

WYRE PIDDLER PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council duly convened and held in the Village Hall, Wyre Piddle on **Thursday 26th January 2017** commencing at 7.30 pm

Present Councillors: - D. Naraine (Chairman)
G Smout, J Paul and G Johns
In attendance: - D Taverner – Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer
County Councillor Mrs Liz Tucker
Apologies recorded: - Cllr N Wood

1/11/17 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.

2/1/17 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

3/1/17 Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 24th November, 2016

The minutes of the meeting which had been held on 24th November were approved and signed by the Chairman has a correct record.

4/1/17 Matters arising from the minutes.

There were none

5/1/17 Adjournment of the meeting to allow for questions on council business from parishioners

1. Mr Gary Robinson requested that he should be considered as a candidate to fill one of the existing Parish Councillor vacancies. The Clerk advised that Mr Robinson could make an application under the co-option procedure and as part of that process his candidature would need to be proposed and seconded by two existing Members of the Council. There would then need to be a majority vote by the Council to agree to Mr Robinson's election.

2 Regarding the Eastern Bridge traffic signals. It was noted that the new traffic signal arrangements at the Eastern bridge seemed to working efficiently and the barrier system was again now in place. The Parish Council's stance on maintaining the closure of the bridge to all but emergency vehicles and local buses was strongly reiterated

3 Gary Robinson –Presidency of Wychavon Games. Members attention was drawn to the article which had appeared in the local press which had marked the retirement of Mr Robinson from the presidency of the Wychavon games. Members of the Council formally recorded their thanks for his sterling service and his long involvement with the games.

Mr Robinson thanked Members for their remarks and proposed a vote of thanks for the excellent work undertaken by Carrie Oakley on behalf of the Parish .

6/11/17 Planning: applications and decision notices

No new applications had been received since the previous meeting.

The following planning approvals were noted:

[16 02798](#) **Anchor Inn, Main Road** -Rebuild western gable wall of pub
There were no objections to this application – application approved 19th January, 2017

[16 01980](#) **Pidele House, Main Road, Wyre Piddle reconstruction of Landing Stage** – application approved 17th October, 2016

7/11/17 Report of County Councillor

Cllr Tucker reported that the oft-vandalised barrier between Wyre and Upper Moor was now back in operation

There was still strong criticism surrounding local transport infrastructure plans especially following further planned housing developments in Pershore and the surrounding villages

Outcome of the Ofsted Inspection on Worcestershire's Children's services

Services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers underwent an Ofsted inspection at the end of last year. The inspectors have judged that Worcestershire's children's safeguarding services are inadequate. This isn't the case for the adoption services but overall Children's Services have been rated as inadequate.

The council will be saying sorry to our children and families where the level of service that we have provided has not been good enough and are accepting the report's findings and together they will work really hard to improve outcomes for our children. Ofsted have recognised that the recent changes in the Children's Families and Communities leadership team, with the arrival of the Director Catherine Driscoll and Tina Russell the new Assistant Director Safeguarding Services are already providing a much-needed focus and drive. An improvement plan is already in place which has made more robust to accelerate the pace of delivery. Ofsted recognised progress is being made. For example a new referral model for all agencies has been in place since July last year. They have significantly reduced the time it takes to complete care proceedings when they are required and we have made good progress in recruiting more permanent front line Team Leaders. The report recognises the impact made by the reconfiguration of services at the 'family front door', children being offered return home interviews following episodes of missing, the implementation of the 'connecting families' programme and the setting up of a strategic workforce board.

The senior Management is committed to putting in place the systems and processes that are needed to provide our teams with the support that they need to be the best that they can be. With this in mind the Cabinet is proposing to invest an extra £3.5 million next year into safeguarding children focussed on management oversight, support for front line staff and the IT to enable work to be done more effectively.

Budget setting for 2017-18

At the full council in February the Council will be setting its budget for 2017-18. At the start of the budget process a gap of over £35 million was identified and after careful consideration the gap was reduced to just below £3 million. This has now been closed by careful use of one off balances, an increase in New Homes Bonuses as well as an increase in a number of grants and funding

streams. It should be remembered that as a council we still have a budget of over £323million and still spends just under £1 million pounds a day. Cabinet is minded to recommend to Full Council in February 2017 an increase in Council Tax Precept by 2.94% in relation to two parts:

- 0.94% to provide financial support for the delivery of outcomes in line with the Corporate Plan Shaping Worcestershire's Future and the priorities identified by the public and business community
- 2% Adult Social Care Precept ring-fenced for Adult Social Care services in order to contribute to existing cost pressures in 2017/18 due to demographic changes and an increased demand for more complex services

The budget is not all about savings, the council is also investing in services which includes a number of infrastructure projects, these include

- £6 million of new money to be spent on pavement repairs and a further £1 million added into the base budget for Highways repairs.
- £2 million on town centre regeneration
- £10 million towards the completion of the Southern Link Road
- £5 million toward tackling congestion across the county.

8/1/17 Community events update

Carrie Oakley had submitted the following report:-

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Reporting on the Wychavon Sport Parish Games, Piddle Post and Joined Up Entertainments

WYCHAVON SPORT (Parish Games)

Thank you to Mr Robinson, Gary, for his time spent with Wychavon Sport, now that he has fully stepped down.

I missed the last Parish Council Meeting as I was attending the Wychavon Sport Parish Games Presentation Night where, much to our delight and indeed surprise, we came a fabulous 4th out of 27 Parishes this year AND we were awarded the Best Medium Sized Parish Trophy –so we did come home with some silverware after all!!!! Another great result and rather unexpectedly, we managed to maintain a top 5 position which we have consistently achieved since 2011 which is just brilliant. As I so often say, we really do punch way above our weight.

As always, thanks must go to our Captains:

MIKE OAKLEY – CHRIS GOODERHAM – ALI HAULTAIN – PETE BOND – EVE MEUSZ – SIMON NEALE – ROB PERRY – MIKE JONES, MILES TAYLOR – BAS MORRIS AND KIT KITSON

and to every single person who participated. Our rough calculations suggest that 65 Parishioners took part.

And so, it will all start again in a few months but for now, we take a break...

PIDDLE POST

Issue 93, has been written and is out there being printed in readiness for distribution hopefully this weekend. Someone has stepped forward offering assisting with the Piddle Post so there is some hope that 'when I have reached 100', there maybe someone able and willing to keep it going!

JOINED UP ENTERTAINMENTS

On the 17 December, the JUE team held the 10th Annual Children's Christmas Party with DJ Chris and a whole bunch of children 12 and under and on Christmas Eve we had the 10th Annual Carols and Mulled Wine with Pershore Brass Band – the chosen charity was St Richard's Hospice and in just one hour, through the generosity of those attending, £208 was raised.

The next event is the Easter Bonnet Parade and once again we are hoping that Ruby Edwards and Charlie Hughes will pick this up, with support and guidance from the JUE team as we are ready to hand over the children's events to the next generation

9 /1/17 Notice of retirement of Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer

The Clerk gave notice of his intended retirement with effect from 31st May 2017. There were already a couple of interested candidates for the role and it was suggested that the formal recruitment of a successor should commence immediately with a view to an appointment being made after the Annual General Meeting in May, 2017 to facilitate a smooth handover of duties.

10/1/17 PACT Panel report. A meeting had been held on 18th January and the following issues had been discussed

- Excessive Vehicle Speed throughout the district
- Dangerous parking at local schools during pupil drop off and pick up times
- Potential for use of fencing to protect Preaching Cross from vehicle damage

10/1/17 Finance

a) To approve payment of Accounts

The following accounts were approved for payment: -

901183 D M Taverner	clerk salary & expenses jan	355.21
901184 Collett Accountancy	Payrol Preparation	181.50
901185 HMRC	PAYE & Nat Insurance DEC Qtr	202.40
901186 K Boulton	tree works - play area	420.00
901187 N Power	street lighting	179.00

b) Bank account balances at 26th January, 2017

The Clerk circulated details of the Council bank reconciliation statement as at 26th January, 2017. Bank balances at that date were represented by; -

	£
Bank Current account	9,300.81
Bank Deposit account	29,902.51
National Savings account	13,924.94

Total Cash held at 26th January, 2017 53,128.26

Members were shown sight of the relevant bank statements for verification purposes.

11/1/17 Poplar Avenue Play Area update

Further quotations for the replacement play equipment for the Poplar Avenue play area had been received The Chairman and Clerk were now working to finalise community

grant funding bids.

12/1/17 Smiths Meadow

Cllr Paul advised that he had been in contact with the District Council regarding the permissions required for the construction of a landing stage at the bottom of Smith's meadow and that he would present an update report on this intended project once further information from Wychavon had been received.

Cllr Paul reported that he had noticed an increase in the amount of dog fouling in the Parish. A further appeal was made to local dog owners to clear any mess made by their pets

The ditches in Mill Lane which adjoined Smiths Meadow had recently been cleared by the Parish Lengthsman to prevent potential flooding.

13/1/17 Roads and pavements maintenance

Investigations would be undertaken to ascertain whether suitable protective fencing could be installed around the Preaching Cross at the top of Church Lane to help to prevent damage to it from passing vehicles.

14/1/17 Date of next meeting: Thursday 30th March, 2017

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.25pm

Chairman
30th March, 2017