

PUTLEY PARISH MEETING

Parish Council Clerk: Mrs J Chester Tel: 01531 670036
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Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at Putley Parish Hall on Tuesday 21st May 2024 at 7.00pm.

Present: 6 local residents, Three Crosses Ward Councillor Jonathan Lester
Janet Chester – clerk to Putley Parish Council

1. Welcome by the Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council

Councillor Dermot Daly welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. To Accept any Apologies for Absence and Note the Reason

None

3. To Consider Approval of Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 16th May 2023

There were no minutes available.

4. To Receive Annual Report from Chairman of the Parish Council

Vice-Chairman Councillor Dermot Daly reported that during the past year Cllr George Griffin stepped down as both Chairman and councillor and the parish council had a change of clerk, Chrissie Daniels retired in January and Janet Chester took on the position. Thanks were expressed. Planning Applications dealt with were mainly uncontentious. The main issue the parish had experienced was the drainage and flooding problem outside the hall and nos 3&4. This is a work in progress with many meetings to try and resolve the flooding problems. There is also a blocked drain by Dragon Orchard and a Welsh Water leak by The Stables. The play area has been monitored and regularly mown.

5. To Receive Annual Report from Three Crosses Ward Councillor

Ward Councillor Lester reported

- Public Realm Contract re-procurement new contract commences 1st June 2026
- Herefordshire Council Local Plan 2024-2028 partnership working on four priorities People, Place, Growth , Transformation
- £12m extra spending on roads this year
- Ross Enterprise Park £8m and other market towns £1m for economic development
- New director for Childrens Servies starts on 1st July
- Parish Council Summits recommence in July
- £13m overspend on previous administrations budget last years budget £8.7m deficit so £8.7m reserves used to balance budget. £17m reserves remain
- AGM 24th May

Ward Councillor Lester was asked to respond on the Lengthsman and Public Rights of Way Contract, the DRM 476 bus service between Ledbury & Hereford and Ledbury St Katherines Car Park Barn Market

6. To Note the Attendance Record of Parish Council Members

PUTLEY PARISH COUNCIL – ATTENDANCE RECORD for parish council meetings

2023	January	March	May ELECTIONS	July	September	November	Total
Cllr G Griffin	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	4 OF 6
Cllr D Daly	Y	APOL	APOL	Y	APOL	Y	3 OF 6
Cllr J Herbst	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	APOL	5 OF 6
Cllr J Denman	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	APOL	5 OF 6
Cllr A Booth	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	6 OF 6
Cllr S Webster	CO-OPT	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	6 OF 6
Cllr G Bodger	APOL	Y	N	N	N	N	1 OF 2
Vacancy							
Ward Cllr Lester	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	5 OF 6

2024	Jan	March	May	July	Sept	Nov	Total
Cllr G Griffin	Y	RESG					
Cllr D Daly	APOL	APOL	Y				
Cllr J Herbst	APOL	Y	Y				
Cllr J Denman	Y	APOL	Y				
Cllr A Booth	Y	Y	Y				
Cllr S Webster	Y	Y	Y				
Vacancy							
Vacancy							
Ward Cllr Lester	Y	Y	Y				

Councillors had also met with representatives of Balfour Beatty and other organisations throughout the year to discuss various issues.

7. To Receive the Financial Report from the Parish Council (figures quoted are provisional and subject to audit)

The Clerk/ Responsible Finance Officer reported on the parish council finances:-

Current Account

Opening Balance 1 st April 2023	£ 10118.12
Income	£ 9505.00
Expenditure	£ 8839.42
Unpresented cheques	£ 2435.70
Closing Balance 31 st March 2024	£ 13219.40

Savings Account

Opening Balance 1 st April 2023	£ 11116.44
Interest Received	£ 149.38
Closing Balance 31 st March 2024	£ 11265.82

The list of bank signatories is to be updated and better savings accounts interest rates options explored

8. To Receive Annual Reports from:-
a) Parish Lengthsman Co-ordinator

Emergencies are dealt with in a timely fashion. However routine maintenance has not been carried out due to ill health.

b) Footpaths Officer

PFO report for Annual Meeting of Putley Parish and Annual Meeting of Putley Parish Council,
Tuesday 16th May 2023

We are fortunate in Putley to have a number of events that encourage use and enjoyment of the Public Rights of Way. Most notably, the annual Blossomtime events include guided and self-guided walks incorporating a number of our footpaths, as does the annual Putley Open Gardens event. In addition, Norman and Annie Stanier regularly arrange events in the programme for the Herefordshire Walking Festival. The Herefordshire Trail runs across our Parish, entering the orchards from the direction of Aylton and leaving on its way to the Marcle Ridge. These activities ensure that many of our paths receive regular use, by far the best way to ensure their upkeep. Putley Parish Council had a signed agreement and maintenance plan in place for 2022-23 with Herefordshire Council under their Parish Paths Partnership.

In June 2022, a stile on land belonging to The Brainge was badly damaged in what appeared to be an act of extreme vandalism. A temporary replacement was broken down. While Herefordshire Council agreed to provide a permanent replacement, for both the damaged stile and another that had become difficult to negotiate, it took two months for the stiles to become available. This was perhaps symptomatic of the level of Rights of Way service that has been provided by Herefordshire Council over recent years.

In September 2022, the outgoing Forest Manager responsible for Fountains Forestry management of the block of woodland known as 'The Twerne' (better known as Mains Wood and Commanders Wood) was helpful in undertaking work on PT22, the official Right of Way leading across to Durlow through the woodland. In association with ongoing work on site, they were able to clear vegetation and remove some small trees that were encroaching on the path. They also attempted to sort out a wet area, which has been cleared in the past through our P3 grant. In December 22, Tom was in touch with the Environment Agency about potential pollution running over the footpath, a situation which he passed to his incoming replacement.

Putley is not without a few ongoing challenges with its footpaths, especially PT2, PT13 and PT15.

Improved support from Herefordshire Council would be very welcome here. Two meetings were held with PFOs during the past year. I attended the first, on 28th September, which was poorly organised and had little to report on the new arrangements that were to be introduced. We were not alone in our concern about the lack of support. A comment made at the time from the floor was 'How can replacing 12 locality stewards with 2 inspectors result in a better service?' I was unable to attend the second, held on 24th March, and I understand that notes from this meeting have yet to be made available.

Jackie Denman - Putley PFO

c) Tree Warden.

The tree warden role is to give advice on trees and hedgerows and make comments on planning applications. A tree in the play area needs a low dangerous branch removed. When the tree felling on the Twerne and Putley Common wood has been completed the stone track will be removed. Hedge sapling planting has taken place in the play area. Chippings are required to mulch and suppress weeds.

9. Open Forum - For residents to raise any matters of concern. This item to be limited at the discretion of the chairman

The residents hope the flooding and drainage issues will be resolved soon.

Signed:..... Dated:.....