

Wyre Piddle Parish Council
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of the Council held on
23rd July 2020
Via ZOOM

Meeting commenced: 7.30 pm - Meeting ended: 8.53 pm

Present: Cllrs. Paul, Wilks, Lister, Essex, Searle.

In Attendance: Carole Hirst (Clerk). There were no members of the public.

1/7/20 Apologies for absence – Cllr. Townsend, Cllr. McFarland.
Cllr. Tucker (WCC and WDC Councillor)

2/7/20 Declarations of Interest for
a) the Meeting (Personal and Prejudicial) None.
b) To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in items on the
agenda and their nature. None
c) To declare any Other Disclosable Interests in items on the
agenda and their nature. None

3/7/20 To Consider Written Requests from Councillors for the Council to
Grant a Dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011) None.

4/7/20 Public Questions.
None.

5/7/20 Approval of Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the
28th May 2020. Cllr. Paul Proposed that they be approved as a correct
record of the meeting; Seconded by Cllr. Searle. All in favour.

6/7/20 Finance.

- a) **Bank Reconciliation and bank balances to 12th July 2020.** Cllr. Essex studied the Parish Cash Book and Bank Statement and confirmed that the Bank Reconciliation was a true and accurate record. **Noted.**
- b) **Approval of the payment of Accounts for 23rd July 2020 and note receipts.** Cllr. Searle Proposed and Cllr. Lister Seconded that the payments below for the 23rd July 2020 be approved and receipts noted. All in favour.

<u>Payments List</u>		Jul-20
Recipient	Details	Amount
C Hirst	June salary	£ 311.16
HMRC	June Tax	£ 77.80
	Clerk Expenses to 23rd	
C Hirst	July	£ 44.80
C Hirst	July salary	£ 311.16
HMRC	July Tax	£ 77.80
New Farm GM	May GM	£ 496.80
Peter Hurst	Lengthsman May 20	£ 141.90
Worcestershire CALC	Councillor training x 4	£ 160.00

	Insurance 2020/21	
BHIB Ltd	(Agreed at May meeting)	£ 436.54
Npower	Streetlights to 30th June	£ 239.95
Western Power	Streetlight renewal	£ 646.39
Western Power	Streetlight renewal	£ 646.39
	TOTAL	£3,590.69

<u>Receipts</u>		Jul-20
Recipient	Details	Amount
	TOTAL	£ -

- c) **Income and Expenditure Against Budget Report to the 12th July 2020.** A report was circulated by the Clerk prior to the meeting. **Noted.**
- d) **To approve Quotation to install a drop kerb and constructed access to Smiths Meadow entrance from Ringway Infrastructure Services is £2108.46 + VAT.** Cllr. Searle Proposed, Cllr. Essex Seconded that the quote be approved. **All in favour.**
- e) The Clerk reminded all Councillors that when requesting quotations from contractors for goods or services that all quotes should be addressed to Wyre Piddle Parish Council at the Parish Office Address and not be in the personal name of the Councillor that contacts the company for a quote. **Noted.**

7/7/20 Update reports Parish Councillors.

Cllr. Wilks reported the following:

Jenny Wilks, Carole Townsend, and John Paul walked around the village on Thursday 2nd July and made the following jobs list for the Lengthsman. Jenny and Carole will arrange to meet him before the end of the month to discuss the schedule for these jobs and how they can be tracked.

1. Weed spray: Eastern Bridge, Main Rd, The Close, Ryelands, Worcester Rd, Poplar Avenue including tarmac pavement around play area, Haines Rd, Brook Way, Church Farm, Wyre Hill, Church St.
2. Verges: Cut back verge edges to pavement to approx. 1 m wide on Evesham Rd and Main Rd and side footpath on Wye Hill. Mow a margin of verge at edge of footpath from Eastern bridge to gate on Evesham Rd at entrance to village. North verge of Eastern Bridge needs to be cut back to reveal white road markings.
3. Signage: Remove paint from sign at Evesham Rd entrance to Wyre 'Buses, Cycles Emergency vehicles only 300 yards ahead. Remove paint and clear foliage from direction arrows sign on Eastern bridge entering village. Cut back overgrowth on Main Road sign. Road signs by the church covered with foliage.
4. Cutting back and trimming: Trim brambles growing through fence on Haines Avenue. Cut back ivy and shrubs growing over pavement around Poplar Avenue play area. Cut back brambles and over foliage at entrance to Church Farm. Hedge and overhanging branches on Wyre Hill to roundabout need cutting back. There are weeds overgrowing gully drain at Worcester Rd entrance to village. Mud and debris covering drain at

Wyre Hill/Worcester Rd roundabout entrance. Brambles growing from the hedge over the verge between Worcester Rd and the bridge. The bin by the church is partially obscured by vegetation which needs clearing.

(Informal Meeting Minutes contained as Appendix 1)

Cllr. McFarland-

Reported that Broxap Ltd are delivering the bollards for the Cross on the 22nd July to WCC Depot and that Barry Barnes from WCC was notified by email. Cllr. McFarland has asked for an update on the installation date for this and is awaiting a reply.

Cllr. Lister queried whether the land just inside the meadow would be suitable for disabled access. Cllr. Paul reported that a level bed of hardcore could be used to provide a flat level accessible area. To be discussed further at a future meeting.

See Minute 6/7/20- (d) for approval of quote.

Cllr. Searle Reported the following:

Eastern Bridge

I have written to the police to enquire when Operation Snap was due to commence now that lockdown was being eased. The reply received said that they had re-commenced Operation Snap. The bridge is once again being monitored. On the first few days of monitoring, 25 vehicles were caught using the bridge. Monitoring is being carried out weekly. Cllr. Essex voiced her concerns over the amount of work required to monitor directly traffic crossing the bridge. Cllr. Paul agreed to check out GDPR regulations regarding inside and outside based cameras to support as additional surveillance. Cllr. Lister offered help when available to support surveillance.

Planning Issues

I am continuing to review and to comment on relevant planning applications within the village, and the SWDP review. Please see my planning report.

Neighbourhood Watch

Nothing to report.

The Anchor Inn

Nothing to report.

Grass Verges

I have spoken with Councillor Wilks regarding considering keeping some of the grass verges uncut specifically to encourage insects to flourish in these areas, and hopefully to increase the number of wildflower species and other native animals. We agreed to consult with Worcestershire County Council's

(WCC) Countryside Greenspace Team to seek advice regarding times for grass cutting, Roadside Verge Nature Reserves, managing the verges. It is proposed initially to look at the verges along the Evesham Road as these are quite wide. A meeting has been arranged with a WCC officer to inspect the verges in question and hopefully to give a specification and ballpark cost for the works.

Cllr. Essex reported the following:

Street light LED conversion

I am still waiting for Western Power Distribution (WPD) to send paperwork

for the 2 sites that they are to attend. I was promised this by the end of the week (17/07/20)

WDP will also be sending invoices. See notes below.

As soon as I get this, I can inform Prysmian as they need to attend the sites on the same day. Prysmian are aware of this and at present we are working towards the date 14/08/20 for installation.

I have sent a purchase order to Prysmian.

I have written to the two houses that have lights on their property and have had a reply from one of them. I have informed them of the possible date of the work and promised to keep them up to date.

Electricity Supply Contract

This is due for renewal 01/08/20.

I have spoken to NPower our current supplier and the new contract they have offered is not good. In fact, if we go out of contract and revert to their default charges it is much better!

It is very difficult getting new quotes as you cannot use the usual method i.e. comparison websites, for unmetered supplies.

I have sourced a number of suppliers that will supply unmetered sites and am comparing the deals on offer.

I have attached a spreadsheet with all the info I have so far.

Cllr. Essex Proposed that the Parish Council approves to move to EON for the forthcoming contract. Seconded by Cllr. Lister. All in favour. Cllr. Essex to proceed with organizing the new contract.

KIWA

I have had a quote of £595 + VAT for a daily rate for inspection of the lights. The work should only take one day.

There are 4 wooden post that they will not inspect. 2 of these are being replaced with steel columns on 14 August so will not need inspection for another 6 years but we need to decide what to do about the other 2.

I also contacted WCC to ask if we could have our inspection incorporated with theirs to save us some money and they were not opposed in principal but they insisted that we would need to be invoiced separately and when I put this to KIWA they said they couldn't do this. **Cllr. Wilks Proposed and Cllr. Searle Seconded that the quote of £595.00 + VAT be approved. All in favour.**

WDP Invoices

I was issued two invoices when they first came to do the quote. They were raised by my contact Shamim. When I received them I realised that they had got one of the sites for the work incorrect.

I queried this and was promised new invoices. I emailed Shamim several times with no reply and eventually rang her. She promised the new invoices by 17/07/20.

In the meantime, credit control had written to Carole asking for payment within 14 days. I rang them and explained that we were waiting for credit notes and new invoices and was told that Shamim had not passed this information to credit control. I was assured that this would be corrected. However, Carole pointed out that the invoices were made out to "Parish Council" and not "Wyre Piddle Parish Council" so she would not be able to pay them. So, I have contacted them again to ask that the new invoices issued be made out correctly.

Cllr. Paul reported the following.

I have included in my report Smith's Meadow and the Risk Assessment as not handed over to councillor Lister yet.

I received an email from Pauline Monks asking if we could fund 4 new flower tubs and soil for the village. After email responses I am pleased to confirm the consensus was yes. I have asked Pauline if she is able to source and purchase and we will refund her.

Smith's Meadow hedges- I am still waiting on a quote from new Farm Grounds Maintenance.

I am constantly being told about and asked what the Parish Council is going to do about the amount of non-village youths gathering in Smith's Meadow causing distress to local parishioners, vandalism to private property, littering etc.

Lengthy discussions took place on how anti-social behaviour and vandalism could be tackled. It was decided to monitor and defer to the next Parish Council meeting.

The opening of Smiths Meadow for the funeral went off with no issues on the day. However, we are still having gatherings from the travelling community in the meadow using permanent marker on the life buoy and tying it to the tree, this is obviously causing an issue for safety.

Action: The Life Buoy Rope to be renewed and a plaque be considered detailing the importance of the life buoy for saving lives around the water. Cllr. Lister to action.

I have been asked if the play park can be re-opened. I have explained we cannot guarantee the safety of users as we do not have the means to keep the park sanitized after each use and explained the CALC concerns. After speaking to Phil Davis at this present time the planned Piddle 19 Bash is still going ahead unless the government guidelines change.

I have had a request of offer from Andy Train as we would be interested in starting a canoe club in Smiths Meadow. Andy has offered his services free of charge. He would lend us some canoes and help us set up. For those who do not know Andy, he is an Olympic Canoeist who has a successful canoe club in Fladbury. If we had enough interested Parishioners and a small team of people willing to be guided by Andy in setting up such an adventure we would need to have a storage container to secure the canoes on loan and any other parishioners canoes.

My ask is, in principle, if there was enough interest, would the Parish Council be willing to purchase a container for storage Finance being from the Section 106 account (for outdoor spaces) to secure/store canoes? For information, a container roughly costs £2000+ delivery. However, these vary depending on sites looked at, suggested area for container would be the right-hand side of the bottom gate on the unkept land on blocks above flood line with landscaping around to hide container. Andy Train will be looking for local volunteers to recruit.

Cllr Paul Proposed in Principle that the Parish Council financially support the purchase of the container and associated installation costs. Seconded by Cllr. Wilks. All in favour.

During the delivery of this report a discussion took place regarding the re-opening of the Children's Play Area. The Clerk agreed to forward sample risk assessments and insurance guidance from BHIB (the Parish Council's Insurance Company) on re-opening play areas for Councillors to consider in preparation of a decision.

Cllr. Lister – Nothing to Report until handover completed with Cllr. Paul.

Cllr. Townsend reported the following.

Pershore Infrastructure Update

Pinvin Crossroads

Works ongoing in full following Covid closure

Expected completion by January 2021

Further closures of Terrace Road, Pinvin to be announced shortly

Night Closures of A44 for re-surfacing expected towards end of contract

Link Road and Bridge

Reptile translocation exercise underway throughout summer

Main Contract expected to start in Autumn 2020.

Wyre Road

Design of road, footway and cycleway improvements ongoing

Contract will be awarded in Spring 2021.

Eastern Bridge Monitoring

This was re-started a few weeks ago. Lew issued a report showing all vehicles caught during the monitoring which was a significant number again. This is very time consuming, particularly for Lew, and Sue is going to ask the question again about a camera being purchased which we can manage ourselves.

We also need to understand from Liz if any discussions are underway about the bridge post the Link Road opening. ***Cllr. Townsend to chase up Cllr. Tucker regarding this.***

Village walkabout to review the Lengthsman role and responsibilities Jenny, John, and I did this on 2nd July. We have documented all the areas within our boundary that are either upkept or in need of attention and Jenny is pulling together a report for discussion.

8/7/20

Planning matters, applications, and decision notices- Report by Cllr. Searle.

19/02755/FUL – A planning application has been submitted to vary 16 of the 29 conditions made to the original approved application 19/00613/FUL for the new petrol filling station adjacent to the Abbey View roundabout. The parish council did make objections to 8 of these variations. At the time of writing the decision on these variations is still pending, but there is now more information that has been put on the website, particularly information and reports regarding flood risk and drainage that appear to satisfy some of the requirements.

SWDP Review – Following the reply to the e-mail I wrote to the Head of Planning and Infrastructure for Wychavon and Malvern District (a copy has been sent to all councillors), there were still some questions that had not been adequately answered, specifically around the issue of flood risk to Wyre Piddle. I have investigated the issue and circulated a briefing paper on the flood risk to Wyre Piddle. I concluded that the risk of flooding by fluvial water would not increase as a result of new developments, but there may be an increased risk of flooding due to

surface water. I have asked councillors for permission to again write to Wychavon Council and ask questions regarding the issues raised in my briefing paper. I have yet to receive approval to write this e-mail. I have also written to Wychavon Council to ask if they considered our Parish Plan (2006) when deciding to remove the Strategic Gap and Development Boundary and informed them that although the Plan might be quite old, the comments in the Parish plan regarding these issues are still relevant. I also asked several questions on this matter and the e-mail has been circulated for your information. The reply received stated that the Parish Plan was not a document that had to be consulted when drawing up the SWDPR. I have since spoken to the officer concerned with assisting in the drafting of Parish Plans. He has advised that a Neighbourhood Plan carries statutory weight in the planning process. It may be that we should investigate having a Neighbourhood Plan instead of updating the Parish Plan.

SWDPR Options – Way Forward

Following the newsletter requesting people views on the options that they would like to see the parish council moving forward with, we have now had a total of 16 responses. Of these, 11 (69%) were in favour of option 1; 3 (19%) in favour of options 1 and 2; and 2 (12%) in favour of option 2. This is still a small sample of the village population.

9/7/20

County and District Councillor Tucker Report.

Pershore Infrastructure Improvement Scheme – Pinvin Junction

We are writing to update you on the Pinvin Junction element of the Pershore Infrastructure Improvement Scheme.

Work has been progressing well to deliver the Pinvin Junction element of the wider programme of works, aimed at improving traffic links and reducing congestion in and around Pershore.

Work is currently underway on all areas of the new junction but in particular, the extension of the A44 north west of the junction to accommodate an additional right-hand turn. Work is also taking place on the kerbing and installation of a new footpath on the south-east side of the A44 towards White Logistics. At this time, we wanted to make you aware of a road closure in the area next month, needed to complete the ducting and kerbing of Terrace Road. This work cannot be done under temporary lights due to the width restrictions on the A4104 and access requirements for residents. The closure of Terrace Road between the junction of the A4104/A44 for 100m of Terrace Road towards the Railway Station, will be from **Saturday 8th August until Sunday 23rd August**. As with the other closures, diversions will be in place during this closure and advanced-notice signage will be deployed on site. Please note that the work programme may be subject to change. We will deliver a letter, similar in content, to the local residents and businesses to update them on the scheme and to advise of the upcoming road closure. More information can be found on the County Council website at www.worcestershire.gov.uk/pershore.

Crossroads and Northern Link: Work at the crossroads is going ahead well within the safety rules. After the road safety audit and checks they expect to finish early new year. The Northern Link reptile relocation has collected 350 to date but getting fewer and they hope to be clear by

September. If so, they should start work late autumn following site clearance work.

Persimmon have to complete their unfinished work on the Wyre Road/Station Road junction this August to widen the last bit of Wyre Road up to Station Road, providing a turning left lane. Expect quite a few temporary lights/road closures popping up in Pershore in August as utilities catch up. The new pedestrian crossing near Queen Elizabeth Drive is planned to be installed between 24th August to the weekend 12/13th September. After schools go back the traffic lights will not switch on before 9.30 am and go off before 3.30 pm. Full closure is necessary either 5th & 6th September or 12th & 13th September. They cannot complete the work in August because there is so much else going on.

H&M Landfill Site Liaison meeting met virtually yesterday evening. More waste and a lot more recycling during lockdown. The annual maintenance closure of the Hartlebury incinerator will start 7th or 9th September and waste lorries will be coming into Hill and Moor tip before and during that.

SWDP has been delayed by a year due to COVID 19 and at this time it is not sure how this will affect the proposed sites.

Cllr. Tucker has been trying to contact Jane Phelps, Enforcement Officer, regarding the extensions to Moorings on the 3 new houses. She will keep the Parish Council updated.

Both WCC and Wychavon District Council have given Cllr. Tucker a small budget to look at any recovery problems for COVID 19 for the Parish not individuals. Any problems let Cllr. Tucker know.

Cllr. Tucker will supply links to both WCC and Wychavon DC COVID 19 Recovery Plans. There is a team overseeing the Test and Trace which should work well.

10/7/20 Correspondence.

3/6/20-Avon Aardvarks River Litter Pick- They are completing a Canoe based Litter pick along the Avon from Wyre to Chadbury on Saturday. Approx. 6.2 miles in all. They aim to clear all debris and rubbish left high and dry in the riverside trees and bushes by the flooding over the winter whilst ensuring social distancing and hygienic measures are prevalent.

22/7/20- Worcs. PCC- PCC Town and Parish Council Survey- All Councillors can complete the survey form and submit it to Cllr. Paul for him to collate and Cllr. Paul agreed to complete the survey on behalf of the Parish Council and submit.

Date of next Ordinary Parish Council Meeting- 24th September 2020 via ZOOM

**Approved as a true record Cllr. J. Paul
Chairman 24th September 2020**

Appendix 1- Report on Informal Meeting – Thurs 18th June 2020

Via Zoom: 5pm set up by Carole H. thanks. All councillors present. Observer Alyson Keane

Alyson from Dodderhill PC was welcomed. Councillors introduced themselves and gave a brief description of their roles.

Smiths Meadow

a. Funeral on Friday

Following the sad death of Harry Carroll a local teenager from the Traveller Community, John had a request from a relative and from the funeral directors that a horse drawn hearse and one other horse drawn carriage with family members followed by mourners on foot would visit Smith's Meadow on 19th June at mid-day, as it was a favourite place of his. There will also be a police presence. The procession will arrive from Pinvin, come down Church St and turn in the meadow before proceeding to the funeral service in Pershore. John had contacted Councillors by telephone, and we all agreed that this should be allowed. John will open the gates for them and lock them again afterwards. Carole T, Jenny and Susan will also be there to show respect on behalf of the village. The Uncle of the boy who died has offered a donation from their community towards a tree or bench in the meadow. We all agreed this sounded acceptable but will confirm officially at our next formal meeting.

b. Next opportunity for maintenance?

The edges of the field need regular trimming and maintenance and John suggested that a contractor should be hired to do this as there were not enough volunteers from the village. It was agreed that he should get a quote and bring this to the next formal meeting.

c. Litter. Jenny asked for a quote on having a further litter bin installed. Reply follows: The prices have gone up a bit but not that much, the bins are still £450, the fitting is £20.47 emptying £63.70 (Once a week collection) and 20% admin so for one bin being emptied once a week the cost is £641.00 a year, if you wanted it emptied twice a week it would be £717.44 (Not including vat).

Currently we are scheduled for a twice weekly collection during the summer months. It was felt that it is not worth the layout on an extra bin as the litter problem only occurs occasionally. It was suggested that the Lengthsman could be asked to empty the bin when this happens. Jenny will make enquiries. Susan suggested that this could become part of the village litter pick, although so far no one has come forward with offers of help with this. John always picks up litter when he visits the meadow.

Parish Councillor roles and responsibilities

John has more jobs on his list than others. He suggested that he would be happier with his workload if someone else could take on risk assessments and Smith's Meadow maintenance. Steve Lister offered to do this and will meet up with John to discuss what is entailed. Other Councillors are ok to carry on as they are. Carole T has since added Pershore infrastructure to her list. She suggests that we review this list regularly in case anything changes.

SWDP

a. Thanks to Lew for continued hard work on contacting SWDP team for information in response to his queries. Any matters arising from Lew's correspondence?

Lew has shared his email response from Andrew Ford. He is currently going through flood and drainage issues, studying options and continues to push for

information particularly on 3rd party flooding risks. There has been less activity from the SWDP team since the COVID 19 crisis.

b. What further action, if any, does the Parish Council want to take in light of responses to options question? Jenny recapped on what the 3 options were. Lew reported that we have had only 12 responses so far. Out of these 67% are for Option 1, 8% for Option 2 and 25% for 1 or 2. He asked if councillors could give their own choice. 2 councillors were in favour of Option 1; 1 councillor was in favour of Option 2. Others preferred to indicate their choice to Lew by email. Hopefully, we should have a consensus on the way forward by the next PC meeting.

Street lighting

Susan circulated the following by email:

Further to acceptance of quote Western Power Distribution have given a provisional date of 14th August 2020 for transferring the power feed on the two lights which require this.

I have asked them to liaise with Prysmian as they will need to be present when the work is carried out. However they haven't been great at that and I find myself going backwards and forwards between them.

I have received an invoice from WPD for the work to be carried out on 14th August for one of the sites.

I have drafted a letter to residents who have a pole in their garden - not delivered as yet - waiting for confirmation of date of work.

WPD have also contacted me to remind me to inform them when the lights have been changed so that our consumption and thus bills will change.

At present we are supplied by npower. Contract due for renewal 1st August. I will look at other suppliers to see if we can get a better deal before renewing. As we are unlikely to meet again before 1 August I will keep everyone informed via email so we can make a collective decision.

There was some discussion about street light inspection at last meeting and I have tried contacting the company Worcestershire CC use for this. They have not got back to me yet so I will chase them. Inspection is due at the end of July.

Susan added that she has been in discussion with 'Kiwa' regarding a structural inspection but needs to clarify which poles this might include as four are wooden and they cannot include these. 2 wooden poles are due to be replaced as they are not suitable for LED lighting but 2 have overhead wires connected and so may pose a problem. Susan will find out more about this and advise of options so a decision can be made on the way forward.

Bollards at Preaching Cross

No update

Anchor Inn

Any activity has come to a standstill since lockdown. The land adjacent to the pub is still under offer but no details about this are available. There is a committee of 6 villagers in existence to put forward the option of community purchase, but no meetings have taken place since the end of March.

Piddle Big Bash – 29th August 2020

Councillors though this was a great idea but expressed concerns that this may not be able to take place because of current guidelines on social distancing and public gatherings. The organisers are not asking for PC involvement and have arranged their own risk assessment and public liability insurance.

Newsletter

Thanks to John for the last one. Do we need consider sending another one? If so, what would go in it?

All agreed that the last newsletter was very good. Jenny asked if we should continue using Piddle Post for our Council updates or whether we should circulate a separate newsletter. Some felt that the Piddle Post was still useful and should continue to be used. Others wondered if people read it and whether it would be better to have a separate quarterly PC newsletter. It was mentioned that producing a regular newsletter might involve quite a lot of extra effort in terms of compilation, printing, and delivery. Currently the printing and delivery of the PP is covered by funds held by the Joined-Up Entertainments Committee. There was some comment that it seemed that most villagers would not take much notice either way. We agreed to continue with the Piddle Post and consider producing a newsletter as and when the need arises.

Lengthsman

Jenny will be meeting with Pete Hurst to discuss current work schedule and will arrange a date should anyone wish to join them. John and Carole T indicated they would be interested. Jenny will ask Pete to identify a Thursday when he could come to Wyre and will let everyone know when this is.