

Wyre Piddle Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Council held on 19 May 2011

in the Village Hall, Wyre Piddle

Meeting commenced: 7.30 pm Meeting ended: 8.15 pm

Present: Cllr S Turner, Cllr C Turner, Cllr J Wilkins, Cllr M Wilkins. Cllr G Smout, cllr J parsons and Cllr R Merchant

In Attendance: Mr D M Taverner (Clerk), County Cllr Mrs L Tucker

The Clerk welcomed members of the Council and members of the public to the meeting.

01/05/11 Election of chairman of the Council for the ensuing municipal year

Cllr M Wilkins proposed that Cllr S Turner be elected Chairman of the Council for the ensuing municipal year. Cllr G Smout seconded this proposal.

Following a vote it was unanimously **resolved** that Cllr Steve Turner be elected as Chairman of the Council for the year 2011/12

Cllr S Turner then signed the relevant declaration of acceptance of office.

02/05/11 Apologies for absence

None Recorded

03/05/11 Declarations of Interest for a) the Meeting (Personal and Prejudicial) and b) Any Changes to be Notified to the Registers of Interests and Gifts & Hospitality

a) & b): None recorded.

The Clerk advised Members that they should complete the appropriate declarations for the recording of any interests (personal and prejudicial) that might affect their responsibilities as a Parish Councillor. The Clerk advised that he held copies of the relevant pro forma for this purpose which would be made available to Members on request. Entries on the appearing on the register of interests would be coordinated and held Wychavon District Council.

The Clerk advised that he had also produced a composite information pack for new Councillors which would give details of the duties of a local Councillor, advice on standards, and details of financial regulations and Council Standing orders. Again this was available on request from the Clerk.

04/05/11 Election of Vice - Chairman of the Council for the ensuing municipal year

Cllr C Turner proposed that Cllr M Wilkins be elected to the post of Vice Chairman for the year 2011/12. This was seconded by Cllr G Smout and it was unanimously **resolved** that Cllr M Wilkins be elected as Vice Chairman for the year 2011/12

05/05/11 Appointment of Members to represent the Council on the following bodies

Village Hall Committee

Cllr M Wilkins proposed that Cllr C Turner be appointed to serve as the Council's representative on the Village Hall Committee. Cllr S Turner seconded this proposal and it was unanimously **resolved** that Cllr C Turner be appointed to serve as the Council's representative on the Village Hall Committee for the year 2011/12

Waste Liaison Committee

Following discussion it was unanimously **resolved** that Cllr M Wilkins be appointed to serve as the Council's representatives on the Waste Liaison Committee for the year 2011/12

A review of the list of other Member responsibilities was then undertaken and the Clerk agreed to distribute this list so Members could decide on the individual duties for which they would be responsible.

06/05/11 Appointment/ Confirmation of bank signatories

Following discussion it was resolved that the following Members be authorised to sign cheques and authorise other financial transactions on behalf of the Council:-

Cllr S Turner (Chairman)
Cllr M Wilkins
Cllr G Smout

Cheques would continue to require the signatures of two members from the above-mentioned list.

07/05/11 Future meetings of the Council Meeting and formation of a Committee

Following discussion it was proposed that future meetings of the Council in 2011/12 would take place on:-

Thursday 28 July, 2011

Thursday 29 September 2011

Thursday 24 November, 2011 – Precept Setting

Thursday 26 January, 2012

Thursday 29 March, 2012

Thursday 24 May, 2012 - Annual General Meeting and Parish Meeting

08/05/11 Formation of Committees and Scheme of delegation

The Finance and General Purposes Committee and Planning Committee meet on ad hoc basis to deal with urgent planning and other business including the approval of payments.

The following Members were duly elected to serve on the Committees:-

Finance and General Purposes Committee

Cllr S Turner (Chairman)
Cllr C Turner
Cllr M Wilkins
Cllr J Wilkins

Planning Committee

Cllr S Turner (Chairman)
Cllr C Turner
Cllr G Smout
Cllr M Wilkins
Cllr R Merchant

Other elected Members will be eligible to act as substitutes at meetings of either Committee if the need arises.

Committee meetings will be open to the press and public unless confidential items are being discussed. Decisions taken by either Committee would need to be ratified by full Council at the next available Council meeting.

Wyre Piddle Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Meeting of the Council

**Held on 19 May, 2011
In the Village Hall, Wyre Piddle**

Meeting commenced: 7.30 pm. Meeting ended: 8.15 pm

Present: Cllrs S Turner (Chairman), C Turner, M Wilkins, G Smout, J Parsons R Merchant

In attendance: D M Taverner – Parish Clerk, County Cllr Mrs L Tucker

Apologies: None

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks

The Chairman, Cllr S Turner, opened the meeting and gave a welcome to those present.

2. Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 27 May 2010

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 May 2010, having been previously circulated, were approved as a true record of that meeting.

3. Parish Council Report and Questions Arising

The Chairman presented the following report to the meeting: _

"This has been another busy and enjoyable year for the Council again with various Community events having taken place, the highlight of which was the very enjoyable Street Party, celebrating the Royal Wedding and the Centenary of the Opening of the Village Hall. Thanks go to all of the team those who helped to organise the day, but special thanks must go to Carrie Oakley who kept the organisational side of everything on track!

Other events such as the Easter Bonnet parade, The "little P" event and the Treasure Hunt were also organised by the Village Hall Committee and the "Joined up" Entertainments team and all of these helped to foster the spirit of community that the Council is continually striving to foster.

The Christmas Carol Concert was also well attended and it was also very good to see the excellent attendance at the annual Service of Remembrance.

It is here that I must reflect on the recent passing of Mr Claude Scholes who died recently at his home in Perth, Western Australia.

Mr Scholes who was born in 1901 in Wyre Piddle was the last surviving combat veteran of the first world war. He served with distinction in the Navy aboard MHMS Revenge until the end of the war and then moved to Australia where he continued to serve in the Military 1956. The Village is justly proud of its association with Mr Scholes.

On a lighter note the Parish continued to participate in the Wychavon Games – and the Village performed well in the various competitions especially in events such as the Bowls, Crib and Table Tennis events

The Council undertook enhancement work throughout the Village to help to improve the general environment. Renovation works were undertaken to the Bus Shelter, and our contractors continued to maintain general Aras such as Smiths Meadow, Avon Green and the Poplar Avenue to a very high standard. Flower planting was arranged throughout the Village and again thanks must go to all those who contributed to these works

The Parish Lengthsman – Mr Gary Robinson – undertook a range of maintenance and clearing works throughout the Village with funding for the work being received directly from the County Council. Thanks must go to Gary for his continued efforts and liaison with the County Council on various maintenance issues

The problems with the access to traffic over the Eastern Bridge continued to persist. Despite our numerous requests to the County Council and the Police there have been no prosecutions against those drivers ignoring the traffic stop signals – and the issue of the excessive speed of vehicles through the Village has also continued to cause concern. The parish Council will continue to work closely with the local policing team on these matters and we will continue to ensure that we have strong

representation at the local PACT (Police and Community Together) meetings.

The council's finances continued to be well managed. Mindful of the impact of the economic downturn maintained the increase in the Parish Precept to a relatively low level of only £500, raising it to some £9500. This was equivalent to an increase of only three pence a week to a Band D Council Tax payer.

Through careful management we have frozen the level of our Council Tax Precept for 2011/12. Whilst our budgets are limited we will continue to do what we can to promote and retain the general character of our Village and will seek out grant funding where it is available to help meet the costs of special

The general administration of the Council remains on a firm footing and special thanks must go to my wife Tina, Jean and Martin Wilkins, Ros Merchant, Jane Parsons and Gladys Smout – all of whom have done a great deal of work (much of it unseen) in their roles as Parish Councillors on behalf of the Village throughout the year.

We intend to remain watchful over major planning proposals where they would detract from the existing character of the Village, and members of the public are invited to comment directly to us as Parish Councillors on any individual applications which are brought before the Council for consideration. In particular we shall be keeping a close watch on the plans that are about to be submitted to the District Council by Crown House Developments with a proposal to build a large three storey warehouse and distribution centre on land between Keytec7 and Chase House Farm.

The Parish Council will continue to look for new initiatives and ideas that will help to benefit the local community generally and are keen to encourage volunteers to come forward to help with any projects which they may be interested in.

4. District and County Councillors Report – Cllr L Tucker.

Cllr Tucker presented her Annual report to the meeting

There had been an unexpected change of leader at the County Council with Gordon Lord having resigned. Cllr Andrew Hardiman had taken over and there had been changes to the County Council Cabinet composition.

Budget cuts and efficiencies were still being looked at and there would be public consultation on how and where further budget savings could be made. These would include quite large cuts to the Youth service budget although the Riverside Centre in Pershore would be protected as it is not owned by the County Council.

There had been discussion on a review of the library service with a potential move of Pershore library to the Civic Centre in Queen Elizabeth Drive.

The County council Highways team had been consulting with the police solicitor to see what could be done enforce action against drivers transgressing the stop signs at the Eastern Bridge vehicles

Cllr Tucker outlined the District Council's plans to deal with its worsening financial situation following the economic downturn. Further efficiency savings were being sought in addition to those previously identified and an additional £400k worth of savings had now been identified. There was an ongoing freeze on recruitment.

5. Local Community Police officer Report

Pc Stuart Tombs presented written details of crime figures within Wyre Piddle over the preceding 12 months. There had been:-

54 reported burglaries from dwellings and 6 burglaries from other garages and sheds, 3 incidents of vehicle crime and 2 incidents of assault. There were also 4 other minor incidents reported

PC Tombs reported that the police had again undertaken random speed enforcement patrols within the Village and down Wyre Hill. The main concerns reported to Police involved incidents of excess vehicle speed within the village and the ongoing misuse of the Emergency Vehicle Access on the Eastern Bridge.

6. Reports from Village Organisations

(a) Village Hall Management Committee

Cllr C Turner that rental income from the Village Hall had fallen by 50% compared to the figure that had been received in 2009/10, but expenditure was being subsidised by the monthly 100 club. A new gas central heating system had now been installed part funded by a contribution from the Parish Council.

The Royal wedding Street party had been very well attended and enjoyed. New table and curtains had been purchased for the Village hall partly funded by the money which was raised.

(b) "Joined up Events"

Cllr C Turner outlined some of the events that had taken place being during the year. The Easter Bonnet parade, the "little P" event on Smiths Meadow and been well attended. The Christmas Carol Concert had also proved popular and further events would be organised for the year ahead. Cllr Turner thanked members of the "Joined up Entertainments Team" for their help throughout the year.

7. Open Forum

Questions were again received regarding the state of repair of roads throughout the Village. The Clerk replied that he had been in regular contact with the County Council on this issue throughout the year, raising various

reports for action, and although further patching repairs had been carried out more work was still required but again the County Council's roads maintenance budgets were limited and being targeted to priority routes designated by the County Council

There was an ongoing issue on the misuse of traffic crossing the Eastern Bridge – ignoring red stop signals. The lack of prosecutions in this regard was an ongoing cause of frustration and the Clerk had again been in touch with officers at the County Council on this issue but no real enforcement action had taken place. The Parish Council would be heavily opposed to any plans to reopen the bridge to all traffic.

In response to questions received on the state of some of the local footpaths and bridleways the Clerk advised that he would contact the countryside services team at the County Council to ask for work to be carried out to footpaths that had become overgrown. Parishioners should continue to report problems with the various footpaths throughout the Village so that remedial works could be undertaken by the Parish Lengthsman or the County Council as necessary.

There being no other business the meeting was closed at 8.15 pm

.....Chairman
23 May 2012