

Wyre Piddle ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Clerk: Carole Hirst

Present: Cllrs. J. Paul, M. McFarland, C. Townsend, L. Searle, S. Essex, S. Lister.

In Attendance: Carole Hirst (Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer)
WCC County Cllr. Tucker, 3 Members of the Public.

Apologies: Cllr. Y. Butler

Wyre Piddle Annual Parish Meeting held **on Wednesday 5th May 2021**
at 4 pm via Zoom.

Annual Parish Meeting Minutes

1 Elect a Chairman for the meeting- Cllr. Lister Proposed that Cllr. Paul be elected. Seconded by Cllr. Searle. All in favour. **Cllr John Paul was duly elected as Chairman for the Annual Meeting.**

2 Parish Council Annual Review – Chairman's Report.

This has been a year like none other. All our meetings of the full Council have been held by zoom video conferencing - what was that a little more than a year ago? We have had to get used to working differently but, overall and despite a few technical glitches initially, we have coped quite well. There have been no material interruptions to the service that we provide for our community.

Covid-19 has had a profound affect in our own community, throughout the country and around the world. Some of us have experienced sadness or health concerns within our own families or among our friends. Many things have changed and some of the changes will last, however, I think we will all agree that our sense of community is stronger and, with the roll out of the vaccine, there will soon be opportunities for people to meet again and to take up interests and activities old and new. The strength of our community cannot be better exemplified than by the work of the Support Group which provided such valuable comfort and assistance for older and more vulnerable people in our Parish during the pandemic.

I would just like to say how hard it would be to run the Parish without the support of our Clerk Carole Hirst keeping us on track and informing us of policies, and also many residents and Councillors that give up their time in pursuit of a better place to live. I would like to say a big thank you to all those who have helped over the past year along with many thanks to our contracted colleagues giving their best. It is a privilege to lead such a strong and committed team of Councillors, I think we are very fortunate for a Parish Council in that, over recent years, we have rarely had a Councillor vacancy to fill and when we did have an unexpected vacancy, more than one excellent applicant applied to be co-opted. Due to all the time and work done in the background by all our councillors, volunteers and contracted colleagues we have for the 4th year running not increased our council precept, which is good news for all of us.

Many projects have continued over the last year including; the protection of the Preaching cross (which has become a village focus point), the clearance around the boundaries and hedge row planting in Smith's Meadow managed by councillor Lister, a lot of background work with PC Paul Brown ref the Eastern Bridge traffic lights thanks to councillors Townsend and Searle for their continued monitoring,

Neighbourhood watch which has just been taken over by councillor McFarland, the Litter pick looked after by councillor Essex, SWDP a huge amount of work taken on by councillor Searle and a huge welcome to our newest councillor, councillor Butler who has taken over the role of looking after our new Lengthsman, Carl. Please say hello to him on your walks.

I am sure that going forward the Council will continue to look for new initiatives and ideas that will help to benefit the village community as a whole and we are always keen to encourage committed volunteers to come forward to help and develop any projects which they may be interested in.

So, to sum up, due to all the work that has been going on in the background, I think the Parish Council is now much more effective and efficient in its running and as long as it continues to be mindful of its assets in terms of planning for future eventualities it will continue to provide a very good service to its residents.

3. District and County Councillor Report – Cllr Liz Tucker

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. It’s 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 hasn’t 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 mean-time 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.

- 4 **Local Community Police Officer report** – none received.
- 5 **Report from Village Hall Committee** – None received.
- 6 **Reports from Village Organisations.**

Wyre Piddle WI.

We believe we held our WI together very successfully through a hybrid of communication - doorstep chats, weather-permitting groups of 6 outdoors with drinks, social zooms, emails and hard copies for those not online. We have a loose programme of ideas to take us through the summer, with hopes of our AGM with a party, for 25 members, back in the village hall in September. The Covid virus has taught us a lot about priorities and with zoom we have blossomed, but continue to be mindful of those who are unable to zoom. We have formed sub-groups - craft, walks, books, gardening, and having bought a zoom full licence for our own 'in house' purposes, now that the village hall responded generously to our request for wifi to be installed, we shall now be able to zoom from anywhere - the world can be our oyster!! Perhaps in time a large tv screen will be installed and we may have a Wyre Piddle Film/Zoom Club? Another contribution to our village we are considering is adopting the telephone box. We plan to look to attract support from all the community so that we may all feel a sense of ownership. Just think - an amazing community asset telephone box looking good, opposite an amazing good looking community asset The Anchor Pub?

Your Wyre Piddle WI is open and forward-looking, and very much want to be seen at the heart of Wyre Piddle.,

Our Committee Members are: Carol Rosier, President. Wendy Berry, Secretary, Wendy Malkinson, Treasurer. Merriel Wheeler, Sue Taylor, Maggie Close, Liz Gardner.

Enquiries to Carol Tel: 554410. 07967131299. Carol.rosier@btinternet.com

Carol Rosier asked the Parish Council to take on board the intentions of purchasing the telephone box. A variety of ideas have been discussed but as yet no plans are firmed up.

- 7 Open Public Forum – none reported.
2 members of the parish gave their thanks for the work of the Parish Council.

The meeting closed at 4.15 pm