

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

**Minutes of the Meeting held at The Flyford's Hall  
on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2022**

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

Mark Broughton-Taylor attended as clerk

**Apologies**    Linda Robinson

**2. Declaration of Interest:**

None

**3. Public Participation:**

The meeting was live streamed. One member of the public attended on line.

Members of the public enquired about rumours of potential development on the land behind Hilltop Farm on Old Hill, Flyford Flavell. The chairman responded that the parish council had no notification of any such proposals and that they thought the land was protected by a planning covenant. The parish council will inform the public immediately if any proposals come through.

**4. Minutes of the 26<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

Minutes of the meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2022 were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

Proposed: Sadie Densham              Seconded: John East    All in favour

**5. Matters Arising from the Minutes:**

None.

**6. Correspondence**

None.

## 7. Flyford Green

The clerk reported on further legal enhancements which might be possible to provide protection for the village green in the long term. Although the green is owned by the parish council, which has no intention of selling or developing it, there is presently nothing stopping a future parish council from changing this policy. There are measures that can be taken which would put the green in 'trust' so that it is protected as an open space in perpetuity. The clerk outlined the options available but the discussion was deferred until next meeting so that councillors could consider the documents provided by the clerk in more detail.

It was agreed that as there had been a delay in planting the trees it should now wait until the next planting season in the autumn before any trees were planted. It was agreed that some of the Woodland Trust Tress will be planted along the Radford Road hedge as part of the Queen's Canopy Project.

It was recognised that there was some difference in opinion emerging concerning future enhancements to the green and David Waide agreed to form a management group to unite the various parties who are working on the green. It was unanimously agreed that the flower beds and wild flowers were now looking wonderful and that everyone was doing a marvellous job. David agreed to write a 'constitution' for the management group for the parish council to approve next meeting.

Proposed Sadie Densham Seconded David Rhodes. All in agreement

It was reported that there was some slight fraying of the protection sleeve on all 4 attachments on the swing. It was thought that this might have been caused during construction and the clerk was asked to report it to the manufactures.

## 8. Planning matters

### To report approval and discussion

- |     |   |                 |
|-----|---|-----------------|
| 8.1 | Mr & Mrs Farmer<br>Hilltop Farm<br>Old Hill<br>Flyford Flavell<br>WR7 4DA                                 | W/20/02435/S106 |
|     | This application has now been withdrawn   |                 |
| 8.2 | To Report Approval<br><br>Craig Styler Homes<br>Kelmstowe<br>Grafton Flyford<br>Worcestershire<br>WR7 4PH | 21/02443/FUL    |

This application has been approved

Councillors raised the issue of an Environment Management Plan in connection with this application and observed that they thought this was now standard practice but it was not a condition in this case. It was agreed that in future this would be a standard consideration of the parish council.

## **SWDP**

It was noted that the SWDP review had been delayed due to the changes in government approach to planning. It was expected that there may be an interim report for consultation in the autumn.

It was also observed that Wychavon have had to share its stock of land supply with Malvern Hill District Council which could potentially weaken Wychavon's ability to fight speculative development proposals.

## **9. District and County Councillor**

**Unfortunately it is not possible for me to join you this evening due to other commitments so please accept my apologies .I wish you fruitful & productive meetings.**

As tonight is your Annual Parish & Parish Council meeting, I would like to pass on a few words of appreciation. It is hard to believe that nearly a year has passed since I became your new County Cllr.as well as continuing to represent you at Wychavon. Taking the role on from Rob Adams was quite daunting and I would like to thank him for being a valued advisor for me as I got to grips with this new position. My thanks also go to all your hard-working parish councillors particularly your Chairman and Clerk.

Writing an annual report is a useful exercise as it makes you reflect on the previous year so here is a brief overview from my perspective.

A large percentage of my time seems to be spent on highways issues dealing with 11 parish councils and three parish meetings in our large Upton Snodsbury Division. I have been made Vice Chairman of Planning & regulatory services at County which is far more strategic than at District. We have decided applications for major infrastructure projects like a new footbridge across the River Severn and some large quarries one of which we debated earlier at committee.

. I have also become a member of the Hereford & Worcestershire Fire Authority which is very interesting.

From my Divisional Community fund last year, I have been able to fund a new VAS sign for the B4042 on the Radford road and a bench for sitting near to the wonderful Community Garden on Flyford Green.

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In May last year we were in the middle of the Coronavirus pandemic and I would like to thank all those in your community who gave their time to help others. Now we are involved in yet another crisis with the war in Ukraine and once again many of our residents are doing sterling work to help refugees and

raise funds and send collections of essential items for those still in Ukraine. Please see below for the latest details from Wychavon & County.

### **Covid-19 update**

April saw the end of free testing and this has affected the reliability of infection data. While official testing rates have fallen significantly, information from other sources presents a different picture, although data is still patchy.

What is clear is infection rates are significantly higher than the headline rates. In the south of the county, it is estimated about 1 in 14 people have Covid-19 which is the same rate as England and only slightly above the West Midlands (1 in 13).

This is being felt by our acute hospitals. As of 25 April, 129 patients were admitted with Covid-19. There are 77 now in hospital. Not all are being treated for Covid-19 though some may have arrived for a different reason but also have Covid-19. More people over 60 are presenting with Covid symptoms.

Our hospitals are feeling the pressure and at a NHS trust's board latest meeting alarming figures from March were discussed with promises to redouble efforts to improve the worrying situation.

These included long delays for ambulance call outs and an average waiting time of 150mins to be downloaded from ambulances with 241 patients waiting on a trolley to be seen for up to 12hrs.

In terms of Covid-19 vaccinations, our areas of lowest deprivation continue to be the areas where take up is lowest but take up of the vaccination has now largely stalled with numbers barely changing. View the latest vaccination data on the Worcestershire County Council website.

### **Homes for Ukraine update**

Staff continue to work hard to deliver the Homes for Ukraine scheme in Wychavon. As of 12 May, we have been made aware of 119 hosts in the district, with an anticipated 284 guests. We are finding that some guests are choosing not to travel after their visa has been issued for a variety of reasons so we are treating this figure with caution.

As of 10<sup>th</sup> May the number of visas issued by the Home Office for guests intending to travel to Wychavon was 189. And 102 guests have arrived in our District.

To date, staff have carried out a total of 93 property checks – all satisfactory – with a further 7 booked. We have also welcomed 74 guests to the Civic Centre so far to collect their £200 payment and inform us of any welfare or support needs. However, we are seeing an increase in arrivals now and have many more booked to meet with us in the coming days. Please also note that where guests cannot travel to the Civic Centre, we will visit them.

The main priorities we are picking up from initial welcome conversations are access to healthcare and particularly mental health / trauma support, school placements and support with financial matters, including bank accounts, benefits and right to work. Our local partners, and particularly local community groups, have been instrumental in helping us to provide the necessary support, including with basic needs such as cloth

Worcestershire County Council is Working with Worcestershire Children First to issue guidance letting schools know that Ukrainian children should be able to access free school meals.

As of 27 April 2022, 72 applications for school places have been received countywide with 41 children and young people already offered places. 8 could not be offered their first preference school and have been offered an alternative. There are currently 23 applications still to be processed.

In Wychavon have had 22 applications for school places – 14 first and middle schools and 8 secondary school

### **Cost of Living Crisis**

The third crisis it looks as though we are going to be facing concerns the rapid increase in the cost of living. The war in Ukraine and consequent sanctions against Russia have resulted in rapid increases in fuel and household energy costs. As part of the Government scheme to help households living in Band A to Band D properties will receive a £150 payment to help with recent increases in energy bills.

Residents will start to receive their Energy Bills Rebate from this week starting on 9 May.

Households living in a Band A to D property will receive a £150 payment as part of the Government scheme to help with recent increases in energy bills.

Wychavon will begin making payments first to residents they have bank account details for – those who pay by Direct Debit. The aim will be to complete payments to everyone paying by Direct Debit by the end of May.

Residents paying by Direct Debit are advised to check their bank account throughout May for the payment. Direct Debit payers who have not received the payment by 1 June 2022 should email [Revenues@southworcestershirevenues.gov.uk](mailto:Revenues@southworcestershirevenues.gov.uk) with Energy Rebate in the subject line.

Those who pay their Council Tax using other methods will be able to claim the payment through the Post Office with a special voucher which will be sent to them. Wychavon will begin sending these vouchers to households from the end of May.

Wychavon is aware in other parts of the country there are reports of people receiving phone calls from fraudsters claiming to be from 'the council' asking for bank details. Wychavon will not be collecting bank details they do not have on record in this way.

Anyone who receives one of these calls should not give out any information and put the phone down and report it at [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk).

Wychavon is finalising the details of the discretionary scheme announced by the Government. This allows councils to make payments of £150 to people living in Band E to H properties who are on low incomes. Once the scheme is confirmed, more information will be available on Wychavon's website.

Food costs have also increased and we are aware of increased demand at our food banks. Wychavon and County are offering 'Here to help' schemes so please let me know if you know of any families that are struggling and we can signpost them in the right direction

GRITTERS covered almost 70,000 miles across Worcestershire this winter as staff sought to keep the county open for business. This is equivalent to approximately three times around the circumference of our planet.

An undoubted highlight of this last year for your parishes has been the re-opening of your refurbished and very impressive transformation of The Flyfords' village hall. Congratulations to all involved and a truly worthy recipient of a Wychavon legacy grant.

Finally, I am pleased to say that so far 16,000 trees have been planted across our County as part of the Queen's Green canopy Scheme to celebrate her Jubilee. I am pleased to hear that some will be planted on the village green as your part in this initiative.

I am aware that several events are being held as part of the Jubilee celebrations within your parishes. I hope the weather is kind and they are enjoyed by all who attend. Well done to all those volunteers involved in making them happen.

## **10. Highways and Footpaths**

It was noted that as part of the safety improvements along the A422 Highways had installed red eye studs along the edge of the road. The council unanimously consider these to be a hazard rather than an enhancement. For cyclists they are just in the way of where they would normally ride meaning that they need to cycle further out into the road. It was also observed that the studs made you drive further into the road thus causing vehicles to use up more space and potentially endanger oncoming traffic.

It was noted that fencing had been erected on the highway verge at Sawpitts in Grafton Flyford. The clerk stated that this had already been reported to Highways.

Concern was raised about the overgrown hedge on the A422 over the footway as approaching the service station from the west. The clerk promised to arrange for the lengthsman to attend to this.

The clerk brought councillor's attention to a campaign being conducted by CALC to reduce village and urban speed limits to 20mph. Councillors unanimously agreed to support this initiative and to promote Flyford Flavell to be included.

Proposed Sadie Densham Seconded Andrew Short All in favour

## 11. Treasurer's Report

Grafton Society	£1,500.00
Appeal Fund	£1,570.00

Deposit Acc	£12,362.35
Current Acc	£2,042.13

## 12. Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

Sadie Densham reported that the arrangements for the Platinum Jubilee celebrations were going very well. 54 people were signed up for the lunch at the Flyford's Hall and about 150 people would be attending the picnic on the green.

It was noted that fewer children than expected had registered for a commemorative mug. The clerk was asked to make a second appeal.

## 13. Climate Change

Andrew Short reported that estimates show that Flyford Flavell and the surrounding areas have a carbon footprint of between two and three times the national average. It was agreed that there was a lot to be done to understand how this could be tackled and the average brought in line with government aspirations.

## 14. Any Other Business

There was no any other business

## 15. Dates of Next Meetings:

	17 <sup>th</sup> January 2023
	21 <sup>st</sup> March 2023
	16 <sup>th</sup> May 2023
12 <sup>th</sup> July 2022	18 <sup>th</sup> July 2023
13 <sup>th</sup> September 2022	19 <sup>th</sup> September 2023
15 <sup>th</sup> November 2022	21 <sup>st</sup> November 2023

Signed:

Date:

**Actions Required By Councillors**

1. Replacement councillor required for Flyford Flavell – FF Councillors
2. Additional Councillor required for North Piddle.
3. Liaison with Neighbourhood Watch – David Rhodes & Sadie Densham
4. Village Green working group to be convened and arrangements to create a management group – David Waide
5. Jubilee matters to be progressed – Sadie Densham
6. Climate Change working group to be convened – Andrew Short