

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

DUE TO CORONAVIRUS LOCKDOWN

**DRAFT Minutes of the On-line meeting held on
TUESDAY 31st MARCH 2020**

Present: D Waide (Chairman) R Davey (Facilitator) P Wakeman
S Kennedy J East S Densham

District Councillor L Robinson
County Councillor R Adams

Apologies: M Broughton-Taylor (Clerk)
J Barratt

1. Acceptance of apologies and review of special conditions in view of Covid 19 and the Clerk's illness.

In the absence of the Clerk and the unusual circumstances appertaining at this time, David Waide proposed that decisions taken at this meeting should be ratified at the next Parish Council normal meeting, after Minutes of this on-line meeting had been published on the web site in order to give parishioners the opportunity to comment and to voice any concerns they may have.

Cllr Rob Adams reported that in the absence of their Clerk, and in similar circumstances, another Parish Council had appointed a Councillor as minute taker. David Waide proposed that Sadie Densham be appointed minute taker at this meeting. Seconded by Richard Davey and unanimously agreed.

2. Declaration of Interest: None

3. Public Participation:

Due to the restricted video link, and special conditions dictated by the Covid 19 Lockdown, David Waide advised points could be raised here by Councillors on behalf of their constituents.

There were none.

4. Minutes of Meeting held on 21st January 2020

After correcting a typo (4th para, 1st page) the minutes of the meeting held on 21st January 2020 were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

Proposed by Richard Davey Seconded Simon Kennedy. All in favour

5. Report any Matters Arising from those Minutes not on the Agenda:

None.

6. Covid 19

Cllr Linda Robinson and Cllr Rob Adam gave updates on the effect the Coronavirus was having at both the District and County Council, and also at Pershore Town Council. Due to unprecedented levels of staff illness/absence, the majority of the staff who were well enough were now working from home and queries/enquiries were best communicated via e-mail rather than by telephone.

Both Councillors said if there were any non-routine matters which required urgent attention where possible they were always willing to assist.

The Parish Council had identified problems with shopping and prescription collection with support being given by a number of residents, and the following contacts had been established:-

Libbery	David Waide
Grafton Flyford	As above (via Martin Bailey)
Flyford Flavell	Simon Kennedy/Lesley Driver)
North Piddle	Sadie Densham

Simon Kennedy also reported a leaflet had been delivered to properties in Flyford Flavell offering help; a WhatsApp had been established together with the Flyford Arms offering a free food delivery service for shopping for those not able to go out. A follow up leaflet was about to be distributed and this was being co-ordinated by Ruth Edge, who was also endeavouring to identify those who might need assistance.

Prior to the Coronavirus outbreak Mark Broughton-Taylor had reported that the Three Parishes Hall Committee had applied for a community grant to address issues of loneliness and inclusivity. The application had been successful in that a grant of £8,500 had been awarded and the Committee (scheduled to meet on 7th April – but date not confirmed) welcomed any input or suggestions - particularly in view of the Covid 19 situation.

Councillor Robinson updated members regarding prescriptions. At Pershore the dispensaries attached to surgeries had been closed and it was no longer possible to collect prescriptions. No members of the public were allowed inside. The Dispensers were working to a scheme whereby repeat prescriptions could be collected and distributed round the villages. No prescription could be left at an address unless there was someone there to accept it. If the recipient was not at home when the prescription was delivered it would be taken back to the surgery – there would not be a second attempt to deliver. Everyone should be aware that repeat prescriptions had to be submitted on-line.

Simon Kennedy reported that Lesley Driver was organising a collection/delivery scheme for Flyford Flavell, and anyone wishing help in this way should e-mail her or Simon.

Sadie Densham reported that at Grey Gable Surgery, Inkberrow, due to staff shortages repeat prescriptions were subject to 72 working day hours notice and there would be no telephone or paper requests. Only order via e-mail or Patient Access. Collection would be between 10.00am and 4.00pm only Monday – Friday. The Saturday collection service was no longer available.

Councillor Robinson reported Wychavon were in communication with hotels in an endeavour to book beds for coronavirus patients. 150 beds were needed and they are looking for blocks of 20 where there is a lift. Wychavon are also mindful of their duty of care to the homeless, and the outreach team are working to get rough sleepers off the streets.

7. Local Police and Community Support Officer:

PCSO Julie Pardoe had advised there had been one reportable incident in the last two months, and that had occurred within the last few days when a garage and outbuilding at a property on Bishampton Road had been broken into and a number of motorcycles stolen.

A poster entitled “Stay at Home” could be obtained from the Clerk if anyone wanted it.

Jane Hands had reported to Simon Kennedy that due to security concerns parishioners were reticent to share information locally via the Flyford Facebook page and she proposed to set up a closed site for the three villages. (Please also see Rural Crime Meeting report regarding “Real Alert” being set up by the Police)

PCSO Julie Pardoe was to supply two bin stickers to each household. One related to Neighbourhood Watch area and the other “Slow Down/30mph”.

On the 27th February Sadie Densham had attended a meeting when Mick Simpson, Rural Crime Officer, PC Daz Riley and Elliott Nixon of Wychavon District Council had given a presentation. A copy of the report is attached to these Minutes.

8. Broadband:

Whilst work is continuing to progress this has been seriously delayed due to the effects of the Coronavirus. Over the past 2 weeks BT had left 3 messages to this effect with Mark Broughton-Taylor. David Waide reported earlier this week initial work at Libbery had commenced.

9. Litter Pick:

Originally scheduled for the 4th and 5th April, due to Coronavirus this has been deferred. This to be re-scheduled for later in the year.

10. Flyford Church:

John East reported no further progress since Christmas. One concert had gone ahead and another planned for October. John understood that audio equipment was required. (This to be included on Agenda for next meeting)

11. Flyford Green:

At this point Ruth Edge and Jenny Fazliu were welcomed by David Waide and joined the meeting by video link.

Mark Broughton-Taylor had confirmed the Community Lottery Fund application had been successful and £10K paid over to the Parish Council. The Natural Networks application is on-going but unfortunately now delayed by the Coronavirus problems. Mark will be monitoring the situation with a view to progressing.

Jenny advised £650 had been transferred from Just Giving to the Parish Council’s account. This is in addition to the two payments previously received from the community. Mark had reported there were grant opportunities from Severn Trent Water – but as yet he had not seen an application. Ruth

and Jenny confirmed they wished to pursue the application and David Waide advised the working group had already recommended that course of action.

Mark had reported that as far as the unsuccessful Legacy Fund application is concerned, advice from Wychavon is that we should apply again next year. 2021 will be the last year of the Legacy Funding Scheme. (It took two applications before the TPH funding was approved) Mark had suggested an alternative at this stage might be to apply for a Public Works loan, but David Waide suggested holding this for the time being pending a decision on the Severn Trent application.

Jenny presumed the planting scheme and trees was on the back burner for now, and advised that Mark Broughton-Taylor had been liaising with a local nursery in line with the Natural Networks application.

Jenny suggested requesting Wychavon to agree an extension of the Community Grant deadline in light of the Clerk's illness. Councillor Robinson said this might be difficult as the deadline had passed, and Wychavon are operating on skeleton staff. Councillor Robinson said she would contact Tracey Grubb to warn a request was on the way and Ruth and Jenny were advised to contact Tracy Grubb (tracy.grubb@wychavon.gov.uk) David Waide to ask Mark Broughton-Taylor to carry on with the grant applications when he feels better.

Mark had confirmed the water connection had been agreed and paid for but whilst the precise position had not yet been identified it was likely to be by the bus stop. The Parish Council would need to provide a frost proof and lockable cover – which Mark would investigate when he had recovered.

Ruth and Jenny were thanked for their participation and left the meeting.

12. Three Parishes Hall:

Mark had advised Three Parishes Hall Committee have yet to make a planning application for the proposals. This will, in due course, come before the Parish Council in the usual way, but before the formal proposal is submitted if anyone has any comments or views to let Mark know.

Simon Kennedy had been appointed the Parish Council's representative on the TPH Committee, but as the Hall is not owned by the Parish Council he sought advice on any conflict of interest. David Waide suggested this could be clarified with Mark Broughton-Taylor in due course.

Although not a large sum, the TPH was exploring the possibility of a Comic Relief Community Fund Grant.

13. Code of Conduct:

David Waide reported the Wychavon Code of Conduct had been reviewed by the working party group who had recommended some changes to reflect particular elements of our rural villages. David Waide proposed that the Parish Council adopt the Code with the changes recommended by the working party group.

Seconded by Richard Davey and agreed by all.

David Waide to liaise with Mark Broughton-Taylor to register the amended Code of Conduct with the Monitoring Officer of Wychavon District Council.

14. Reports from District and County Councillors:

Matters relating to Covid 19 had been reported under Point 6 of the Agenda.

Cllr Robinson and Cllr Adams both stated although Councils were working very much on skeleton staff they were committed to offering assistance wherever possible in a timely fashion and asked that this message be communicated to all residents. We were in uncharted territory but the prevailing message to everyone was – Stay safe. The following would be contact points:

For Libbery and Grafton Flyford	David Waide
For Flyford Flavell and Facebook	Simon Kennedy
For North Piddle	Sadie Densham

Simon Kennedy sought clarification about Wychavon's position on small business rate relief. Cllr Robinson advised due to limited availability of staff, applications were being dealt with but inevitably there would be delays.

Cllr Adams reported most County Council staff were working from home and the office building itself virtually shut down. Only 37 members of staff were in the office on the 27th March.

The Lengthsman scheme had been temporarily halted for 6 weeks, but monies due would be paid. The 6 weeks halt would be reviewed and may possibly have to be extended to 12 weeks. (Some lengthsman are over 70 and the Council was following Government guidelines). The Clerk had confirmed he had conveyed this information to Rob. Re-cycling centres had been closed but household collections and those for parks were – at present – still operational. The Clerk had asked to be advised if the bin on Flyford Green was not emptied.

15. Highways/Footpaths:

Simon Kennedy raised the question of Bishampton Road and road closure notices for 5-23 April. Cllr Adams responded that he believed that re-surfacing work had been planned prior to the Covid 19 crisis arising but in view of the current situation he thought it unlikely any work would be undertaken. Cllr Adams reported major projects, such as Pinvin crossroads, had been temporarily suspended.

Simon Kennedy reported he had been approached by a Flyford Flavell resident who said he had been expressing concerns about street furniture (plastic black and white bollards) which had been broken since 2017. The parishioner had asked if the Parish Council could do anything. Cllr Adams was aware of the complaint and said this matter had been thoroughly investigated during the recent joint PC and County site visit. There was no record of the bollards being put in, and it was believed a resident may have carried out the installation privately. Highways were not prepared to pay for repairs/replacement.

The same resident had complained that the pond was still overflowing. It was agreed to ask the Clerk to investigate the overflow.

15.1 Footpaths and Hedges:

David Waide advised a complaint had been received from a Dormston resident that whilst out walking her dog on a public footpath which crossed private land adjacent to a property near Flyford Flavell Church, a dog, presumably resident at the property, had barked at her. There was no question of the dog attacking her or her dog, but the complainant had been upset. The incident had occurred on a public footpath which ran through a private garden and it was difficult to see what action the Parish Council could take. David Waide said he would endeavour to pass by the property in question and, if the owner was about, he would discuss the incident in a friendly way.

15.2 Speed limit and safety issues on A422 and village roads:

Simon Kennedy raised the question of speed roundels at Flyford Flavell. Cllr Adams advised 4 sets had been agreed, with the Parish Council and County Council paying half costs each (£600 each). Mark Broughton-Taylor had advised the Parish Council had paid their share and was awaiting confirmation the roundels were in place.

At this point Councillors Linda Robinson and Rob Adams were thanked for their participation and left the Meeting.

16. Clerk's Hours:

The working party group discussed and reviewed this agenda item. This is a confidential matter between the Parish Council as employer and the Clerk as employee.

17. Future Parish Council Strategy:

To further greater cohesion within the three parishes it was decided it would be beneficial to link Councillors with specific responsibilities – as follows:

Simon Kennedy	Neighbourhood Watch
Simon Kennedy	Three Parishes Hall
Simon Kennedy	Speed and road safety issues
John East	Flyford Church
Sadie Densham	Rural Crime
TBA	Flyford Social Group
David Waide	Village Green Working Group

David Waide commented that the Parish Council remained one Councillor short of its optimum number (8) and Councillors were tasked with identifying a suitable parishioner who might be interested to join the Parish Council for the Flyford Flavell Ward.

A further meeting of the Strategy working group to be arranged prior to the next Parish Council meeting.

18. Any Other Business:

The Coronavirus Bill obtained Royal Assent and allows for various procedural changes in the way Councils operate. Parish Councils have until 30th September to hold AGM's and publish accounts.

David Waide suggested that if, as expected, the current special measures are still in place in May, when this Council's AGM and Annual Parish Meeting are usually held, they should be deferred – possibly until August. A final decision to be taken prior to the scheduled May meeting date.

The Clerk had reported that following early payment of the £10K Lottery Grant the balance of the Parish Council's accounts are: Deposit Account £12,465.83 cr. and Current Account £11,664.08 cr.

The CCLA had advised that dealings in their property fund were suspended. The weight of the property investment is in industrial assets which are seen to be more robust than commercial and retail. It is expected the quarterly dividend will be advised in the course of the next few days. The Clerk continues to monitor the situation.

It was reported that the shop in Bishampton was now open, but the Post Office side remained closed

Wychavon and Malvern Hills Planning Teams were under pressure due to problems caused by Covid 19. As a result, whilst services were continuing, inevitably there would be delays.

David Waide wished to record the thanks of everyone who had participated in the meeting to Mark Broughton-Taylor who, despite his illness, had provided considerable information relating to the various agenda items. David also wished to convey to Mark very best wishes from everyone for a speedy recovery.

There being no further business David Waide thanked everyone for participating and the meeting was closed at 9.30pm.

CRIME PREVENTION OPEN EVENING – THURSDAY 27 FEBRUARY 2020

THE PANEL:

MICK SIMPSON

RURAL CRIME OFFICER
WEST MERCIA POLICE

PC DAZ RILEY

COMMUNITY POLICEMAN
WEST MERCIA POLICE

ELLIOTT NIXON

WYCHAVON DISTRICT COUNCIL
AND MALVERN HILLS –
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES INCLUDING
FLY TIPPING

CHAIRMAN:

MIRIAM TILT

CHAIRMAN OF KINGTON AND DORMSTON
PARISH COUNCIL

Approximately 20 parishioners and Rob Adams from Worcestershire County Council attended.

Crime in rural areas is very much on the increase. Due to the large areas covered by each “team”, Officers are not always able to attend crime scenes. When reporting a crime 999 should only be used if the offenders are on the premises and/or there is a serious danger to a resident. Other than that crime should be reported on the 101 number. Only crimes reported in this way will be logged. When reporting a crime ensure you are given a crime number.

Daz Riley advised there was a very low success rate of catching offenders.

The good news is that the Crime Commissioner for West Mercia is committed to issues in rural areas, and from the recently announced increase in police numbers, 4 extra Police Officers for every shift are to be appointed. (3 shifts a day = 12 extra officers in total) and Daz Riley as the Community Officer was being allocated two further Officers – making his team 4 in total. An overall increase in Officers for this area of 14.

One parishioner from Stock had recently suffered her third burglary at her stables. She was disappointed Police did not attend when contacted at the time of the incident, but PC Riley said there was no threat to life at the time and although reported it would not be considered a priority. Following the second burglary this parishioner had installed a top class alarm system. Because of the alarm the burglar made off over a muddy field empty handed, but it was believed he/she may have had a vehicle parked close by into which he/she had proposed to load the items intended to be stolen. CCTV had been installed following the previous burglary, and although the offender had been “captured” breaking in, the picture was unclear and he/she could not be identified.

There was general discussion about installing CCTV, but both Police Officers said whilst this might be considered a deterrent, in fact it was rarely possible to identify an offender from camera footage alone, and in any case cameras were often highly visible and could be easily obscured by the criminal. It could be a deterrent, but the best and most effective deterrent was a good alarm system. With today’s technology it was possible to link alarms to your mobile ‘phone, and if an alarm was triggered the property owner would be warned immediately, whilst at the same time the noise emitted would often be sufficient to frighten an offender away. This advice applied to properties, not just outbuildings. When considering fitting an alarm system the Officers said it was important to include windows – not just doors.

In rural areas sheds and outbuildings were considered an easy target by thieves. Mick Simpson recalled thefts from sheds which were alarmed but where there had apparently been no sign of a break-in. (It transpired the thieves had levered off the wooden roofs and entered buildings that way!)

Both Officers recommended Smartwater and explained in detail how Smartwater worked. In addition to household items, electric tools and some jewellery items, Mick Simpson recommended applying the liquid around and across the VIN plate on cars – especially if the vehicle was expensive. Thieves often changed the VIN plate on stolen cars, and if the Smartwater had been sprayed across the plate it would be easy to detect. (Under the test light Smartwater is yellow and Selectamark blue. Only these two firms are now operational in marking/identifying items this way) The Officers said in villages displaying the Smartwater stickers and posters there had been a 60% reduction in rural crime.

The Police do hold ordinary Property Marking Days for items such as cycles, garden equipment and horse tack.

Residents were urged to take extra precautions when leaving homes empty – evenings, weekends and holidays. Getting a neighbour to draw/close curtains, leaving lights and radios on timers, and the use of “Fake TV”. The latter is an inexpensive gadget (circa. £10) which can be plugged in to a socket, and from outside a property gives the impression there is a television on inside.

West Mercia Police are looking to set up a secure app which is to be called Real Alert. This should be ready shortly. The Officers warned – in the strongest terms – against the use of “WhatsApp” ,as this is not in any way secure, and they warned messages posted here can be accessed by criminals who could easily identify residents/homes/premises - and information.

Neighbourhood Watch is an excellent scheme which relies on information being passed on quickly. Everyone was urged to keep a watch out for anyone seen in a locality who looked out of place – especially vehicles.

The Officers advised theft of cars where wireless “keys” were used – such as cards – is very much on the increase, as offenders can easily purchase gadgets which unlock the cars without the need for having the wireless keys in their possession. Thefts take place not just from driveways, but also from car parks. Mick recommended the use of a “Faraday cage”. This is a small purse or wallet which blocks out the signal. Putting your wireless key in the purse when not in use blocked the signal and would prevent theft of the vehicle. Thieves were particularly adept at stealing vehicles from driveways where the owners had left their keys indoors. The “Faraday cage” would prevent this. (Cost of a small “Faraday cage” is circa. £5)

Mick advised the Crime Commissioner was intent on raising awareness of – and dealing with – rural crime, and he had recently attended a course authorising him as the area’s Wildlife Officer. He said until now staff taking reports of wildlife crime rarely understood the seriousness of crimes against wildlife, and the PCC was raising awareness of this type of crime.

Theft of farm and other animals was on the increase, with some animals being butchered in the field. He urged all present to be vigilant and report anything suspicious.

Thefts of garden machinery, cycles, quad bikes and tools was on the increase, as is break-ins of vehicles which thieves believed contained tools. Where possible all vehicles should be parked in secure garages or driveways, and not left outside properties in a lane or road.

Also on the increase is the theft of catalytic converters from all types of vehicles. These are, apparently, very quick and easy to remove. Thieves jack the vehicle up, one of their number slides under the car, removes the bolts and away they go. Hybrid vehicles are prime targets, as their converters contain more valuable materials - and they fetch premium prices.

The Officers warned that in a large number of cases where householders replaced stolen items the thieves returned a few weeks later, as they would expect the stolen items to be replaced and would be easy pickings to steal again.

The Officers and Elliott Nixon (Wychavon and Malvern Hills Councils) all warned about a scam referred to as “Nottingham Knockers”. (So called because Nottingham appears to be the place the scam originated) These doorstep callers offer a selection of household products for sale. The callers are often ex-convicts who claim to be part of a rehabilitation scheme – which probably doesn’t exist. Elderly and housebound residents in rural communities are often targeted and charged exorbitant prices for goods they don’t want or need. Sometimes the callers can be aggressive in their sales pitch. (The coronavirus and its impact on the elderly could see an increase in the number of these scams) Everyone was tasked with reporting any sightings, or experience of possible offenders – and especially to keep a look out for single home occupants who might be targeted. Mick Simpson urged everyone to be aware of all scams, particularly financial ones – which were getting more sophisticated. He said the Police and Banks NEVER ask for card details and NEVER talk about moving money into a “safe” account. If anyone received a telephone call they were unsure of they should hang up and telephone their bank from a different telephone. Never use the same telephone to report the matter. The criminals usually kept the line open, and if the victim used the same telephone to contact their bank to check, they would actually be speaking to one of the criminals who would “reassure” them it was safe to divulge the details they were being asked for.

Mick Simpson made the point that it is extremely easy to forge identity cards. All a criminal needed was access to a colour photocopier and a laminator. When being presented with an ID card residents should scrutinise it very carefully and never let anyone into their home unless they were 100% sure the caller was genuine. If the caller offered a telephone number for the householder to check their identity never accept that as a genuine number. If possible call a neighbour to come and check it out.

Elliott was questioned about fly tipping and other crimes which came under the environmental heading. He made everyone aware how important it is to report all incidences of fly tipping etc. to the Council. The Council have issued fines where such crimes are detected, and offenders punished under strict environmental laws. He said it was important these crimes do not go unreported, but the Council could only act on information passed to them by residents.

All the panellists urged residents to be vigilant and to report crime to the appropriate authority. If it was possible to photograph offenders and/or vehicles being used to do so, but ONLY if this did not put the person recording/reporting the crime in danger.

ACTION FRAUD

The first reported fraud relating to the Coronavirus was 9th February and reports are increasing daily. Victim losses already total some £970,000. Over 200 reports have been received of Coronavirus themed phishing e-mails, with fraudsters purporting to be from a research group that mimics the Centre of Disease Control and Prevention, World Health Organisation, Banks and HMRC. The HMRC e-mails bear the correct logo and look reasonably genuine and convincing. The message is – THINK VERY CAREFULLY before reacting to any e-mail or unsolicited telephone call, and NEVER divulge personal or financial information.