

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Piddington & Wheeler End Parish Council held in Piddington Village Hall on Tuesday 10th September 2024 at 7.30pm

Attendance - Chairman – Mr S Digby, Miss A Pitcher, Mrs W Pitcher.

Buckinghamshire Councillor – None.

Clerk – Mrs H Glasgow.

Members of the public: 0 .

297.1 Attendance and acceptance of apologies for absence.
Apologies received from Cllr P Brown, Cllr T Gray, Cllr T Willett, Buckinghamshire Councillors D & O Hayday.

297.2 Declaration of disclosable pecuniary interests relating to items on the Agenda.
Cllr A Pitcher declared an interest in planning application.

297.3 Public and Buckinghamshire Councillors Question Time.
None.

296.4 To confirm the Minutes of the July Full Parish Council Meeting.
Council confirmed the minutes to be a true and accurate record. The Chairman signed the minutes.

296.5 Clerks Report and Correspondence.

Clerks Report

1. The External Audit has been completed, comments are as follows – “On the basis of our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR), in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met”.
2. Due to work commitments Jason Smith has resigned from the Parish Council. The Parish Council will advertise the position.
3. Funding from the North West Chilterns Completed Board has been approved for the for the new basket swing and bench. The Parish Council would like to thank and acknowledge the matched funding award.
4. I am in the process of placing the order with Playdale for the new basket swing, will order the bench and organise the installation.
5. We have now swapped over to the new Contractor for emptying the dog waste bins.
6. Currently one allotment plot available.
7. All online banking payments have been completed.
8. Checked the AED unit.
9. Issues can be reported at www.fixmystreet.com or using the app FixMyStreet.
10. Meeting Dates for 2024

Meetings are at 7.30pm in Piddington Village Hall

8th October

12th November

10th December

Correspondence Received - If Councillors would like a copy of any of the documents listed below please advise the clerk

1. Buckinghamshire Council High Wycombe Community Governance Review - Draft Recommendations + Next Steps
2. Buckinghamshire Council National Highways Safety Alert - Razor Blades under Stickers
3. Council launches public consultation on a Buckinghamshire-wide Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan

4. War Memorials Magazine
5. Berks, Bucks and Oxford – Wild September
6. Police & Crime Bulletin Aug '24 - Taking cash from criminals and more
7. Thames Valley Police – Fraud Prevention
8. Trading Standards Newsletter
9. A brand new festival for High Wycombe!
10. Chiltern National Landscapes Newsletter
11. Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) - Town and Parishes Consultation - Briefing Sessions
12. Council launches on-demand flexible bus service for villages around Aylesbury
13. News for Town & Parish Councils from Buckinghamshire Council
14. News from Buckinghamshire Growth Board
15. Childcare support is expanding in Buckinghamshire
16. Update for Town & Parish Councils from Buckinghamshire Council
17. Latest news from Buckinghamshire Libraries
18. Council boosts support for children and young people's mental health and wellbeing
19. Council collaborates with Citizens Advice Bucks to help streamline financial support for residents
20. Buckinghamshire Council announces financial support for carers in partnership with Carers Bucks
21. Buckinghamshire Council parks awarded the coveted Green flag award
22. For Bucks Sake! Don't litter in Buckinghamshire

296.6 Finance - Approval of the invoices submitted.

Confidential payments	£1,051.91	Employee salary/HMRC/Pension
Expenses	£9.00	Fuel
Buckland Landscapes	£432.05	Grass cutting
Shield Maintenance	£64.99	Dog waste bins
West Wycombe Estate	£250.00	Rent for recreational ground
PKF	£252.00	External audit
Playdale	£5162.35	50% deposit for play equipment
Opening Balance 13/08/24	£21,274.20	
Less approved Expenditure	£1,784.97	
Total as at 05/09/24	£19,489.23	

296.7 Best Kept Village feedback

The Parish Council were highly commended in the Bucks Best Kept Village Competition, but unfortunately we did not achieve enough points to win the Gurney Cup. Cllr Digby will pull a team together to plan activities for next. Thank you to everyone who helped..

296.8 Children's playground equipment funding

The North West Chilterns Community Board has allocated a maximum of £5,048.44 towards Improvements to Piddington Recreation Ground from its allocated budget.

The amount of £5,048.44 equates to 50% of the total project cost £10,096.88.

The Parish Council acknowledged the Community Board's financial support and thanked them for their donation.

It was agreed that a NWC Community Plaque will be installed at the Recreation Ground.

The Parish Council agreed to the Community Boards terms and conditions.

The Clerk will place the order for the play equipment as agreed.

296.9 Issues listed on Fix My Street.

Defer to the next meeting.

296.10 Playground arrangement with Downley Dynamos.

It was agreed that the goal posts need to be re-instated when Downley Dynamos aren't playing so that the community can use them. The grass needs to be cut as originally agreed. Cllr Pete Brown will meet with Downley Dynamos to review the probationary period.

296.11 Projects for the upcoming year.

Defer until the next meeting.

296.12 Review of Policies and Core Documents - Website Accessibility Statement

Record of Play Equipment

Council approved the Record of Play Equipment.

Playground Policy

Council approved the Playground Policy. The Clerk will contact Cllr Gray and ask if she is able to do weekly play area checks.

296.13 Planning Applications –

Planning Applications – Planning ref – 24/06757/FUL - Piddington Telephone Exchange Old Oxford Road Piddington Buckinghamshire HP14 3BE - Change of use of part of land to residential (use class C3), raising of roof and roof alterations, construction of two storey side extension, insertion of front and rear dormers, fenestration and external alterations and creation of 2 x parking spaces to existing dwelling at Piddington Telephone Exchange.

Objection.

We remain concerned about the size of this development given the original footprint of the telephone exchange building and the original limitations imposed on it becoming a dwelling at all.

We are very concerned about parking as follows:

The application details two parking spaces at the front of the property. However, there are three vehicles routinely parked at the property, the third on an area of hardstanding that the application proposes to build on. The three vehicles can be clearly seen in the photographs on page 4 of the iPlans Planning Statement dated 19-07-2024.

The iPlans Site Location Plan dated 19-07-2023 (not 2024) shows the location of two proposed parking spaces at the front of the property which accurately reflect the current parking situation of two of the three vehicles routinely parked at the property.

However, no document in the application, including the Location Plan and the photographs on page 4 of the Planning Statement, show the proximity of the proposed parking bays (particularly the eastern-most one) to the Piddington Playing Field access gate. Access to this gate is routinely compromised by the current resident's vehicles resulting in maintenance contractors being unable to complete work. We see no material change in the proposed parking layout. Rather, it seeks to formalise the current, unsatisfactory situation. We would also urge you to consider the implications that the proposed parking layout may have on emergency vehicle access, particularly as the playing field has a popular children's play area and is used every weekend during the football season for training and games by a youth football team. Piddington & Wheeler End PC is responsible for the compliance, health and safety of the Piddington Playing Field. We take our duty of care to those who use it extremely seriously and would urge you to support us in doing the same.

We thought it would be helpful to include some photographs which show the current parking situation and how it compromises the playing field access gate. The four photographs below were taken on 3rd September 2024 at 13h30 and are representative of the normal parking situation at the Piddington Telephone Exchange.

Picture #1 (photo to be included in planning application comments) shows the front aspect of the property and two vehicles belonging to the resident parked as usual. The playing field access gate is obscured by the hedge to the left.

Picture #2(photo to be included in planning application comments) shows the gate and the proximity of the parked vehicle to it. You can also partially see the third vehicle parked behind the property gate.

Pictures #3 and #4 (photos to be included in the planning application comments) show the affect of the parking on access to the playing field gate.

We have previously approached the current resident informally to make sure it is understood that the gate should be always kept clear and to request that his vehicles to not compromise access. The response confirmed there was no intention of changing parking habits and that anyone requiring access should knock on the door and asked for the blocking vehicle to be moved.

The "Keep Clear, Access Required At All Times" signage that was once on the gate has been removed by a person or persons unknown.

We note the response from the Highways Development Management Officer. He states:

“Whilst I am concerned that the dimensions of each parking bay are substandard when compared against the current BCPG policy document recommendation (i.e. 2.8m x 5.0m), I do not believe that any parking displacement, if it were to occur, would take place along Old Oxford Road. “

While it may be judged that parking displacement will not affect the Old Oxford Road, it is already affecting access to the Playing Field gate. Even if the proposed bays were used with utmost care and consideration for only two vehicles, we have no confidence that the implementation of substandard parking bays will help to alleviate this long standing and ongoing parking issue at The Piddington Telephone Exchange. Indeed, we can easily envisage the third vehicle being parked at the front of the property alongside the proposed bays, making a bad situation worse.

Planning ref - 24/06847/FUL - Chilterns Chipps Hill Wheeler End Buckinghamshire HP14 3NF - Householder application for proposed change of use of existing garage/ store to storage area, covered utility area and study with single storey rear extension.

No objection.

296.14 To receive agenda items for the next agenda and Members Questions and Statements.

War memorial – Cllr Digby to mow.

Cllr Digby to invite Emma Reynolds.

296.12 Date of next meeting – **Tuesday 8th October 2024, Piddington Village Hall.**

The Chairman closed the meeting at – 19.54.

Signed..... Dated.....