



PIXLEY & DISTRICT PARISH COUNCIL

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

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 29th May 2012

Present

M Skittery (Chairman), D Hewitt (Vice Chairman), I Brookes, Mrs J Cowell, K Davies, H Hodges, Mrs R Jones, Mrs L Clothier, G Mowbray, S Swaithe, E Thompson, P Viner and P Whitfield

In attendance

Chris Baird – Herefordshire Council Assistant Director of People Services
 Janet Chester – Parish Clerk

Action

1/12 To accept apologies for absence - Ward Councillor Mrs Patricia Morgan and A Mawby

2/12 Welcome - The chairman Mr Michael Skittery welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Mr Chris Baird who was to give a presentation on Care in the Community.

3/12 To receive presentation on Care in the Community –

Mr Chris Baird - Herefordshire Council Assistant Director of People Services had come along to the meeting to give the presentation. He advised that his role covered both adult and child care in Herefordshire. 35% of the council's budget (£52 million) is spent on care for people. There are currently 42,500 people over retirement age in Herefordshire, and those aged over 85 is expected to double by 2026. It is great that people are living longer but as a result greater support is required. Herefordshire has a greater proportion of population who qualify for care compared to other councils, and has overspent in the last few years by £5 to £6 million. The council needs to balance its books whilst still giving the services required – self-care, family care and community care. People want to remain independent as long as possible before asking for the councils help. The council is trying to encourage communities to engage in useful and fulfilling activities, but transport is a problem and there is a limited bus service for those who no longer drive. There is a National campaign "Over the Hill" to support rural communities where village wardens organize shopping, doctors' appointments etc for isolated residents. It would like to see parishes group together to provide transport and other services. Grants are available to volunteers and volunteers are willing if the services are co-ordinated. Concerns were raised of the National issue that care packages are not employing carers of quality. Herefordshire Council carry out checks on care providers in-line with the Care Quality Commission. Individual needs are assessed and a personal allowance is given to those who qualify. There is a threshold of £23,500 and individuals are asked to pay a contribution towards the care they receive but if they are proved to not be able to afford it the council pay. Home care, day care and residential care is available but the system is geared towards keeping people in their own homes rather than residential homes if at all possible.

4/12 To accept minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday 17th May 2011 (previously circulated)

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

5/12 Annual Report from the Chairman of the Parish Council

Cllr M Skittery opened his report advising that in the previous twelve months there had been ten monthly Parish Council meetings, one extra ordinary planning meeting, 2 planning site meetings and 2 finance group meetings, plus various informal meetings with representatives from Amey to look at drainage, signage, verges, potholes and other problems on both the major and minor roads in the parishes.

Finance - The precept was increased for 2012/13 to £5000 to cover increasing costs and also to enable the parish council to pay the clerk for a more suitable number of hours per week. The finance group has met in Nov 2011 and March 2012. The group has no power as such but is very useful as it has time to look at all the figures carefully and is therefore able to look at future budgets and advise full council accordingly. The chairman thanked the clerk, Janet Chester, for hosting the meetings and all the members of the group for their valuable input.

Planning - The parish council has received 25 planning applications over the twelve months ranging from small house extensions, a small brewery, to large farm buildings, two Ledbury supermarkets and a caravan park. The Parish Council has asked Herefordshire Council Planning Department for more feedback on the decisions made especially when they refuse or ignore the Parish Council comments. Little progress has been made on this, however Ward Councillor Morgan has been able to help with some feedback.

Highways – Speed Indicator Devices have again been used to good effect at The Verzons, the approach to Little Marcle on the A4172 and near to Knapp Farm entrance on the A4172. Cllr Skittery thanked Cllr Hewitt for collating the data from the SID reports and preparing it into a clearer and more readable format. The parish council feels very strongly that there should be more speed limit restrictions / calming measures along the A4172 and A438 but is struggling to get Herefordshire Council to understand. There has been much correspondence with Herefordshire Council and there have been two press releases (Oct 2011 and January 2012) to try and bring public awareness to this problem. The parish council feel that our neighbours Gloucestershire manage their 50mph limits very well and are trying to encourage Herefordshire to look at this. PC Dan Pilkington attended the July meeting and it was stressed to him the need for more speed monitoring on the A4172/A417 in particular.

The Chairman thanked the clerk, Janet Chester, who has been with the parish council since January 2011 and has done a fantastic job for the parish council and is in the process of becoming CiLCA registered.

The Chairman thanked the vice-chairman Cllr Hewitt for his work with the website and keeping it updated with the latest information, news and agendas for everyone to access.

Haygrove – The chairman thanked Cllr Whitfield who is now the parish council representative and attends meetings with Haygrove and other local residents giving very thorough reports to the parish council.

New members – in June 2011 Iain Brookes Allen Mawby and Greg Mowbray were welcomed onto the parish council to represent Pixley and Aylton. The parish council now has a full compliment of fourteen councillors to represent the four parishes.

Neighbourhood Plan – a great deal of talk and discussion has taken place on the new Localism plans the government are introducing. It has

been suggested that the neighbourhood plans should be drawn up, wither at individual parish council level or possibly in "cluster" groups of parish councils to try to represent the views and needs of the local community. This is ongoing and still in the development stage. The chairman thanked Cllr Hewitt for representing the parish council at the cluster meetings.

The chairman thanked Cllr Hodges for setting up the hall before every meeting and all the parish councillors, ward councilor and parish clerk for their help and support during the last year. He also thanked councilors who represented the parish council at various meetings and events over the past year. He gave special thanks to his vice-chairman Cllr Hewitt for all his help over the last two years.

6/12 Report form Ward Councillor

Cllr Patricia Morgan had passed on her apologies. She had sent through Herefordshire Council Leaders report (circulated and attached).

7/12 Attendance Record of Parish Council Members

The attendance record was noted.

8/12 Financial Report from the Parish Council

The clerk advised that figures were subject to the annual audit.

Opening balances £3756.03

Income £4340.62

Expenditure £4429.20

Closing balances £3667.45

It was noted that due to no donations being made to the parish churches the previous financial year two donations had been made in this financial year thus increasing this years' expenditure by £240.

The annual budget for 2012/13 had been set at £5060 and a precept of £5000 has been requested and accepted.

9/12 Open Forum

The matter of speed limits on roads was raised. It was agreed that there are too many signs and painted limits on the roads to read them all compared to Gloucestershire. Ward Councillor Patricia Morgan has set up a meeting between Andrew Lee-Jones, Adrian Blackshaw and Cllr Hewitt on 7th June as speeding is the biggest single complaint in Frome Ward.

The chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.16pm

Signed:
Chairman

Date