

**HOW CAPLE, SOLLERSHOPE AND  
YATTON GROUP PARISH COUNCIL  
NEWSLETTER AUTUMN/WINTER  
2023**



**Your Parish Councillors are:**

**Chairman:**

John Jackson

**Vice Chairman:**

Hugh Bodington

**How Caple:**

Brendan Beal  
2 Current Vacancies

**Sollershope:**

Elizabeth Glover  
John Jackson  
1 Current Vacancy

**Yatton:**

Hugh Bodington  
Ed Rogers  
1 Current Vacancy

**Ward Councillor:**

Clr Barry Durkin  
[bdurkin@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:bdurkin@herefordshire.gov.uk)

**Clerk:**

Helen Tinson  
[howcapleclerk@outlook.com](mailto:howcapleclerk@outlook.com)  
07989 066782

**Parish Council website**

[www.howcaplesollersshopeyatton.org.uk](http://www.howcaplesollersshopeyatton.org.uk)

[www.herefordshirecouncil.gov.uk](http://www.herefordshirecouncil.gov.uk)  
HC Switchboard: 01432 260000

**To report potholes, highways or  
footpath issues:**

[www.herefordshire.gov.uk/report-problem](http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/report-problem)  
01432 261800

**Welcome to the Autumn/Winter edition of our Parish Newsletter**

A warm welcome to all our parishioners in our three parishes as well as those further afield in neighbouring areas. Here is our first printed newsletter of the new parish councils' term which we will continue to produce six monthly as a round up with key information from our email newsletters and website.

There is a lot of information here and we urge as many as possible to sign up to our email updates so we can share as much information from us and from other organisational groups in the three parishes, as well as key information from Herefordshire Council.

As we head into December, the festive period has begun and we send our best wishes for an enjoyable, warm and relaxing break for those that can, and hope those that continue to work through get time off in the New Year.

Best wishes  
John Jackson Chairman

**Parish Council 4-Year Vision and Action Plan:**

The Parish Council is currently working on a four-year plan to bring together a vision and associated action plan for the Parish Council for the duration of the term 2023-2027. It will help formalise and plan priorities with a clear and consistent approach, and will include an action plan for projects and ambitions to be carried out over the 4-year period. It is hoped that the plan will benefit forward planning for both time and financial purposes and will be developed through the input of current Councillors and in consultation with Parishioners. If you would like to find out more, please get in touch.

**Highways and Drainage:**

The Parish Council have successfully accessed grant funding from Herefordshire Council to support our Lengthsman's work on our C and U roads. £4842 has been awarded and a number of jobs have been identified and prioritised and all high priority drainage works have now been carried out: two in Sollershope and two in Yatton. We shall continue to work with the Lengthsman to address the remaining issues within the parameters of the remaining budget.

**Footpaths:**

The Lengthsman spent some time early in the Autumn cutting back around the entrances to the parish footpaths. With a limited budget and an extensive network of footpaths, the Parish Council rely on landowners to maintain the length of footpaths and stiles or gates that cross their land.

## Meet your Parish Council:

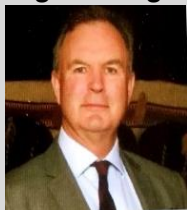
### John Jackson:



Having been brought up in Sollershope, I am very passionate about our small parishes and Herefordshire. I

have been a member of the Parish Council since 2015 and have seen how our community benefits from working for our residents and bringing ideas together. When I get chance away from work, I like a challenge; either some sort of kayak race, expedition or a bit of travel (the sort where you turn up and see where you end up!), though now with a young family, the latter now needs a bit more planning!

### Hugh Bodington:



I have lived in Yatton for the past 13 years but have been working away from home until recently -

first in the Army and then in the Energy Sector. So, I felt it was about time that I did my bit for the community. I have developed the Neighbourhood Watch scheme and welcome new members. I am keen to promote a sense of community and with your help preserve the heritage of our parish and upgrade our rural infrastructure as required.

### Brendan Beal:



Having moved to the Parish in 2019 all the way from Fownhope, and with a professional background in leadership and Town &

Country Planning, I am keen to engage with, support and promote the local community. I have an interest in sailing, classic cars, motorcycles, walking, running, nature and the countryside in general.

## Volunteers:

However, we are keen to develop a team of volunteers to help support community action in the parishes and propose that the first project will focus on Footpaths. This may be to walk the footpaths in order to identify any issues, or maybe join a working party to do some hands-on work to help keep them tidy and accessible. If you might be interested in joining the team, we'd love to hear from you.

### Bridge at St. Michael's Church, Sollershope:

We would like to remind you to take care if you are planning to use the bridge at St. Michael's Church in Sollershope. Herefordshire Council have confirmed they will be replacing the bridge because of its condition but currently have no indication of timescale. If they can't do it quickly, they may close it because of safety concerns throughout the winter.

### Broadband Connectivity:

This has been raised as a topic of concern this year so in July we invited Herefordshire Council's Fastershire and Engagement Officer to the Parish Council meeting to talk about the current situation, planned improvements and actions residents can take to improve their connectivity. The digital changeover from analogue to digital lines (PSTN switch off) anticipated over the next few years will require properties to have a fast and reliable broadband service for both telephone and broadband. The information was too detailed to relay in this newsletter so we have uploaded it to the Local News page on the website [www.howcaplesollershopeyatton.org.uk](http://www.howcaplesollershopeyatton.org.uk). If you are struggling to access it via the website then please contact the Clerk and she will send you a printed copy.

### Keeping Warm this Winter:

Herefordshire Council are keen to promote the support available across the county to make sure that no one has to struggle with their energy bills alone. Keep Herefordshire Warm offer support and advice and can be contacted free on 0800 677 1432 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm) or via email at [www.herefordshire.gov.uk/housing-3/home-energy](http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/housing-3/home-energy). Tips on staying warm and well are available on Herefordshire Council's [stay well, stay warm page](#).

### Home Upgrade Grant:

Herefordshire Council are also keen to promote the Home Upgrade Grant. You can apply for **free** energy efficiency improvements through the scheme if:

- You live in Herefordshire
- You don't have mains gas heating to your home
- Your total household income is under £31,000 per year
- You live in an inefficient property, with an Energy Performance Certificate of D, E, F or G

<https://severnwyve.org.uk/home-upgrade-grant/>

### Winter of Well Being:

The Talk Community Team are promoting fun, free activities for families this winter. Organisations across Herefordshire are holding fun and free activities for families in a warm space during the winter months. "From family cooking sessions in Leominster, badminton in Ross-on-Wye, to family tea in Kington (with Nana and Grandpa) and films and forest school crafts in Hereford.

**Elizabeth Glover:**

I am a retired teacher and was an active member of the NDP Steering Group. I am keen to continue supporting

the parish I have loved since moving here in 1995 and am pleased to be able to support the Parish Council. I have a keen interest in highway safety and building community resilience.

**Ed Rogers:**

Born and raised in Sollershope, I have lived and worked in the area all my life. Working on the

family farm, I have a passion for preserving and enhancing the beautiful countryside whilst ensuring it's economic and environmental sustainability for future generations.

**Helen Tinson (Clerk):**

I was appointed as Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer in March 2023. Herefordshire has been my home since

January 2000 and I live with my husband, two daughters and a cheeky dog just outside Ledbury. I love to read and walk and have a keen interest in healthy eating and sustainable living.

**Parish Council Vacancies:**

Local elections were held in May this year and five councillors were elected.

This leaves us with four current vacancies across all three parishes which we are keen to fill.

If you feel passionately about where you live and would like to make a difference, please consider joining the team. We do need more support to work at our full capacity.

All events include free hot food and drinks and families will be able to access information and advice to support them around the cost of living". For information about the different activities taking place, visit [www.talkcommunitydirectory.org/winter-of-wellbeing-wow-activities/](http://www.talkcommunitydirectory.org/winter-of-wellbeing-wow-activities/)

**Consultations:**

We are looking for your feedback on a number of consultations:

**Coronation Event Raffle Money:**

The sale of raffle tickets at the Coronation event in May raised £147.00 and the Parish Council would like to ask for your suggestions on how it should be used. The options are:

- Purchase a bench to commemorate the coronation to be sited on U70009 Barrell Hill
- Purchase an iron beacon to commemorate the coronation to be sited at a suitable location within the parishes
- Donate the funds to Brockhampton Cricket Club
- Donate the funds towards the purchase of a defibrillator to be sited at Wilmot House
- Donate the funds towards the renovation of the tennis courts at Brockhampton Village Hall

We have created a quick survey which will take less than 1 minute to complete. <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/MTQ53Z8>. Alternatively, please email the Clerk: [howcapleclerk@outlook.com](mailto:howcapleclerk@outlook.com)

**Parish Veterans:**

The Parish Council has been asked to consider a request for financial support towards a Veterans Outreach Service in Ross on Wye.

To assist with this, it would be helpful to understand whether any residents of How Caple, Sollershope or Yatton would qualify for veteran support and would find such a service useful. Therefore, I'd like to ask that you get in touch if either you or any local veterans you know would benefit from the service.

**SmartWater:**

Smartwater is an initiative promoted by West Mercia Police to reduce burglaries. To become a Smartwater Village, 80% of residents must agree to take part. Smartwater Kits cost £8.00 per unit; the PCC will subsidise 25% but the Parish Council would need to pay the remaining 75%.

The 'We Don't Buy Crime' Team are available to give a parish talk to explain how the system works so if you would like us to explore this further, please get in touch.

**Draft Budget 2024/25:**

The draft budget for 2024/25 has been prepared by the Finance Working Group following a review of accounts for the current year, forecasted to reflect a year end position. The budget is now in the consultation phase and we would like to ask for your feedback. Please email any comments or questions to the Clerk. It is proposed to raise the precept this year to budget for increasing costs and to protect the reserves that Parish Councils are obliged to hold. This would equate to an increase of approximately £8.82 per Band D equivalent property per year.

**Useful information:****Flooding:**

Environment Agency: 0800 80 70 60  
(24-hours) or visit  
[www.gov.uk/report-an-environmental-incident](http://www.gov.uk/report-an-environmental-incident)

**Power cut:**

Call 105 or visit  
[www.powercut105.com](http://www.powercut105.com)

**BT phone line issues:**

[www.downdetector.co.uk/status/bt-british-telecom](http://www.downdetector.co.uk/status/bt-british-telecom)

**Gas leak:**

0800 111 999 or visit  
[www.wutilities.co.uk/services/smell-gas](http://www.wutilities.co.uk/services/smell-gas)

**Welsh Water:**

0800 052 0130 (Water emergencies)  
or 0800 085 3968 (Sewer emergencies) or visit  
[www.contact.dwrcymru.com](http://www.contact.dwrcymru.com)

**Severn Trent Water:**

0800 783 4444 [www.stwater.co.uk/in-my-area/check-my-area](http://www.stwater.co.uk/in-my-area/check-my-area)

**ROSS ON WYE SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM**

Sgt Alice BENNETT **21390**

PC Ben DAVIDSON **21832** - 07929

783672 [ben.davidson@westmercia.police.uk](mailto:ben.davidson@westmercia.police.uk)

PCSO Kirsten KYSOW **6212** – 07773

034152 [kirsten.kysow@westmercia.police.uk](mailto:kirsten.kysow@westmercia.police.uk)

PCSO Claire DENTON **40442** – 07866

245011 [claire.denton@westmercia.police.uk](mailto:claire.denton@westmercia.police.uk)

PCSO Simon HALL **40025** – 07967

302401 [simon.hall@westmercia.police.uk](mailto:simon.hall@westmercia.police.uk)

PCSO David ALEXANDER **40039** – 07773

049929 [david.alexander@westmercia.police.uk](mailto:david.alexander@westmercia.police.uk)

Budget Heading	Budget 2022/23	Current Budget 2023/24	Draft Budget 2024/25
Clerks Salary inc PAYE	£3500.00	£3500.00	£4740.00
PAYE Admin	Not budgeted	Not budgeted	£200.00
Clerk Home Allowance	Not budgeted	Not budgeted	£100.00
Clerk Mileage	-	-	£60.00
Stationery	£150.00	£180.00	£60.00
Audit	£100.00	£100.00	£150.00
Insurance	£300.00	£300.00	£350.00
Subscriptions	£500.00	£500.00	£425.00
ICO	Not budgeted	Not budgeted	£40.00
Website/Computer Costs	£350.00	£200.00	£300.00
Meeting Hall Hire	£100.00	£120.00	£150.00
Training	Use reserves	Use reserves	£200.00
Lengthsman/P3	£2,500.00	£7,342.00	£3,520.00
Traffic Calming (SID exp)	-	Use reserves	£200.00
Community Engagement and Events	£100.00	£130.00	£550.00
S137 Donations	-	-	£500.00
Churchyard Maintenance	£525.00	£525.00	£525.00
Contingency/Miscellaneous	£300.00	-	£400.00
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£8,425.00</b>	<b>£8,055.00</b>	<b>£12,470.00</b>
Income: Precept	£8,000.00	£8,200.00	£9,750.00
Income: Lengthsman Grant		£4,842.00	£2,842.00
<b>Total Income:</b>	<b>£8,000.00</b>	<b>£13,042.00</b>	<b>£12,592.00</b>

**Herefordshire Councils' 2024/25 Budget Consultation:**

Herefordshire Council are also consulting on their budget for the next financial year. Open until the 31<sup>st</sup> December, comments can be submitted online or at a number of local events throughout December. For more information:

<https://consultations.herefordshire.gov.uk/consultations/article/106/budget-2024-25-consultation>

**Garden Waste Survey:**

Herefordshire Council are seeking feedback on the future collection of garden waste. Open until the 19th January, they are looking to gauge the level of potential interest in a paid for subscription-based, fortnightly, collection service to be introduced from April 2025. Subscribing properties would be provided with a 240-litre brown bin, 18 annual collections. The garden waste collected would be composted. The annual subscription fee is anticipated to be £55. The survey is available online:

<https://consultations.herefordshire.gov.uk/consultations/article/105/garden-waste-collection-survey>

**Parish Council Newsletters:**

A new emailed newsletter is now available to all residents, which we aim to send every 6-8 weeks in addition to the bi-annual printed newsletter delivered to your door. We would like as many people as possible to sign up to receive the more regular newsletter as it is a useful tool in receiving news and updates. Please email or telephone the Clerk to sign up.

Finally, it just remains to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year!

How Caple, Sollershope and Yatton Parish Council