# PINVIN PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of Annual Pinvin Parish Meeting**

**Tuesday 12th May 2026 at 7.00pm**

*Present*

T. O'Dell (Chair), R. Coates, S. Boyden, K. Boyden, D. Biddle, M. Massey, A. Isherwood

WDC District Cllr L. Tucker. WCC D. Boatright- Greene, L. Cope (Clerk)

1. **Apologies for absence**.- None
2. **Chairman's Annual Report (Cllr T. O'Dell)**

This year has been dominated by the memorial hall project. The project has resulted in a new FA standard changing rooms extension to support the playing fields, a new kitchen with an extended café area, new hall toilets which include disabled and baby changing facilities, and a new storage room and storage cupboards for regular hirers. The existing hall has had new windows, new entrance and fire exit doors, increased insulation and has been repainted internally. The whole building is powered by solar panels, and now has underfloor heating in the changing rooms and café area, the rest of the building has new radiators. A new security and fire alarm system has also been installed. The building work is now almost complete, with just some fixtures and fittings outstanding.

The work has been funded through Section 106 Agreements, Wychavon Legacy Grant, Wychavon Rural Fund, Severn Waste (FCC), National Lottery, Co-op Local Community Fund and National Grid Community Matters Fund.

This has been a joint venture between the parish council and the memorial hall committee, although the build has been managed by the hall committee. On behalf of the parish council I would like to thank the hall committee for their hard work and commitment to get this project off the ground and completed. I would especially like to thank Jeff Clayton, the facilities manager, who has acted as project manager throughout the building work and has really been the main driving force. I would also like to thank the parish councillors for their support and to the clerk for the extra work that this project has involved. The outcome has proved to be a great success and truly impressive.

The day to day responsibilities of the parish council have been ongoing this year. There have been two significant planning applications that have been approved despite strongly worded objections from the parish council and residents, the main one of these being the development of 180 houses at Owletts End. This will certainly change the character and dynamics of Pinvin but we will have to accept and live with it now. On a positive note there will be more residents to liven up the new hall and sports facilities!

This year the council has welcomed two new councillors, Malcolm Massey and Ann Isherwood, both of whom have already made a positive and enthusiastic impact.

I would like to thank the vice chair, Richard Coates, the clerk and all the parish councillors for their time, commitment and hard work to make Pinvin such a great place to live and work.

I would also like to thank our county councillor, Cllr Dan Boatright-Greene and our district councillor, Cllr Liz Tucker for their continued support and expertise on issues that concern Pinvin.

**3. Cllr. Tucker WDC Annual Report**

Planning applications over this year have been very challenging for Pinvin – much more than any other neighbouring parish in Pinvin Ward. The 180 dwellings north of Owletts End is still in the process of fulfilling its planning conditions prior to commencing building. The 44 dwellings by the crossroads has only outline permission still. The recent permission for 30 dwellings at Ashfurlong Nurseries, served by an unadoptable access road, gained permission shortly before the SWDPR was finally adopted. The 9 dwellings on the menage rear of 1 Willingcroft Cottages have not yet been finally signed off. Current applications include illuminated signage for Starbucks at the Euro Garage and 2 barn conversions at Home Farm.

The good news bit is the successful remodelling of Pinvin Memorial Hall, and I take my hat off to the small group of utterly determined people who saw the project through innumerable twists and turns to its successful opening afternoon on the 2nd of May.

Throckmorton New Town proposal. The Examination in Public last year judged it was not sufficiently prepared for the inspectors to be confident it could be delivered in the newly adopted SWDPR but it should be an "area of search" for the next Local Plan which will start soon. New government rules mean the next plan has to be completed within 30 months of starting. Wychavon has employed consultants to work on the feasibility and detail of their New Town proposal.

Ridgeway Park Farm land has been in the control of the Receiver for nearly two years now because of unpaid monies to DEFRA. There is expected to be an auction in June but if unsold it will have to be passed back to the owner.

South Worcestershire Development Plan Review: Inspectors raised issues across the SWDPR proposals. Wychavon addressed these in its Main Modifications consultation and document and the Plan was finally adopted at the end of March. We now have the protection of a 5 years land supply - previously the "tilted balance" in favour of more houses led to proposals that did not meet our planning policies still being approved. However this could be short lived as our housing target numbers have been increased significantly and the 5 year land supply will require a 20% addition in June/July.

Wychavon Town has the go ahead. It is supported by Homes England but is not in their official New Town programme.

Local Government Reorganisation: Government requires us to reorganise into large unitary councils. This means that Wychavon District council will disappear on 31st March 2028. Worcestershire will either become one unitary council or two new unitary councils, North and South. South is much better for us as the 3 districts already work together in many ways and council tax will not rise as sharply if North Worcestershire is separate. Government will decide which of the two options will go forward and we hope to hear their decision late this summer. Elections for the new shadow council will take place next May, and existing Wychavon Councillors will serve an extra 11 months while the new council or councils set themselves up.

In the mean time Wychavon is working hard to use its resources in ways that support the future

sustainability of our communities and organisations. A range of legacy projects is already underway and it is setting up a £400k grants system which will start in June.

**4. Cllr. Boatright- Greene WCC Annual Report**

*County Council leadership and 2025 elections*

The May 2025 elections saw Reform UK become the largest party on Worcestershire County Council but without a majority. They won 27 of the 57 seats in May and Jo Monk became leader of the council.

It has been a very tumultuous year with one Reform UK councillor standing down after four months without attending a single meeting. The by-election was won by the Liberal Democrats. The deputy leader of Reform UK then resigned from the party on live TV, leaving the administration with 25 councillors. At time of writing Jo Monk has been replaced by Alan Amos as leader of Reform UK at the council and there is a leadership vote at the next meeting in May. This Monday (11th May) two Reform councillors were suspended and the ruling group is down to 23. We will see who leads the council on Thursday with a vote happening at the AGM.

*Council Finances*

Last year the council had to ask the government for £31 million of exceptional funding to balance the books. This is a loan that needs to be paid back. It was estimated this time last year that this would grow to £43 million black hole for 2026-27. This became over £70 million by December. Several causes of this deficit have come about. The adult social care bill continues to rise as the population gets older, the special educational needs bill is rising due to a lack of investment in specialist places in the local school system (leading the council having to pay for private provision) and continued overspend on infrastructure projects and home to school transport.

The council budget includes a £59 million loan from the government again this year and a 9% increase in council tax. Any attempts to reduce the over spends and limit the chances of an above 5% increase in council tax happening again need to be coming forward before the summer as it takes time to action cuts to staff and services. The administration is yet to put forward plans but the term transformation is being used in many speeches.

*Highways*

We have seen a lot of activity on our roads in recent months. The broken pedestrian barriers on the A44 have been fixed and the drainage situation outside the school has now been resolved. Both have taken too long to address and we have flagged with the highways team the need to address the situation. Unfortunately the previous cabinet member for highways who agreed to address this is no longer in position so I will need to arrange a discussion again to see if we can speed things up.

The next few months will see a major upgrade to our gas network in the village, hence the activity on the green outside the pub (which is a workers refuge for the staff). Those affected should be receiving letters from the gas company but if they are unsure, they can see the extent of the work on the website (link below).

https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/council-services/travel-and-highways/roads-pavements-verges-and-lighting/roadworks-and-live-updates

Lengthsman funding continues this year and it is hoped this will help with keeping footpaths and public spaces clear.

There is now a series of investigations that are happening with the drains on Owletts End. The drain has been cleared for now but we are awaiting the report from the engineers on how to fix this one more permanently.

*Local Government Reorganisation*

Government announcement on the unitary structure for the county are due in June-July 2026. Recent announcements for Essex, Suffolk and Norfolk have shown the 500,000 residents criteria is not a priority and, as yet, not a single whole county approach has been agreed. County council is heavily split on a whole county approach with a vote showing a large number of councillors against it. County is still approaching taking the whole county approach while the districts are leading on a north-south model.

The strategic mayor elections were expected in 2028 but the timeline seems to be becoming more vague and suggestions of 2030 and even 2031 have emerged. This makes things a tad more complicated as the Police and Crime Commissioner leaves the role in May 2028 so intermediary boards etc are likely to need to be formed. At the moment there is consensus in the area that Worcestershire will join Herefordshire and then Warwickshire and/or Gloucestershire. Not expecting updates on this area in the immediate future.

*School issues and funding for SEND*

Two issues currently appearing in this area. One is the lack of school spaces in Worcester and the construction of the Wychavon New Town. This will have an impact on school places in Pershore. This has now been flagged several times at scrutiny meetings and currently the issue of Worcester schools seems to have been solved without busing young people to Pershore. However the new town has flagged bigger issues with a secondary school expected to be in place for September 2031. It usually takes four years to build a school so we are approaching a point where we would expect to see a plan and funding in place. To be clear the costs are not fully covered by the contributions from developers so government funding would be expected. The council has committed to putting a plan in place for next year and I am following this closely as the capacity issue will have a huge impact on Pershore High given the first three years of the development will have no secondary school in place.

Secondly, recent calculations for overspends for Special Educational Needs provision are showing that the council will have a total debt of over £450 million by the end of 2028-29. The government has recently announced that they will be writing off 90% of this debt but it means the council has to find the £45 million, which currently does not sit on the council budget as part of an agreement with the government. This temporary measure has been in place for years but this change will mean it is back on the books. The council will need to find a way to finance or pay off this money in 2028.

Furthermore, current calculations are showing that these overspends are continuing to rise and at pace. The government has not shown exactly how any future overspends will be written off and the council is in talks with the government over how this will work. Either way, if we assume 10% of the overspend stays on the council books and it is expected to be financed this is millions of pounds every year that will need to be found. The council is still pursuing the new autism school in Malvern as a way to bring more places online but demand is still currently outpacing supply and it is clear that further specialist centres are required. The council has now committed to surveying all council owned buildings to see whether they can be repurposed as centres which would reduce the council reliance on private provision, where costs are rising fast.

*Increased government funding for highways projects*

The Liberal Democrat group secured government funding from the highways budgets to focus on some of the areas residents have been raising. The funding includes:

- £2 million of rural road resurfacing, focusing on areas where roads have not seen funding in recent years
- £1 million for drainage reconstruction where old infrastructure need replacing
- £10 million over two years for improvements to pedestrian crossings and village pavements
- Additional funding for councillors to fix footpaths in their own divisions

There is a also a project to see if the council can retrofit existing buildings the council owns to turn them into special educational needs centres to save money on out of county or private provision.

**5. Pinvin Memorial Hall Annual Report- Cllr K. Boyden**

Report deferred to June 2026 Meeting.

**6. Any Other Business**

None

Signed……. Date…….

Cllr. Tiffany O'Dell

– Chair Pinvin