

**THE ANNUAL MEETING OF PIRTON PARISH WAS HELD ON THURSDAY 20th MAY 2021
AT 7PM AT ST PETERS CHURCH, PIRTON, WORCESTERSHIRE**

PRESENT: Mrs J Butterworth, Mrs S Wynn, Mrs A Tanfield, Mr D Skeys, Mr S Coldbreath, Mr A Baxter, Mrs L Baxter, Mrs T Homer, Mrs E Turner, Mr I Turner, Mr I Butterworth, Mr A Wilkinson, Mr A Masters, Mrs K Masters, Mr A Price, Mr R Price, Mr P Hare, Mrs E Quintin, Mr S Quintin & Master G Quintin.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs N. Nicholson (Clerk), retiring County Councillor R Adam & Newly elected County Councillor L Robinson.

1. APOLOGIES

District Councillor M Ward, Mrs S Carlyle & Mr G Fish

2. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held 16th May 2019 were reviewed, the actions were read by the Clerk.

30MPH Roundels had been repainted.

White village gates had been discussed by the Parish Council but had not been taken forward.

The traffic from Gallops Bridge exit route from motorway had been reported to Highways England.

Visibility mirrors do not pass WCC Highways safety checks and are therefore not possible at the bind bend at the entrance to Wadborough.

The minutes were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

3. MATTERS ARISING

Nothing remained outstanding.

4. REPORTS

(a) Parish Council

Mrs J Butterworth read the annual report as the Chair of the Parish Council:

It's been a busy and productive year for the Parish Council. Legislation was changed that enabled us to continue to hold monthly meetings, albeit virtually, throughout the year. Meetings were well attended and we have enjoyed fruitful discussion and a lot of interesting debate from our living rooms. As required by legislation in June we will return to meeting in person again. For most of the year we have had a full council and despite some turn over in the last couple of months we are now back to full strength. We said a fond farewell to 5 members, including Wadborough representative Michael Gardner who I think had been a Parish Councillor for circa 50 years. I thank the retiring Councillors for all they have done for their communities during the years of service. I feel very fortunate that we have recruited some talented and capable people join the team and fill in the gaps; Steve Quinton (Pirton Ward), Joanne Murphy (Wadborough Ward), Maureen Williams, Sheila Boniface & returning Councillor Mark Griffiths (Drakes Broughton Ward)

We have reviewed and commented on numerous planning applications and we have represented our local community in meetings and discussions with Wychavon as part of the review of the South Worcestershire Development plan (SWDPR). We have, with other local Parish Councils, submitted a paper with questions and objections about the SWDPR to Wychavon DC and more recently submitted a response with Stoulton Parish Council to object to the contents of Sustainability appraisal of the SWDP to suggest it should be reviewed again as there was on mention on of COVID and its impact upon the way we live on any of the 404 pages. We believe that they should be reconsidering the size of the proposed settlement that is being planned for just because there is a train station.

The Parish Council are required by law to follow due process as laid out in two governing documents; The Standing Orders and The Financial regulations. During the year these

documents have both been reviewed and updated and the revised documents agreed and adopted. These are important documents and will ensure that we are doing things in the way that they are supposed to be done. At the end of the financial year, we were fortunate to move to use a new database to record and report our financial transactions. This will make the task of managing and overseeing our finances much easier particularly in the short term as we wrestle with accessing and spending money from a whole range of sources that include Precept & grant, Lengthsman grant, Community infrastructure levy (Cil money), New Homes Bonus money, s106 money from 5 different s106 agreements for 5 housing developments and grants from a variety of sources, including a Wychavon Community legacy grant.

Access to this money is not always straight forward; we have to know what the money can be used for, decide exactly what we want to do and then prepare detailed specifications. Armed with this information we then make an application for access to the money from the right source and often the application has to be approved at committee before access is granted. Once we know we have access to the money we then go out to tender to find and appoint suppliers. With this done we draw up contracts, oversee the work, receive the invoices and then submit claims for the funds and also make sure we reclaim the VAT included in the invoices from HMRC as grant money is paid net of VAT. It is great to have access to this money but actually accessing it and spending it does require a lot of time, effort and determination!

During the last year as well as doing the things the Parish Council normally do we have focused our effort on two community assets in Drakes Broughton; the Playing Field and the Village Hall. Using money made available through s106 agreements with housing developers we purchased and installed a wonderful new play park in Drakes Broughton. Timing was on our side and as the nation went into the first lock down as the contractors moved on site and the installation started and we had the good fortune in being able to open it in time for the school summer holiday. This park has been incredibly popular and has been the go-to place for many people from across Wychavon during this past year.

We are incredibly grateful to Les Wild, Chair of the Open Space Committee, for his determination to make sure that the Play Park is as good as it is, and for all the work in ensuring it got installed. We are grateful to retiring County Councillor Rob Adams who found £1000 for us to help pay some of this additional cost associated with the Play Park that we will incur this year. As s106 money hasn't been allocated to the Village Hall the Parish Council has had to look elsewhere for funding. Under the title "Upgrading Drakes Broughton Village Hall: A Revitalised Heart for a Growing Community" The Parish Council successfully applied to for a Community Legacy Grant of £200,000. A small working party with representation from Village Hall Committee, the Parish Council and the wider community are working to make sure we have a rejuvenated community hall. Other funding has been secured and the tendering process is nearing completion. We are planning for building work will start towards the end of the summer. The hall will be closed for up to 6 months but it will all be worth it! The rejuvenated hall will be a great venue for activities and parties, but probably more importantly it will be somewhere to go to for a coffee and to meet up with friends. We hope everyone will support the community fund raising activity for additional funds towards this project.

I want to end this year's report by saying a huge thank you to all the people who have supported the work of the Council during this year. They included our retiring Councillor Rob Adams, District Councillor Mark Ward, lengths man Brian Arrowsmith, members of the Open space review Group, member of the Village Hall rebuild working party, and our footpath warden, and of course all the people who contact the Council to bring matters to our attention. I want to thank all the people out there who quietly just do things to make it better for everyone. I say a special thank you to Nikki, our Parish Clerk, for all that she does for the Parish Council and the local community. And finally, my thanks go to the members of the Parish Council for all they do. They are very special people who have all signed up to listen to what you say and bring local issues to the attention of the Council so we can do what we can to try to improve things.

I am looking forward to another busy year in which we will continue to make good progress on many fronts for the benefit of our local communities

(b) County Council & District Council

Worcestershire County Councillor

Retiring County Councillor Adams gave his retiring address, touching upon the impact the small community of Pirton had made over the years, reminiscing over flower festivals, WW1 memorial displays and musical recitals, part of the impressive fundraising the community did for the church tower.

County Councillor Adams expressed his gratitude for the number of residents in attendance.

County Councillors Adams gave the District Council report in the absence of District Council Ward.

Cllr Adams advised that Wychavon had the lowest new cases of covid-19 in the country last week. Cllr Adams advised that taking up the vaccine opportunity was vitally important in the fight against Covid-19.

Cllr Adams advised that the 6 District Councils and County Council had worked together throughout the pandemic with the 'Here to Help Scheme'.

WDC had allocated over £40 million in grants to help businesses through the Covid-19 crisis, this included Village Halls, Leisure Centres as well as smaller businesses affected by the national lockdowns.

WDC had managed a fifth successive year with 0% council tax increase.

County Councillor Adams advised that the SWDPR continued and gave a summary of the main areas.

Mr A Masters queried Cllr Adams regarding upholding rural divides and identities along the route from M5 Junction 7 through to Pershore. Cllr Adams explained that he was instrumental in creating a multi-Parish Council liaison group and that a letter requesting a review of the new settlement in light of the effects of Covid-19 on commuter activity had been submitted. Mrs J Butterworth advised this had been backed by the Parish Council.

County Councillor Adams advised that WDC were having a boundary review with a view to reduce the number of District Councillors by 2.

County Councillor Adams expressed his thanks to Mrs J Butterworth and the Clerk for the work they do on behalf of the community and he then introduced the new County Councillor Linda Robinson.

County Councillor L Robinson introduced herself and thanked the electorate for her 68.23% majority. Cllr Robinson advised she was vice Chair of the planning committee and as such is looking to keep her pledge to keep the rural identity of the local villages with appropriate developments.

Cllr Robinson encouraged residents to contact her on any matters of the County Council and that she would do her best for her electorate.

5. DOG WASTE BINS

Mrs J Butterworth advised that a request to review the dog waste bin provision had been received by a resident.

Mr J Butterworth asked for a show of hands in favour of a dog waste bin provision in Pirton, to which there was only one resident in favour.

There was a discussion regarding the costs involved with dog waste bin provision.

Mr Hare advised that a number of residents were happy for bagged dog waste to be placed in their black bins when residents were out walking their dogs.

Mrs J Butterworth expressed her thanks to the Community Litter pickers and explained that litter picking kits were held within the community.

County Councillor Adams advised that extra money had been put in the County Council budget this year for public rights of way.

6. ANY MATTER AN ELECTOR WISHES TO RAISE

Playing Field – Mrs J Butterworth confirmed there was no option to purchase the land and that there was a number of years remaining on the current lease, Mrs J Butterworth would check the lease details. How to get the playing field neater and more widely used was then discussed.

Mr S Quintin advised he would be looking into it as his first action as the new Parish Councillor for the Pirton Ward and advised he was joining the open Space Committee.

Mrs J Butterworth answered a query about the land for sale behind the playing field – she explained it was not included in any of the SWDPR allocations and there are no plans registered for it to be anything other than agricultural land.

What the phone box could be used for was raised and an idea was put forward regarding a book swap/mini library. Mrs L Baxter volunteered to take on the task of looking after it if this idea is taken forward.

Mrs Butterworth thanked D Skeys for fixing the bench at the Village Green.

The Clerk & Mrs J Butterworth thanked all for attending.

The Meeting closed at 8.00 p.m.