

WYRE PIDDLER PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council duly convened and held in the Village Hall, Wyre Piddle on **Thursday 18th September, 2014** commencing at 7.30pm

Present Councillors: - D Naraine (Chairman)
M Oakley
J Parsons
N Wood
G Smout
R Merchant

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

Apologies recorded: - None

1/9/14 Declarations of Interest

a) Register of Interests: Councillors are 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

2/9/14 To Consider Written Requests from Councillors for the Council to Grant a Dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011)

No such requests had been received

3/9/14 Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 24th July, 2014

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 24th July, 2014 having been previously circulated were approved as a correct record of that meeting and were signed by the Chairman.

4/9/14 Matters arising from the minutes.

There were none

5/9/14 Closure of the meeting to allow questions from Members of the Public

E mail from Mr Gary Robinson regarding various issues within the Parish.

(a) **Query as to why there had been continual problems with the Eastern Bridge Barrier scheme.** There had been repeated problems with damage to the barriers both accidentally and deliberately but they had again been repaired and were operating properly as at the time of the meeting. The police had been made aware of the incidents of vandalism and the issues where vehicles were deliberately circumventing the system by mounting the pavement.

(b) **Request for protective fencing around the Preaching Cross in Church Street to prevent damage by passing traffic.** The Council did not feel that this would be helpful as it would further narrow the existing junction there. Research into the possibility of securing grant aid for the cleaning of the Village Hall War Memorial would be undertaken.

- (c) **Ongoing issue with the state of roads and pavements throughout the parish** This had been reported to the County council for their attention but their maintenance budgets were severely constricted and such works were being undertaken on a priority ranking basis throughout the County
- (d) **Minor works were required to repair masonry that had been damaged at the lower entrance to Smiths Meadow.** This work would be assessed.

E mail from Joshua Lane regarding potential play provision, such as a basketball court or similar for older children within the Parish it was suggested that the village hall management committee could be approached to see if such a facility might be allowed on the village hall car park.

6/9/14 County Councillors Report

Work is progressing on the Southern Link Road with the project keeping to its time scale. Funding has now been found to progress the plans for the Norton Parkway Station with a paper going to cabinet that will start the public consultation on this project. The hope is that work can start next year following the agreed support from the rail companies to introduce this station into their timetables ready for its completion in 2016.

Another project moving forward is the dualing of the southern link road from the Ketch roundabout up to the Whittington Roundabout; again a paper is going to cabinet this week seeking approval to start public consultation. The money from these projects has come down from central government following a submission for transport schemes from the Local Enterprise Partnership.

With the publication of the next stage of the SWDP which will be going to the three district councils next week for approval the debate over the widening of the Carrington Bridge has opened again and at the County Council we are starting to lobby central government for the £70 million needed to do this work. The debate is continuing regarding the building of the Northern link relief road at County Council level.

Further remedial work would be undertaken to the Eastern bridge barriers by the highways engineering team.

Restructuring of the County Council's management team was continuing and Malvern Hills and Wychavon Councils would be sharing a Chief Executive post. The appointment exercise was ongoing.

7/9/14 Community events update

Carrie Oakley had submitted the following report:-

The Parish Council – we are reliably informed that being a Parish Councillor is not always the most rewarding thing you can do in your spare time. There is much unseen work in regularly pressing the responsible Councils, Agencies and bodies including the Police to request action in respect of the state of our roads and footpaths, leaking drains, tip smells, speeding traffic, the eastern bridge barriers (and as soon as they are repaired they are damaged again) to name but a few. But there are some positive actions and reactions... Having gained access to some New Homes Bonus Money (which nearly ended up in Lower Moor!) and having completed the requisite forms and justification, the PC has now received the funding requested by St Anne's Church through the recent village survey, to go toward the provision of a Footpath to the Memorial Gardens. Work on this should be starting soon. Another Parish Council project, which has just been given the go-ahead and the promise of

funding by Wychavon, is a Bulb Planting scheme designed to join up the village, clearly delineating and identifying its boundaries, ensuring that the houses the other side of the eastern bridge are included. Hundreds of early flowering Narcissus bulbs will be planted to brighten up the village each year during the cold and grey of February. The Piddle Post is putting out a call on behalf of the PC asking for village children to volunteer to help with the planting project. No date has been set for this yet, but it will be quite soon. If your children want to be involved, please contact the Piddle Post piddlepost@live.co.uk ASAP.

On the subject of tip – we know that an Environment Agency visit to the Hill and Moor Landfill Site in May identified some problems with both leachate and exposed waste in unfinished areas which resulted in enforcement action and a follow up visit in July. Whilst no leachate left the site, it did escape from the engineered cells. The particular problem we became aware of as 'near neighbours' was the smell arising from the exposed waste. A recent update informs us that the leachate problems are being dealt with and one of the exposed areas of waste has now been finished and capped with the other being covered with a temporary cap of clay.

Details of the remembrance Sunday commemoration on 9th November were discussed. The wreath was being ordered and a bugler had agreed to attend. Refreshments would be served afterwards at the Piesse Hotel

The Parish Games – everyone has been having a really good time. We are about to play the last One Day Events in the form of Junior and Senior Table Tennis and we have been knocked out of all of the Knock Out Events except Skittles. We have played with great spirit and commitment. We have been really well supported by The Anchor Inn, the Hotel, the Parish Council, in fact the whole village has been behind us this year. Fabulous team work and great Captains have embodied the Wychavon Sport Mission Statement – Competition and Community Coming Together. The Presentation Evening is at The Bell in Eckington on Wednesday 19 November where all of the final results will be revealed. All participants and interested parties are welcome to attend. If you are interested in any aspect of the Wychavon Sport Parish Games contact Carrie at piddlepost@live.co.uk or take a look at the website - www.wychavongames.org

8/9/14 Planning applications

W/14/01676/OU Land to the North of, Wyre Road, Pershore

The construction of 33 dwellings, associated infrastructure and public open space on land to the north of Wyre Road, Pershore.

The following response had been sent to the Planning Authority on behalf of the Parish Council: -

The site is outside any development boundary and is not included in any SWDP site allocations. Within the submitted Design and Access statement it is stated that the site is allocated as a residential site within the SWDP. This is incorrect.

The site is also situated in the existing Strategic Gap between Pershore and Wyre Piddle which is proposed to be protected as a Significant Gap in the SWDP. With the permissions already granted for the Pershore urban extension, it is of even more importance that these Gaps are protected to maintain the separate identities of the settlements to the North of Pershore. It is not just the physical size of the gap which is important but also the perceived gap between settlements.

It is noted with concern that the developer has chosen to plough up the semi-improved neutral grassland that was present on the site which could have provided foraging habitat for any Great Crested Newts present in the pond situated 15m West of the application site. This will have resulted in a loss of biodiversity within the site. On a previous application (W/11/00988) by this developer a condition that a reptile mitigation plan was submitted to the Council prior to development taking place was totally ignored. In fact development on

the site has been started before any reserved matters permission is granted, it appears the LPA is impotent to act over these flagrant breaches of planning control. As such any surveys required on this site must take place before outline permission is granted.

It is also noted within the Phase 1 Habitat Survey that an area of plantation woodland "covers a smaller area than previously surveyed". This statement leads the Parish Council to believe that some woodland on the site was cut down prior to this application being made. This would also add to a loss of biodiversity from the site. With some 840 dwellings and 5 Ha of employment land being granted permission or pending a decision on Station Road and Wyre Road, we must once again question if the infrastructure of Pershore can cope with the level of development proposed in the locality without significant improvements taking place before development begins.

9/9/14 Finance

a) To approve payment of Accounts

The following accounts were approved for payment:-

cheque	Payee	For	£
901102	Wychavon sport	Games entry fee	69.00
901103	D M Taverner	Salary&Admin expenses Aug and Sept	529.74
901106	P Hurst	Lengthsman work	635.62
901107	Prysimian group	Street light mtnce	309.60

10/9/14 New Homes Bonus (NHB)

Following the Parish Council survey asking for ideas about how the NHB could be spent it had been agreed to provide an all-weather path through the Parish Church Graveyard to the Garden of Remembrance. The indicative costs for the planned work were estimated at approximately £1,300 and would be partly funded by additional income from planned community events.

An application had been submitted to the district council for the release of funds and a sum of £950 had now been paid into the council's bank account. Arrangements would be made to forward this sum to the Church Treasurer.

11/9/14 Report from lengthsman and related repair and maintenance projects

Peter Hurst was again thanked for the excellent work that he had undertaken to the maintenance of the grass verges and other repair projects throughout the village. Peter had recently attended a lengthsman training scheme which had been run e run by the county council which had proved useful

Payment of lengthsman invoices in the sum of £635.62 were approved and acclaim would be sent to the county council for reimbursement of this sum.

12/9/14 Poplar Avenue Play Area update

Details of indicative replacement / updated play equipment for the Poplar Avenue play area had been received by the Chairman and further example designs and quotations were actively being sought

13/9/14 Date of next meeting: Thursday 20th November, 2014

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.15pm.

Chairman

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20th November, 2014