

**THE ANNUAL MEETING OF PIRTON PARISH WAS HELD ON THURSDAY 10TH MAY 2018
AT 7.00pm IN ST PETERS CHURCH, PIRTON**

PRESENT: Mrs J Butterworth (Chairman), Mrs S Rawles, Mrs D Skeys, Mr D Skeys, Mr R Rawles, Mrs T Homer, Mr I Butterworth, Mrs A Tanfield, Mr M Connolly, Mrs S Wynn, Mr B Wynn, Mr P Hare, Mrs F Mead & Ms P West.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs N. Nicholson (Clerk), Mr. R. Adams (County Councillor) Mr P Middleborough (District Councillor)

1. APOLOGIES

N/A

2. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held 19th May 2017 were signed by the Chairman as a true record.

3. MATTERS ARISING

- a. 30-mile speed limit review – The speed review from the previous year was discussed, The County Councillor advised residents that the Highways team had decided it was not necessary at this time, a long discussion arose and County Councillor Adams agreed to revisit the area with the Highways team again this year.
- b. Playing Field - The Chairman advised residents that the back fence has now been mended.
- c. The Chairman advised residents that the 106/unilateral agreements for housing developments in Drakes Broughton are been amended to allow Pirton residents the same access to social housing as residents of Drakes Broughton and Wadborough.
- d. Stonehall Common parking – The Chairman advised residents that Kempsey parish Council had been contacted and in time a solution would hopefully be found. County Councillor Adams agreed that hardstanding for parking off the road was a good idea.
- e. New signs for the Passing Places on the way to Stonehall Common –County Councillor Adams advised that the colleague dealing with this had left the Council and a new order for the signs has been raised.

4. REPORTS

(a) Parish Council

Mrs J Butterworth gave the annual report:

It's been another busy year for the Parish Council which has meant that as well as the regular monthly meetings, there have been a number of additional full council meetings and subcommittee meeting during the year which have provided proper time for consideration of the important issues that have needed our attention. I start my report this year by saying thank you to the Parish Councillors for the work they do and for their contribution, commitment and continuing energy and enthusiasm

Until most recently we have had a full quota of Councillors however following the resignation of Cllr Mark Griffiths we currently have a vacancy for a Cllr for Drakes Broughton. Mark was a valued member of our team and made a big contribution; he will be missed.

Not surprisingly proposals for housing development have continued to demand much of our attention and Council have reviewed and commented on 43 planning applications this year. We have continued to support the Local residents action group and were disappointed when after the appeal the planning decision for 32 houses on Walcot Lane was overturned and permission was granted. The planning applications for two major developments that will result in over 200 new dwellings in Drakes Broughton are progressing through to the more detailed reserved matters stage and the Parish Council were pleased that, at their request, public consultation events were organised by the builders for both of these developments. These events were well attended and provided the opportunity for people to talk to the developers and make comment and raise concerns. The Parish Council will review and comment on the more detailed plans when they are submitted and will continue to work with the developers to ensure that the new housing adds to, rather than takes away from, the existing Drakes Broughton Village and community.

With the new building comes money for the community. In formal agreements between Wychavon and the housing developers it is agreed that the sums of money will be provided to the community to be spent on the open space and sports facilities in Drakes Broughton. There is around £60,000 that can be spent to improve facilities now, but there will be more money available as and when the major developments are built. It is important that this money is invested and the outdoor space and sports facilities are improved for everyone's benefit. During the year The Open Space Review Group was formed to start the task of building a master plan for the open space. The small group have brain-stormed ideas, shortlisted and then appointed a company to help develop the ideas for the Playing Field. To date there have been meetings, discussions and a Walk and Talk consultation event and now the draft plans are ready to be unveiled at the Community Consultation event on 11th May 2018.

The Village Hall is an important facility within our community and the Parish Council continue to support the work of the newly formed Village Hall Committee in restoring and developing the hall to make it useable and useful again. As well as paying for a survey of the Hall the Parish Council have provided a grant of £5133.81 towards the cost of a new heating system. This money together with £2000 donated by the Village Events Committee, a grant from Wychavon and proceeds from the recent Table Top sale means that the hall will be useable throughout next winter. People are keen to see changes that will mean that the Village Hall is useable in conjunction with land around it and with the renewed open space. Some of the changes to the Hall could be paid for using New Homes Bonus money that is allocated to the Community by Wychavon. There is currently around £64,000 available to the community from this fund. There will be the opportunity for people to see plans for the new look Village Hall and to have a say about how much of the New Homes Bonus should be spent on transforming this important community asset at the Community Consultation event on 11th May – please come along and let us know what you think.

I am grateful to both the Village Hall Committee and the Open Space Review Group for the work that they are doing to improve our community facilities for everyone's benefit. Their commitment to the cause is appreciated.

This year we have reviewed and revised the Agreement with the Football Club so it now includes provision for the adult football club to use for the pitches on the playing field at Drakes Broughton. The football club have also received a grant of £220 to help towards the cost of relocating the moles from the pitches.

We continue to try make ours a nice area to live in and this year have chased BT to clean the phone box, sent the notice board for repair and had a walk about with Roof Top to bring attention to areas that need their attention. We have asked for ditches to be cleared and pot holes filled in. We know most people find it disappointing that dog waste continues to be such a problem, particularly in Drakes Broughton but be assured that Parish Council are trying to ensure that there are waste bins in the right places to hopefully encourage people to keep the footpaths and pavements clean.

We are grateful for the efforts of many people within our community for the many and varied contributions they make in making ours a great place to live. Most of this work “just happens”, often without anyone really noticing! I would like to thank Wadborough residents Mr Bev McCordall again for undertaking to representing local interests about local bus services and to Mr Roly Cother for his work in the community to try to ensure roadside hedges are not allowed to restrict visibility on our country lanes in and around Wadborough and I'd also like to thank Ray Turner for the work he does as footpath warden to keep our footpaths accessible and usable across our parishes.

Brian Arrowsmith is well known figure in our community and I thank him on behalf of the Parish Council for all the great work he does as our Lengthsman in maintaining the verges and associated drainage along minor roads around our villages.

The total value of grants awarded by the Council in the year 2017/18 to our communities was a total of £7383. Grants were awarded to The Football Club towards Mole management, St Barnabas' Church Drakes Broughton, The Village Hall Committee (for a survey and towards the new heating system), the Villager magazine, and to the local residents group (towards legal costs for planning appeal).

I would like to thank the Clerk & RFO, Nikki Nicholson for the support she provides to the Parish Council and to me as Chairman,

I would also like to thank both our District and County Councillors for the support and wise council they provide and for coming to our monthly meetings and liaising with their respective Council officials on our behalf. And finally, my thanks, once again, go to the Parish Councillors for all their support and collective and individual energy, enthusiasm and commitment over the last 12 months in the work they do on behalf of the local community.

(b) Worcestershire County Councillor Rob Adams

The last 12 months has seen a lot of changes at the County Councils. Twenty-three new councillors were elected, which is nearly half of the fifty-seven councillors. One Chief Executive moved to another position out of local government and sadly the interim Chief Executive died in post, however a new an experienced Chief Executive is in place. A further four members of the leadership team went to new positions, again outside local government, but all have been replaced.

Children's services remain the key priority of the County Council. From the base of a damning Ofsted report work commitment and funding has been put into supporting vulnerable children. The Government a looking to move Children's services to an arm's length company controlled by the county. A decision will be made very shortly.

Since I joined the County Council the emphasis has been more and more to support vulnerable children and adults. It is worth noting that £221 million, out of the total spend of £325million goes into this area. In contrast £64 million is spent on highways and infrastructure.

During the past I have continued to work with the parish to seek remediation of highways issues. Sometimes they take a little longer than expected but eventually they get done. This year I have been helped by a new fully dedicated highways liaison engineer and this is paying dividends.

Two of the counties major infrastructure schemes are close to the parish boundary and effect many residents on a daily basis.

The Parkway station is well underway but of course there is the hold up from the traffic lights. In September and October there will be a series of full night time closures. These are scheduled to start at 6.30 pm which I considered is far too early given commuter traffic.

Work on the Southern link from the Swan Roundabout to the Norton roundabout continues at a pace. The key works to put the extension of the railway bridge in place will result in a full road closure from the evening of 24th May to morning of 1st June.

The bridge extension is a necessary precursor to completion of the dualling of the A4440 between the Norton and Whittington roundabouts. When the dualling has been completed in this area, all eastbound ("uphill") traffic will travel on two lanes beneath the existing railway bridge and westbound ("downhill") traffic will travel on two lanes beneath the bridge extension.

Approval and funding is now in place to build a new parallel bridge and embankment between the Ketch Roundabout and Powick Roundabout before the end of 2021. This means the A4440 will be fully dualled between junction 7 of the M5 and the Powick roundabout.

All change soon at The Fire Authority – governance is to be transferred to the Police and Crime Commissioner. The Fire Authority will move to Hindlip Hall where much closer working will take place e.g. one control room. It is envisaged this will result in substantial savings.

(c) Wychavon District Councillor Paul Middlebrough

Planning continues to dominate issues effecting the parish and Wychavon. The large Bovis development, Walcott Lane and the Sanctuary Orchards scheme are slowly coming but reserved matters still remain to be approved. Until this happens no construction can take place.

The Neighbourhood Plan should prove a powerful document in determining future development control in the village. It is important though that the Parish attends any briefings on the revision to the South Worcestershire Development Plan as it emerges.

In the next few weeks Wychavon will provide a briefing on the New Homes Bonus scheme which has been revised. Existing earned bonuses remain banked for the Parish and the new scheme will provide further funding hopefully to enhance the village hall

Both County & District Councillors thanked the Chairman, the members of the Parish Council and the Clerk for their support and the commitment that they have to the parish.

5. ANY MATTER AN ELECTOR WISHES TO RAISE

- The Chairman advised residents of the planned tree felling on the Worcester Road

- Mr R Rawles raised the idea of a traffic survey in conjunction with the discussion regarding extending the 30MPH speed zones. A discussion arose around using white gates as a traffic speed reducing measure and perhaps this could be funded/part funded out of the County Councillor's discretionary fund.
- Ms Penny West raised the need for litter bins on the footpaths in Pirton. The consensus was that there would be no real benefit to having bins as the only people who would use them would be Pirton residents and they tend to put any litter they collect in their home dustbins.

The Chairman thanked all for attending.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm

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