



PIXLEY & DISTRICT PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk: Janet Chester
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Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 29th April 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, 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.

1/4/14 To Accept Any Apologies for Absence and Note the Reason

Cllr A Mawby (other meeting), Frome Ward Councillor Patricia Morgan

2/4/14 To receive declarations of interest and requests for dispensations

Cllr Name	Agenda Item	Interest Declared	Nature of Interest
Cllr Davies	9a P140842/F Hopton Arms	Other	Similar business

3/4/14 To approve minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 25th March 2014 (previously circulated)

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

4/4/14 Open Forum – nothing raised

5/4/14 To receive a brief report from Ward Councillor P Morgan

Cllr Patricia Morgan had sent her apologies through. She had emailed through a report. She updated us on her outstanding action points. Cllr Morgan has also sent through Balfour Beatty's programme of works showing roads to be repaired. She has also arranged a meeting with the recently appointed Ledbury Locality Steward.

Cllr Swaithes and Thompson had attended a meeting hosted by Balfour Beatty outlining their plans for the next couple of years. Due to budget constraints lots of cuts are being made - street cleaning, seasonal flower beds, urban mowing being reduced from 7 cuts per year to 3 cuts, road drainage on an as and when basis. They are proposing that of the £20 million fund £15 million will be spent in 2014/15 and £5 million in 2015/16. £3.5 million has been secured under the Belwin Fund for roads damaged by the recent flooding. They had circulated maps showing their road repair proposals. It was **RESOLVED** to send a letter requesting resurfacing of the A4172, mentioning the noise issue and querying why the A417 from Trumpet Crossroads through Ashperton was programmed for repair when it was only done last year.

Action

Clerk

6/4/14 Correspondence / Discussion

a) A4172 Questionnaire & Petition for Speed

Cllrs Clothier and Thwaites are currently drafting a questionnaire for local residents (circa 700no) regarding speed on the A4172, based upon the questions in the 2004 parish plan. It was AGREED to also ask local businesses and bus companies to complete a questionnaire. A petition is to be drawn up for visitors to Newbridge Farm Park to sign. Past SID data is to be used to back up our questions and argument. Costs are to be kept to a minimum by councilors doing the letter drop. The drafts are to be circulated before the next meeting.

RESOLVED

Cllrs Clothier/Thwaites

b) To discuss the role of Parish Councils

Concerns were raised that the parish council is not doing enough community activities. Should the parish council join forces with our neighbouring parish councils? Councillors were asked to think about what the parish council may wish to take responsibility for. It was AGREED that Cllrs Clothier and Thwaites would attend a meeting on 13th May with Herefordshire Council's leader and CEO and ask the question "What do Herefordshire Council perceive is the active role of small parish councils in the future?" Do Herefordshire Council see parish councils as a subsidiary to themselves or should parish councils be forging their own pathways?

Cllrs Clothier/Thwaites

c) Vice-Chairman position

A new vice-chairman needs to be elected at the Annual Meeting in May. Cllr Clothier was asked to consider taking on the vice chairman position.

Cllr Clothier

d) Litter picking in parishes

The new locality steward is to be asked if Balfour Beatty are still providing this service or if parish councils undertake to do it themselves what are the rules re liability, Health & Safety etc

Clerk

e) Review of the Ledbury Rural Parishes Cluster Group

The cluster group was set up two years ago to deal with issues of common interest, share knowledge and expertise and give a bigger voice to parish councils. At its March meeting the cluster group asked parish councils to discuss the following points:-

- each parish council is to have two nominated cluster co-ordinators to attend cluster meetings, but that at the cluster meetings only one member per parish council would have voting rights.
- The Chairman need not be a current member of a parish council but must live/work in the geographical area of the Cluster Group.

Councillors felt that all members and officers should be current parish councillors and have to abide by the same code of conduct. After discussion councillors felt that the cluster group was not achieving anything for this parish council and the decision was made to withdraw from the group. The clerk is to inform the cluster group **RESOLVED**

Clerk

7/4/14 Highways / Footpaths

a) SID deployments

Balfour Beatty are still uncertain when they will be able to deploy the SID at Little Marcle. The clerk had received an invoice for the SID deployment that is still yet to take place so queried this with Balfour Beatty and Herefordshire Council and agreed the invoice should be cancelled. The clerk had also received an email stating that the SID equipment is a traffic calming measure and not a data collection device and that any data collected may not be passed onto parish councils. It was AGREED that as the equipment was marketed to us as a data collection device this statement would be questioned by the clerk. Cllr Hewitt will try and find the original document. Other options were also to be

Clerk

explored,

b) Road conditions / Traffic Management / Flooding

The clerk is to write to Alexander Park requesting that the overhanging hedge along the A438 is cut back or re-laid as it is currently a danger to motorists and particularly cyclists. **RESOLVED**

8/4/14 Finance

a) To agree Finance Report – noted

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

Payments **RESOLVED**

00363: Munsley WI Annual Hall Hire - £156.00
00364: Clerks salary and expenses (as agreed)
00365: HALC Annual Subscription - £315.59

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.

9/4/14 Planning

a) Planning Application to be considered:-

P140842/F Hopton Arms, Ashperton, HR8 2SE

Proposed additional 6no holiday let chalets (log cabins)

PC Comment: The parish council have no objections to this application

P141039/F Priors Court, Aylton, HR8 2QE

Proposed agricultural storage buildings

PC Comment: The parish council support this application

b) To Note Comments on Planning Applications already considered – as planning record

c) To note decisions of Herefordshire Council on Planning Applications

As planning record and on Herefordshire Councils website –

www.herefordshire.gov.uk

10/4/14 Training / Meetings

a) To note dates of upcoming meetings –

6th May – meeting with new Ledbury Locality Inspector, Bishops Frome
13th May – meeting with Herefordshire Council leader/CEO, Brockington
20th May – HALC Eastern Area meeting, Munsley

b) To receive a report from meetings attended –

Cllrs Swaites & Thompson had attended the meeting with Balfour Beatty on 25th April and had given a report earlier in the meeting as minute 5/4/14 above.

11/4/14 To note Planning Record (Circulated) – noted

12/4/14 To review the Information & Outstanding Actions Sheet – noted and updates agreed.

13/4/14 Items for next meeting (No Discussion)

- Invite Local Police Inspector to future meeting

Cllr Hewitt

Clerk

- HALC – Lynda Wilcox to speak on Neighbourhood Plan
- To Confirm the future Role of Parish Councils
- Litter Picking
- Vice-Chairman

14/4/14 Date of next scheduled meeting : Tuesday 27th May 2014
- annual parish meeting at 7.30pm followed by Annual Parish Council meeting

The chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.55pm

Signed:
Chairman.

Date: