

**FLYFORD FLAVELL, GRAFTON FLYFORD &
NORTH PIDDLER PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Meeting held at The Three Parishes Hall
on Tuesday 14th September 2021**

Present Sadie Densham Ceri Bennett Andrew Short
 David Waide(Chairman) John East David Rhodes
 Richard Davey

Mark Broughton-Taylor attended as clerk

Apologies Apologies were received from Linda Robinson

2. Declaration of Interest:

None

3. Public Participation:

None – it was agreed that as soon as the hall had been fitted with the live streaming equipment, meetings would be broadcast for the benefit of members of the public. The clerk said he hoped this would be available for the next meeting in November.

4. Minutes of the 20th July 2021

Minutes of the meeting held on 20th July 2021 were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

Proposed: Sadie Densham Seconded: Andrew Short All in favour

5. Matters Arising from the Minutes:

No matters arising

6. Website Update and Facebook page

Ceri reported that progress on the updated website had been very slow over the summer and she still did not have suitable material for councillors to approve. Concern was raised about the webmaster's ability to carry out the necessary work but it was agreed to review the situation in November.

Ceri reported that posts had been added to the Facebook page to keep people up to speed with events.

7. Correspondence

None.

8. Local Police Officer and Neighbourhood Watch

There was no police report provided and it is now assumed that the local police will report through their newsletter – Local Beat.

The Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator has reported that everything is fine with the scheme to date.

Sadie asked if members of the public could be made aware of the supply of bin stickers that were available for the parishes beyond Flyford Flavell.

The clerk was asked to write to the school expressing the parish council's concern about parking on the corner of Radford Road and Bishampton Road.

9. District and County Councillors

The following report had been received from Linda Robinson

I hope you have all enjoyed your brief summer break as we now head into Autumn.

Latest Coronavirus update

The infection rate in our district continues to creep up and is currently at 247 cases per 100,000. This has risen by 23% in the last 7 days (information correct as of 10th September 2021). The Worcestershire rate remains below the England & West Midlands average.

Public Health continues to monitor the situation particularly with the return of our children to schools last week. Vaccinations could begin for under 16's within weeks, with Chief medical officers saying today that the benefits outweigh the risk of school disruption

Communications will focus on continuing to encourage people to get vaccinated whilst reminding people of the basic precautions they can take to protect themselves and others.

There were 34 patients in Worcestershire's acute hospitals at the end of last week. This is a better picture than elsewhere in the country where bed capacity is beginning to become a concern as we head into winter. Nationally there are about 900 Covid related hospital admissions a day.

Afghanistan Resettlement Scheme

There are 2 schemes relating to Afghan resettlement to the UK:

1. The Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy (ARAP) for Locally Employed Staff (LES) in Afghanistan. This scheme is designed to support those Afghan nationals who have worked with our forces e.g., interpreters. This scheme was launched in April 2021. 30 families are planned to come to our county with the first arriving in Worcester this week and two more expected soon in Wychavon and Malvern Hills imminently.

2. The Afghan Citizen Resettlement Scheme (ACRS). This was the scheme that was announced last week and which is designed to welcome 5,000 vulnerable Afghans into the UK in the first year of the scheme and 20,000 over the longer term. Further guidance on this scheme is still awaited. 250 are scheduled to come to WCC in the next five years with the first arriving shortly.

Locally, the current Afghan resettlement scheme is being co-ordinated by Worcestershire County Council and this will be the same for ACRS. The County Council will work closely with the West Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership who are delivering this programme for the West Midlands on behalf of the Government. The County Council will consider wider support arrangements for Afghan arrivals, co-ordinate financial support from Government and donations from communities.

As non-housing stock councils we are working with our housing association partners and private landlords to identify accommodation. Commitment has been sought from both Platform and Rooftop to begin to identify suitable family sized accommodation within our districts that could be appropriate, and both have responded positively to these requests. In addition, we will be working with voluntary groups in due course to help them with their work supporting new arrivals and getting access to funding.

The following article was published last week in the Droitwich Standard which I thought might be of interest.

‘THE COUNTY’S grass cutting programme has finished for the year with more than 8,000 km of grass being chopped – the equivalent distance from Worcestershire to Brazil.

The county has more than 6million metres of rural verges and in excess of 320,000m² of central reservations in place across the county.

A new cutting regime has been in place since 2016, which helps to keep roads visible for motorists but also provides a safe space for wildlife too.

The council changed the way it cut grass on central reservations last year, cutting less to make the area more friendly and protected for pollinators.

When the visibility splays and road junctions are cut back, only one metre or two metres of grass is now cut back from the carriageway, leaving significant uncut areas available for wildlife.

Coun. Alan Amos, cabinet member for Highways and Transport, said: “Although our primary duty with regards to roadside verges is one of safety, we have made a pledge to support the recovery of pollinator populations within Worcestershire and this includes the way we now manage the sites.

“There are 37 roadside verge Nature Reserves designated for rare or special species and habitats across our county and all sites now receive a bespoke approach to ensure protected or rare species are fully considered when it comes to maintenance.”

Worcestershire County Council has become pollinator friendly to promote the protection of pollinating insects and their habitat.

Dual carriageway verges offer important linear networks for pollinators. Often referred to as 'Bee Lines', they connect previously isolated areas of ecological interest.

During the summer months, the roadsides grow very quickly and there is a statutory duty to maintain them and to make sure the road network is safe.

However, the changes implemented over the past six years have seen significant improvement to biodiversity opportunities on Worcestershire's network.'

Another clue that summer is nearly over is a request I received today that on the 15th October WCC's Winter Service will be launched. They are currently programming the refill of the County's grit bins so if you have any that are damaged so long as they are in regular use they will replace them. Your clerk can then report them plus any that need re filling.

District Issues:

I hope you have all received your Wychavon magazine and the informative Waste reduction & recycling guide.

Our Annual Residents survey has gone live and is available on www.wychavon.gov.uk/consultations until midnight on 3rd October. Last year we received 1,280 responses, the feedback from which all helps shape and improve our services. Uniquely this year it will also look at our response and ongoing recovery to the Covid-19 pandemic.

10. Flyford Green

Work on the installation of the playground started at the end of August as planned and is progressing well. The contractors have had a few delays with material delivery and other site issues but it is still on target to be complete by the end of the month. There is an ongoing problem with the supply of the ropes for the netting but this has been promised for the coming week.

Ceri and Ruth have carried out some research into signage and some amendments were suggested by the chairman. It was agreed that two signs will be fitted back to back on the railing by the gate.

David Rhodes agreed to carry out the weekly checks of the playground equipment as required by our insurance company.

It was noted that some residents on the green had raised concerns about parking and disruption that might occur due to the use of the equipment in due course. This is to be monitored.

Concern was raised again about the state of the path. The clerk reported that he had placed an order with Smartcuts to spray the path again. He also reported that the paths and the quality of the grass were likely to be on going problems due to the poor quality of the preparation of the green by the developers. This will have to be addressed in due course.

It was noted that the Christmas Tree was in poor condition. It was agreed to monitor the tree for the next few weeks.

The village sign had been delayed due to problems with the enamelling process but should be delivered in November.

A celebration/opening of the green will be arranged for December.

Flyford Pond

Progress had been made on the registration of the ownership of the pond but the solicitors had muddled up some of the details which had to be sorted out. The land registry form should be issued shortly.

The clerk undertook to try and obtain a copy of the ecology report that was done for the pond by the neighbours last year.

11. Flyfords' Hall

The clerk reported that as of September all the groups that were meeting before lockdown have returned. There is one extra group now meeting and a steady flow of enquiries is coming through.

Councillors expressed their approval of the new refurbished hall and an open day had taken place on 11th September where a good number of people had come to look around. The clerk suggested that this should be repeated next year but it would be good to have a 'market place' where all the users and community groups could come and explain their role in the community.

The official opening of the hall has been postponed until the spring of next year when the landscaping works should be complete.

It was reported that the hall committee was advertising for a part time manager. In the meantime the clerk was carrying out these duties.

12. Transport Plan

The clerk was now trying to progress this plan as a matter of priority. It was clear that a meeting needed to be arranged with the new County Councillor to assess priorities and this had now been arranged for Wednesday 12th September.

13. Vibrant Villages

Richard agreed to attend the webinar arranged by Wychavon on 21st October.

14. Planning Matters

- i. CPRE had reported that the government proposals for planning reform had been dropped for the time being.
- ii. The South Worcestershire Development Plan has been delayed and it is not expected that there will be any further consultation until next year.

- iii. It was agreed that until there was more clarity about planning legislation that the matter of a Neighbourhood Plan would be put in abeyance again. This to be reviewed in 6 months time.
- iv. Wychavon had finally provided advice about 'pop up campsites' but this had not provided anymore clarity than we had already found. It was reported that the camping season was now coming to an end and that the issue was now probably at an end until next year. The clerk had spoken to many of the people who had raised concerns over the summer.
- v. It was considered that the proposed changes to constituency and ward borders would not affect us and so no comment was required.

vi. Recent Planning Applications

To Formulate Comment

The Giggling Brew Company Ltd **21/01779/FUL**
 Flyford Arms
 Old Hill
 North Piddle
 WR7 4DA

Construction of additional car park and kitchen garden including poly tunnels.

The council resolved that it had no objection to this application.

To report Comment - No objection

Mrs Sarah Minsull **21/00963/HP**
 Orchard Mead
 Worcester Road
 North Piddle
 WR7 4PW

Re-configuration and loft conversion

To report outcome - Refused

Mr J Lang **21/01490/AGR**
 Church Farm
 Church Lane
 Flyford Flavell
 WR7 4BZ

Proposed Agricultural Hay store

The clerk clarified that the reason for refusal was because a Part-Q (ie a change of use from agricultural to domestic accommodation) had been approved recently on the holding and no further agricultural development can take place to replace the space lost for ten years.

15. Highways/Footpaths

The following report had been received from our Footpaths Officer:

Over the summer our footpaths have been busy with ramblers, dog-walkers and people simply enjoying the countryside. I have continued to walk most of the paths, correcting problems with waymarking and localised vegetation overgrowth where necessary. I have had reported to me problems with a wasps nest in the ground in the middle of a footpath leading through fields from Grafton Flyford to Grafton Flyford woods on part of the Butterfly Trail. The council had no specific recommendations or policy for this, and following reports of one walker being stung some local signs and a rope barrier were put up around the nest. These will be reviewed and removed when the nest becomes inactive.

There have been three new reports of localised summer vegetation overgrowth. One has already been resolved in Flyford Flavell and the other two will be addressed in the near future.

Of the existing reported problems, in Flyford Flavell two have been resolved – the surface drainage issue on the footpath leading from Church Lane into the garden of Primrose Bungalow and the vegetation on the millennium way as it leads off the Bishampton road. 8 of the remaining 11 problems are unlikely to be resolved as they concern paths which have been re-routed by landowners who have not applied to have the new routes legally recognised.

In North Piddle there are 10 reported problems. One to do with waymarking has been resolved. There are 4 concerning stiles and 4 concerning obstruction by agricultural fencing or hedging which date back many years and again may not be resolved.

Grafton Flyford continues to have the greatest number of reported problems. There are currently 41 problems listed in the following categories:

Agricultural hedge or fencing obstruction x8

Barriers across paths x2

Bridges x2

Ditch Crossing x2

Gates x3

Signposting x8

Stiles x 9

Localised vegetation x3

Waymarking x5

I will aim to address the waymarking and vegetation problems before the next parish council meeting

On my walks around the parish it is clear that many landowners do not maintain a clear path either through or around fields which have been planted with crops – with some notable exceptions in North Piddle. The council does not have resources to address this problem so anything that can be done to remind local farmers and landowners of the need to maintain clear pathways would be very helpful.

A particular problem exists on a short stretch of a track running from behind Church House in North Piddle to a bend in footpath 530C. This track provides natural access to the footpath but only approximately half of the track is kept clear for farm vehicles. The second half is increasingly overgrown, but as it is not a designated footpath the council has no right or responsibility to maintain it.

Finally as part of a Duke of Edinburgh award, Martha Davey has prepared and described a 4 mile walk around the Grafton Flyford Countryside and I would like to request that this excellent piece of work is added to the parish website.

There are also many local walks which have been uploaded by walkers to websites such as the Ordnance Survey, Strava, Komoot, etc and it would be helpful to refer to

these both on the website and on the parish noticeboards. I plan to work with the parish Clerk to establish the best way of doing this.

- It was agreed that the lengthsman would be asked to clear the path behind Church House in North Piddle.
- The clerk mentioned that on a recent walk from North Piddle to Spetchly Park it was noticeable that the footpaths were in much better order in areas where parish councils operate. From Churchill onwards, where there is no parish council the paths were over grown and impassable in places.
- It was reported that the footway between the Flyford Arms and Garage was in poor condition. The clerk promised to investigate and arrange for appropriate action.
- Martha Davey has recently planned a 4 mile work around Grafton Wood. It was agreed that the directions would be added to the website.

16. Treasurer's Report:

Present Balances

Playground. £24,484.00. Received - £19,088.78. Paid - VAT reclaimed

Village Green	£10,037.86
General Fund	£10,861.18
Grafton Society	£1,500.00
Appeal Fund	£1,570.00

Deposit Acc	£25,533.37
Current Acc	£4,391.43

17. Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

A short discussion was held concerning arrangements for next year. The clerk informed councillors of The Queen's Canopy project and other suggestions were made about ways of marking the occasion. It was agreed that councillors would consider this matter further before the next meeting when it would be discussed more thoroughly.

18. AOB

At a recent training session in Flyford Flavell concerning the defibrillator the matter of First Responders had been brought up. It was stated that this was not a necessary requirement for the defibrillator but could be desirable in the parish. The clerk reported that a few years ago the necessary training was undertaken by a volunteer resident but she had run into difficulties with the accreditation process and had never been fully certified. The clerk said that he would follow this up.

Dates of Next Meetings:

16th November 2021

Signed:

Date: