

The Monthly Meeting of the Pilton Parish Council
was held in the Pilton Village Hall
on Wednesday 1 April 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

Jean Warry (outgoing Clerk)

Karen Buckley incoming Clerk in attendance.

3 members of the public.

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

Welcome and introduction to new Clerk: The Chairman welcomed Karen Buckley to the meeting.

APOLOGIES: None.

MINUTES: of the meeting held on 4 March 2015 were approved and signed.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Item 5i The Haven planning: Councillor Kearle declared a prejudicial interest (employment).

Item 5ii Keepers Cottage planning: Councillor Kearle declared a prejudicial interest (employment). Councillor Noble declared a personal interest (acquaintance).

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

Item 14 Festival: Councillor Kearle, Brown and Taylor declared a prejudicial interest (employment, employment and bed and breakfast) respectively. (Dispensations approved). Councillors Elkin, Drew, Howe, Noble and Warry declared a personal interest (ticket).

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

Councillor Kearle left the room.
Councillor Sumner took the chair.

PLANNING:

15/08 2015/0427/TCA Crown reduction to Sycamore tree (1) and Crown reduction to Horse Chestnut (2) due to excessive shading and some rotten branches – The Haven, Cumhill Lane, Pilton - WORKS/FELLING TREES IN A CA.

Councillors recommend APPROVAL.

15/09 2015/0461/FUL Change of use and extension to existing building to provide holiday let, erection of outbuilding and resurfacing part of access track – Keepers Cottage, Pilton Wood – FULL APPLICATION.

Councillor Sumner closed the meeting for the public to speak.
Councillor Sumner opened the meeting.

Councillors recommend APPROVAL.

15/10 2015/0390/HSE To erect a traditional oak-framed carport with an integrated solar panelled roof at an existing car parking area within the property boundary – Freedom Cottage, Cumhill Lane, Pilton – HOUSEHOLDER APPLICATION.

Councillor Sumner closed the meeting for the public to speak.
Councillor Sumner opened the meeting.

Councillors recommend APPROVAL with one abstention.

Councillor Kearle returned.

15/11 2015/0615/HSE To erect two storey extensions to the north-west and south-west elevations on the site of the single storey wings which are to be demolished – Barrow Stile, St Marys Lane, Pilton – HOUSEHOLDER APPLICATION.

Councillor Kearle closed the meeting for the public to speak.
Councillor Kearle opened the meeting.

Councillors recommend unanimous APPROVAL.

MDC planning decisions and recommendations :

2014/1996/TCA Proposed felling of two conifer trees in a Conservation Area – St Christophers, Cumhill Lane, Pilton – TPO Not required (NO OBJECTION).

2014/2690/HSE and 2014/2694 LBC Conversion of existing garage into independent relatives' annexe – The Cider House, John Beales Hill – APPROVAL WITH CONDITIONS.

2015/0195/TCA Proposed felling of an Ash tree in a Conservation Area – Ebenezer Chapel, Pylle Road – TPO Not required (NO OBJECTION).

2015/0317/AGB Application for prior notification of agricultural development – Somerset View Farm, Compton Lane, West Compton – Permitted development – PRIOR APPROVAL IS NOT REQUIRED.

Enforcement:

Cock and Bull: Councillor Noble reported that a Court date was awaited on the Cock and Bull case which Councillor Nigel Hewitt-Cooper reported the previous month. _

MATTERS ARISING:

Highways:

Totterdown blocked ditch:

The Clerk read an email from Neil Corp attaching an Environment Agency riverside ownership document. Mr Corp agreed to arrange for the blockage in the ditch to be removed as soon as possible. The Clerk also read an email from Angela Pearce regarding the blocked ditch together with a recent photograph of the flooding. The Clerk confirmed that Mrs Pearce had been thanked.

Matters reported to SCC: The Clerk read an email from Mr Corp as follows:-

Covers along Whitstone Hill have been marked and will be dealt with by SCC soon. This had now been done.

An inspection of the road from Burford to Stoodley Hill has been arranged and any safety defects identified will be actioned.

The section from the bridge to Stoodley Hill will also be inspected.

Matters to be reported to SCC:

East Town Lane drain: Councillor Noble reported that after four years this was still very smelly. Mr Corp had been advised of this on the “walkabout”. The Clerk was asked to contact the Environment Agency.

Pot holes: Two or three very dangerous pot holes on Perridge Hill had been marked but urgent repairs were needed.

Fords and Bridges: The Clerk read an email from Paul Tucker, SCC stating “we do not retain an ‘approved’ list of contractors as the structures team utilise a Framework Contract to undertake works they are Crestmoor Construction, Dyer & Butler and Graham Construction. No other Contractor can join until the service period expires in early 2019”.

The Clerk read emails between John Pratt and Councillor Kearle regarding the urgent repair of the bridges and the rules which have to be adhered to. Councillor Kearle understands from Andrew Pearce that he is on an approved list and the Clerk was asked to contact Mr Pearce. Councillor Noble advised that the repairs cannot wait for another wet winter and that there is potential for a serious accident. Councillor Howe believed that SCC had a duty to inspect the bridges as they are in such a bad state. The Clerk was asked to advise Mr Tucker of the approved list Mr Pearce is on and request that the bridges are inspected as soon as possible.

Footpath opposite Barrow House: The Clerk read an email from Clare Haskins, Rights of Way Mendip East, stating that the tree leaning over the footpath is the responsibility of the owner of Barrow House (Mr Derbyshire) and she agreed to write to him. The Clerk confirmed a letter had been sent to Mr Derbyshire from the Parish Council.

Fingerposts: The Clerk advised Councillors that Jackie Bowditch agreed to provide the name and address of the new owner of her late husband's foundry in order to secure another quotation for the fingerpost repairs.

Clerk's update: The Clerk reported that her successor Karen Buckley had completed all the necessary paperwork and signed the contract commencing 1 April 2015. Three, three hour SALC courses had been booked and Karen would be attending them all over the next three weeks. There would be a hand over period of one month and any help provided if necessary in the future.

Neat Lane hedges: Councillor Kearle reported that the hedges had been cut. Councillor Kearle also reported that an application by Steve Russell-Yarde to make the carriageway at Copse Hill wider permanently was being sought.

FOOTPATHS:

Footpath Meeting: The Clerk was asked to contact Steve Bowler regarding a footpath meeting date.

FINANCE:

Financial Statement: The Treasurer presented and explained the financial statements for March and April to date including the figures up to the end of the year.

Cheques drawn:

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|------|---|----------|
| 1796 | SALC – course fees | 55.00 |
| 1797 | Mrs J Warry – salary and expenses | 196.00 |
| 1798 | Mrs W Lynn – salary and expenses | 56.35 |
| 1799 | R England – wages/mower fuel | 45.99 |
| 1800 | HMRC – PAYE | 137.20 |
| 1801 | Mrs A Brown – food for litterpick | 15.00 |
| 1802 | Pilton Village Trust – hall hire | 36.00 |
| 1803 | R Kearle – Chairman's allowance | 250.00 |
| 1804 | Zurich Municipal – insurance | 1,430.04 |
| 1805 | Village Trust – subsidy for Post Office | 600.00 |

Approval of 2014/15 Annual Return: The Treasurer presented the 2014/15 Annual Return incorporating the yearend figures already explained. Councillor Elkin proposed approval of the accounts Councillor Kearle seconded. All Councillors agreed. The Annual Return was then duly signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

The Treasurer explained that the Annual Report would now be forwarded to the internal auditor Tony Williams. Mr Williams would report back by the next meeting and the Annual Return would be sent to the External Auditors by the 1 June 2015.

St John Ambulance: The Clerk read a letter from the St John Ambulance requesting financial assistance. Councillor Noble proposed £50 and Councillor Warry seconded. All Councillors agreed as they have links with the village.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Temporary Road Closure - Sewer renovation – Coursing Batch and Chilkwell Street, Glastonbury: Monday 20 April until Thursday 30 April, A361 Pilton diversion route for local traffic. Notification had been received from SCC and Wessex Water which Councillors noted.

Village storage facility: The Clerk read a letter from Michael Eavis stating that the idea of the village storage facility being incorporated into the development at Neat Lane was a really good one. This will probably happen in a couple of years. The Clerk was asked to reply to Mr Eavis thanking him for his support.

Zebra crossing in Pilton: The Clerk read an email from Ashley Elms requesting a zebra crossing by the bus stops on Whitstone Hill. Councillors agreed that this was a good idea and the Clerk was asked to contact Mr Corp and copy in Steve Russell-Yarde of GFL. The Clerk was asked to reply to Mrs Elms.

Circulation:

- Rural Services Network – 2, 9, 16, 23 March 2015
- Rural Services Network – Rural Vulnerability Service – March 2015
- Rural Services Network – Rural Economy Spotlight – March 2015
- Rural Service Network – Rural Opportunities Bulletin – March 2015
- Local Council Review – Spring 2015
- Clerks & Councils Direct – March 2015
- Parishes Information Bulletin – February 2015
- Citizens Advice Bureau – free information training
- Outcome of Somerset Library Services Review and Consultation

BURIAL GROUND:

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

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING: The Clerk presented an agenda for the APM to be held on 22 April 2015, which was agreed and representatives were identified for the various reports. Councillor Elkin agreed to make arrangements for the food and the Clerk agreed to organise the wine and glasses from the Working Mens Club.

RESOLUTION FOR AGENDAS AND MINUTES TO BE SENT BY EMAIL:

The Local Government (Electronic Communications) (England) Order 2015 which came into force on 30.01.15 permits the sending of council papers by email. Councillor Elkin proposed acceptance of the resolution Councillor Kearle seconded. All Councillors agreed.

ITEMS FOR COUNCIL'S INFORMATION:

Roundabout report: Councillor Howe agreed to write the report for the May issue.

Diamond Jubilee seats: It was reported that the two seats purchased with some of the Diamond Jubilee proceeds at the Playing Field had been damaged beyond all possible repair.

Proxy votes: Councillor Howe asked if persons elected on the 7 May who were unable to attend the Annual Council Meeting on 13 May could vote by proxy. The Clerk agreed to contact SALC.

Police Report: The Clerk read the following report produced by the Police from 3 to 27 March 2015 as follows:-
Sunken road grid; Village Hall intruder alarm activated, key holder on scene; traffic related incident; two domestic incidents; non dwelling burglary reported, nothing found to be stolen; abandoned 999 call. Councillors felt that the report was too vague and the Clerk was asked to request more detailed reports in the future.

Temporary closure of Cannards Grave Road: The Clerk advised Councillors that notification had been received in the last day that from 5 May 2015 works were expected to last for 28 days. The order to remain in force for eighteen months.

Councillor Kearle closed the meeting for the public to speak.

Councillor Kearle opened the meeting.

St Mary's Lane: The Clerk agreed to forward correspondence relating to the signage of St Mary's Lane and Barrow Lane to Pauline Hobbs.

FESTIVAL:

Future GFL/PPC meetings 14.04.15 and 09.06.15.

NEXT MEETING: ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – Wednesday 22 April 2015 at 7.30pm.
ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING – Wednesday 13 May 2015 at 7.30pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.50pm.

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 April 2015 were approved and signed by the Chairman Robert Kearle at the meeting on 13 May 2015.

Karen Buckley, Clerk, Pilton Parish Council