

WYRE PIDDLER PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council duly convened and held in the Village Hall, Wyre Piddle on **Thursday 24th September, 2015** commencing at 7.30pm

Present Councillors: - D Naraine (Chairman)
G Smout, G Johns
In attendance: - County Councillor Liz Tucker
D Taverner – Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer

Apologies recorded: - Cllr N Wood

1/9/15 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.

2/9/15 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

3/9/15 Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 27th August, 2015
The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 27th August, 2015 having been previously circulated were approved as a correct record of those meetings.

4/9/15 Matters arising from the minutes.
There were none.

5/9/15 Open Council Session - Questions from members of the Public

- 1. From Mr G Robinson – why had there been no repairs undertaken to the brickwork of the bridge crossing the entrance to Mill lane?**
The Clerk replied that the works required were of an extremely minor nature and would be attended to as soon as possible
- 2. From Mr G Robinson – could a 20mph speed limit be introduced on roads throughout the Parish?** *The Clerk replied that this would be a matter for the County Council to consider and enforcement would be well-nigh impossible given the lack of prosecutions brought about under the existing 30 mph speed limits within the Parish.*
- 3. From Mr G Robinson – had action been undertaken to inspect and clear the ditches in Mill Lane?** *-The Clerk repeated the reply that he had given to Mr Robinson on several occasions regarding this matter. The ditches had been inspected by Wychavon District Council's Land Drainage inspector who had complimented the Parish Council for the work which had been undertaken in keeping the drainage channels clear. Regular inspections of the drainage ditches were undertaken by the District Council throughout the year and enforcement action against riparian landowners had been carried out as necessary.*

6/9/15 Community Access Defibrillator

Mr Mike Oakley informed those present that a community access defibrillator had now been installed outside the Village Hall. This had been part funded by the Parish Council and Wychavon District Council via contributions which had been received under the "New Homes Bonus" fund.

The defibrillator could be accessed in an emergency situation in liaison with the emergency services who were aware of its location. Whilst the equipment was easy to operate, with "walk through" voice guidance, training sessions on its use were due to be organised.

Parish Councillors asked that their thanks to Mr Oakley for all of his work on the project should be formally recorded.

7/9/15 Report of County Councillor Mrs Liz Tucker South Worcestershire Development Plan

A final set of proposed changes to the South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP) have been published by the three councils preparing the blueprint to guide economic and housing development in the area to 2030. Later this month each of the three councils – Malvern Hills, Worcester City and Wychavon – will vote to agree to hold a six-week public consultation on the proposed Main Modifications. This will give local people a chance to have their say on the proposed changes to the Plan. The number of dwellings required to be built under the SWDP was increased to **28,370** last year in the first phase of the Examination. These latest proposed Main Modifications leave that number unchanged. However, it is now proposed that some housing sites are removed from the Plan. Wychavon District Councillors will be asked to agree to launch a consultation on these latest proposed Main Modifications on September 30th. Similar meetings will be held by Worcester and Malvern Hills councillors. If approved, the new consultation will run from 9 October to 20 November and will only concern the changes now being proposed. Details of how to take part in the consultation are available at <http://www.swdevelopmentplan.org>. The results of the consultation will feed into the Inspector's final report, which is expected to be published early next year. It is hoped that the three councils will formally adopt the Plan shortly after that.

Proposal to create joint Council management team could save £280,000

Creating a single senior management team to run Malvern Hills and Wychavon District Councils could save both authorities hundreds of thousands of pounds. There are currently nine senior managers running both councils but the plan is to cut that to six which would save each authority £140,000 a year. The two councils have already collectively saved £190,000 by sharing a Chief Executive/Managing Director, Head of Paid Service, Head of Housing and Planning and Head of Economic Development. It is hoped the changes will be made through voluntary redundancies, which could cost an estimated £220,000. The money will come from a government grant both councils received to transform the way they work and not from money to run services. The plan has been put forward by Chief Executive/Managing Director Jack Hegarty as part of the two councils' response to cuts to their government funding. Their main government grant has fallen by 53 per cent since 2010/11 and Chancellor George Osborne is expected to announce further cuts in his Autumn Statement on 25 November. The changes would have no impact on the day-to-day delivery of services to residents and both councils would remain independent organisations.

New faces to help tackle business and rural crime

The fight against crime has been boosted with the addition of three new faces to help tackle issues in rural areas and amongst businesses. South Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership has appointed two new business and rural crime liaison officers to offer support and crime prevention advice to those in rural communities and businesses. Clive Parsons will be responsible for the Wychavon area while Ian White has been allocated to Malvern Hills District. The pair will also share the workload in Worcester City. For more information about the business and rural crime scheme, or to get involved in any of the new schemes, contact Simon Thompson by emailing simon.thompson@wychavon.gov.uk or call 07721 919784 on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Northern Link

Cllr Tucker was due to attend a further meeting on the Northern Link proposals specifically aimed at alleviating current problems around Station Road in Pershore and the proposals that were due to be considered for the Pinvin crossroad junction

8/9/15 Planning applications and notices

[W/15/02041/OUT](#) Peace Avon, Main Road, Wyre Piddle, WR10 2JB – Demolition of existing bungalow to form three new dwellings

The Parish Council's Planning group considered this application and recommended that the Parish Council should object to the application as it is concerned that if three, four-bedroomed dwellings, are granted outline planning permission in principle, when accurate information is ultimately presented in a reserved matters application, ridge heights will be significantly raised damaging the existing street scene. Adjustments to the access will result in the removal of vast tracts of the existing hedging and the riverbank habitat will be destroyed. We are disappointed to note that whilst Wychavon District Council does much to seek good design standards in the District, we see too many Outline Planning Applications being approved with little information being put forward where the resulting development, following reserved matters, is materially different to that initially proposed and envisaged. This, we suggest, has the hallmark of being one such example.

[W/15//02241/PP](#) The Retreat, Main Road, Wyre Piddle, WR10 2JB Front extension to upper ground floor (road level), and balcony overlooking river to rear of riverside dwelling

The Parish Council's Planning group considered this application and recommended that the Parish Council should object to the application. This site has a chequered planning history, with the first two applications seeking to build a dwelling being refused. On the third attempt permission was granted although, notably Permitted Development Rights were removed.

Due to the planning history, the Parish Council is not entirely clear as to what has and what has not got planning permission; or if condition 5 of 05/00187 is still applicable i.e. the Store Room would now appear to be a Kitchen/Dining Room. Within this application, the Parish Council has similar concerns at the potential for the space between the balcony, and what is referred to as a Flood defence Wall, to be enclosed and to become absorbed into further indoor living space at some point.

Since first built The Retreat has had a detrimental impact on the Wyre Piddle Conservation Area and the proposed extension will only compound the issue. The Conservation Area includes the River Avon passing through Wyre Piddle and consequently, views into the site from this well used stretch of river need to be taken into account.

The street scene has already been compromised by the extension previously granted and this further application will do the same to the rear of the property. The excessively large balcony, as proposed, is out of all proportion to the dwelling and, with the privacy boards, would become a blocky and dominant feature. The balcony would also have a negative impact upon neighbouring amenity, potentially leading to a loss of light, as it would appear to contravene the 45 degree angle rule

In the case of The Retreat, this presents us with an example of how the good design principles, championed by Wychavon District Council, become lost in the process. Its street scene perspective is more similar to a Squash Court or Stable than to a single dwelling house. The additions that have been added to this dwelling have only helped to demonstrate bad design.

9/9/15 Community Events update

No major changes to the events diary were envisaged. Preparations for the Remembrance Service scheduled for 8th November were well in hand.

Good progress was being made in the Wychavon games by Parish teams and the knock out stages of the competition had now started.

The Village Hall – is having some refurbishment work undertaken between the 1st September and Monday 5th October in three main areas. 1; to improve the toilets facilitating disabled access; 2, to improve lighting both within and outside the building including wall lighting with dimmers on the inside and lighting to give illumination from the hall to the car park on the outside (which will hopefully encourage use of the mainly empty Car Park and reduce road parking); and 3; work to improve the wooden floor. This work follows a grant from Welcome to our Future and will further enhance our Village Hall making it more desirable, thus more hireable.

10/9/15 Tree works – Poplar Avenue estate

Willows on Poplar Ave, two more contractors have been invited to tender for work – quotes are pending but any work necessary will be commissioned and completed before March 2016.

11/9/15 Finance

a) To approve payment of Accounts

The following accounts were approved for payment:-

cheque	Payee	For	£
901137	HMRC	PAYE /National insurance - Clerk Sept Qtr	200.60
901138	D M Taverner	Salary & Admin Expenses - September	287.32

b) Bank account balances at 24th September,2015

The Clerk circulated details of the Council bank balances as at 24th September which were represented by;-

Bank Current account	£ 5,981.82
Bank Deposit account	29,827.29
National Savings account	13,738.74
Total Cash held at 27 th September, 2015	49,547.85

12/9/15 Report from lengthsmen and related repair and maintenance projects

Peter Hurst was again thanked for the excellent standard of work that he had undertaken to the maintenance of the grass verges and other repair projects throughout the village and a claim for the reimbursement of the work undertaken during the period April to September had now been paid by the County Council.

13/9/15 Poplar Avenue Play Area update

Further details of indicative replacement / updated play equipment for the Poplar Avenue play area had been presented at consultation events in the Parish. The Council was now considering the various schemes and cost quotations received with the objective of having the refurbished play area open by the spring of 2016.

14/9/15 Land at Chapel Lane . It was noted that Sandfields Farm had indicated that they were considering selling a plot of their land off Chapel Lane. It was agreed that the Council should have initial discussion with the vendors or their agents to investigate the possibility of purchasing the land for future community use. A report on the outcome of the meeting would be presented to a future meeting of the Council.

14/9/15 Date of next meeting was confirmed at Thursday 26th November, 2015

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.05pm.

Chairman

26th November, 2015