



PIXLEY & DISTRICT PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk: Janet Chester
Mapleside, Ashperton, Ledbury, HR8 2RZ
Tel: 01531 670036
e-mail: pixleyclerk@btinternet.com

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 24th June 2014

Present

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

In attendance

Lynda Wilcox – HALC
Frome Ward Councillor Patricia Morgan
Janet Chester – Parish Clerk

Members of the Public: 0

Cllr Hewitt welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1/6/14 To Accept Any Apologies for Absence and Note the Reason

Cllr Alan Mawby - holiday

2/6/14 To receive declarations of interest and requests for dispensations - none

3/6/14 To approve minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 27th May 2014 (previously circulated)

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a true and accurate record and were duly signed by Cllr Hewitt. The clerk was asked to re-circulate a copy to all councillors.

4/6/14 Public Participation Session: no new issues raised

5/6/14 Brief report from Frome Ward Councillor Patricia Morgan

Cllr Morgan started by stating that Balfour Beatty have begun to repair a number of roads in the area. She has pursued the resurfacing of the A4172 but it is not deemed a priority at present but will continue to be monitored. Herefordshire Council has made cuts to grass cutting and will only be cutting on junctions and places where visibility and highway safety is at risk. Alternate weekly bin collections are due to start later this year. Herefordshire Council's Core Strategy is out for final consultation before being ratified Spring 2015. Cllr Morgan has held a meeting with Bulmers and discussed the closure of the Ledbury plant. Most staff are relocating to Hereford. £60m has been invested in cider and with Hereford as its global home Bulmers anticipate a 64% increase in production over the next three years.

6/6/14 Guest Speaker: Lynda Wilcox from HALC on Neighbourhood

Action

clerk

Planning

Mrs Wilcox started by stressing the importance of Neighbourhood Plans. She was pleased to hear that Pixley and District were considering undertaking a plan as it will become a very important statutory legal document. It is one of the most important things a parish council can lead and encourage the parishioners on. The plan can be for just the village or a joint plan with other parishes, there are pro's and con's for both. A number of guidance notes are available on Herefordshire Councils website. Across Herefordshire about 80 parishes are undertaking a neighbourhood plan but only one plan is for joint parishes. The first thing to be decided would be the area that the plan covered. The plan can control but not stop development, both residential and commercial. The plan cannot go against Herefordshire Council or national policies but can define further by where development goes and how it looks. The government want local people to decide where development takes place within their parish. In the absence of Herefordshire Council having a five year housing plan and not having in place their Core Strategy and Neighbourhood Plans being adopted by the local authority, parishes are at the mercy of developers who are able to identify areas of land for housing developments which are judged only on the key principles of National Planning Law. The parish can form a Neighbourhood Plan steering group but the parish council lead on it. Detail on land use and development can be lifted from the Parish Plan. Grants are available, currently up to £7k to spend by December 2014. A questionnaire is not necessary, a skeleton plan can be put together for circulation to be commented on. She advised getting in a planning consultant early in the process to provide focus on what is necessary to include. Mrs Wilcox advised that the parish councillors do not form part of the steering group because of a possible conflict of interests at the time of decision making.

Councillors raised concerns that the parishes do not have a concentrated housing area, centre hub or village hall, being more houses dotted over the area. It was suggested that councillors meet with Herefordshire Council Planning Dept Head of Neighbourhood Planning to discuss how useful a plan could be to the parishes. It was suggested that tourism may be a good starting point.

7/6/14 Correspondence / Discussion

a) A4172 questionnaire

The working group of Cllrs Hewitt, Clothier and Thwaites have met and put together the questionnaire and decided upon the area for the "leaflet drop", it covers around 80 houses and businesses. It was AGREED that councilors could pair up and drop off questionnaires and pick up a week later. Cllr Hewitt to send the questionnaire to the clerk to put on headed paper. **RESOLVED**

All Cllrs

b) Dates and frequency of future meetings

It was **RESOLVED** to amend meeting dates to every other month – July, September, November, January, March and May. The date remains the last Tuesday of the month. Extra ordinary meetings may need to be called to discuss any planning applications or other urgent issues. The website is to be updated to reflect this.

All Cllrs / Clerk

c) To note Herefordshire Council Core Strategy 2011-2031 Consultation period

This was noted by councillors.

d) To review Ledbury Rural Parishes Cluster Group

Cllr Hewitt had attended the Cluster AGM. Patrick Whitehead had stood down as chairman prior to the meeting. Cllr Bettington from Ledbury had been elected chairman. The members at the meeting discussed the purpose of the cluster group and its usefulness to parish councils, members present were split over whether to continue or disband the cluster group. All member parishes are to be asked whether they wish the cluster group to continue or not and report back to the secretary by the end of August.

8/6/14 Highways and Footpaths

a) Road Conditions / Flooding / Traffic Management

During a recent thunderstorm a flash flood had contributed to a road traffic accident by Poolend lay by. A blocked drain on the Aylton / Putley boundary is being investigated by Balfour Beatty.

b) Lengthsman/ P3 schemes

The clerk read out some details on these schemes. Cllr Hewitt is to invite a representative of Putley Parish Council to speak at our next meeting on how useful they find the scheme as they are currently part of this scheme. **RESOLVED**

9/6/14 Finance

a) Report from Finance Working Group

The working group had met the previous evening and gone through the new financial regulations in detail. The clerk is to draft a copy tailored to this parish council and circulate to all for adopting at the July meeting.

b) To agree Finance Report – RESOLVED

c) To agree payment of outstanding accounts:-

Payments **RESOLVED**

00369: J Chester (clerk) – as agreed

00370: SLCC Annual Subscription - £76.00

10/6/14 Planning

a) To Consider Planning Applications referred for comment:

P141707/F Lilly Hall Farm, Little Marcle, Ledbury, HR8 2LD

Proposed erection of a new building to serve dual agricultural and equestrian uses housing an equine swimming pool

PC Comment: The Parish Council have no objections to this application

b) To Confirm the Response to Considered Applications: as per planning record

c) To Note Details of Decision Notices Received from Hereford Council: as per planning record and www.herefordshire.gov.uk
RESOLVED

Cllr Hewitt

Clerk

Clerk

11/6/14 Training / Meetings:**a) To note dates of upcoming meetings**

Thursday 26th June – “Blue Light” meeting with local police – Cllr Swaites and Thwaites are attending.

Thursday 24th July – Herefordshire Council 2015/2016 Budget Consultation – Cllr Hewitt is attending.

Putley Parish Council have invited us to attend a meeting on Neighbourhood Planning on 3rd September, the clerk is to thank them for the invitation and advise that two cllrs will attend.

b) To receive a report from meetings attended

Ledbury Rural Parishes Cluster Group AGM – as 7d above

12/6/14 To note the Planning record: noted

13/6/14 To note Information and Outstanding Actions Sheet: noted and updated

14/6/14 Items for next meeting (No Discussion)

- Lengthsman / P3 scheme
- Financial Regulations
- A4172 questionnaire
- Dates of meetings for ensuing year
- Speaker – Inspector Paul Crumpton

18/5/14 To note date of next scheduled meeting : Tuesday 29th July 2014

Clerk

The chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.44pm

Signed:
Chairman.

Date: