

The Monthly Meeting of the Pilton Parish Council
was held in the Pilton Village Hall
on Wednesday 2 April 2014 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors Sandra Howe (Chairman)
Robert Kearle (Vice Chairman)
Paul Warry (Treasurer)
Audrey Brown
Dave Drew
Elizabeth Elkin
Roger Noble
Kelly Sumner
Jacquelyn Taylor
Clerk

38 members of the public.

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS: Mobile phones should be switched off please.

APOLOGIES: were received from PCSO Guy Dury.

MINUTES: of the meeting held on 5 March 2014 were agreed and signed.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Item 5ii Land at Compton Lane planning: Councillor Brown declared a personal interest (friend of the family).

Item 6iii Bier House: Councillor Howe declared a prejudicial interest (Pilton Players Chairman). Councillor Elkin declared a personal interest (prompting at Pilton Players rehearsals).

Item 16 Festival: Councillors Kearle, Brown and Taylor declared a prejudicial interest (employment, employment and bed and breakfast) respectively. (Dispensations approved). Councillors Sumner, Elkin, Drew, Noble, Warry and Howe declared a personal interest (ticket).

Councillors Drew and Kearle declared in respect of planning applications "I do not have a declaration of interest but I might do in the future".

PLANNING:

14/11 2014/0294/HSE Conversion of existing garage into independent relatives' annexe – Grey Gables John Beales Hill Pilton – HOUSEHOLDER APPLICATION.

The Chairman read letters of objection from residents.

The Chairman closed the meeting for the public to speak.

The Chairman re-opened the meeting.

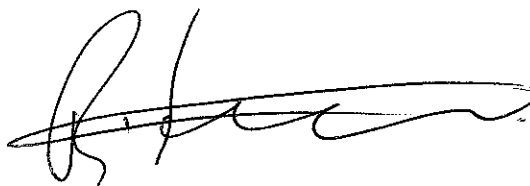
Councillors recommended REFUSAL of permission for reasons as follows:-

- 1 Poor access.
- 2 Changing the character.
- 3 Height of the roof.

14/12 2014/0057/FUL Retention of a new portal framed building and associated ground stabilisation works – Land at Compton Lane Winters Hill West Compton – FULL APPLICATION.

Letters of objection received from West Compton residents had all been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. The Chairman summarised the objections contained in the 13 letters on the MDC planning website.

The Chairman closed the meeting for the public to speak.



The Chairman re-opened the meeting.

Councillors recommended REFUSAL of permission, reason – access and location totally the wrong place.

MDC planning decisions and recommendations :

2012/2476 Application for the approval of details reserved by conditions of planning permission 2012/0812 – Lamberts Hill Farm – APPROVAL.

2012/2633 Application for approval of details of LBC 2012/0855 – Lamberts Hill Farm – APPROVAL.

2013/2286/FUL Extension to existing industrial/commercial building to provide five units – Mead Lane Lower Westholme Road Pilton – REFUSAL.

2013/2553/FUL Erection of an administration office – Worthy Farm - APPROVAL.

Residential development Old Wells Road – Appeal proposal: The Chairman advised Councillors.

Report of Planning Training Session at Wells Town Hall on 19 March 2014: Councillor Kearle reported attending the meeting led by Matt Williams, Planning Team Manager at MDC. Points of interest were:

- The Government have reduced the funding for low cost housing by 85%.
- MDC do not have a current local plan – effectively no development boundary or Q3/Q2 land.

Enforcement: None.

MATTERS ARISING:

Highways:

Walkabout progress: The Clerk read an email from Neil Corp following the walkabout as follows:-

- Repaired finger posts and arms – confirmation that there is no objection to the parish repainting them subject to the same colours being used.
- Cockmill ford bridge – confirmation that there is no objection to the moss being removed.
- Trees at Lamberts Hill junction – awaiting reply from the County tree officer.
- Hedges and ditches – letters being sent to various owners.
- Bridge on the Ridge Road – written to Highways Agency Historical Railways Estate regarding the condition and mentioned the rubbish on their land.
- Other items have been inspected and any which constitute a safety defect will be actioned.

ASBO's: The Chairman read an email from John Pratt stating that the ASBO Team would be willing to repaint the fingerposts providing the Parish Council supply the materials. The Clerk was asked to reply to Mr Pratt stating that the Parish Council had Highways permission and that the Parish Council would supply the materials for the work.

Further matters to report to Highways:

- Foul water at East Town.
- Potholes at East Town Lane, Stoodley Lane, North Town Lane, Burford, Totterdown and Ridge Road.
- Sign “No HGV's” by entrance to Old Burford Farm House in the verge.

The Chairman closed the meeting for the public to speak.

The Chairman re-opened the meeting.

Letter from Harriet Ray - West Compton flooding and Flood Mitigation Fund Application: The Clerk reported speaking to Harriet Ray prior to the meeting and arranged to complete an application form for flooding with her.

Councillor Howe left the room.

Councillor Kearle took the chair.



Bier House:

Email from Maureen Tofts confirming extra signatures: 12 further signatures were received.

Letter from Pilton Players – 20 March 2014: The Clerk copied the letter to Councillors prior to the meeting which they noted.

Email from SALC – 26 March 2014: The Clerk copied the email to Councillors prior to the meeting which they noted.

Bids from Killens: The Clerk handed Councillor Kearle an envelope containing the bids and advised him that before he opened the envelope Killens had advised of the following:-

“I trust that the offers put forward will be treated in confidence and that the review of the tender forms will be conducted by the Parish Council in a closed session”.

The Clerk reported taking advice from SALC on the proper procedure and SALC recommended that a resolution be passed as follows:-

“Council resolves due to the commercial confidentiality of the business about to be discussed that the press and public be excluded and asked to withdraw from the meeting”.

Councillor Kearle asked Councillors for a vote on this resolution. Councillor Sumner proposed and Councillor Drew seconded, Councillors unanimously agreed. Councillor Kearle asked the press and public to withdraw but 5 members of the public refused to leave as one member said that the Parish Council were acting illegally. The Parish Council in order to proceed withdrew to the next room and discussed the bids.

Councillor Kearle opened the envelope and advised Councillors of the 7 tenders. After much discussion Councillors agreed to accept the highest tender of £31,373 for purchase.

Councillor Kearle asked Councillors to keep this part of the meeting strictly confidential.

Councillors returned to the main meeting room.

Councillor Howe returned and took the chair.

Councillor Howe closed the meeting for the public to speak.

Councillor Howe re-opened the meeting.

Because of the allegations made against the Parish Council the Clerk was asked to contact SALC for written confirmation that the correct procedure had been carried out and to ask SALC to recommend the way forward to make the result of the meeting public.

Police Report: The Chairman read the report from 10 to 19 March 2014 from PCSO Dury as follows:-


Disturbance in Top Street; report of theft from farm near village; suspicious behaviour in East Town Lane; disturbance in West Compton between known parties.

Report of litter pick – Saturday 29 March 2014: The Chairman reported that 24 bags had been collected in total. Councillor Kearle reported that a quarter of the helpers were from the two traveller sites.

FOOTPATHS:

Report of Footpath meeting – Wednesday 2 April 2014: The Chairman reported the following:-

- The ASBO's had walked every footpath in the village.
- Landowners have a responsibility to keep footpaths on their land clear.



- The fence along Ford Lane to Weir Lane is in a bad condition, trees need attention and a large ash tree is partly in the river. Councillor Noble was asked to list the things required in a letter.
- The ASBO's offered to repair the stiles and it was agreed to ask the Clerk to obtain stile kits from SCC and also fingerpost paint if possible.
- The next footpath meeting was arranged prior to the 4 June 2014 Parish Council Meeting.

The Clerk was asked to thank Steve Bowler and the ASBO's for walking the footpaths and offering to paint the fingerposts.

FINANCE:

Financial Statement: The Treasurer presented and explained the financial statement.

Cheques drawn:

001730	Somerset Levels Relief Fund	50.00
001731	NWA – Health and Wellbeing Grant – Playing Field	2,000.00
001732	Mrs J Warry – salary and annual expenses	519.52
001733	Mrs W Lynn – salary and expenses	56.00
001734	R England wages	37.35
001735	HMRC – PAYE	135.80
001736	A C Pearce – Bier House repairs	3,160.00
001737	Village Hall – hire	24.00

War Memorial and Bier House works: The Clerk was asked to thank Andrew Pearce for the professional work he had carried out on behalf of the Parish Council.

SCC Community Scheme with health and well being in mind: The Treasurer reported receiving a £2,000 grant from Councillor Nigel Woolcombe-Adams. Councillor Taylor was thanked for processing the application.

Prince of Wales Award - £1000 for the community: Councillor Taylor dealing.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Temporary Road Closure – Main Road and Glastonbury Road: The Chairman read a letter from SCC advising of the road closure from 12 May for 5 days.

Circulation:

- Clerks & Councils Direct – March 2014
- Rural Services Network 3, 10, 17, 24 March 2014
- Rural Services Network – Rural Vulnerability Service – March 2014
- Rural Opportunities Bulletin – March 2014
- LCR – Spring 2014
- Parishes Information Bulletin – March 2014
- SCC – Pre-submission Somerset Minerals Plan consultation 3 – 14 March 2014
- SALC – Consultation on transparency code – responses by 15 April 2014
- SCC – Connecting Devon and Somerset - superfast broadband
- Somerset Community Foundation update on flood relief grants programme
- Glastonbury Town Council – oppose the proposed Hinkley C development

SALC:

Report of East Area Meeting on Monday 24 March 2014: The Chairman reported that she and the Clerk had attended the meeting at Pilton Village Hall which covered the policy consultation on the proposed transparency code that will be implemented as part of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

WAR MEMORIAL:

Path to steps and further works: Councillor Kearle presented three plans produced by Christopher Frewin for works to complete the War Memorial project. The Clerk was asked to obtain three quotations from local builders for the 4 June meeting. Councillor Noble agreed to see George Newns owner of the Old Vicarage with one of the plans and return to the Clerk.

BURIAL GROUND:

Maintenance reports: Councillor Drew produced maintenance reports which were all ok.

Overflow area: Councillor Warry reported that as the area was now manageable Ron and Andy England had agreed to keep the grass cut.

Hedge: Councillors agreed that the north hedge needed attention. The Clerk was asked to obtain the Burial Ground deeds to establish ownership.

PILTON PLAYING FIELDS:

ChubbBulleid letter to Philip Eavis 16 March 2014: Councillor Elkin read part of the letter which stated "In short, I do think that Tim Berry's advice is correct:- The Parish Council are really out of the equation. They simply hold the assets on behalf of the Trust. It is for the Trustees of the 1966 Trust to decide what to do".

SALC emails 11 and 21 March 2014: The Chairman read the email of the 21 March "As anticipated, this letter makes it very clear that the Parish Council is "out of the equation", so it is now very much for concerned parties to take up any issues they have with the trust(s). As custodian trustee, the council should not be involving itself in the managerial decisions of the trust and I, therefore, see no further role for the council to play in this situation, other than to fulfil its role as custodian trustee". Councillors agreed all further queries should go to the Playing Field Trust.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING: The Clerk produced a draft agenda which was agreed and arrangements were made for the APM on 23 April 2014.

ITEMS FOR COUNCIL'S INFORMATION:

Roundabout report:

- Litter pick report
- Landowners footpath responsibilities
- Ragwort

Killens' notice: Councillor Kearle stated that he does not take bribes as suggested on Killens' notice.

Cockmill/Larkhams Leap: Councillor Noble reported that the rail to stop people falling into the river had tipped over into the old orchard – part owners of the Williams' estate. The Clerk was asked to advise Neil Corp.

Conservation report: Poles over river on Bakery Lane.

FESTIVAL:

Second meeting – Wednesday 16 April 2014 at 6pm: The Chairman asked for discussion points.

Third meeting – Tuesday 3 June 2014 at 6pm:

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday 23 April 2014 at 7.30pm – ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
Wednesday 7 May 2014 at 7.30pm – ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.45pm.

7/5/14 