10th September. A handbag containing cash and credit cards and a mobile phone was stolen Incident ref 790-s-100919

A garden shed at a property in [Cockyard](#) was broken into between 12 noon and 2.30pm on Thursday 12th September. A Stihl petrol strimmer, a chainsaw and a hedge trimmer were stolen.

The same shed was re-visited by thieves between 9am and 5pm a few days later, on Monday 16th September, when three pedal cycles were stolen, and a battery hedge trimmer Incident refs 498-s-120919 & 619-s-160919

Suspicious Vehicles We have had several reports about a white Ford flatbed PN**WCC calling at properties and farms in the Longtown area on Thursday 19th and again on Monday 23rd September.

There were two males in the vehicle asking for scrap and being quite rude when turned away.

A patrol was in the area at the time but did not locate the vehicle; letters have been sent to the keeper asking for production of their Waste Carriers Licence - it's doubtful that they have one - always ask for one if they call on you! Incident ref 214-s-190919

A Mitsubishi L200 WP**LGK containing three males was seen driving slowly around the [Blakemere](#) area around 10pm on Tuesday 24th September - they were challenged by a local farmer when found at the entrance to his farm, the passenger had a large 'lamping' light on his lap, they were sent on their way. We have sent letters to the owners of the vehicle advising them their vehicle is now on our 'hot list' due to being involved in poaching activities and not to return to the area Incident ref 787-s-240919

We do have the full registration number of these vehicles but are restricted by Data Protection laws from publishing them in full.

Scam News Warning issued by Action Fraud regarding Thomas Cook 'refund' scams are on the rise

Members of the public have reported receiving calls and messages offering "refunds" by people purporting to be associated with, or acting on behalf of Thomas Cook.

We would urge people to be vigilant of unsolicited calls, texts or social media messages that ask for personal or financial details, and not to automatically click on the links in unexpected emails.

Legitimate organisations will never contact you out of the blue and ask for your PIN, card details, or full banking passwords. If you get a call or message asking for these, it's a scam.

Remember, your bank or the police will never ask you to transfer money out of your account, or ask you to hand over cash for safe-keeping.



If you think you have been a victim of fraud, report it to Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or via the online reporting tool. <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/alert/warning-thomas-cook-refund-scams>

For more information on how you can protect yourself, visit takefive-stopfraud.org.uk

Thomas Cook customers should go to <https://abta.com/thomascook> for details on how they can make a claim.

Door to Door sales and bogus trades people We have been made aware of some door to door selling in Peterchurch recently. This is a timely reminder that although many door to door sales people are genuine, unfortunately many are not and will seek to take advantage of you. The below gives some advice on what to do should you be visited by a door to door sales person

What does this type of fraud involve? Legitimate doorstep selling involves someone selling you goods or services in your home or on your doorstep. Many honest businesses use this technique - but so do fraudsters. Buying on your doorstep can be convenient. But a salesperson using clever tactics can pressurise you into buying something you don't want or something that is poor value for money. Door-to-door frauds can take many forms, such as:

- Pressure selling
- Unfair contracts
- Overpriced or substandard home maintenance or improvements
- Phoney consumer surveys
- Bogus charity collections.

How do these types of fraud affect me? Having purchased, or agreed to purchase, goods or services from a legitimate salesperson, your chances of receiving a refund may be limited if you fail to cancel the contract inside any cooling off period. Once the cooling off period has expired, you will have to pay for the goods or services you bought - whether you want them or not.

Having purchased goods or services, you may find the same salesperson or other salespeople call or visit you again and again. That's because you will be marked as an easy target for future sales if your name ends up on a list of willing buyers.

Bogus salespeople will provide false identity or contact information, making it impossible for you to identify or contact them. If you have paid them in advance, you will not get any money back.

When filling in forms or speaking to the salesperson, you risk revealing confidential details that a fraudster could use to assume your identity or take control of your finances. This may allow a fraudster to steal money from your account or order goods and services in your name.

Even if your bank or insurance policy covers any loss, you will still have to contend with a damaged credit rating, continued correspondence over a prolonged period to repair the damage, and the emotional distress and anxiety identity theft can cause.

Apart from suffering direct financial losses, you might have opened your door to a burglar or someone who wants to get inside your property to enable other people to break in. Once they get through your door, fraudulent salespeople will take note of your valuables and any security measures you have in place.

What should I do? When dealing with any door-to-door salesperson, always remember to:

- Check the seller's identity
- Take control by asking the questions
- Don't sign on the spot, shop around
- If in any doubt, ask the person to leave or call your local Trading Standards Authority.

If you're suspicious, why not ask the salesperson if you can take their photograph - on your mobile phone, for example? If the person is legitimate, they probably won't mind.

If you decide to buy:

- Don't be rushed into a sale

- Usually, you have a seven-day cooling off period. So if you decide to cancel the contract, act fast
- Think very carefully about having any work done or goods delivered during the cooling off period. You may have to pay even if you change your mind.

You can report the salesperson to your local Trading Standards Authority if you believe they have sold you faulty, inferior or overpriced products or services.

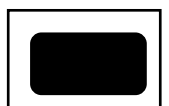
Similarly, you can seek advice from the Citizens Advice Bureau on terms and conditions of any agreement or contract you may have signed.

If you have made the payment by credit/debit card or by cheque, contact your credit card company and/or bank and advise them that you are a victim of improper door-to-door sales techniques and your identity or financial details may have been compromised.

They will advise you on cancelling payments and ensuring your finances remain secure.

And finally, always remember do not let the sales person into your home unless you are completely satisfied that they are genuine. If it is a fraudster, once they are in your home you are immediately on the defensive.

Results A female from Stockport in Cheshire was recently fined £300 by our colleague from the Enforcement Team at Herefordshire Council for dumping eight bags of rubbish into an industrial waste bin on an industrial estate in Peterchurch.



The act was caught on CCTV unbeknown to her, so the receipt of the fixed penalty notice must have come as a shock. This may sound a little harsh but the businesses on the estate have to pay to have the bins emptied, and this act by a thoughtless holiday maker cost the company money as she filled the bin completely.

And on a lighter note...

'A member of the Royal Family was visiting a market town in Herefordshire a number of years ago.

There was a notable police presence in the town to provide security.

Shortly before the car containing the member of the Royal Family arrived, the police Inspector in charge noticed some figures up in the bell tower of the local church.

A unit was immediately sent up to the bell tower to investigate and moments later a Bobby shouted down to the Inspector, 'It's all OK Sir, it's the local Campanology Club'.

The Inspector angrily shouted back to the Bobby, 'Tell them to get down, they can't camp up there!'

A new police truncheon had been issued to Police Officers.

A senior officer visited a number of Stations to gain feedback from Officers who had been using it operationally. Reports from City Officers were very encouraging and there were many stories given as to how effective the new truncheon was in terms of restraint techniques and the like.

The senior Officer then attended a rural out station and spoke to the village Bobby who told him he hadn't yet used it operationally but it was very good for planting cabbages.....

How to Contact Us

_ 101 to talk to your local SNT or report a crime _ goldenvalley.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

_ www.westmercia.police.uk @GValleyCops

Only call 999 in an emergency, when a crime is in progress or life is in danger.

News from your local Fire Crews

HAVE YOU TESTED YOUR SMOKE ALARM RECENTLY?

You are more than twice as likely to die in a fire at home if you haven't got a working smoke alarm. Smoke alarms are the easiest way to alert you to the danger of fire, giving you precious time to escape. They are cheap, easy to get hold of, and simple to install.

Whatever smoke alarm model you choose, make sure it meets the British Standard 5446 Part 1 (BS 5446-1) and ideally also carries the British Standard Kitemark

How many alarms do you need and where should they be?

- The more alarms you have, the safer you will be.
- As a minimum, you should have one on each floor of your home.
- You should always have one where you will hear it when you're asleep.
- The ideal position is on the ceiling, in the middle of a room, or in the hallway and landing, so you can hear the alarm throughout your home.
- Don't put alarms in or near kitchens or bathrooms where smoke or steam can set them off by accident
- Test your smoke alarms every week. Push the button, not your luck!
- Change your smoke alarm every 10 years. Like most electrical goods they can stop working – it is better to change them before this happens
- If you wear a hearing aid, can you hear the alarms when you are not wearing the hearing aid, e.g. at night?

Call us for advice on specialist smoke alarms on 0800 032 1155.

Candle Fire Safety Week runs from 14-20 October 2019 Candle fire safety messages

- Make sure that when in use, candles are secured in a proper holder and away from materials that may catch fire – like curtains.
- Children should not be left alone with lit candles.
- Put candles out when you leave the room, and make sure they're put out completely at night.
- Keep the wax pool clear of wick trimmings, matches and debris always.
- Burn candles in a well-ventilated room, but avoid drafts, vents or air currents. This will help prevent rapid or uneven burning, sooting, and excessive dripping.
- Trim the wick to ¼ inch each time before burning. Long or crooked wicks can cause uneven burning, dripping or flaring.
- Don't move candles once they are lit
- Follow the manufacturer's recommendations on burn time and proper use.
- Do not burn several candles close together as this might cause flaring (mainly with tea-lights).
- Use a snuffer or a spoon to put out candles. It's safer than blowing them out when sparks can fly.

Incidents attended September 2019 8th Sep- Building fire. A Fire in the kitchen of a public house, approximately 15 x 15m. Fire was extinguished with a fire blanket, CO2 extinguisher and one Hose Reel. The Crew checked for fire spread with a Thermal imaging camera.



First aid was administered to the casualty, who had two percent burns.

24 Sep- Rescue of a small animal. RSPCA requested Fire to assist with the rescue of a cat. Fire Crew used a 13.5m ladder, Thermal imaging camera and a Hose Reel Jet.

November 2019 Golden Valley Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) Newsletter

Crime Trends 1st - 31st October 2019 A Toyota Hilux pick up was stolen from a farm in **Michaelchurch Esceley** sometime overnight on Friday 4th /Saturday 5th October. It was later found abandoned by South Wales police in Merthyr Tydfil Incident ref 154-s-051019

Around 8am on the morning of Saturday 5th October a farmer in **Longtown** found two white Ford transit vans abandoned in one of his fields, both had been stolen from the South Wales area the day before and thought to be connected to the theft of the truck in the incident above Incident ref 159-s-051019

Also believed to be connected to the above incidents, three farms in the same area - **Craswall** and **Michaelchurch Esceley** - had intruders overnight on 4th/5th October - gates and doors were found open, but nothing appeared to be missing Incident refs 231, 245 & 254-s-051019

A Ford transit refrigerated van was stolen from a business unit in **Pontrilas** in the early evening of Tuesday 15th October, and another van which had been parked next to it had the driver's quarter light window smashed, but no entry was gained Incident ref 345-s-160919.

Two sheds at an isolated property in **Bredwardine** were broken into sometime between 9am and 4.15pm on Tuesday 22nd October. Several items were taken from each shed including an electric bike, two chainsaws and two electric drills Incident ref 515-s-221019

Crime prevention Advice - Residential Burglaries Although residential burglaries are very rare in our part of the county, it doesn't hurt to take sensible precautions when leaving your home.

Leaving your home checklist Whenever you go out, it's important to leave your home secure. Getting into an 'exit routine' can help ensure that you don't forget obvious, but important things, like not leaving your valuables near windows, or no lights on if it will be dark before you get home. Here's our quick reminder on what to do just before you go out.

Become a creature of habit Try to get into the habit of following your own course of action when you lock up your home. This will ensure that you don't forget anything.

Here's what we recommend you do before you go out:

- close and lock all your doors and windows, even if you're only going out for a few minutes
- double-lock any door
- make sure that any valuables are out of sight
- keep handbags away from the letterbox or cat flap and hide all keys including car keys, as a thief could hook keys or valuables through even a small opening
- never leave car documents or ID in obvious places such as kitchens or hallways
- in the evening, shut the curtains and leave lights on
- if you're out all day then it's advisable to use a timer device to automatically turn lights and a radio on at night
- set your burglar alarm
- make sure the side gate is locked
- lock your shed or garage
- lock your bike inside a secure shed/garage to a robust fitting bolted to the ground or wall like a ground anchor

Going away? Here are five tips to help you keep your home and belongings stay safe while you're away:

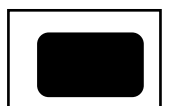
1. if you're off on holiday and wish to post anything on social media, make sure your posts aren't public and that they're only seen by your friends
2. leave lights and a radio on a timer to make the property appear occupied
3. get a trusted neighbour to keep an eye on your property or join a Neighbourhood or resident Watch Scheme
4. consider asking your neighbours to close curtains after dark and to park on your drive
5. remember to cancel newspaper and milk deliveries

Scam News Another scam to be aware of reported to us by a reader from Peterchurch regarding Amazon Prime "The scam initially involves an automated cold call warning the recipient that their Amazon Prime subscription will be automatically renewed, (at least that is what I thought I heard). However The caller then says if you do not want this to be done, "press 1" to speak to a supervisor" In my case I pressed 1 but immediately realised this may have put me on to a premium rate line, so I disconnected.

However others who use Prime may continue, and are then in addition to a premium rate line, may be put through to the scammer to extract and use your card/bank details to siphon off funds."

West Mercia Police Provides Good Value for Money

Communities are getting good value for money, from West Mercia Police, as highlighted in data published by HMICFRS (Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services) today.



Police and Crime Commissioner John Campion, welcomed the figures, which show lower levels of crime, despite a smaller spend on policing per population.*

The figures show the majority of spending goes towards local frontline policing, with an increased level of joiners as the force recruit a further 215 officers, following the PCC's investment.

They also highlighted decreases in crime across some key areas such as burglary, vehicle offences, theft and drugs offences. Where crime had increased, this was usually at a lower rate to the national levels. The figures also showed a higher percentage of suspects identified, when compared to other similar forces and nationally. Commissioner John Campion said "Our communities expect their taxes to be spent efficiently and effectively, and to be focused on what matters to them- increasing visible policing, reducing crime and identifying suspects. This data shows the force is providing good value for money across all of these measures, and that public money is helping to build safer communities."

To view the data in full: <https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmicfrs/our-work/article/value-formoney-inspections/value-for-money-profiles/value-for-money-dashboards/>

*Net revenue expenditure is £170 per population, which is below average when compared to all other forces nationally, and to forces within the most similar group


13.0 Agenda of Next Meeting

Local Communications Policy

14.0 Date, Time and Venue of Next Meeting

Confirmed that the next meeting will be the Ordinary Meeting of the Group Parish Council and will be held on **Tuesday 7th January 2020** in **ABBEYDORE Village Hall** meeting to commence at 7.30pm

Parish Council meeting declared closed at 9.25 pm

Signed..... 

Parish Council Chairman Councillor Mr David Watkins.....

Dated this day 7th January 2020