

The Monthly Meeting of the Pilton Parish Council
was held in the Pilton Village Hall
on Wednesday 4 March 2015 at 7.30pm

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

Councillor Nigel Hewitt-Cooper MDC representative.
9 members of the public.

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS: Mobile phones should be switched to silent.

APOLOGIES: None.

MINUTES: after some discussion the minutes of the meeting held on 4 February 2015 were approved and signed.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Item 5i Mulberry Cottage planning: Councillor Kearle declared a prejudicial interest (employment).

Item 5iii Freedom Cottage planning: Councillor Kearle declared a prejudicial interest (employment).

Item 12 Festival: Councillor Kearle, Brown and Taylor declared a prejudicial interest (employment, employment and bed and breakfast) respectively. (Dispensations approved). Councillors Elkin, Drew, Warry, Noble and Howe declared a personal interest (ticket).

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

PLANNING:

Councillor Kearle left the room.

Councillor Sumner took the chair.

15/05 2015/0122/TCA T1. Beech – crown reduction 30%; T2 Acer – remove; T3 Pussy willow – crown reduction 30%; T4 Morus niger – prune to clear phone wires; T5 Cedrus deodar – crown reduction 25%; T6 Silver birch – crown reduction and thin 25% - Mulberry Cottage, Bread Street – WORKS/FELLING TREES IN A CA.
Councillors recommend APPROVAL.

Councillor Kearle returned.

15/06 2015/0195 Proposed felling of an Ash tree in a Conservation Area – Ebenezer Chapel, Pylle Road
WORKS/FELLING TREES IN A CA.
Councillors recommend unanimous APPROVAL.

Councillor Kearle left the room.

Councillor Sumner took the chair.

15/07 2015/0244/HSE To erect a glazed oak orangery onto an existing patio at upper garden level, adjacent to the house. To change two small windows at lower garden level and change one to a french door and the other to a larger window – Freedom Cottage, Cumhill Lane – HOUSEHOLDER APPLICATION.

Councillor Sumner closed the meeting for the public to speak.

Councillor Sumner opened the meeting.

Councillors recommend APPROVAL.

Councillor Kearle returned.

MDC planning decisions and recommendations :

2014/1979/TCA Proposed pruning of two Willow trees in a CA – Ferndale – NO OBJECTION.

2014/2146/FUL Conversion of an agricultural barn to a dwelling dismantling of a stable and erection of associated garages and accommodation – Tanyard Farm – APPROVAL WITH CONDITIONS.

2014/2647/CLP Application for a lawful development certificate for a replacement conservatory extension from the rear elevation – Bella Vista, Shutwell Lane – APPROVE.

2015/0045/TCA Proposed pruning of Holm Oak – The Old Vicarage – WITHDRAWN.

Enforcement:

Cock and Bull Drove: Councillor Noble proposed writing to the Ombudsman.

Councillor Hewitt-Cooper stated that the matter was now in the hands of the Courts and MDC could only wait to hear news which had been delayed.

Councillor Noble withdrew his proposal.

Councillor Hewitt-Cooper explained that two enforcement officers were dealing with over 400 cases at MDC.

MDC REPORT: Councillor Hewitt-Cooper reported that for 2015/16 there was a 0% rise in council tax.

Elections: Councillor Howe requested information on the election notices and paperwork. The Clerk advised that notices from the Returning Officer at MDC were due to be posted on 23 March 2015.

MATTERS ARISING:

Highways:

Report of “Walkabout” – 11 February 2015: Councillor Howe reported that he, Councillor Noble and Neil Corp of SCC drove the whole route (copy attached). Mr Corp acknowledged that not all works would be completed immediately due to the constraints of the budget. It was reported that since the “walkabout” some of the road problems had been marked up in red.

The SLOW signs on roads had been damaged by frost followed by rain – repainting was agreed.

Pinchpoints: Councillor Howe reported meeting Steve Russell-Yarde of GFL who agreed to do all signage in the village, outreaches were beyond his responsibility but the responsibility of Highways.

Matters to report to Highways:

Burford Road to Stoodley Hill – poor road surface.

Stoodley Hill down to the bridge – poor road surface, grass verge and ditch, excess gravel at the bottom.

Fords and Bridges: The Clerk read an email from Paul Tucker of SCC advising that there is only one inspector who covers all of the county’s 2000 plus structures. Mr Tucker agreed that the inspector would look at the Ford and Cockmill sites when next in the area.

The Clerk read an email from Councillor N Woolcombe-Adams which stated “it all boils down to a question of liabilities and that as a matter of policy there are only certain approved and insured contractors who are permitted to deal with repair to bridges and other similar edifices”.

The Clerk was asked to contact Mr Tucker and request an approved list of contractors and the procedure to be added to the list.

Councillor Howe reported the concerns of Mr Corp regarding the stones and trees at the two sites.

The Clerk agreed to write to Mr Derbyshire owner of Barrow House giving him Councillors Howe and Noble’s telephone numbers so that a meeting could be arranged to discuss the trees at the Ford.

The Clerk was asked to write to Clare Haskins of SCC to look at the adjacent footpath.

Councillor Drew left the meeting.

Fingerposts: The Clerk reported receiving a quotation from Signpost Restoration Limited in the sum of £4,591.26 plus VAT to restore the Lamberts Hill and East Compton signposts. The Clerk was asked if possible to obtain a second quotation from the late Richard Bowditch's foundry.

Clerk's update: The Clerk reported that an applicant Karen Buckley had been interviewed earlier in the afternoon by The Chairman and Vice Chairman with the Treasurer and Clerk (Paul and Jean Warry) in attendance. Councillors were handed copies of her application and the Chairman reported that the interview went well and he would have no hesitation in employing her, Councillors Sumner and Warry agreed. Councillors agreed the salary for the post (spinal column point 26) £11.92 per hour, to be reviewed annually. Councillor Taylor proposed the Clerk send a letter of acceptance subject to satisfactory references seconded by Councillor Howe. The Clerk agreed to forward the references (marked confidential) and draft Contract to all Councillors for approval, prior to sending to the new Clerk.

Report of litterpick: Councillor Kearle reported that the litterpick held on Saturday 21 February 2015 was attended by the ASBOs and residents at Ridge Road and King Hill plus four members of the public. Thanks were expressed to Councillor Brown for the excellent refreshments.

Traveller count: Councillor Noble produced a list for the Clerk to forward to MDC. The Clerk agreed to email a copy to all Councillors.

FOOTPATHS: Nothing to report.

FINANCE:

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

Cheques drawn:

001794	Mrs J Warry – salary and expenses	183.82
001795	Mrs W Lynn – salary	26.75

CORRESPONDENCE:

Temporary road closure: A letter from SCC advised of the A361 Woodlands Road to Stockbridge Lane, West Pennard temporary closure - 19 March two days for prep then 5 evenings 23-27 March 2015. Councillors noted.

Circulation:

- Rural Services Network – 2, 9, 16, 23 February 2015
- Rural Services Network – Rural Vulnerability Service – 11, 18 February 2015
- Rural Services Network – Spotlight on older people in rural areas – February 2015
- Rural Service Network – Rural Opportunities Bulletin – February 2015
- War Memorial Trust Bulletin – February 2015
- Corporate Services Consultation – Monday 9 March 2015
- Help build better connected local communities on Streetlife
- Adoption of the Somerset Minerals Plan – 1 April 2015

BURIAL GROUND:

Maintenance reports: Councillor Drew previously presented the maintenance reports which were all fine.

Graves: The Clerk reported that the caretaker had agreed to fill all the holes around the graves.

Burial Ground rules: Councillor Sumner reported studying the rules and suggested that perhaps not all were being adhered to. It was suggested that the Burial Ground secretary attend either the May or the June meeting and for the new Council to deal with updating the rules.

ITEMS FOR COUNCIL'S INFORMATION:

Roundabout report:

Election in May.

Annual Parish Meeting – 22 April 2015.

Police report: 7 February to 3 March 2015

Report of traffic lights on Whitstone Hill not working, then staying on red – police attend and call company; dog bite in the village – police attend no complaint made; bushes pushed over and garden equipment moved – nothing seen or heard; loud music from property – police attend advice given; drain cover sunk along main road – highways dealing.

FESTIVAL:

Report of the meeting - 10.02.15 (draft minutes circulated). It was reported that the six points raised by the Parish Council were discussed and GFL agreed to go away and deal with them.

Councillor Noble reported that Steve Russell-Yarde had agreed to cut back the hedges at the top of Neat Lane.

Councillor Noble advised that on the east side of Neat Lane the limb of an ash tree was low in the road. Councillor Kearle agreed to investigate.

Future GFL/PPC meetings 14.04.15 and 09.06.15

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday 1 April 2015 at 7.30pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.24pm.

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 March 2015 were approved and signed by the Chairman Robert Kearle at the meeting on 1 April 2015.

Jean Warry, Clerk, Pilton Parish Council

Highway walkabout 2015

1. Barrow Stile

Pot hole outside new houses.

2. Past pub and down Shop Lane.

Work needed on bend opposite shop

White lines need repainting at bottom of Shop Lane and junction with St,Mary's lane.

3. Up to Bread Street.

Surface at top of Coles Lane in poor condition

4. Along to Playing Field.

Repair needed by gate down to Worthy.

5. Beyond Beggar's Roost.

Repair to pot hole needed.

6. Down to Cockmill Ford

Pothole under pylon by edge of road.

Potholes near Williams' bungalow and Cockmill Croft Farm.

Cockmill Ford – pedestrian bridge in poor condition.

Ditch needs digging out.

7. Along Lower Street and down to Grey gables.

Bridge there OK.

8. Bakery lane Bridge.

Potholes on bridge.

9. To Ford.

Bridge in poor state.

10. Up Barrow lane.

Dip in road improved.

Car Park by Minda in better condition.

11. Along Top Street.

Job Lane – should ASBOS be asked to look at this?

Pothole by Meadow Croft.

Flooding by Holes Barn is better.

12 Along East Town Lane to Bourne Farm.

Bad potholes all the way along past Wellands, Kathleen's, Ned's and Chanters.

Drain by Chanters still a problem.

13. Back up Neat Lane.

Ditch near top much better.

Pothole on side of road towards cemetery.

Potholes opposite bungalow near Springfield House.

Pothole at Springfield Cross.

14. Along A361 towards Shepton.

Surface of road very shiny – dangerous in wet or icy weather.

15. Up B road to Shepton – turn left along Ridge Road.

Sides of road in very poor condition for about 500 yards.

16. Turn to West Compton.

Pothole at junction.

17. Along Back Lane towards Knowle Farm.

Some attention needed.

18. Turn right at Burford Cross.

Potholes all along Stoodley lane.

Potholes down Stoodley Hill and other side of Stoodley Bridge into North Wootton parish.

19. Down Perridge Hill.

Sides of road bad all the way down.

20 Across road and down Watery Lane/

Potholes by Brook House

Badger set on side of road. Pothole by The Hermitage.

21. Down Tanyard Lane.

Three new accesses to Tanyard Farm.

Pothole on Tanyard Lane.

22. Lower Westholme Road and Totterdown Lane.

Sides of road in poor condition.

Ditch on Totterdown Lane by Cutler's Cottage needs digging out. Side of road above House's bungalow in poor condition.