

PIXLEY & DISTRICT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held in Munsley WI Hall On Tuesday 10th September 2024

**Present: Cllrs K Lynch (Chairman), A Mawby, A Riga, C Smart, B Sugden, S Swaites
J Lester (Ward member)
E Wayman (Clerk)**

52. Apologies for absence – All present, no apologies received

53. To receive Declarations of Interest

No Declarations of Interest were received at this point in the meeting.

54. Public Participation

Cllr J Lester reported that the Government intends to devolve further services to the Unitary Council, however, due to the low population of Herefordshire it would need to group with other Councils and elect one Mayor for the group. The area may mirror West Mercia but this is still to be decided.

The Government are also increasing new housing targets which may mean Herefordshire needs to build 27k new homes by 2041 instead of the original target of 16-17k. This will create a challenge for the Council in finding the land and undermines the current 5-year supply, Local Plan and Neighbourhood plans so developers may get applications approved more easily outside of those plans.

There is also a budget consultation beginning and running up until Christmas.

The next Council summit has been arranged and will feature children's and adult's services as well as Public Rights of Way.

Lots of resurfacing works are underway and footage of this can be seen on the Herefordshire Council's website.

The Chairman moved item 8 up on the agenda to allow Cllr J Lester to be present.

55. Ashperton Railway Bridge

The Chairman reported that a reply to the Parish Council's letter had been received. Crash barriers and traffic calming measures were not a viable option due to the cost, engineering deliverability and lack of statistics indicating accidents at the site. However, the carriageway was due to be resurfaced which created an opportunity for some improvements. Subject to physical construction constraints these would include replacement of existing warning signing with improved versions on both approaches, specialist antiskid surfacing on immediate approach to and over the bridge deck and concrete haunch and kerbing to rebuild the section of damaged verge that resulted from an HGV leaving the carriageway earlier in the year.

There was some discussion regarding other potential actions such as reducing the speed limit and reducing the traffic to one lane with priority signing. Cllr Riga reported on new railings on the Stoke Edith railway bridge, seemingly installed by National Rail and questioned whether this could be done on Ashperton Bridge.

It was RESOLVED for the Clerk to respond to Herefordshire Council to accept the suggestions and enquire upon alteration of the speed limit.

Cllr J Lester left the meeting.

56. Minutes

56.1 The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 23rd July 2024 were approved as a correct record of that meeting and signed by the Chairman.

56.2 The minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council meeting held on the 30th July 2024, were approved as a correct record of that meeting and signed by the Chairman

57. Planning

57.1 To consider a response to the following planning applications:

Site Description	Barn at Far Barn Munsley, Ledbury, Herefordshire Application for prior approval for proposed change of use of agricultural building to create single dwellinghouse.
Application No	242213

The Parish Council had **no objection** to the application as it was under permitted development.

57.2 Planning Decisions Received

The Chairman reported that there were three applications still pending decision in the Parish.

58. Highways/Footpaths

58.1 To receive a report from the Footpath Officer, if available.

There was no report at the time of the meeting.

58.2 To receive an update on replacement grit bin at Brook Farm, Little Marcle and consider a quote for fitting if available.

The Chairman reported that he had requested a quote from the Lengthsman for clearing the area and current bin and a build of a cage to protect the new bin from hedge cutting machinery. No quote had been received at the time of the meeting.

58.3 To receive an update on the Lengthsman

The Lengthsman's insurance had been received and the Lengthsman had been officially appointed.

58.4 To consider a quote for replacement of a stile with a gate on footpath LM3.

A quote of £165 for replacement of the stile with a gate had been received. **It was RESOLVED to accept the quote.**

58.5 Footpath Working Group

The Chairman reported that the group had not had any further meetings to report on. However, the letter regarding LM9 had been sent to the landowner and no response had been received. **It was AGREED for the Clerk to send a further letter to make sure the original had been received.** The closure of footpath LM8 was to be investigated by the WG at its next meeting.

58. Munsley WI Hall

The Chairman reported that an engineer's drawing had been received and quotations from roofing contractors could now be sought.

59. Sandbags

It was agreed for Cllr A Mawby to offer the affected residents use of Parish Council sandbags in return or storage at their property.

60. Cider Press

The deadline for submission for the November edition of the Cider Press is the 1st October. The Chairman offered to put together a report.

61. Councillor vacancies

There had been no response to the advert in the September Cider Press so far and it was noted that the best way to recruit new Cllrs would be via word of mouth.

62. Parish Council Website

The Clerk had circulated a report detailing quotes from three Parish Council specific website and email providers. **It was RESOLVED to accept the quote from Parish Online with the shortest possible .gov.uk domain name.**

63. Clerk's Contract and Expenses

The Chairman reported that the contract details were being discussed with HALC and would be finalised shortly. The Clerk had sought advice from the Council's payroll contractor and reported that monthly expenses are usually paid via payroll. This would allow for the HMRC annual £125 working from home tax relief to be applied. **It was RESOLVED to pay the Clerk £30 per month to cover all expenses.**

64. Financial Items

64.1 VAT Submission

The Clerk reported the VAT reclaim had been adjusted to include the VAT on two new invoices. There was also a partial refund due from HALC due to an overpayment for 2024/25 subs which would include a refund of some VAT. The report was noted and the Clerk would complete the reclaim in due course.

65.2 Financial Report

The report of receipts and payments to the 31st August 2024 was noted and signed by the Chairman.

65.3 Bank Reconciliation

The Clerk presented the Bank reconciliation for the period to 31st August 2024 showing a bank balance of £16,511.68. The reconciliation was noted and signed by the Chairman.

65.4 Invoices for Payment

The Clerk recommended that payments were only made once invoices were received going forward to avoid errors and risk of fraud. The Broxap payment had been noted at the July meeting but the invoice had only recently been received. Councillors noted the list of payments and viewed the invoices for:

Staff Salaries August 2024	£439.23
HALC recruitment of new Clerk	£300.00
Broxap grit bin purchase	£190.80

66. Correspondence

The Clerk reported that the Street Works list received had no relevant entries for the parish. The correspondence was noted.

67. Survey by the Ledbury Safer Neighbourhood Team, West Mercia Police

The Council agreed a response to the survey based on minimal contact with the police.

68. NPPF consultation

After some discussion around the potential impact for Pixley the Council agreed for Cllrs to respond independently as a neighbourhood Plan is already in place.

69. Forthcoming consultations and briefings

It was agreed for Cllr S Swaithes to attend the Bi-monthly briefing by Balfour Beatty and Herefordshire Council and for the Chairman to attend the HALC Conference and AGM and the Council Summit.

70. Matters to be raised for the next meeting

Ashperton Railway Bridge, Munsley WI Hall, Footpaths Working Group, Noticeboards, Budget and Precept.

71. Date of Next meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for Monday 11th November 2024 at 7:30pm subject to availability of the WI hall.

The meeting closed at 9:21 pm

Signed _____

Chairman

Date 11th November 2021