



PIXLEY & DISTRICT PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk: Janet Chester
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Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 25th March 2014 at Munsley WI Hall at 7.30pm

Present

Councillors S Swaithes (Chairman), D Hewitt (Vice-Chairman), Mrs L Clothier, Mrs J Cowell, Mrs W Cox, K Davies, H Hodges, Mrs R Jones, M Skittery, E Thompson, Mrs M Thwaites & P Whitfield

In attendance

Janet Chester – Parish Clerk

Members of the Public: none

The chairman Cllr Swaithes welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1/3/14 To Accept Any Apologies for Absence and Note the Reason

Cllr A Mawby (other meeting)

2/3/14 To receive declarations of interest and requests for dispensations

Cllr Name	Agenda Item	Interest Declared	Nature of Interest
none			

3/3/14 To approve minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 25th February 2014 (previously circulated)

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

4/3/14 Open Forum – nothing raised

5/3/14 To receive a brief report from Ward Councillor P Morgan

Cllr Patricia Morgan advised that a council tax increase of 1.9% had been approved. The county's roads are in a desperate state, an extra £20 million in capital funding has been secured plus extra money from central government as a result of the severe weather. Cllr Morgan will forward to the clerk a capital programme list of works advising of road repair dates. Balfour Beatty are currently undertaking a restructure of staff in Herefordshire. Extra money has also been obtained for schools, an extra 2.9% per pupil which is still below national average but improved. Rubbish collections are to change, black bin bags and green wheelie bins will be collected on alternate weeks. New black wheelie bins are to be supplied for general waste. The council are to continue providing free school transport to the pupils nearest school.

6/3/14 Correspondence / Discussion

a) A4172 Petition for Speed

Cllrs Clothier and Thwaites volunteered to put together a petition and questionnaire for local parishioners regarding speed on the A4172, and a

Action

Cllr Morgan

letterbox drop to be done. Cllr Thwaites will also do a map showing the new entrances for houses and businesses to support our claims of increasing numbers of cars entering and exiting the A4172. It was also suggested that a website area is to be set up for local residents to log onto to complete the questionnaire and also report any accidents or "near misses". A draft is to be circulated and agreed by email before the April meeting. The April SID results will provide data to support our claims. **RESOLVED**

b) Rural Broadband

Fastershire had circulated their latest newsletter. Fibre broadband is now available in Ross-on-Wye and Much Marcle. There is little change indicated for the Pixley and District parishes because we currently receive broadband and get quite a good speed from the local exchange. The plan is that everyone should get better than 8mb by the end of the project around 2016.

c) Herefordshire Council Bus Consultation Survey

The main service through the parish is the Ledbury to Hereford route. The 476 service is well supported. Cllr Swaites is to attend a meeting on 3rd April in Ledbury on this matter and will report back to council. **RESOLVED**

d) To confirm Date and Speaker of Annual Parish Meeting

It was decided for the clerk to ask Lynda Wilcox from HALC to speak, date to suit her, a Monday or Wednesday preferred.

7/3/14 Highways / Footpaths

a) SID deployments

The clerk has been advised that the SID deployment booked for March at Little Marcle will now be in April due to a malfunctioning device needing repair. The April deployment will be charged at £150. The deployment will not be paid for until full data has been received. The cost of hiring a SID is also to increase from £150 to £200 with effect from 1st April 2014.

b) Road conditions / Traffic Management

The clerk continues to chase Balfour Beatty regarding previously advised problems. It was agreed to ask Gloucestershire County Council for their speed data from Gloucester to Preston Cross roundabout. **RESOLVED**

c) Flooding

The parishes have not experienced any troublesome flooding. There are a few blocked drains and ditches and areas where water pools when sudden downpours occur. The question was asked "Is anyone at Herefordshire Council or the Environment Agency looking at future measures to avoid flooding?" Also the culvert at Pool End seems to have improved the flooding situation but what are its capabilities, are there figures available of the rain catchment which flows into that particular culvert. Cllr Morgan was asked to investigate.

8/3/14 Finance

a) To agree Finance Report – noted

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

Payments **RESOLVED**

00360: HALC – Leading Lights Training courses - £60.00

00361: D Hewitt - Namesco Ltd – website fee for 2 years - £23.99

00362: Clerks salary and expenses (as agreed)

Cllrs Clothier/Thwaites/Hewitt

Cllr Swaites

Clerk

Clerk

Cllr Morgan

c) To view draft end of year accounts and Confirm Internal Auditor 2013/14

The clerk has drawn up the draft end of year accounts. Jim Glanville has confirmed he is happy to act as internal auditor.

Clerk

9/3/14 Planning

a) Planning Application to be considered – none

b) To Note Comments on Planning Applications already considered - P140478/E Overhead electricity line between Ledbury sub station and Falcon Lane, Ledbury

PC Comment: The Parish Council support this application

c) To note decisions of Herefordshire Council on Planning Applications

As planning record and on Herefordshire Councils website –

www.herefordshire.gov.uk

10/3/14 Training / Meetings

a) To note dates of upcoming meetings - none

b) To receive a report from meetings attended –

Ledbury Rural Parishes Cluster Group – Thursday 13th March at Putley Village Hall -The chairman and clerk attended. The meeting was poorly attended. Changes are proposed to the Terms of reference of the Cluster Group, which need to be agreed by the individual parishes before finalizing at the AGM in June.

The clerk has attended HALC' s "Pressing Buttons" course regarding finance and electronic banking. There are new financial regulations to be read and reviewed. The council tax support element is to be shown separately from the precept on the end of year accounts. Changes are being made to the Internal Audit System.

11/3/14 To note Planning Record (Circulated) – noted

12/3/14 To review the Information & Outstanding Actions Sheet – not available. Deferred to April meeting.

13/3/14 Items for next meeting (No Discussion)

- Invite Local Police Inspector to future meeting
- HALC – Lynda Wilcox to speak on Neighbourhood Plan
- To Confirm the future Role of Parish Councils
- Litter Picking
- Vice-Chairman
- To review Ledbury Rural Parishes Cluster Group

14/3/14 Date of next scheduled meeting : Tuesday 29th April 2014

The chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.14pm

Signed:
Chairman.

Date: