



PIXLEY & DISTRICT PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk: Janet Chester
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Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 29th October 2013 at Munsley WI Hall at 7.30pm

Present

Councillors Mrs L Clothier, Mrs J Cowell, Mrs W Cox, K Davies, H Hodges, A Mawby, Mrs R Jones, M Skittery, E Thompson & P Whitfield

In attendance

Janet Chester – Parish Clerk
Keith Wildig – Watch Manager Ledbury Fire Station

Members of the Public: 3

The chairman Cllr Swaites welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1/10/13 To Accept Any Apologies for Absence and Note the Reason

Cllr D Hewitt – other commitments

2/10/13 To receive declarations of interest and requests for dispensations – none

A flowchart to help councilors decide when to declare an interest has been circulated by the clerk to all councilors and a copy is also in the front of the declarations book.

3/10/13 To approve minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 24th September 2013 (previously circulated)

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a true and accurate record and were duly signed by the chairman

4/10/13 Open Forum

There is a very wet dangerous area on the road and verge travelling through Patches Coppice at Little Marcle with a deep pothole that need repair

5/10/13 To receive a brief report from Ward Councillor P Morgan

Cllr Patricia Morgan had sent her apologies for not being able to attend the meeting.

6/10/13 Discussion

a) Councillor Vacancies

Mrs M Thwaites was proposed as a co-option onto the parish council by Cllr Clothier and seconded by Cllr Whitfield. This co-option was unanimously supported and Cllr Thwaites signed the necessary forms after the meeting.

b) Presentation from Keith Wildig, Watch Manager Ledbury Fire Station on the impact on Ledbury of the Hereford & Worcester Fire Service

Action

Clerk

Consultation

Mr Wildig explained that he had come to talk to us about the fire service consultation and the effect it would have on Ledbury and the surrounding area. He has been a fireman for 26 years in Ledbury and in charge for 10 years. The fire service plan has three proposals to change the service provided and reduce costs by £2.7 million for the years 2014-2017 with further savings expected in the years 2017-2020. Hereford & Worcester currently have 27 fire stations, five are 24 hour cover, three provide day cover 9am til 5pm and retained at night and 19 are retained 24hr, 7 days a week, 365 days a year fire stations. The only full time station in Herefordshire is in Hereford. There are 43 appliances and one proposal is to reduce this by over 20% to 33 appliances. Proposal A is to save £1.5 million by removing one full time appliance from both Hereford and Worcester and a retained appliance from Redditch. Proposal B is to remove a fire engine from Ledbury, Bromyard and Tenbury Wells which would save £135,000. Proposal C is to either close Whitchurch and Kingsland stations or remove one pump from Leominster and Ross in Herefordshire and in Worcestershire close Bewdley and Broadway stations or remove one pump from Kidderminster and Evesham.

The consultation paper is over 145 pages long but the most relevant pages to read are pages 43 to 53 and 96 to 100. At the present time Ledbury covers Hereford if an extra appliance is required which still leaves an engine in Ledbury. Ledbury would continue to support Hereford but if one engine is removed that would leave Ledbury with no cover for that period of time and if an incident occurred an engine would have to travel from elsewhere and the delay in arrival time would be significant. The direct impact on Ledbury would be significant time delays and although less fire engines there would be the same number of calls so would result in an increased workload for the retained firefighters. This would affect employers of these firefighters who may not be as co-operative in allowing them the time off to attend incidents. Large incidents may leave whole areas exposed. Our local MP Bill Wiggin has been successful in arranging a meeting between the Chief Fire Officer Mark Yates and Brandon Lewis the Fire Minister to try and increase the grant given by central government. Our current grant is £14 per head, national average is £20 per head with some areas getting £24 per head so rural areas are massively underfunded. There does seem an imbalance as Herefordshire would be left with one full time appliance whereas Worcestershire would have seven full time appliances. Mr Wildig finished by asking that we respond to the consultation before December both as a parish council and individuals to firstly support a push for greater funding and secondly save Ledbury losing an appliance. It was **RESOLVED** to spread the word amongst other parish councils and Mr Wildig and his colleagues are willing to speak at other parish council meetings.

All Cllrs / Clerk

c) Alexander Park Light Pollution

The clerk had received an email from Rex Gardiner clerk to Putley parish council about this matter. Cllr Skittery reported that he had spoken to residents at Pool End. Pridewood is not affected. The problem of light pollution seems to have improved at Pool End but is still a problem in Putley. **RESOLVED** that the clerk will respond to Rex Gardiner.

Clerk

d) Neighbourhood Planning Questionnaire

The councillors **AGREED** a response for the clerk to return advising that we are not considering doing a Neighbourhood Plan at present.

Clerk

e) Parish Plan Review

It was **AGREED** that a review was not necessary at present.

a) SID deployments

Balfour Beatty have taken over the SID deployments. All previous dates booked for deployments have been cancelled and they are starting afresh. The clerk has checked that the costs have not changed and remain at £150 per deployment per SID but has had an email advising that the release of the data collected is "under discussion". The clerk is to ask for the full data from the most recent deployments at Little Marcle and Knap Farm. It was **RESOLVED** to ask for further deployments once this data was received. Cllr Hewitt to be asked about data he has received. This matter to be reviewed at the November meeting.

Clerk / Cllr
Swaithes

b) Road conditions / Traffic Management

The clerk has reported outstanding defects with Balfour Beatty in September. The clerk has requested more 50mph repeater signs for the stretch of road from the Trumpet Crossroads to Pixley Court. The clerk has chased the implementation date of the speed limit in Ashperton. 100 sandbags have been delivered to replenish stocks held. However existing sandbags have disintegrated and are not "fit for purpose". The clerk is to inform Herefordshire Council. The clerk has requested grit bins for Heywood Lane and Swinmore Lane

Clerk

c) Update on Bus & Cycle Shelters

The clerk has had confirmation that the date for a cycle rack to be installed at Pool End has been delayed by the switch from Amey to Balfour Beatty but that it is on the programme of works.

Clerk

d) Little Marcle Crossroads

Local residents were present at the meeting because of concerns over the increased traffic volumes and speed of vehicles on the A4172. There have been a number of near misses at Little Marcle crossroads with vehicles overtaking and also more vehicles joining the A4172 at this point. Danger seem to have increased because this is a school bus pick up and drop off point and the playbarn is very busy. It was **RESOLVED** to ask local bus companies for details of any problems there drivers may have noticed. It was stated that our Ward Councillor needs to give us greater support and apply pressure where necessary on our behalf. The matter is to be discussed further at the November meeting when it is hoped Ward Cllr Morgan will attend

Clerk / Cllr
Morgan

e) Little Marcle Threshold Gates

It was **AGREED** to install two temporary threshold gates on the verges in Little Marcle to try and reduce the speed of vehicles on the A4172.

8/10/13 Finance

a) To agree Date for Finance Working Group meeting

Tuesday November 19th was booked for the next meeting to be held at the clerks home at 7.30pm. Chairman, vice-chairman, ex-chairman, L Clothier and the clerk to attend.

All Cllrs

b) Finance Report – noted

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

Payments **RESOLVED**

000350: Clerk salary and expenses – as agreed

Cllrs Swaithes,
Hewitt, Skittery,
Clothier & Clerk

9/10/13 Planning

a) Planning Application to be considered - none

b) To Note Comments on Planning Applications already considered - none

The application for Pixley End Caravan Site is yet to be decided. Cllr Morgan is in contact with Gemma Webster the case officer and will report any news to us.

c) To note decisions of Herefordshire Council on Planning Applications

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

Cllr Morgan

10/10/13 Training / Meetings

a) To note dates of upcoming meetings

HALC Eastern Area Meeting – Tuesday 12th November at Tarrington Village Hall 7.30pm

b) To receive a report from meetings attended - none

11/10/13 To note Planning Record (Circulated) – RESOLVED

12/10/13 To review the Information & Outstanding Actions Sheet - RESOLVED

13/10/13 Items for next meeting (No Discussion)

- Little Marcle threshold gates
- Bill Wiggin Letter
- Fire Consultation Response

14/10/13 Date of next scheduled meeting : Tuesday 26th November 2013

The chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.24pm

Signed:
Chairman.

Date: