

PIXLEY & DISTRICT PARISH COUNCIL
Annual Parish Meeting Minutes
Munsley WI Hall
Monday 12th May 2025 at 7pm

Present: Parish Cllrs Allen Mawby, Andrew Riga, Brendan Sugden, Charles Smart and Kelvin Lynch

Clerk: Ella Wayman

Members of the Public: Four

1. Apologies.

County Cllr and Ward Member, Jonathan Lester and Parish Cllr Steve Swaites had apologised and they were accepted.

2. To approve the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 15th May 2024, as a correct record.

The minutes had been circulated prior to the meeting and were agreed as a true record before being signed by the Chairman.

3. To receive a report from the Three Crosses Ward member.

The Chairman read a report from Cllr Lester detailing the following:

A new food and garden waste service would be rolling out and a provider had been commissioned to do all of the consultancy and design work to carry out key infrastructure. The next cabinet meeting was to be held in June to report on how the Council had delivered the budget. The Care Quality Commission would be assessing the adult social services and providing a rating. There would also be a peer review in June organised by the Local Government Association to assess how well the Council was performing as a whole to provide constructive feedback on how it can improve.

The Highways resurfacing programme had seen £8 million spent in 2024/25 and £3.66 million on surface dressing sound roads. The coming year's budget was a further £10 million for resurfacing and £2.5 million for surface dressing. Funding was also going into drainage improvements to ensure problems caused by surface water would be addressed. There would be disruption throughout spring and summer but the end result would be worth it.

At the cabinet meeting in March reports were presented that highlighted the improvements made in Children's Services. An Ofsted inspection focussed on the quality and timeliness of social work assessments and findings confirmed there was a timely completion of assessments. Support by social workers was recognised as having a positive impact and Ofsted found thresholds for intervention were being appropriately applied.

4. Chairman's Report.

Cllr Lynch thanked the Cllrs for their work over the last 12 months and reported that a new Clerk had been appointed, Ella Wayman, who was also thanked for her efforts.

National Insurance would be increasing and impacting on the PC budget. The PC had not increased its precept since 2019 and had a healthy reserve but it was reluctantly decided to increase it in the coming year to cover fixed costs.

The Council's volunteer footpath officer was also thanked for the tremendous job of liaising with the PROW at Herefordshire Council and for helping to maintain the footpaths by regular monitoring and assisting others to adopt paths. The bridge connecting LM8/AL1 to MM15 had been rebuilt enabling a much-needed connection of Pixley CP with Much Marcle CP. The

bridge at AL4 and PT6 between Ayton and Putley had also been repaired in time for the Big Apple event and thanks were given to Cllr Riga for undertaking the work.

The PC had also investigated LM9 as a lost path but was unsuccessful due to lack of written evidence of its previous route by Laddins Farm. Further work would be done in the coming year to investigate more lost paths.

The PC had worked for several years to reduce the speed limit over Ashperton railway bridge and a speed survey had recently been undertaken by Herefordshire Council. The result would be speed calming measures in the form of new signage rather than a speed reduction and the PC would be pressing the highway agency for this to be implemented as soon as possible. In addition, the PC would also continue to press National Rail for barriers at the four corners of the bridge.

A Lengthsman had been appointed in 2024 who had installed a new grit bin at Brooke Farm on the Little Marcle Road and discovered a second grit bin on the cross roads at Little Marcle. The Council were grateful for his efforts during the year.

Support has also been given to the WI Federation in trying to get funding for a new roof for the Munsley Community Hall due to its desperate need of repair.

A lack of Cllrs on the PC had been a struggle due to needing a quorum for meetings. The PC had written to Herefordshire Council for a review to reduce the number of seats on the PC from 14 to a more reasonable number for the size of the population.

5. A report on footpaths.

Maps showing current and lost footpaths were presented to the meeting and the majority of lost paths were to the north of the A438. The working group were looking for key paths to create circular routes around points of interest. The working group planned to connect with neighbouring parishes and ramblers to create a network.

6. Comments and Questions from any Elector of Pixley & District Parish.

A MOP reported on a planned event by the Cheltenham Motor Club for 14th September 2025. The Club were applying to Herefordshire Council to close 40km of roads surrounding Pixley CP which would cause noise and disruption for around 200 residents, 12 farms and 7 HART venues. The 2024 event created 10 hours of repeated noisy vehicles passing and did not provide facilities for stewards and spectators which resulted in trampled wildlife areas and residents' hedges being used as public conveniences. The route would go through 3 SSSIs and a reserve which was a concern due to the interference with wildlife.

Signed.....

Date.....

Chairman of the Parish Council