

Wyre Piddle Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 5th May 2021

Via zoom

Meeting commenced: 4 pm - Meeting ended: 5.19 pm

Present: Cllrs. J. Paul, M. McFarland, C. Townsend, L. Searle,
S. Essex, S Lister, - 3 Members of the public

In Attendance: Carole Hirst (Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer)

- 1/5/21 Election of Chairman of the Council for 2021/22.** The 2020/21 Chair (Cllr. Paul) took the Chair to open the meeting and to appoint a new Chairman. Cllr. Paul expressed that he was interested in carrying on and re-stand as Chairman. Cllr. Paul was nominated by Cllr. McFarland and Seconded by Cllr. Lister. Cllr. Paul agreed to Chair for the forthcoming year 2021/22 if agreed. There were no further nominations. All in favour. Cllr. Paul signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and took over from the Clerk to Chair the meeting.
- 2/5/21 Apologies for absence – Cllr. Butler.**
- 3/5/21 Declarations of Interest for**
a) the Meeting (Personal and Prejudicial) Cllr. Searle and Cllr. Essex Declared an Other Disclosable Interest in Planning Application 21/0080/TDC5 which is within 50m of their homes.
b) Any Changes to be Notified to the Registers of Interests and Gifts & Hospitality -New forms to be lodged with WDC lodged with the District Council for the newly appointed Council. The Clerk agreed to re-email the form to Councillors to fill in and submit.
- 4/5/21 Election of the Vice Chairman of the Council.** Cllr. McFarland expressed her interest in being re-elected. Cllr. McFarland was nominated by Cllr. Paul and Seconded by Cllr. Searle. There were no further nominations. Cllr. McFarland agreed to accept the position if agreed. All in favour.
- 5/5/21 Appointment of Members to represent the Council on the following bodies:**
a) Village Hall Committee – Cllr. Paul
b) Waste Liaison Committee – Cllr. Searle.
c) Planning- Cllr. Searle.
d) PACT Member – Cllr. Cllr. Paul.
e) Neighbourhood Watch – Cllr. McFarland
- 6/5/21 Confirm bank signatories – Clerk (C. Hirst), Cllr. Paul; Cllr. McFarland, Cllr. Essex (full power signatory). **Noted.****
- 7/5/21 To note Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Asset Register, Risk Management Policy.** The Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, updated Risk Management and Asset Register were noted.

8/5/21 To appoint individual Councillors to the following roles:

Lengthsman Liaison – Cllr. Butler
Grounds Maintenance Liaison – Cllr. Lister.
Smiths Meadow- Cllr. Lister.
Footpaths Bridleways- No interest at present.

9/5/21 Approval of Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 25th March 2021

The minutes had been previously circulated prior to the meeting.
Proposed as a true record by Cllr. Essex and Seconded by Cllr. Searle and were unanimously approved as a correct record of the meeting and signed by Cllr. Paul (Chair).

10/5/21 Finance

- a) (i) Consider Internal Auditor's Report & recommendations. The report was discussed and noted the recommendations. Cllr. Paul Proposed and Cllr Essex Seconded that the report and Recommendations be noted and accepted.
(ii) Proposal to consider Section 1: Annual Governance Statement for 2020/21. Cllr. Essex Proposed and Cllr. Lister Seconded that the Annual Governance Statement be approved. All in favour.
(iii) Proposal to consider Section 2: Accounting Statements 2020/21. Cllr. Paul Proposed and Cllr. Townsend Seconded that the Annual Accounting Statement 2020/21 be Approved. All in favour.
(iv) To Consider approval the Annual Accounts for 2020/21 year ending 31st March 2021. Cllr. Essex reviewed the accounts prior to the meeting, and they were signed as a true record. Cllr. Essex Proposed and Cllr. McFarland Seconded that the 2020/21 accounts to 31st March 2021 be Approved. All in favour.
(v) To note the dates for the period for the Exercise of Public Rights for 2020/21. Cllr. Essex Proposed and Cllr. Paul Seconded that the period of dates for the Exercise of Public Rights be set as Monday 14th June to Friday 23rd July 2021. Noted.
(vi) To Consider the Exemption Certificate for 2020/21 as an Authority whose income and expenditure are under £25,000. Cllr. Essex Proposed and Cllr. Paul Seconded that this be agreed. All in favour.
- b) **Payments List and Payments from 25th March to 5th May 2021.** Cllr. Essex Proposed and Cllr. Searle Seconded that all payments below were approved and paid. All in favour.

Payments List	May 5th 2021	
Recipient	Details	Amount
DM Payroll Services Ltd	Internal Audit	£ 100.00
-		
C Hirst	Salary to 5th May	£ 338.53
HMRC	HMRC to 5th May	£ 84.40
	Smiths Meadow boundary	£ 113.40
New Farm GM		
Worcs CALC - Subs	Subs	£ 414.37
EON	unmeters supply	£ 59.45
Carl Brassington	Lengthsman April	£ 142.50
C Hirst	Expenses to 5th May	£ 55.88
	TOTAL	£1,308.53

Receipts	May 5th	
Recipient	Details	Amount
WDC	Precept 1 and grant	£6,682.00
	TOTAL	£6,682.00

- c) Current Balance and Bank Reconciliation to 24th April 2021

Cash at the Bank £59,887.46

Cllr. Essex proposed and Cllr. Townsend Seconded that the Reconciliation be approved as a true record and reconciled; All in favour.

- d) To consider 3 quotes for coppicing 11 willows on Poplar Avenue and 2 trees on the village green. Cllr. Paul Proposed and Cllr. McFarland Seconded that the quote for £900.00 from K. W. Boulton be accepted. All in favour.
- e) To consider donation to Wyre Piddle Community Pub Group of up to £320. The group are setting up a bank account and preparing a constitution. Cllr. Lister Proposed that when these are in place and Constitution adopted by the group that the Parish Council agree in principle to a grant of up to £320 to pay for membership of Plunkett Foundation. Seconded by Cllr. Townsend. All in favour.

11/5/21 WCC/WDC Councillor Reports

It has been a strange year – mostly in lockdown, finding ways of supporting each other, remembering masks, and talking about vaccination dates! Face to face meetings have had to be replaced by internet and zoom sessions – efficient but not so friendly.

Pinvin Crossroads works seemed to go on for ever, much delayed by Covid19 restrictions on workforce practice delays. The new “smart” traffic lights seem to be working well. Its full effect will not be experienced until the Northern Link and Bridge part of the project is complete – hopefully, next spring.

A good job was made of rebuilding the footway from the Coach and Horses round into Owletts End.

The constant road works caused by Persimmon on Station Road and at the Wyre Road junction went on for years. Hopefully, their next building phase (where the hedge has been removed opposite Racecourse Road) will go more smoothly. There are also road closures coming along Wyre Road for the road and cycleway to be brought up to A road standard as part of the Northern Link and new railway bridge project.

The South Worcestershire Development Plan Review will bring further big swathes of development to this part of Worcestershire. Because of Covid19 it has largely disappeared out of sight, but it has not gone away. The first round of consultation was in early 2019. Since then, there has been silence on any new sites they may be considering, and the public will not know such proposals until September when papers are published for Wychavon to vote through the final recommendations in early October. Only after that will formal consultation take place and responses will go to the Public Inspector who will hold his enquiry in 2022. There are considerable fears about how the proposed New Town at Throckmorton is likely affect the whole area. 2,000 homes by 2041 followed by a further 4,000 will create a modern town and facilities larger than Pershore. Wychavon says it is creating its “vision” for the town but not sharing it with local people until just before their vote on the whole plan takes place and the landowners have their own plans too. The

parishes around the airfield are working together to be ready to put together an informed response.

In the meantime, the government is proposing to take further steps to remove still more planning powers away from district councils and to create development zones where there will be little or no local input. We are expecting to hear more detail about proposed legislation very shortly.

Finally, can I thank you for being able to serve this area as your County Council for the last 40 years. Our villages are very special. I remain your Wychavon councillor for the planning challenges ahead.

12/5/21 Parish Councillor Reports.

Chairman- Cllr. Paul.

Tree coppice

I have received 3 quotes for coppicing 11 willows on poplar Avenue and 2 trees on the village green, quote 1 £900 + vat, quote 2 £1000 + vat quote 3 £2000 + vat.

ACTION to decide on which quote to go with and to approve under the finance section on the agenda.

Boulders on the green

The boulders are presently being prepared and will be delivered shortly.

Police meeting

They are still doing drive throughs and visits to Smith's Meadow weekly also I have asked other officers to go through the village instead of going around the bypass. The biggest concern is the time we are having to spend in the office doing paperwork. The school bus companies have been spoken to with reference to the speed of the coaches through the village. The eastern bridge is still being monitored.

Village hall defibrillator

Emergency ready.

Public right of way

We are still looking for someone to be a public right of way warden, if you would be interested in doing this role or would like more information please get in touch.

Parking on Pavements and grass verges

There are a lot of vehicles around the village parking on pavements and grass verges, please can I ask that residents refrain from doing this and ask their visitors and tradesmen not to also, it is not only illegal to obstruct the pavements but causes safety issues for pushchairs and wheelchairs having to manoeuvre on to the road to get by and causing damage to the pavements from the vehicle's.

Dog Excrement

Many parishioners are complaining about the amount of dog excrement being left by inconsiderate dog owners, please can I ask that all offending owners pick up after their dogs. This also comes with an up to £1000 fine.

Streetlights.

Thanks to Cllr. Essex for managing a project to change 10 streetlights to LED. This will make a great difference to the parish.

Cllr. McFarland.

Conservation Area Appraisal

I have spoken to Molly Edwards the Conservation Officer for Wychavon DC regarding undertaking the conservation area appraisal of Wyre Piddle. This will require the Council and the community to get involved. The appraisal will look at documenting the history of Wyre Piddle, its architecture, structures, and community history. It will also involve looking at what we might want to include for conservation for example Smith's Meadow or what to remove from the conservation map. I attach the letter I received from Molly Edwards after my conversation with her. This has been previously sent to Councillors. *Cllr. McFarland asked for this to go on the next agenda to approve to take this up.*

Neighbourhood Watch

I have taken over the Neighbourhood Watch from Councillor Searle. Since taking over we now have:

a neighbourhood Watch link in our Parish Council website
an updated NHW website
contact with PC Brown for alerts

I have put information on Wyre Piddle Community Facebook page and downloaded and registered for WeAlert information system and I am getting information to administer the Wyre Piddle WeAlert.

I am looking to set up the following groups within the NHW.

- Dog walkers watch
- Boat/River watch
- Piddle Brook watch

This is to quickly direct relevant information to interested groups.

We Don't Buy Crime

I continue to identify and give Smartwater to new residents. If you know of any newcomers to Wyre Piddle, please get them to contact me for their free smartwater kit.

Wyre Bridge - No update

Preaching Cross

As soon as there is no more danger of frost I will go and remove the moss from The Preaching Cross. Regular removal of weeds from around the base of The Cross could be done by the lengthsman.

Cllr. McFarland also asked if the Parish Council could consider who and how items of correspondence would be picked up by Parish Councillors.

Cllr. Searle.

Eastern Bridge

I have received a reply from Worcestershire County Council (WCC) regarding the CCTV cameras. In short, they will not use the cameras for traffic enforcement. PC Brown has said that if he is given dates and times of offenders, he will follow this up. He has also kindly erected Operation Snap posters at the bridge. I will not be reporting on this matter again unless there is any significant change in matters.

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. The consultation period over the Sustainability Appraisal has now ended. The Parish Council comments were submitted to the consultation.

Grass Verges

In view of the concerns over costs, and the problems with ensuring the wildflowers do establish, I have decided to minimize costs by reducing the size of the initial pilot area and by getting some volunteers to help with its establishment. I have two volunteers from Upper Moor who are willing to help with the work. It will need the Lengthsman to cut the grass very short to the pilot area and I have asked Cllr Butler if she could arrange for this to happen. There will also be a very small cost for seed. Once the area is seeded, it will only require cutting twice a year. I have not yet received the section 96 licence which is required, and I have chased this up with the Highways department of Worcestershire County Council.

Neighbourhood Watch

I have now handed over the management of the Neighbourhood Watch to Cllr McFarland. I have also informed the West Mercia NHW of the change. Thank you for stepping up Cllr McFarlane and good luck with the scheme.

Cllr. Lister.

Smith's Meadow

- One picnic table firmly secured (concreted) to ground by Councillor Lister.
- Other two picnic tables, should they also be secured and whereabouts within Meadow. Cllr. Searle offered help with this.
- One picnic table had 5 long screws and 3 nails protruding from same, may have caused a nasty cut. Removed from same on Sunday 25th April by Cllr. Lister.
- Request has been made to change position of the sign at the top gate – It was decided to leave the sign as is and speak to parishioner to see if there is an issue.
- General clean of Lifebuoy and warning sign beside same required.

Playpark

- In good condition, no structural issues with apparatus checked 25th April
- Certain trees to be coppiced (see Cllr. Paul report)

Bus Shelter

- All fine with same structurally but does get messy at times

Telephone Box

- One large and one small pane missing – contact BT

Cllr. Essex.

Streetlights

Sadly, Prysmian failed to turn up to replace the column in The Close on April 1st.

I was not informed of this but found out when I went to inspect the new column.

On contacting them their reason was that they ran out of time on that day.

I have been told they will send me a new date when they have one but as, yet I have heard nothing.

I will keep the residents informed.

Litter

I received emails from Carol Rosier of the WI and Gary Robinson asking if they could help with litter collection around the village.

Gary has since been to see me and collected a litter picking kit and is keen to collect wherever he can. I explained to him that there are no other volunteers in the village so he could choose whichever area he liked. The Parish Council gave a vote of thanks to Gary Robinson for all the work he is doing.

Cllr. Townsend.**The Anchor Defibrillator.**

Checks completed on pads, equipment, and readiness for use on 25th April and The Circuit updated.

Eastern Bridge

Note sent to Liz Tucker requesting that lights be returned to original status quo as currently causing confusion to drivers and, we believe, providing a higher risk of an accident happening. Awaiting a response.

Paul Brown agreed at April Pact meeting that he will be open to receiving information on persistent offenders for action. We will need to provide him with registration details and dates and times.

Cllr. Butler.

Lengthsman.

I am pleased to report that Carl, our new Lengthsman, started his duties at the beginning of April. Carl will be in the village most Thursday afternoons.

Carl has reported to Worcestershire County Council eye drains in Evesham Road that are blocked. WCC have inspected the site and have raised a four-week order.

Carl suggested that the road be swept as it was some considerable time since this had occurred. I requested this on the 24th of April from Wychavon DC and this was carried out on the 26th of April. I have also requested that over the Eastern Bridge be swept as well now, on Carl's request, again through Wychavon DC.

The vehicle activated sign on the Worcester Road is currently looked after by Mr. Dev Naraine. Carl is happy to have this as part of his responsibilities, however Mr Naraine is happy to maintain the status quo. I have emailed Dev to confirm. Awaiting a reply.

On 15th April Carl was working on the Eastern Bridge and was concerned enough to mention that some vehicles were not only going over the bridge, but were doing so at speed, whilst he was working on clearing the 'vegetation' covering the white lines of the cycle path. Disconcerting to say the very least. He also challenged a person in a post office vehicle, who when told you could not cross the bridge and that the lights remained on red, the reply was 'no they don't, watch this mate they will turn green in a minute'.

I have received a request from councillor Searle re the wildflower verges. He would like Carl to do a very short cut off the verge in question, i.e., scalp it, this is to try and weaken the grass. The rest of the work for this project (a much smaller area of approx. 40m sq.) I understand will be done by volunteers. I have forwarded this email to Carl, who has suggested we discuss it on Thursday 29th when he is next in the village. I will report accordingly.

The signage on Wyre Road and Wyre Hill have had a clean, but the direction sign in Wyre Road from the village to the roundabout is very old, and past its best. I have applied for it to be replaced. Will let you know the outcome.

**13/5/21 Planning applications and Decision Notices
20/00043/CM – Recycling Centre, Evesham Road, Fladbury**

This planning application is almost identical to the first one (see January report) and the comments agreed on the first application have been submitted to the County Council. The main changes to this application are for better noise attenuation. Decision pending.

20/02794/HP - The Manor House

A planning application has been submitted for repairs and restoration to the front elevation of the property and for repairs to the chimney tops and the boundary wall, plus new fence, and gate to bring it back to a similar appearance as it was around 1950. The application has been approved with conditions.

20/02795/LB – The Manor House

This is an application for listed building approval for the above works as The Manor House is Grade 2 listed. This application has also been approved.

21/00580/TDC5 – Land Adjacent Meadow View, Evesham Road

A planning application has been made for the submission of technical details following approval of Planning in Principle reference 19/02648/PIP. I have not yet had time to look at this at the time of writing and will comment on it to members by e-mail.

SWDPR Sustainability Appraisal Consultation Reg 18 iii

The consultation regarding this document ended on the 19 April 2021. The Wyre Piddle PC comments on this were submitted.

This consultation was for all residents to bring up anything they consider may affect the sites significantly which have not already been considered by the report, or that have been considered but there is evidence within the community that the conclusions may be wrong. I received no comments, and apart from issues of flooding, I was not aware of any issues that have not been considered or would have any impact on the sites. Thus, our reply was regarding water flow and flooding once sites have been developed.

No other planning applications have been received.

14/5/21 Correspondence. None other than covered by agenda.

15/5/21 Post Pandemic Measures for Parish Council Meetings

The Chair explained that the current emergency legislation that allowed for public body (i.e., parish council) meetings to meet virtually has not been extended. This means that any council meetings on or after the 7th should be held as normal but will need to consider the social distancing guidance and or requirements that may remain in place.

This has resulted in a level of confusion and several local authorities are urgently seeking judicial review of the government's position on this. It is not known when the outcome of this will be clear.

Accordingly, the Clerk has taken advice from CALC, and whilst there is a requirement for the Parish Council to meet physically after May the 7th it would be limited as to whether any and if so, how many people could attend or be in attendance. There is therefore a requirement from government that any such meeting should be live streamed to enable the public to take part. This results in several practical and technological obstacles to overcome.

An alternative course of action is to continue to hold the meetings until such a time as the Covid restrictions are fully lifted and or the outcome of the judicial review is known, would be to formally delegate to the Clerk for a temporary period authority to act on behalf of the Parish Council.

This would mean that the PC meeting would be an open meeting (to the public as required by law) who can attend as now as the meeting would be virtual, but that the meeting would be conducted on the basis that it was consultative and was not able to make decisions. It would however be minuted and the Clerk would then collate and formulate with the Chair any necessary decisions which she would then circulate for comment before enacting these.

Cllr. Searle Proposed and Cllr. Townsend Seconded that the above delegated powers be approved for the Clerk. All in favour.

16/5/21 To confirm the dates of future meetings of the Council: -

At 7.30 pm in the Village Hall on: -

2021, Thursday 23 July, Thursday 23 September, Thursday 25 November (Precept Setting)

2022, Thursday 27 January, Thursday 24 March,

Thursday 26 May (AGM and Annual Parish Meeting) commences at 7pm.

Date of next meeting – Thursday 22nd July 2021

There being no other business the meeting closed at 5.19 pm

Approved as a true record Cllr. Paul
Chairman 22nd July,2021