

# PIXLEY & DISTRICT PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held in Munsley WI Hall On Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2024

**Present:** Cllrs K Lynch (Chairman), A Mawby, A Riga, C Smart, B Sugden, S Swaithes  
E Wayman (Clerk)

**72. Apologies for absence** – All present, no apologies received

**73. To receive Declarations of Interest**

No Cllr Lynch declared an interest in Item 6, Munsley WI Hall as the Cllr member of the Hall Committee.

**74. Public Participation**

Cllr J Lester had sent a report stating he was at a conference which was proving a great source of information. Of the 37 member authorities, social care for adults and children made up 69% of their total budget on average and it was 68% in Herefordshire. On devolution, it was clear that Councils will have to combine rather than merge and gather under a directly elected mayor for their region. Budgets were being developed and a massive investment had been made into road resurfacing and he intended to continue this. The Council was also looking at how it could best address flooding.

**75. Minutes**

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 10<sup>th</sup> September 2024 were approved as a correct record of that meeting and signed by the Chairman.

**76. Planning Decisions Received**

The approval and lawful use of applications 240403 & 240404 Tipsgrove Farm Glamping were noted. The Chairman reported that there were two applications still pending decision in the Parish.

**77. Munsley WI Hall**

**To receive a report and consider options for maintenance of the roof of the hall:**

Cllr Lynch asked Vice Chairman Sugden to Chair the item and left the hall. The Clerk reported that the WI Hall Committee had asked the Parish Council to consider a PWLB loan to pay for the hall to have a new roof. The Clerk presented the repayments for borrowing £60-£80,000 over 50 years and informed the Council that it would add between £16 and £21 per band D property to the Council's precept to pay the loan each year. The Clerk also reported that the legal ownership of the land and the hall would need to be obtained in writing, a business case would need to be presented for approval to borrow and the electors would need to be consulted for a minimum period of a month to meet the requirements. HALC had advised that all quotes, orders, grant monies, loan monies and payments would need to be managed by the Parish Council in order for the VAT to be reclaimed.

The Council discussed the use of the hall by the community and other hubs that offered community space and it was agreed that there were enough other community spaces/hubs in the area that were used more. Due to this and the cost of the project it was **RESOLVED** unanimously not to proceed with the process of a PWLB loan.

**78. Financial items**

**78.1 To approve and adopt the Financial Report as of the 31.10.2024**

The report was adopted and signed by the Chairman with one correction to a transposed figure.

**78.2 To note the current situation regarding the Bank reconciliation**

The Clerk reported that no bank statements had been received in time for a reconciliation for the meeting, however, the previous Clerk had just delivered some to the meeting room by hand. The Clerk would do the reconciliation and send it Cllrs the following day.

### **78.3 To consider changes to the Lloyds Bank mandate and sign the required form**

Cllrs Sugden and Lynch were added as signatories and the Clerk as a limited power signatory. The previous Clerk was removed and the form was signed.

### **78.4 To consider reversing the resolution to open a Unity Trust account and using Lloyds online service instead**

The Clerk reported that she had used Lloyds online banking as a delegate with a previous Council and explained this may be simpler than making required mandate changes to then open a new account and transfer everything over. As the resolution to move to Unity Trust was made over a year prior to this meeting the Council **RESOLVED** to reverse the decision, stay with Lloyds Bank and move to online banking.

### **78.5 To note the NJC pay increase as of 01.04.2024**

The pay increase and calculation for back pay by PATA Payroll was noted.

### **78.6 To consider the draft budget and precept for financial year 2025/2026**

The draft budget was discussed and the Clerk was asked to make some edits ready for consideration at the January meeting when the tax base would have been released for calculating the precept.

### **78.7 The following invoices were APPROVED for payment:**

Staff salaries and expenses	September, October 2024 & November 2024	£1497.93
HMRC Q2 2024/25	PAYE	£307.40
Parish Online	New website and emails	£312.00
PATA Payroll	Salary Arrears Adjustment	£15.00
HALC	Web hosting & Domain Mar 24 – Feb 25	£72.60

## **79. Highways/Footpaths**

### **79.1 To receive a report from the Footpath Officer, if available.**

There was no report at the time of the meeting.

### **79.2 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 a verbal quote from the Lengthsman of £100 to fit the grit bin which was within the limit previously agreed by the Council. The work would be done at the same time as replacing the stile with a gate on footpath LM3 but the gate had not yet been delivered by Herefordshire Council and was expected later in November.

### **79.3 Footpath Working Group**

The PROW officer at Herefordshire Council had offered training to footpath officers and a Pixley representative from the WG was listed to attend. There had been no response from the resident regarding footpath LM9 and it was **AGREED** for a letter to be sent to Herefordshire Council for advice.

The WG was confirmed as Cllr Riga, a resident and Cllr Smart in reserve. The WG was investigating lost footpaths and looking into circular routes. It was suggested that local rambblers' branches may be able to help and it was **AGREED** to focus the Annual Parish Meeting on footpaths and publicise this in the February 2025 edition of the Cider Press.

## **80. Ashperton Railway Bridge**

**To receive a progress report and consider any further actions.**

The Chairman reported on emails received from National Rail and Herefordshire Council. The hedgerow had been cut back to give clearer vision of the signs approaching the bridge and Herefordshire Council suggested the Parish Council should contact the landowners regarding the upkeep of the hedge. The officer at Herefordshire Council was not personally minded to reduce the speed limit but the Parish Council felt it really should be reduced to 40mph. National Rail were awaiting quotes for fencing on the four corners of the bridge. It was **AGREED** to write back to Herefordshire Council to ask for an alternative officer who may be minded to assist and to give examples where other speed reductions have been put in place.

## **81. Sandbags**

The level of requirement for sandbags was discussed and it was **RESOLVED** not to purchase sandbags at this time.

## **82. Cider Press**

**To note the deadlines and content for submission of the Parish Council report for the next edition of the Cider Press. To consider appointing a Councillor to write reports long term.**

The deadlines in the last Cider Press had been incorrect and next one would be 1<sup>st</sup> February 2025 for the Spring edition covering March, April and May. Cllr Smart volunteered and was accepted to write articles for the Cider Press on behalf of the Council going forwards.

## **83. Councillor vacancies**

There had been no applications. The Chairman reported that HALC would be progressing the application to reduce the number of seats on the Council.

## **84. Noticeboards**

**To review the current noticeboard locations and consider purchase of any additional boards for new locations:**

The current noticeboard locations were discussed and new potential locations were suggested as Aylton green and Pixley. There was no legal obligation for noticeboards and many people would use digital means to search for information so it was **RESOLVED** that no further noticeboards would be purchased. Cllr Riga was assigned the task of creating an information sheet to post up in the two current noticeboards detailing the location of the Council's minutes and Clerk's contact details.

## **85. Recent Conferences, Briefings and Summits**

**To receive reports on recent conferences, summits and briefings by Councillors in attendance:**

The Chairman reported that he had been unable to attend the Herefordshire Council summit due to illness but had attended the HALC AGM which was very useful and informative. Presentations were given regarding local Council funding and by a company selling a new product for filling pot holes. The Chairman and the Clerk had booked an appointment with the expert in funding and would be meeting with them on 5<sup>th</sup> December to look into grants and loans available with Munsley WI Hall and future projects in mind. The pot hole filling product was being considered and trialled by Herefordshire Council.

Cllr Swaites reported he was unsuccessful at joining the online Balfour Beatty briefing.

## **86. Correspondence**

**To note the list of Correspondence received and agree any responses required:**

An email had been received from a PCSO at Ledbury Safer Neighbourhood team requesting up to three Policing priorities for Pixley & District PC this quarter. The Council discussed speeding issues on the A417 where two Cllrs had been overtaken when trying to turn right and rural crime as a trailer had

recently been stolen in the parish. It was **RESOLVED** to put these matters forwards and invite one of the team to the next Council meeting.

**87. Website**

**87.1 To consider an expenditure of £25 + VAT per year for decommissioning the old website and mailboxes and forwarding of the org.uk domain to the new website and mailboxes.**

It was **RESOLVED** to go ahead with the quote for one year as the transition was new and in progress.

**87.2 To consider actions to populate the new website with more information and detail.**

The photograph on the home page was discussed and it was **AGREED** for Cllr Mawby to work with a parishioner to produce some new photographs. Key parish features were discussed and Cllr Riga volunteered to work with the Clerk to populate and edit the new website.

**88. Matters to be raised for the next meeting**

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

**89. Date of Next meeting**

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 7:30pm subject to availability of the WI hall.

The meeting closed at 9:29 pm

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date 14<sup>th</sup> January 2025

**Chairman**