



PIXLEY & DISTRICT PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk: Janet Chester
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Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 30th July 2013 at Munsley WI Hall at 7.30pm

Present

Councillors S Swaithe, Mrs L Clothier, K Davies, D Hewitt, H Hodges, A Mawby, M Skittery, E Thompson & P Whitfield

In attendance

Janet Chester – Parish Clerk
Ward Councillor Mrs P Morgan
Cllr P Price - Herefordshire Council Cabinet member for Highways
Mrs Wendy Cox

Members of the Public: 0

Action

1/7/13 To Accept Any Apologies for Absence and Note the Reason
Cllr Mrs R Jones - holiday

2/7/13 To receive declarations of interest and requests for dispensations - none

3/7/13 To approve minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 26th June 2013 (previously circulated)

After making a minor alteration the minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a true and accurate record and were duly signed by Cllr Swaithe.

4/7/13 Open Forum No items were raised

5/7/13 To receive a brief report from Ward Councillor P Morgan

Cllr Patricia Morgan explained that because of budget constraints Herefordshire Council are currently reassessing their services and the council structure itself. Currently they have four areas of priority identified - Adult Social Care, Childrens services, communities and connectivity. Other services will be looked at in September, why there is that service, is it really needed, is it cost effective and how can it be improved. Rural counties get a bad deal from Central Government when monies and grants are given and our MP's are working hard on that issue. Cllr Morgan has been given a new role within Herefordshire Council, corporate and assets and as part of this she has inherited the info centres in market towns. She believes the website needs to be more user friendly as all the information is held on it. The use of the website needs to be encouraged. Cllr Morgan is also campaigning to reduce paper within Herefordshire Council.

6/7/13 Discussion with Cllr P Price Herefordshire Council Cabinet member for Highways on A4172 issues

The chairman welcomed Cllr Price to the meeting. One year ago HC decided that a new contractor was required to maintain the highways. The procurement took one year, Balfour Beatty are the preferred contractor and after an 8 week mobilization period will take over from Amey in September. They are giving an upfront investment of £20 million to get the roads improved as quickly as possible. Cllr Price has met with representatives of Balfour Beatty and is impressed with how they want to work in the local area, in that they wish to engage with parish councils and residents in September and ask them how they want highway issues dealt with. There will be an opportunity for parish councils to help locally. They are looking at the lengthsman scheme. HALC are also interested in a consultation on this area. £17 million worth of work on A & B roads has already been noted by data collected and between September 2013 and December 2015 major works will be carried out around the county. This investment should bring the roads to such a condition that the revenue budget will be reduced by £2.5 million per year for 10 years. The Herefordshire Council budget is looked at monthly "line by line and each area". Cllr Price has driven the A4172 this evening and feels that the road condition is not too bad compared with other roads in the county. The few bad parts he hopes will be repaired as part of the new contract. The noise issue could be addressed with coloured tarmac but the surface would only last around five years compared to a normal tarmac surface which lasts around 10 to 20 years. The parish councils main concern is the speed of vehicles along this stretch of road and the high risk of accidents resulting in possible deaths and injuries. How can speed be reduced? Do better condition roads equal faster speeds? Pixley parish council is the only parish to install SID's on a 60mph "A" road. Councillors feel that cars come out of Gloucestershire where they are restricted to 50mph and speed up after Prestons Cross roundabout. Why is Herefordshire Councils criteria different to Gloucestershire. Cllr Morgan has received an email from Steve Hobbs advising that Herefordshire Council are going to do some work jointly with Gloucestershire Council about the A4172. She will explore further and report back her findings to the parish council. The parish council are to pass on to Cllr Price all the information and data they have collected. Cllr Price will pursue the anticipated 50mph TRO for the stretch of road from Trumpet Crossroads to Pixley Court. He will also look at the feasibility of a TRO of 50mph for the entire A4172 from Trumpet crossroads to Preston Cross. Cllr Price recommended that the parish council contact Balfour Beatty early in September to convey and gauge what they require. If there are any problems with work not being completed or being of poor quality Cllr Price will become involved at our request. He believes with improved communication between all departments and parish councils and better technology the highways service should be vastly improved. He also advised that Herefordshire Council are engaging with the NFU about agricultural machinery causing problems with ditches and drains and whether the responsibility lies with the council or landowners/ farmers. With there being no further questions, the chairman thanked Cllr Price for attending and at this point Cllr Price left the meeting.

Cllr Morgan

**Cllr Hewitt/
Clerk**

7/7/13 Discussion

a) Councillor Vacancies and co-options.

Mrs Wendy Cox was proposed by Cllr Skittery and seconded by Cllr Hodges. This was unanimously accepted and Mrs Cox was co-opted onto the parish council and signed the declaration form and was given

the Register of Interest form to complete and return to Herefordshire Council.

Another parishioner being a civil engineer had expressed that they did not want to be a councillor but would be happy to give advice at any time.

b) Neighbourhood Planning

Putley Parish Council have invited members to attend a meeting they are having on this subject on Wednesday 28th August. Cllrs Hewitt and Davies expressed their interest in attending.

c) HALC Public Sector Mapping Agreement

It was AGREED that this would only be required if the parish council decide to proceed with a Neighbourhood Plan.

8/7/13 Highways / Footpaths

a) Road conditions

There were no new issues raised. The clerk will pursue outstanding defects with Balfour Beatty in September.

b) Update on Bus & Cycle Shelters

The clerk has confirmed to Herefordshire Council that we are in agreement of a cycle shelter being installed at Pool End.

c) Update on A4172 road traffic accident.

Cllr Morgan had not received any further information as to the cause of the accident. She will pursue the matter but does not think anymore information will be available.

Cllr Morgan left the meeting at this point.

9/7/13 Finance

a) To note June 2013 Finance Report – noted

b) To agree payment of outstanding accounts as per finance report

Payments **RESOLVED**

- i) Clerk salary and expenses – as agreed

10/7/13 Planning

a) Planning Application to be considered

131710/F Rose Cottage, Putley Green, HR8 2QL

Proposed four bedroom farmhouse style house and detached garage block to replace three bedroom cottage

PC Comment: The Parish Council support this application but do have concerns that it reduces available affordable housing stock in the area

b) To Note Comments on Planning Applications already considered

- none

The clerk has chased Herefordshire Council on some long outstanding decisions and has been told that formal decisions should be made shortly.

c) To note decisions of Herefordshire Council on Planning Applications

As planning record and on Herefordshire Councils website – www.herefordshire.gov.uk

Cllr Cox

Cllrs Hewitt & Davies

Clerk

Cllr Morgan

Clerk

11/7/13 Training / Meetings**a) To note dates of upcoming meetings**

The clerk is attending a further HALC training course to obtain her CiLCA qualification on Saturday 17th August

Clerk

b) To receive a report from meetings attended

HALC Eastern Area AGM 16th July – the clerk reported that Nicky Carless (Colwall) was re-elected chairman and Keith Francis (Ledbury) elected vice-chairman. The Eastern Area have an entitlement of two delegates onto the HALC Executive, Nicky Carless and John Tallis (Tarrington) were elected. Cllr Roger Phillips Herefordshire Council cabinet member for Enterprise, Culture & Arts answered questions on the future provision of museums and libraries.. Next meeting confirmed as Tuesday 12th November at Tarrington.

12/7/13 To note Planning Record (Circulated) – RESOLVED**13/7/13 To review the Information & Outstanding Actions Sheet - RESOLVED****14/7/13 Items for next meeting (No Discussion)**

- Neighbourhood Planning
- Balfour Beatty
- Clerk Salary Increase as per National Guidelines
- Bus / Cycle Shelter Update

15/7/13 Date of next scheduled meeting : Tuesday 24th September 2013

Cllr Swaites gave his apologies for this September meeting as he will be on holiday.

The chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.25pm

Signed:
Chairman.

Date: