

Wyre Piddle Parish Council
Minutes of the Parish Meeting of the Council
Held on 23 May, 2013
In the Village Hall, Wyre Piddle

Meeting commenced: 7.30 pm. Meeting ended: 8.05 pm

Present: Cllrs D Creedmiles- Naraine, G Smout, J Parsons and R Merchant

In Attendance: Mr D M Taverner (Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer)
County Cllr Mrs L Tucker

Apologies for absence: Cllr M Oakley

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks

The Chairman, Cllr D Creedmiles Naraine opened the meeting and welcomed those present.

2. Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 23 May 2012

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 May 2012, 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:

"My first year as Chairman of the parish has been busy but enjoyable and has been marked by the Parish Council's involvement in a range of issues and projects.

As ever the Council is reliant on its team of elected councillors, volunteers and contractors who all play a significant part in the delivery of our various services and I must pass my thanks on to all those who commit the time and effort to help with the Council's activities.

The Parish again performed very well in the Wychavon Games and we hosted the village Games presentation at the Rugby Club in November. Our grateful thanks are again extended to Carrie Oakley for the superb manner in which she again dealt with the organisation of all of our teams who participated in the various events that took place through the summer.

Carrie was also a prominent Member of the "Joined up Entertainments group" and, whilst I do not wish to steal her thunder from the report she has made on the years events, I must thank Carrie and the JUE team for all they did in staging the various community events which we all enjoyed.

The Council continued to seek to improve and enhance the general character and environment of the Village and our outdoor contractors continued to maintain general areas such as Smiths Meadow, Avon Green and the Poplar Avenue estate to a their usual high standard.

As the year progressed we have continued to undertake a range of works to maintain and enhance open spaces and recreational facilities within the parish and we hope to continue on that theme.

The Parish Lengthsman – Mr Gary Robinson – carried out a range of maintenance, clearing and repair works throughout the Village and thanks must go to Gary for his continued efforts and liaison with the County Council on various 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. The issue of the excessive speed of vehicles through the Village has also continued to cause concern. It is hoped a new barrier scheme at the bridge which has been promised by the County Council will help to alleviate some of these problems.

During the year the Council's Planning committee were involved with the consideration of various planning applications and the Committee has been very successful in blocking applications where there have been significant public objections or concerns.

It has also been involved in detailed consideration of the proposals contained within the emergent South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP).

The Parish Council has re-affirmed its intention to defend the character of the Village and that will be the overriding considerations that will be continue to be given to any formal planning applications that come before us.

We continue to receive representations from companies who are keen to build on green field sites within the Parish and we intend to remain watchful especially over major planning proposals where they are likely to detract from the existing character of the Village. 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 any further plans that are submitted to the District Council by Bovis Developments, who have recently given a presentation of their proposals for a residential development at Wyre Hill

The council's finances have continued to be well managed. Our total budget is only some £9,950 but we do a variety of things with it and will continue to lever in additional grant and other funding where we can. We shall continue to closely limit any rise in our precept in future years.

Recently Richard Murray Peters has resigned from his position on the Council and I must record my gratitude for the work which he has undertaken for the Parish over many years, especially in his former role as the Parish Council Chairman.

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 Councillor Report – Cllr L Tucker.

Cllr Tucker reported that the South Worcestershire Development Plan was progressing to the examination in public stage and formal approval by the Secretary of State was currently scheduled for the late autumn.

The County Council's Engineering team had started the preparation work for the installation of the eastern Bridge road barrier system. It was anticipated that the barrier should be fully operational by early October.

The County Council were beginning to look at the extent of the spending cuts which were needed to achieve a target reduction in the order of £60-70 million from their core revenue budget by the end of 2015

There had been increasing support for the construction of the Northern Link Road to ease the pressure of traffic on both Pinvin crossroads and Wyre Hill.

A bridge design and costing study, jointly funded by the owners of Keytec 7 Business Park and Wychavon District Council, was currently being finalised which would help to paint a realistic picture of the likely costs.

5. Local Community Police Officer Report – PC Stuart Tombs

PC Tombs advised that there had been a recent theft of diesel from the landfill site and advised residents to be vigilant when leaving valuable items unattended. During the previous 12 months there had been 6 reported and attempted burglaries from dwellings and 5 burglaries from garages and sheds, 4 incidents of vehicle crime and 2 incidents of assault. There were also 3 other minor incidents reported where a police response had been necessary

PC Tombs reported that the police would again be undertaking random speed enforcement patrols within the Village and down Wyre Hill. The main ongoing 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.

It was hoped that the local PACT group would soon be reformed and strengthened and a new chairman of the group was being sought

6. Reports from Village Organisations -“Joined up Events” and Village games

Carrie Oakley had submitted an update regarding community events that had recently taken place:-

WYRE PIDDLE IN PICTURES 8th December 2012

There was an excellent attendance at this event in the Village Hall. John Kellet presented a fabulous slideshow with commentary and the audience participated pointing out who was who on many occasions. The Village Hall raised in excess of £100.00 from the Raffle, Picture

Quiz and by donations. It was a successful evening and there have been many requests to run this again from people who were unable to make it the first time. This will be discussed with the Village Hall Committee as they could turn it into a fundraising event.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY 15th December 2012

37 children and 2 babies attended the party this year. DJ Chris kept them entertained, Santa turned up and much fun was had by all. The party was funded by Joined up Events. (JUE)

CHRISTMAS CAROLS ON THE VILLAGE GREEN 24th December 2012

This was really well attended once again. There was plenty of mulled wine and mince pies and Pershore Brass Band kept everyone singing Christmas Carols. There was a fundraising bucket in the Mulled Wine tent and the Band raised £213.80 in the hour that the event ran for which was donated to the County Air Ambulance.

VILLAGE FETE plans were in place for a Summer Fête to be held on Saturday 29th June in Smiths meadow

VILLAGE GAMES The AGM had been held on 29th January 2013 and in general all events will run in the same way as previous years but there is one interesting alteration. As a result of the Parish of Wyre Piddle hosting the Presentation Evening last November at Piddle Park, Carrie has been liaising with the Rugby Club and, this year, we are planning to run the 5-a-Side-Football and the Rounders on the same day, at Piddle Park as a 'family day'. With food, the bar, the facilities etc We are really hoping that Wyre Piddle will get behind this one either participating in the teams, or watching from the sidelines.

7. Open Forum

Questions were again received regarding the state of repair of roads and pavements 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.

It was agreed that investigation work should be undertaken with a view to establishing a project to upgrade the equipment in the play area. This work would need to be funded from the Council's earmarked Section 106 funds and it was hoped that some grant funding may be available to the Council once a suitable scheme had been devised

In response to a question the Clerk replied that the approved minutes of each meeting were displayed on the Parish Council notice board and on the Council's website.

Questions were raised regarding police activity on speed enforcement within the Parish. The Clerk replied that speed enforcement work had been carried out twice in July, although nothing had been done since then due to other commitments for the policing team. The results of the speeding enforcement work that had been undertaken were as follows:-

20th July between 11.45-13:30 6 drivers verbally warned, 3 drivers prosecuted with the highest speed recorded at 42mph.

9th July between 18:00-19:30 12 verbal warnings issued and 8 drivers prosecuted with the highest recorded speed being 45mph.

The Police would be undertaking further speeding enforcement work in the Village when the opportunity arose.

There being no other business the meeting was closed at 8.05 pm

.....Chairman
29 May 2014