

**THE ANNUAL MEETING OF PIRTON PARISH WAS HELD ON TUESDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> MAY 2023 AT 7:00 PM AT ST PETERS CHURCH, PIRTON.**

**PRESENT:** J Butterworth (Chair), T Homer, A Baxter, D Skeys, H Birch, S Coldbreath, I Butterworth, A Tanfield, M Connolly, A. Price, D. Price, S. Wynn, G. Fish, Carlyle, J. Kitchener, P. Kitchener, G. Quinton, S. Quinton and A Wilkinson..

**IN ATTENDANCE:** District Councillor, Cllr Robert Adams & The Parish Clerk.

**1. APOLOGIES**

J. Francis, District Councillor Liz Turier, County Councillor Linda Robinson

**2. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting held in May 2022 were reviewed, the actions were read by the Clerk.

The minutes were agreed to be signed by the Chair as a true record.

**3. MATTERS ARISING**

None

**4. REPORTS**

**(a) Parish Council**

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

The parish council is a local authority that makes decisions on behalf of the people in the parish and has an overall responsibility for the well-being of its local community. It is the level of government closest to the community, with the district authority above it in the hierarchy. Its work falls into three main categories:

- representing the local community
- delivering services to meet local needs
- striving to improve quality of life in the parish

Our Parish Council serves the Parishes of Drakes Broughton and Wadborough and the Parish of Pirton. The Parish Council meets each month throughout the year and as you would expect there is always plenty to discuss.

The membership of the Parish Council has changed during the year; retiring members include Amanda Tanfield (Pirton), John Yeo (Wadborough) Pip Crouchman (Wadborough) and Sheila Boniface (Drakes Broughton) and new members include Derek Skeys (Pirton) and Richard Booker (Drakes Broughton) and our recruitment campaign continues as we currently have a total of 4 vacancies for Parish Councillors.

Some things in Parish Council life seem to take an extraordinary length of time to progress but tenacity does seem to pay off and we have made good progress again on many fronts. During the year:

- We have overseen the completion and opening of the rejuvenated Village Hall in Drakes Broughton. The Parish Council secured over £300k of funding to pay for the work, and the project was delivered on time and in budget. The Parish Council is really delighted to see that Hall is being well used

- Eventually, we won the battle to get the pedestrian crossing on the B4084 in Drakes Broughton working, which has made it less daunting for residents to cross the busy main road in order to access the rest of the village
- We have continued to press for changes at the ford in Walcot Lane to reduce the number of vehicles that get into trouble whilst trying to cross the ford when it's in flood.
- We have represented Parishioners views in The Boundary review consultation for council wards in Wychavon. The outcome of the review is not what we had hoped for but it is what it is. Our Parish Council is now part of the new Drakes Broughton, Norton and Whittington Ward and we are represented at Wychavon District Council by 2 District Councillors. These are newly elected District Councillors Liz Turier and Rob Adams.
- We have increased awareness of the SWDPR proposal to enable parishioners to participate in the Wychavon led consultation about the proposal to build a new town with 10,000 houses around the Worcestershire Parkway railway station. The Parish Council hosted roadshows, represented the communities' views at the Joint Parishes Committee and at Wychavon Liaison meetings and made representations to the consultation independently as well as with the Joint Parishes Committee on behalf of the local community.
- We have considered and responded to 27 planning applications for development in Pirton, Wadbrough and Drakes Broughton
- We have secured and welcomed grants from County Councillor Linda Robinson for a new bench in Pirton and a defibrillator in Wadbrough, and from Sanctuary Housing for a community notice board in Drakes Broughton.
- We have upgraded some of the 41 Parish Council owned street lights in Drakes Broughton using community infrastructure levy money and thankfully successfully secured a 4-year fixed price deal for the electricity to power the lights.
- We have continued to consider options and take actions to ensure that services are maintained with no increase in the amount collected in from parishioners in council tax on behalf of the Parish Council.

In PIRTON during the last 12 months we have

Installed the new bench (hooray)

Managed to get troublesome trees felled in St Peters Close

Arranged for Ivy and dead branches to be removed from trees on the playing field

And we have supported residents in trying to get the buried land drain reinstated – sadly this is still a work in progress!

I am very aware that things wouldn't happen without the people who do the work to make them happen. My thanks go to our County Councillor and to our District Councillors who attend our monthly meetings and for the work they do to support our endeavours and to all of the Parish Councillors for everything they have done throughout this year.

My thanks also go to the people in the community who are not members of the Parish Council, but have joined our working parties and subcommittees to share some of the work load associated with making things happen locally. We are thankful.

I also have to say a big thank you to our Parish Clerk Nikki Nicholson for everything she has done to enable the Parish Council throughout this year.

We look forward to another busy year during which we will strive to represent the local community, deliver services to meet local needs and do what we can to improve quality of life in the Parishes

## **b) Worcestershire County Councillor - County Councillor's report**

The Clerk advised that the report provided by County Councillor Robinson would be available on the Parish Council website.

### **c) District Councillor – District Councillor Adams**

District Councillor Rob Adams spoke about the recent local elections and how humbling it felt to have been elected to serve as District Councillor with fellow Councillor Liz Turier for the new ward of Drakes Broughton, Norton & Whittington. Rob has represented Norton & Whittington as District Councillor for the last 20 years and has attended the monthly Parish Council meetings for Drakes Broughton with Wadborough and Pirton for many years up until 2 years ago when he stood down from the position as County Councillor. He believes that rural protection is a priority and spoke of the duty he feels to ensure that he and fellow District Cllr Liz Turier work co-operatively for the benefit of our local communities. Cllr Adams advised that he is already talking to the leader of the District Councillor about issues relating to Pirton

## **5. ANY MATTER AN ELECTOR WISHES TO RAISE**

### **Loss of Pirton Polling Station**

District Councillor Cllr Adams apologised on behalf of WDC for the way in which Pirton has lost its polling station. Local resident Ian Butterworth told the meeting that he has raised a formal complaint about the matter with WDC and that the matter is currently being considered by WDC Chief executive Vic Allison. Cllr Adam told us that he has discussed the matter with WDC Chief executive Vic Allison and he is expecting Cllr Adams to return to WDC with comments from today's meeting. Ian advised that the decision to remove the polling station in November 2022 was made based on false inaccurate information, namely that when 1 Elm View was purchased in 2013 the new owners said that didn't want the polling station to be at the house and that there had been consultation about it. This is untrue; the property was used as a polling station in 2019 after the new owners were living there, and the owners are very happy for it to be continue to be used in the future. According to the Electoral Council guideline Pirton is entitled to have a polling station in the Parish. Ian asked the Parish Council to appeal to the Electoral Commission if WDC refused to reinstate it. All residents present at the meeting supported this request.

Penny Kitchener asked if as a starting point WDC could reverse the decision as it had been made based on false information and then the review process for the future of the polling station in Pirton started again.

Cllr Adams asked if parishioners would be content if the Church was used as a polling station. The consensus was that the preference is to use 1 Elm View, but if the choice is Church or travel to Drakes Broughton then the Church would be the preferred option.

Weed Killer being used around the Lanes.

A resident enquired to see if anyone knows who is spraying weed killer on the giant hogweed and other plants on the verges around the area. Andrew Baxter told the meeting that it appears that someone has taken it upon himself and is randomly travelling around the area and apply weed killer. It was suggested that this should be reported to regulatory services.

## **6.REPORTS FROM PIRTON**

### **Here is the report from Anne & Dick Price on Litter picking in Pirton.**

Hello – we are Dick and Anne Price and we have always lived locally and then in Pirton for the past 33 years. **We Litter Pick!** Mainly Pirton village lanes and have done so for many years now. Sadly, the huge growth in “traffic” has increased Pirton’s “litter” enormously. We both feel it is a way of “giving back” to wildlife, nature and the countryside. Whilst we realise, we cannot stop people littering we can counteract their thoughtless actions so – hence WE LITTER PICK and find it a rewarding thing to do.

Over the years we have come across all sorts of things some of which are funny and some of which are not. We always take a bag with us wherever we go and then do a “proper” littler pick with “all the gear and some idea” fairly regularly. I am sure all here are aware that litter picking equipment – yes there is such a thing! – is available (I think) from Wychavon Council BUT I believe Derek also has a

small stock if anyone wishes to go the whole hog! Or else just simply take a carrier bag in your pocket! Anyway – this is our contribution to volunteering and in an attempt to make people smile about this scintillating – BUT valuable, important and sadly necessary pastime – I’ve written a little rhyme about our findings, and I hope you enjoy it!

So – litter pickings what we do  
It gives us satisfaction too,  
And helps our precious countryside  
Stay clean and safe for wild life.  
A bottle here – a coke can there  
Red Bull empties everywhere –  
The Scrumpy Jack brigade have been  
Overnight again it seems.  
Macdonalds bags and cups aplenty  
Crisp and biscuit packets emptied -  
Water bottles, gin and wine  
Why can’t they take them home each time?

Fag packets, lighters and face masks  
Thrown in hedges and on paths -  
Occasionally some clothing found  
A shoe, a hat, a glove thrown down.  
In hedges, ditches - bikes and tyres  
We’ve even found a deep fat fryer!  
Car parts, wing mirrors, a (stainless steel!) exhaust  
A microwave and milkshake straws.  
Chocolate wrappers too we see  
The odd pound coin (okay 10p maybe!)  
Sunglasses – hankies – flannels too  
We wonder what these people do!?  
Sandwich wrappers, BBQ’s  
“disposable” – they’ve not a clue –  
Then years ago, black bags were found  
In village ditches spread around!  
We dutifully cleared the trash  
And brought it home – a huge great stash  
When peeping at what was inside  
Used cannabis plants that had all died!

Dick fetched the bags and home he drove  
The weedy smell got up his nose!  
The police just did not want to know  
So what to do – it had to go.  
In the field a “jolly” bonfire!  
30 bags - a large “dope pyre”  
The sheep and horse all went cross-eyed  
The term of “smoking weed” applied!  
So all in all – over the years  
We pick it up – it reappears!  
We’ve seen a lot more than you’d think  
We’ve even found “the kitchen sink”!  
So thanks to anyone in Pirton  
Who litter picks – one things for certain  
Our efforts are not all in vain  
Keep Pirton litter free again!

Thank you for listening and well done to any fellow Pirton litter pickers!

### **Here is the report from Derek Skeys about the Pirton Walking group.**

Derek Skeys gave an update from the Pirton walking group, which had grown from an Annual Christmas walk into to a regular monthly walk. Everyone is welcome to join the group, there are usually between 8 and 10 people at each walk and we meet on Thursdays by the Phone box. All walks are circular and often including a stop for coffee and cake.

### **Here is the report from Suzy Carlyle from the Book Club.**

The book club in Pirton continues to thrive and Suzy spoke warmly about the regular monthly meetings where everyone comes together to talk about a book the one of the members has selected for the group to read; it is a social evening with the occasion opportunity to enjoy a glass of wine as well as an interesting discussion. Everyone is welcome.

### **Here is the report from Derek about The friends of St Peters Church**

Following the success of the heritage open days held at the Church Derek is again organising some heritage open days in September. This year the theme is “creativity unwrapped” and the event that Derek is organising is about a great railway journey – from St Peters to Skaledale. A model is being built with trains running on a model railway replicating the train line between the station that was in Wadborough through to Pirton sidings. Derek has sourced some very relevant video footage from the steam era for the event. Board have been cut and work to build the model railway is in progress. Volunteers are needed to help build the model.

Derek also reported that there will be a Christmas Tree festival at the Church again this year. Please let Derek know by 1<sup>st</sup> July if you'd like to sponsor a tree, it is expected that trees will cost circa £15 each.

### **Here is the report from Gemma Quinton about the Pirton Village Committee**

Gemma told us this is a newly reformed committee who have been organising and running community events in Pirton. Since reforming the original amount of funds held (£400) have doubled despite money being spent on public liability insurance and a replacement gazebo. The committee have been trying to move towards more eco-friendly events by sourcing crockery, cutlery and glasses to use at events. These are being looked after by Sylvia. During the year community events have included Cricket Match, Jubilee Big Lunch Street Party, quiz and bingo (at DBVH), bonfire event, Christmas Carols at the phone box and most recently a Coronation Big Lunch Street Party. These community events have been really well attended and people seem to have enjoy getting together and having fun. The committee have just circulated a community consultation flyer form for completion and returning to the phone box. If anyone has any ideas for events, please do put them forwards and if anyone want to join the committee, please let Gemma know.

Mrs J Butterworth thanked everyone for the presentations this evening and went on to thank everyone for attending. It was noted that there was a Parish Council vacancy for the Pirton Ward.

The Meeting closed at 8.50 p.m.