



PIXLEY & DISTRICT ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Parish Clerk: Janet Chester
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Minutes of the Annual Joint Parishes Meeting held on Monday 23rd May 2016

Present

D Hewitt (Parish Council Chairman), K Bray, Mrs L Clothier, Mrs J Cowell, K Davies, P Hawker, M Skittery, S Swaithes, Mrs W Cox, Mrs M Thwaites, E Thompson and P Whitfield

In attendance

Public: 2
 Three Crosses Ward Councillor Jonathan Lester
 Janet Chester – Parish Clerk

1 Welcome - Councillor Hewitt welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2 Apologies for Absence – Allan Mawby and Ward Councillor Jonathan Lester

3 To Consider Approval of the minutes of the previous annual parish meeting held on Monday 18th May 2015 (previously circulated)

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

4 Annual Report from the Chairman of the Parish Council Cllr David Hewitt

Pixley and District 2015-2016

Elections

At the elections in May 2015, two of our previous councillors decided not to stand again so we said farewell to Rebecca Jones and Harry Hodges. Andrew Harris stood for election in May and we welcomed him as a new councillor after the election. The election left us two short of our requirement so we managed to co-opt Pelham Hawker and Ken Bray to complete our complement of 14 councillors.

Lengthsman

During the year we managed to get approval from Herefordshire Council to join the Lengthsman Scheme and Rob Turner has now been appointed as our official lengthsman. Rob also works for Putley Parish, so some of our boundaries are now easier to manage as he can work on both sides of the road. We also joined the P3 Footpath scheme and Leslie Clothier and Mandy Thwaites have been scouring our footpaths for defects and work is now in place to rectify these.

Broadband

Openreach is still working on improving our broadband, but we have seen little evidence of it yet, apart from the area around Poolend, where I believe the local cabinet has now been upgraded. We cannot get any firm date for the fibre roll-out for the rest of the parish – not even from the engineers working by the roadsides!

Roads

A speed camera now occasionally appears on the A4172 but I don't have figures as to how many, if any, vehicles have been booked.

The Next Big Thing!

A buzz-phrase of the moment is "Neighbourhood Development Plan". We have discussed this in the past but now the Herefordshire Core Strategy has been adopted our position is clearer. Pixley and District is classed as open countryside (RA3) and there is no requirement in the Core Strategy for us to build any properties in the period up to 2031. However, some limited development is permitted in this area and, after a meeting on 17th May when Lynda Wilcox from HALC explained the purpose of Neighbourhood Development Plans, there was general consensus that a NDP for Pixley and District would give us a higher degree of protection from both unscrupulous developers and possible changes of rules around RA3 area –

So, the big push for 2016-2017 looks like being the setting up of the Steering Group and getting the funding to drive this forward.

5. Report from Three Crosses Ward Councillor Jonathan Lester

Cllr Lester had sent his apologies and had emailed the clerk the following report:

In my absence please can you relay the important points for the meeting:

- The last full meeting of council was on 20th May. At this meeting the first neighbourhood plan was formally adopted by council, that being the plan for Weston under Penyard. In future the formal adoption of the plans will not have to go to council but will be ratified by the cabinet member responsible for planning.
- The council's Local Transport Plan was formally adopted on 20 May 2016. This is a key document for Herefordshire that will promote new infrastructure to achieve growth both in housing and economic development, as well as identify the need to promote highway safety and pothole management. It is a challenging issue but we now have a formal plan to move forward.
- I have met with both Herefordshire MPs to discuss funding arrangements from central government and discussed the white paper concerning educational excellence and academy conversion. As you will have heard the proposal to force academy structures on schools will now not go ahead. My view is that improvements in school arrangements will always be required and so we intend to carry on with the schools capital investment strategy. I wait to see with interest what form the white paper will now take.

As always if there are any issues or help required please call or email me accordingly.

6. Attendance Record of Parish Council Members - The attendance record was noted.

PIXLEY AND DISTRICT PARISH COUNCIL
Attendance Record for Parish Councillors & Ward Councillor 2015 - 2016

NAME	MONTH						TOTAL
	MAY	JUL	SEPT	NOV	JAN	MAR	
BRAY K					CO-OP	Y	2 OF 2
CLOTHIER L (VICE-CHAIRMAN)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	6 OF 6
COX W	Y	APOL	Y	Y	Y	Y	5 OF 6
COWELL J	Y	Y	APOL	Y	Y	Y	5 OF 6
DAVIES K	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	6 OF 6
HARRIS A	Y	Y	APOL	Y	N	Y	4 OF 6
HAWKER P				CO-OP	Y	Y	3 OF 3
HEWITT D (CHAIRMAN)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	6 OF 6
MAWBY A	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	APOL	4 OF 6
SKITTERY M	Y	Y	APOL	Y	Y	Y	5 OF 6
SWAITHES S	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	6 OF 6
THOMPSON E	APOL	CO-OP	Y	Y	APOL	N	2 OF 6
THWAITHES M	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	6 OF 6
WHITFIELD P	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	6 OF 6
CHESTER J (CLERK)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	6 OF 6
LESTER J (WARD COUNCILLOR)	Y	Y	Y	APOL	Y	Y	5 OF 6

NOT ELECTED
COUNCILLOR =
CO-OPTION ON TO
COUNCIL



7 Update on Proposed Neighbourhood Plan Development

A public meeting was held on 17th May and as a result of the feedback it has been decided to undertake a joint Neighbourhood Development Plan for the parishes of Aylton, Little Marcle, Munsley and Pixley.

8 Financial Report from the Parish Council

The clerk advised that figures had been internally audited by Mrs Paula Badham and were subject to the annual external audit.

Opening balances as at 1st April 2015 – current account £3150.65. Reserve account £2807.57
Income £6204.13 Expenditure £6255.06 plus unrepresented cheques £1285.20
Closing balances as at 31st March 2016 – current account £4383.50. Reserve account £2808.99.
The annual budget for 2016/17 had been set at £7044 and the precept remains at £6050 and has been requested and accepted.

9 Open Forum

Charles Thwaites advised that Ledbury has been chosen to host on behalf of Herefordshire the Armed Forces Day on 25th June to commemorate the events in World War One and 1916. He gave details of what displays and parades would be available for the public to enjoy.

Mary Fielding announced that she was upset that the roadside verges had been cut just as wild flowers were coming into bloom and asked if the parish council could ask Herefordshire Council for earlier (Feb/March) and/or later (Sept/Oct) cuts in future years to be investigated as these would be less detrimental to wildlife. She will circulate some guidelines.

There being no further business the chairman declared the meeting closed at 7.38pm

Signed.....
Chairman

Dated.....

DRAFT