

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

**Minutes of the Meeting held at Three Parishes Hall,
Grafton Flyford, Worcester on Tuesday 23rd January 2018**

Present David Waide (Chairman) John East
 Simon Kennedy Steve Nesbitt Andrew Miekle
 Mark Broughton - Taylor was present as Clerk
 Linda Robinson Robert Adams

1. Apologies:

P Wakeman & R Davey had tendered their apologies for absence.

2. Declaration of Interest: None

3. Public Participation: Pam and Tony Gale attended the meeting to thank the parish council for their nomination for the Jubilee Recognition Awards. Further details are reported later in the minutes.

Concern was also raised about the footway along the A422 between the Flyford Arms and The Alcester Service Station and the state of the carriageway on Bishampton Road outside 'Hedges'.

4. Minutes of the meetings held on 21st November 2017

Minutes of the meetings held on 21st November 2017 were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

Proposed Andrew Miekle Seconded John East All in favour

Minutes of the meetings held on 19th December 2017

Minutes of the meetings held on 19th December 2017 were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

Proposed John East Seconded Steve Nesbitt All in favour

5. Matters Arising from the Minutes:

The chairman asked if there was any further development concerning the Grafton Society. The clerk reported that there was a meeting being organized for the three parish councils concerned but as yet there was no firm proposal. The chairman asked that this matter be made a standing item on the agenda until it was finally resolved.

6. Vacancy

The clerk reported that he thought that a recruit from North Piddle would be available for the next meeting.

Andrew Meikle took the opportunity to tender his resignation from the council. He had recently been given extra responsibilities at work and did not feel that he was able to give the parish council sufficient commitment at this time. He expressed his intention to stand again should circumstances permit. The chairman thanked Andrew for his contribution to the work of the council and wished him well for the future.

7. Correspondence:

None to report

8. Local Police Officer and Community Support Officer:

No report had been received from the local police officer.

9. Jubilee Recognition Awards

Following the nomination of Pam and Tony Gale for the Jubilee Recognition Awards they had achieved second place and attended the meeting to express their surprise and gratitude for the nomination. The chairman congratulated them of their achievement on behalf of the council. The award ceremony will take place at the Civic Centre on 5th February.

10. Broadband

Steve Nesbit gave a report on recent developments concerning Broadband. In summary, following his investigations, he considered that about 50% of the parish still lacked a decent broadband connection, languishing in speeds under 2Mbps. Although significant funds have been allocated recently to address the remaining black spots in broadband reception around Worcestershire he did not expect BT to be rushing to upgrade our area soon. It was agreed that once BT had responded to the parish council request under the community partnership scheme a working group would be set up to move things forward. His full report is as follows:

“Broadband Update January 2018

Background

The Parish Council has been liaising with organisations responsible for the delivery of superfast broadband in our area, including BT Openreach and Superfast Worcestershire (a partnership between Worcestershire County Council and BT). Our goal is to determine how superfast broadband (defined as 24Mbps or greater) can be made available to those areas which are currently deemed too remote / too costly to figure in any commercial rollout plans.

A number of initiatives, described below, have been investigated to ensure that all options are properly considered.

Update on Options Reviewed

1. BT / Superfast Worcestershire Rollout Plans

BT continues to rollout services on a commercial basis, i.e. providing a service only where they can expect a commercial return. Superfast Worcestershire has

provided subsidies to extend the reach of this rollout. On 29th November 2017 Superfast Worcestershire announced a further investment of £6.2m to fund Phase 3 of the rollout. The funding was made up of:

- £1.0m - European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)
- £3.7m - BT
- £1.5m - Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK)

This will extend superfast broadband to a further 5,300 homes and businesses and when complete in 2019, 96% of Worcestershire homes and businesses will be able to access superfast broadband.

In addition to this expansion, Worcestershire County Council has committed to take coverage further still by seeking more funding and investing any underspend from earlier phases; we expect to hear more about this extra funding by the middle of 2018.

What does this mean for us?

It is unlikely that these commercially-driven plans will help with the more remote areas of our community (we are likely always to be in the last 2% to 4%), and therefore we continue to pursue other solutions.

2. Government Regulation

On 20th December 2017 the Government revealed its chosen path for implementing a new legally-binding Universal Service Obligation (USO), which promises a minimum broadband download speed of 10Mbps (1Mbps upload) for all by 2020. BT had put forward a £600m voluntary proposal to deliver to this obligation, but this offer was rejected. The USO speed of 10Mbps doesn't constitute superfast broadband of course, but represents a speed that the Government believes can be committed to. A draft design for the USO has been published, but the details are not covered in this update, other than to say that a cost threshold of £3,400 per eligible property would apply in order to avoid unrealistic costs; this of course means that 'universal' will never really mean universal. If more detail about the USO design is required, this can be provided on request.

What does this mean for us?

This does represent a potential solution, but there are a couple of constraints and concerns:

- The overall USO design has not been finalised, so solutions could include 'less than ideal' options such as satellite broadband
- It is unlikely that rollout would complete before the end of 2020 and this feels like a long time to wait

3. Community Fibre Partnership Scheme & Local Body Partnership Scheme

Given the unsatisfactory outlook provided by the options set out under sections 1 and 2 above, we continue to pursue other community-driven initiatives.

There are several different approaches for communities like ours to consider. The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) sets out 6 models. We are actively pursuing Model 3 – ‘Buy in to existing publically funded rollout’

This has entailed working with the BT OpenReach **Community Fibre Partnership Scheme** (CFP Scheme) to understand what can be done to facilitate an improved service being provided in a quicker timeframe (albeit part-funded by the community).

To this end a ‘community template’, i.e. a range of addresses that we believe to have poor broadband speeds, was submitted to the CFP for consideration back in October 2017. BT Openreach has been reviewing this to determine whether one or more projects could be implemented to provide solutions to premises not currently on any rollout plan, and to provide costings to determine the contribution that would be required from the community / communities. We have chased for progress on this and have been assured that costings will be provided soon.

In the meantime, on the 16th January 2018, Superfast Worcestershire announced the launch of 2 new initiatives under a scheme called the **Local Body Partnership Scheme** (LBP Scheme):

- **Initiative 1** is a co-funding initiative where costs of deploying the expensive infrastructure is shared between the County Council, Openreach and local residents wanting to upgrade
- **Initiative 2** enables local businesses to apply for one of the County Council’s new business broadband vouchers

Worcestershire County Council has set aside £500,000 to support communities through this LBP Scheme.

This co-funding effectively complements the CFP Scheme run by BT Openreach.

Details of how the funding would be applied are not covered in detail here (very briefly: for quotes totalling under £1,700 per premises, each eligible property will be required to contribute the first £200. For quotes above £1,700 WCC will contribute £1,500 plus 50% of the amount above £1,700 subject to overall price caps).

What does this mean for us?

This is a significant development because it means that a community-funded solution is starting to look like a viable option, given the £500,000 additional funding announced on 16th January.

Clearly there are complexities that need to be worked through, but the first step is to review the costings that we expect to receive very soon from BT Openreach.

4. Other Broadband Providers

Other broadband providers have been approached, but the response has not been positive, as reported in our update in November 2017.

We will continue to review options offered by these providers but, for now, our focus is on the potential solution set out in section 3 above - **Community Fibre Partnership Scheme & Local Body Partnership Scheme**

5. Next Steps

We will keep you informed of progress on these matters, and in the meantime further information can be found on our website at www.theflyfords.co.uk and the Worcester County Council website at www.superfastworcestershireshire.com “

11. Litterpick

It was agreed to carry out a litter pick over the weekend of March 24th.

12. Flyford Church & Social Group:

Work is due to start on the next phase of the church project in February. The NHB meeting in December had been cancelled due to bad weather and was reconvened for February. There is therefore no other progress to report.

13. Flyford Green

Advice had been received from Highways concerning the possibility of double yellow lines on Flyford Green. The advice is as follows:

“Flyford Green is a private road, it is either under the ownership of the developer that built the houses, or it may have been handed over, by the developer, to the individual house owners. You would need to check with the land registry office about this. With regards to introducing parking restrictions, such as double yellow lines, the owner/owners of the road could apply for a traffic regulation order to be introduced through the normal process, it would require county councillor support, and the costs (upwards of £1,000) would have to be borne by the owner/owners of the private road.

The Carols on the green at Christmas had been an excellent event and it was understood that a permanent Christmas Tree will be planted sometime this year.

14. Speed Control Flyford Flavell

Cllr Adams agreed that further investigation should take place on Radford Road and the lower end of Bishampton Road to be better informed of the speed issues in the village.

15. Planning matters

To Report Planning Approval by Wychavon District Council

Mr. David Aston
Church Mead
Church Lane
Flyford Flavell

W/17/01996/HP

16. Highways/Footpaths:

It was agreed that speed tests would be requested for Radford Road, adjacent to Flyford Green and the lower end of Bishampton Lane.

The clerk reported that due to a number of building projects going on in Church lane a considerable amount of damage has been done to the verges. The situation was being monitored by the lengthsman and it was agreed to report the matter to Highways to see if they would do anything,

The chairman reported that water was still running down Libbery Lane following the works on the drains last year but would report to the meeting in more detail in due course.

It was reported that the footpath diversion in Grafton Flyford previously reported had now been confirmed.

It was reported that the dog bin in Flyford Flavell had not been emptied for some time.

17. Report from District Councillor

Cllr Robinson reported that waste collections in 2018 would widen to include recycling for commercial waste. She reminded councillors that black plastic and foil were not recyclable and that all rubbish put in the recycle bin should be loose and not in plastic bags.

In March new, smaller lorries will be on the round which will help with collections in rural areas.

A new investment park is to be built on the Northern Link Road when this road improvement takes place.

A new steam railway between Toddington and Broadway is to open on Good Friday along with a new car park in Broadway.

A review of the SWDP is due to commence.

Wychavon Community grants scheme is now open for applications with a focus on volunteering.

Further NHB contributions are still to be decided.

Report from County Councillor

Cllr Adams reported that the Hartlebury incinerator was now working at full capacity and had reduced land fill to a fraction of the previous levels.

A new chief executive is due to start in March or April. He has previously worked at Derby.

The WCC budget increase for 18/19 is likely to be 4.9%.

Extra reinforcement works have been incurred on the line to the new Norton Station but it is still due to open in about 12 months time.

Cllr Adams is meeting Gerry Brienza from Highways on Thursday and agreed to arrange to meet the clerk and chairman to review the various issues raised and outstanding in Flyford Flavell.

14. Treasurer's Report:

14.1 Balances

Balances were:	Deposit Account	£10,497.42
	Current Account	<u>£ 794.82</u>
		£11,292.24

Made up of:	General Fund	£9,722.24
	Funds Invested	£88,042.39
	Appeal Fund	<u>£1,570.00</u>
		£99,334.63

15. Any Other Business:

There were no nominations for the Wychavon Awards

Councillors enquired about the local PACT meetings. The clerk reported that in the past the council had taken an interest in the PACT meetings but in the past few years no one had volunteered to represent the council. He also reported that the local Neighbourhood Watch had stopped in the past couple of years. He promised to contact the local constabulary and check what was happening concerning PACT at the moment.

Flyford councillors reported that at a recent dinner the parish council had been severely criticized for not appearing to do anything and for sitting on public money for no reason. It was also considered that the website was out of date and uninformative.

Councillors pointed at the empty seats in the public gallery as an example of the general lack of interest in parish matters and thought these concerns to be a little disingenuous. The clerk pointed out that the only minutes missing from the website were the ones agreed tonight and assured councillors that these would be uploaded as soon as possible.

16. Dates of Next Meeting: 20th March 2018

The clerk asked if any councillors had an objection to moving the next meeting forward to 13th March as the 20th may prove difficult for him. Proper notice will be given if the date is to be changed. Dates for meetings in 2018 and 2019 were given as follows:

Dates of Next Meetings:

23 January 2018
20 March
22 May
17 July
18 September
20 November

22 January 2019
19 March
21 May
16 July
17 September
19 November

Signed:

Date: