

PIXLEY & DISTRICT ANNUAL PARISHES MEETING

Parish Clerk: Janet Chester
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Minutes of the Annual Joint Parishes (Aylton, Little Marcle, Munsley and Pixley) Meeting held on Monday 21st May 2018 at 7pm

Present

Mrs L Clothier (Parish Council Chairman), K Bray, Mrs J Cowell, K Davies, J Glanville, P Hawker, A Mawby, D Nicholson, I Pritchard, M Skittery, S Swaithe, E Thompson and M Tristram
Three Crosses Ward Councillor Jonathan Lester
Janet Chester – Parish Clerk

1. **Welcome** - Councillor Clothier welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. **Apologies for Absence** – Mandy Thwaites (holiday)
3. **To Consider Approval of the minutes of the previous annual parish meeting held on Wednesday 24th May 2017 (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

“Pixley and District Parish Council AGM Report May 2018.

Neighbourhood Development Plan

Pixley and District Parish Draft NDP was put out for public consultation over an 8 week period which ended after Christmas. Responses from consultees and the public have been taken into account and incorporated into an amended draft plan. Now that Reg 16 has been reached, the newly drafted NDP had been referred back to Herefordshire Council and statutory consultees for scrutiny and independent examination. This period may take 6-9 months finally then being referred back to the parish for referendum before being adopted. Many thanks to Councillor Hawker who chaired the NDP steering committee and managed to keep all meetings to a one hour maximum and has ensured a very smooth and efficient result in what for some parishes has proven quite difficult. Also may I thank David Nicholson, our consultant, who managed to keep us all in line and on track to complete the parish NDP within our projected time line.

Travellers Site. Land adjacent to Whitfield Coppice, The Old Pickling Plant.

After Pixley and District successfully challenged the Arc 4 report done for Herefordshire Council on The Need for Travellers Sites and the number of pitches required to fulfil this need, The Old Pickling Plant Site was no longer required as a potential site. Arc 4 reviewed their figures over the summer of 2017 and due to discrepancies in their original figures which Pixley and District Council were able to draw their attention to, the number of extra pitches required in the county were reduced from 16 to 9. This meant that these 9 pitches could be accommodated in existing council run sites.

The review in summer of 2017 carried out by Arc 4 cost Herefordshire Council a further £5,000.

The A4172

The A4172 has been over many years one of the greatest concerns of the Parish Council (PC) and its parishioners due to speeding cars. It has been the wish of the PC to reduce the speed limit from 60mph to 50mph. Balfour Beatty commissioned a speed survey which was undertaken by a company called ADL. The speed survey report's conclusion was that the speed limit should remain at 60mph. This conclusion that the speed limit should remain unaltered was also confirmed at a meeting the PC had with the Safer Roads Partnership and Balfour Beatty. The PC has received much support on this issue from our ward councillor Jonathan Lester as he recognises the concerns that parishioners have had over many years about the speed of this road that bisects the parish. Barry Durkin, Minister for Highways asked the PC to write a report for him setting out the argument for reducing the speed on this road to 50mph. I would like to thank Michael Llewellyn-Jones who helped me in compiling the accident figures on the A4172 compared with those on the B4215 to Newent where the speed is 50mph. Over the past 5 years, there has been 8 personal injury accidents (PIAs) on this 10.5km stretch of road which is immediately south of the A4172 and is a continuation of the same road. The speed limit has been 50 mph since 2007. This represents 0.76 PIAs per km. In the last 5 years, on the A4172 there has been 12 PIAs over a 3.5km stretch of road ie 3.43 PIAs per km. This means the accident rate along this section of the A4172 is 4.5 times worse than along Gloucestershire's B4215. I would also like to thank Michael for helping me compile junction visibility figures for the A4172. The visibility figures were severely sub-standard at the Little Marcle Crossroads from the lane leading to Little Marcle Court, Little Marcle Crossroads from the lane leading to Ledbury and the junction with the road to Aylton, just south of the "hidden dip". Other arguments in brief are that the A4172 provides BOTH a through traffic function and a local access function and it is the resultant mix of traffic types that substantially contributes to the danger of all road users. The 85th percentile speed of traffic is approximately 66mph and in the worst case 23% of drivers were exceeding the speed limit. The A4172 should be considered in its wider speed limit context as the road is sandwiched between Gloucestershire's lengthy 50mph speed limit and lower limits on the A417 to the North. A stopping site distance is grossly deficient in 2 areas and the junction visibility is similarly poor in 4 out of the 8 cases. Similarly the visibility is very poor at the numerous private accesses and field gates onto the A4172. Since 2002 at least 80% of Pixley and District parishioners have considered the speed of traffic on the A4172 to be a major problem or problem. The most recent figures in 2007 in the NDP survey is 88% showing an increasing level of concern. We are waiting to hear whether the arguments for a speed reduction set out in the report have been heard favourably by HC as a meeting to discuss this has been delayed.

Ashperton Bridge

Network Rail now plan to refurbish and repair the bridge sometime in 2018/19. The PC has been under the impression from communications with Network Rail and their technical engineering officers on the ground that plans for the bridge were that of reinstating the bridge with the addition of crash barriers. The PC pointed out in communications with both Network Rail and the Minister for Highways Barry Durkin, that crash barriers would seriously increase the safety hazard for road users if this were to take place. However Barry Durkin has confirmed that the bridge will not undergo major works.

Defibrillator

Pixley and District now have a defibrillator sited at the Trumpet Garage. An evening event was held for parishioners in what to do in cases of cardiac arrest. There are plans for a second course sometime this year for anyone wishing to attend from the parish.

Pixley Church

It is very sad to report that Pixley Church is no longer carrying out services due to a dwindling congregation. It has therefore been deconsecrated but the churchyard itself remains "active".

Lengthsman and P3 budget

This year Herefordshire Council (HC) will no longer be funding parish lengthsman schemes. Continuing with our lengthsman will mean that the parish will now have to pay from its yearly precept. The Parish Council decided that it was important to maintain a lengthsman for the parish so as to provide the parish with a more immediate local service than one that is supplied by Balfour Beatty. This covers all the parishes B and C roads but not the A4172 which remains the responsibility of Herefordshire Council.

HC will be continuing to fund the P3 budget. They have a statutory duty to maintain footpaths in the county. A footpath officer is a voluntary role.

The parish footpaths officers identified a number of works to be carried out and the replacement of stiles where necessary with gates and the cutting back of vegetation. The lengthsman has carried out ditch and grip clearing in the parish.

Finance

The PC proposed a precept budget of £7,800 for the year 2018/19 up from last years precept of £6,500. This rise reflects the PC wish to maintain a lengthsman for the parish.

Net bank balance as of 31/3/2018 in the current account is £7,271.54. In the reserve account £2,811.82. The total being £10,083.36.

5. Annual Report from Three Crosses Ward Councillor Jonathan Lester

Ward Councillor Lester reported that he chaired his first cabinet meeting as leader in March. At the April meeting an Adult Safeguarding Board was set up and Herefordshire Councils priorities for 2018/19 set out. One change is to the housing allocation system facilitated through Home Point. At the May cabinet meeting an investment of £4.6m was agreed for Marlbrook Primary School. £46m has been gained through the sale of the council small holdings. Future cabinet meetings will discuss the provision and service of libraries, museums and archive and the final decision for the Hereford bypass route will be made which will free up land for housing and industrial use. A peer review of Herefordshire Council has taken place and the overall message was that the council is performing well but needs to speak about its achievements more loudly, become braver and more robust and engage with communities more.

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

PIXLEY AND DISTRICT PARISH COUNCIL

Attendance Record for Parish Councillors & Ward Councillor 2017- 2018

NAME	MONTH						TOTAL
	MAY	JULY	SEPT	NOV	JAN	MARCH	
BRAY K (vice-chairman)	Y	Y	APOL	Y	Y	Y	5 OF 6
CLOTHIER L (CHAIRMAN)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	6 OF 6
COWELL J	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	6 OF 6
DAVIES K	Y	Y	Y	Y	APOL	Y	5 OF 6
HAWKER P	APOL	Y	APOL	Y	Y	APOL	3 OF 6
MAWBY A	APOL	Y	APOL	Y	APOL	Y	3 OF 6
PRITCHARD I	Y	Y	Y	Y	APOL	Y	5 OF 6
SKITTERY M	APOL	APOL	Y	Y	Y	Y	4 OF 6
SWAITHES S	Y	Y	Y	Y	APOL	Y	5 OF 6
THOMPSON E	Y	Y	Y	APOL	Y	Y	5 OF 6
THWAITHES M	Y	Y	APOL	Y	Y	Y	5 OF 6
TRISTRAM M	Y	Y	Y	APOL	APOL	Y	4 OF 6
CHESTER J (CLERK)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	6 OF 6
LESTER J (WARD COUNCILLOR)	Y	Y	APOL	Y	Y	Y	5 OF 6

NOT ELECTED COUNCILLOR =

CO-OPTION ON TO COUNCIL





7. Update on Neighbourhood Development Plan

Reg 16 has been reached, the newly drafted NDP had been referred back to Herefordshire Council and statutory consultees for scrutiny and independent examination. This period may take 6-9 months finally then being referred back to the parish for referendum before being adopted. The next NDP meeting will be to discuss the referendum.

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 Balance 1st April 2017 £6644.38. Income £14949.81 Expenditure £13086.92 unpresented cheques £1576.09 Closing Balance £10083.36.

The insurance premium has remained the same despite the addition of the defibrillator, laptop and printer.

9. Open Forum

Mr Jim Glanville, Church Warden of Little Marcle Church outlined the possibility of the church becoming a community building. He asked if the parish council would consider working alongside the PCC friends group to move forward with this proposal.

There being no further business the chairman declared the meeting closed at 7.28pm

Signed.....
Chairman

Dated.....

