

## WYRE PIDDLER PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council duly convened and held in The Village Hall, Wyre Piddle on **Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2014** commencing at 7.30 pm

**Present Councillors: -** D Creed- Miles Naraine (Chairman)  
M Oakley  
G Smout  
N Wood  
R Marchant  
J Parsons

**In attendance: -** County Councillor Liz Tucker  
D Taverner – Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer

- 1/3/14      Declarations of Interest**  
**a) Register of Interests: Councillors were reminded of the need to update their register of interests:** There were none  
  
**b) To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in items on the agenda and their nature:** There were none  
  
**c) To declare any Other Disclosable Interests in items on the agenda and their nature:** There were none .
- 2/3/14      To Consider Written Requests from Councillors for the Council to Grant a Dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011)** There were none
- 3/3/14      Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> January, 2014**  
The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2014, having been previously circulated, were approved as correct record of the meeting and were signed by the Chairman
- 4/3/14      Matters arising from the minutes.**  
There were no matters arising from the approved minutes.
- 5/3/14      Report of County Councillor Liz Tucker**

### **County Council Budget Proposals**

Worcestershire County Council had completed its consultation on the draft budget for next financial year 2014/15. The draft budget brings together a number of financial related matters, including the results of the Council's strategic financial planning, the detailed budget preparation work taking account of the latest inflation and demographic pressures, the overall funding position from Central Government and finally the overall impact on the Medium Term Financial Plan .The county council element of the 2014/15 Council tax rise had been set as 1.9%

The medium term savings and efficiencies requirement for the Council is now approximately £103 million through to the end of the 2017/18 financial year. Over the medium term to the end of 2016/17 the Council has identified savings and efficiencies of approximately £61 million. The Council intends to develop plans to address the shortfall of £17 million to the end of 2016/17 in 2014 and will consider the savings and efficiencies required in 2017/18 following the approval of the budget by Full Council in February 2014.

## **New County Council Chief Executive Appointed**

Clare Marchant, currently Assistant Chief Executive and former group programme director with NHS, has been formally confirmed as Worcestershire County Council's new Chief Executive.

Clare joined Worcestershire County Council in 2010 to head up the council's then change programme Better Outcomes Lean Deliver, BOLD. She is a graduate of the University of Hull and after nearly four years at Hovis as a production manager, she joined Deloitte in 1997 and spent six years advising both private and public sector bodies on how to modernise. Her clients included Burberry and DWP. She followed this with a job as Group Programme Director at the NHS where she was responsible for leading delivery of 'Choose and Book' and picture archiving in hospitals, digitising scans which is now used in 100 per cent of hospitals. Since joining Worcestershire County Council, Clare has been pivotal in ensuring we rise to the challenge of change in a way which is driven by the views of residents, communities and businesses, work with partners and delivers savings, protects the most vulnerable and supports investment in the future. Clare will take up her new role on the 1<sup>st</sup> of June.

## **County Budget update**

### **Bus Services**

Council has agreed that the more time is needed to consider the issue of subsidised bus services following a consultation that attracted 8,500 responses. It was agreed around £1.1 million would remain in the budget.

Proposals were put forward in November 2013 to meet the financial challenge the authority faces due to a reduced levels of Central Government funding. The withdrawal of the £3million of taxpayers' money the authority currently spends on plugging the gap in the commercial network; usually the less popular or less well-used services, was consulted on. The average spend on subsidised services is around £1 per journey (highest subsidy being £8.24 per journey). Around 80 per cent of all journeys on Worcestershire's bus services are provided by commercial operators with no involvement from the County Council.

A number of factors will be considered before any final decision on possible reductions is taken. These will include:

- Evaluating on a service-by-service basis the detailed responses to the consultation
- A thorough review of the existing data on the number of passenger journeys made on the current subsidised network that will take into account journey types, purposes and access to key destinations.
- A review of fares will take place in partnership with commercial operators to establish what contracts would become viable or could operate with a significantly reduced subsidy.
- Continue to explore potential opportunities where, in particular, community transport or commercial operators might provide public transport services.

Any final decision on the amount of subsidy that will be spent and routes supported is not expected until June. Any changes would not be implemented until September.

### **Council Tax Increase**

The council has decided on a 1.9 per cent rise will add at least £19.88 to the average yearly band D bill of £1,453 from April. The end increase will nudge closer to £30 once rises from the police, fire service and district councils are factored in, with confirmation on the final bills due by Tuesday, February 25.

The budget includes an extra £4 million towards children's social care, as the numbers of children who need intervention continues to rise. The spending will be paid for from the council tax rise.

It also contains an extra £500,000 into roads maintenance, after the public said it should remain a big priority during widespread public consultations.

However the budget will result in job losses, with at least 600 posts going by 2018, and as many services as possible being handed over to new providers, a move known as commissioning. There are hopes many organisations who take over services will take council staff with them, limiting the impact on the economy. It should also be noted that round £99 million needs to be cut from Council spending by 2018.

## **6/3/14      Planning: applications and decision notices**

### **(a)      Applications for consideration (click on the web links for details)**

[14/00133](#)      Arbour House, Main Road, Wyre Piddle, Pershore, WR10 2HU  
The removal and replacement of three metal frame windows and one wooden frame window on the ground floor in the kitchen/dining area.

#### **Application approved 26<sup>th</sup> March, 2014**

[14/00151](#)      Land adjacent to, Wyre Road, Pershore  
Outline application for 5 hectares of employment land. New access for pedestrians and cycles, car and car parking, sustainable drainage measures including storage pond for surface water attenuation; provisions of utilities, infrastructure and all ancillary works - as approved under planning permission reference number W/11/00988/OU but without compliance of condition number 22 (form of development).

**The Parish Council made a detailed objection to this application which can be viewed at the following web link- [Parish council objection- 14 00151](#)**

[14/00045](#)      Hurst Farm, Wyre Road, Pershore,  
Development of 93 dwellings with access roads and provision of wetlands and footpaths and landscaping

**Wyre Piddle Parish Council appreciate the time taken and work put in by the applicant and agent in attempting to bring forward a suitable development on this site but have no alternative but to object to this application as the proposed development is simply in an unsuitable and unsustainable location.**

**The site is outside the present development boundary and also outside the area allocated in the revised SWDP for the Pershore urban extension.**

**The development of the site will lead to the undesirable diminution of the separate identities of Wyre Piddle and Pershore.**

**Occupiers of the site will rely on travel by car as the nearest bus stop and shop are not within comfortable walking distance.**

**The applicant is reliant on land that is not in their control for proposed pedestrian links to Pershore.**

**Any major development near Pershore needs to take account of the cumulative effect of all the proposed development in the area on local infrastructure and should not be viewed in isolation.**

[14/00274](#)      Land adjacent to, Wyre Road, Pershore  
Free-standing non-illuminated sign. Temp permission for a period of 4 years

**Wyre Piddle Parish Council object to this application as it will be overly dominant and intrusive in the proposed location. WPPC understands that such an advertisement would be beneficial**

**for the developer of the neighbouring employment land but believe the size of sign presently proposed is unsuitable.**

**The Parish Council would also like to point out that development is presently taking place on the employment land without planning permission.**

**If permission is granted for an advertisement in this location it should only be for a two year period.**

## **7/3/14 Community events and Village games update**

### **VILLAGE GAMES UPDATE.**

In the role of Wyre Piddle Parish Organiser Carrie Oakley will soon be encouraging Captains, old and new, to lead the parish teams into the 15 events we intend to enter later in the year. Our relatively small Parish will, once again, aim high and raise the bar as the games continue to develop bonds and friendships and enhance our community spirit.

### **JOINED UP ENTERTAINMENTS UPDATE**

Forthcoming events are The Easter Bonnet Parade on Easter Monday (21 April) and the Summer Fete (Saturday 28 June). As previously stated, all involved wish to follow last year's format for the Fete as it worked really well.

## **8/3/14 Finance – to approve payment of accounts**

The following accounts were approved for payment:-

Chq No	Payee	For	£
901083	D Taverner	Clerk Salary and expenses February	264.87
901084	D Taverner	Clerk Salary and expenses March	264.87
901085	k Boulton	Tree Care- poplar avenue	108.00

## **9/3/14 New Homes Bonus**

Cllr Oakley led a general discussion summarising the feedback from local residents' for potential projects from the resource of the New Homes Bonus fund

The New Homes Bonus is a national initiative designed to ensure that the economic Benefits of housing growth are returned to the councils and communities where that growth takes place. For every new home built and occupied in Wychavon, the government gives the District Council a New Homes Bonus grant, each year, for six years.

Wychavon have allocated up to 40% of the bonus for reinvestment in local communities in the District where the development that has generated it has taken place. Parish and town councils have been invited to submit proposals for spending New Homes Bonus allocations in their own local areas

Wyre Piddle has been given an annual allocation of £1,592 effective from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2013 which is payable annually over a 6 year period. A further annual allocation of £983 becomes payable with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2014. The Parish can choose what to spend its New Homes Bonus on as long as the proposed spend delivers added, ongoing value to the local community

Further consideration would be given to the schemes suggested prior to an application for the release of funding.

**10/3/14 Maintenance of Open Spaces:**

**(a) Poplar Avenue Play area**

Two companies had provided design details for the refurbishment of the Children's Play Area and further comparable quotations were being sought. There would be a consultation event for residents before a final scheme design was selected.

**(b) Lengthsman projects** –Following further reports of blocked ditches Wychavon District Council had taken enforcement action against riparian landowners where appropriate.

The parish lengthsman Gary Robinson had left the meeting earlier and no further lengthsman reports were received

**(c) Contracts review**

The Council's Finance & General Purposes Committee would be meeting in May to review the lengthsman scheme contract and to undertake the annual review of the performance of the Clerk & Responsible Finance officer

**11/3/14** The date of next Parish Council meeting was agreed as **Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> May, 2014**

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.35 pm

Signed .....  
**Chairman - 26<sup>th</sup> June, 2014**