

**Minutes of the meeting of the Pilton Parish Council**  
**in the Pilton Village Hall**  
**on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2015 at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Councillors Robert Kearle (Chairman)  
Steve Bowler  
Holly Corfield  
David Drew  
Jean Foley  
John Howe  
Stephen Kearle  
Joseph King  
R o g e r

Noble

Karen Buckley (Clerk/RFO)

Four Members of the public were present.

1 **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

i Mobile phones should be switched to silent.

2 **APOLOGIES:**

3 **MINUTES:** of the meeting held on the 4th November were approved.

4 **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS:** : Item 12 Festival: Councillors R Kearle, H Corfield and S Kearle, (dispensation approved), declared a prejudicial interest (employment). Councillors Bowler, Corfield, Drew, Foley, King 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".

5 **MATTERS ARISING:**

i Highways: A drain cover at the entrance to Old Burford Farm is splitting apart. Manhole cover and road subsidence at Burford Cross towards Stoodley. The side of the road at Stumps Cross on the boundary of Pilton and Shepton Mallet is damaged. North of Perridge Farm there is a large pothole. Between the Crown Inn and Corner Cottage there is a rattling man hole cover. The sign in shop lane is obscured. Totterdown Road is breaking up, the builders are parking lorries in the road and traffic are having to go onto the verge to pass.

Close meeting

Open meeting

Discussion took place regarding the lorry that broke down in Conduit Square; it took 3 ½ hours to clear.

- ii Zebra crossing between bus stops on the A361: The Clerk read and email from Councillor Woollcombe-Adams stating that the crossing would be highly unlikely to be put on the approval list for a funding scheme. The reasons stated were:
- a) Zig zag lines need to be painted on the road either side of the crossing and these would conflict with the bus stop markings which would have to be moved.
  - b) Existing drop kerbs cannot be utilised because of a) above
  - c) The bus shelter would need to be moved and this would be complicated as the footpath would expire where it would need to be moved to and would need extending at the same time.
  - d) Drainage problems are envisaged.
  - e). There are two minor road junctions in close proximity to the proposed site.
- This work even if it were feasible would be likely to cost considerably in excess of the £60000 mentioned to the Parish Council by a local source

The Clerk was requested to invite Councillor Woollcombe-Adams to the next Parish Council meeting to discuss this further with the Council.

Close meeting  
Open meeting

- iii Fords and Bridges: The Clerk read an email from Paul Tucker stating that a list of works has been issued to Somerset County Councils contractor. There are set processes and procedures that have to be followed to ensure that the correct works are carried out.
- This process basically comprises of three stages:
- Stage 1 - Each site will be visited and the extents of the works will be agreed.
  - Stage 2 - A detailed scheme will be worked up and agreed.
  - Stage 3 - Once scheme has been agreed the works will be programmed and carried out.
- The Clerk was requested to obtain a detailed copy of the scheme from Paul Tucker.
- iv Fingerposts: John Pratt has been liaising with Councillor Bowler re the final requirements for the fingerposts. It was agreed that John will visit Cerdic Foundries to ensure they know exactly what is required. Council Bowler will speak to John to advise him of this. It was unanimously decided that the fingerposts should be fitted by a specialist. Alan Connock was suggested. John Pratt will approach him for a quotation.
- v Mendip Community Transport Service (Slinky Bus): Councillor Corfield attended a presentation from Mike Curtis and Neil Clark of Mendip Community Transport regarding the new service they will be providing. Pilton residents were asked to contact Mike Curtis on [mentrans@btconnect.com](mailto:mentrans@btconnect.com) to advise what their requirements are as soon as possible, to ensure the village requirements are met.
- vi Speed Camera Devices: The Clerk read an email from PC Tim Rust, where he confirms that the Speed Enforcement Team will continue to attend Pilton and patrol the area in the future and deal with any offences that may occur. He suggested contacting Highways to see if they could use methods such as speed bumps.
- The Clerk was asked to check insurance covers Speedwatch Volunteers
- The Clerk received a response to her email to Highways suggesting that double white lines be put between Top Street and the Crown Inn. Andrew Tranter, Chief Engineer, SCC, advised that the onus is on Parish Councils to vet the opinion of local

residents to determine whether the request would receive backing from the community. He felt residents may object.

The Clerk was asked to contact Tim Rust to arrange Speedwatch training for January.

- vii Local Resident: No update.
- viii Unauthorised Business at Kenton Farm: No update.
- ix Confirmation of Road Extent: No update.
- x Vegetation growing beside the roads on Top Street, Barrow Lane, John Beals Hill, and several other locations: Work at Beals Hill has not been done or the hedge at Grey Gables. The Clerk was asked to write to the owner of Grey Gables.
- xi Introduction to Assets of Community Value Course: Councillor Bowler attend a recent course and advised that this relates to something the community uses but does not own e.g. land. This can then be registered with MDC and then if the owner wishes to sell the asset the owner must give the Council a period of time to buy it, however the owner does not have to sell it to the Council, even if they have the money. Pilton does not have any such assets as we own ours but Councillors were asked to think if there is anything else that may be eligible.
- xii Low Cost Housing: The Clerk sent a letter to MP James Heapey regarding the Conservative Governments Policy to extend to Housing Tenants the right to buy the properties in which they live. The Clerk was asked to chase his response.
- xiii Transparency Fund: The Clerk is to identify whether the Council is eligible for any funding.
- xiv Trustees: The Clerk has replied to Trustees. The new Chairman of the Trustees is Steve Batt and Janet Ladyman is the Secretary.
- xv Rubbish at Whitstone Hill: – It was confirmed that the rubbish is being collected.
- xvi Defibrillator: Details have been sent to Mrs Elkin on how to obtain a defibrillator. It was requested that training sessions be provided and a list of trained people to be published.

## 6 **PLANNING:**

- i Application No: 2015/2722/CNT  
Proposal: Temporary stone quarry off Cumhill (Hitchens Hill Ground), temporary use of part of 'red barn' for stone dressing and temporary storage of stone alongside 'red barn' and temporary use of 'green barn' for stone breaking on land  
Location: Worthy Farm, Worthy Lane, Pilton, Shepton Mallet, Somerset, BA4 4BY (GR: 358964 - 140550)  
It was confirmed that this was for the low cost housing, not for selling stone.  
Decision: Approval (Unanimous)

Application No: 2015/2556/FUL

Proposal: Proposed erection of industrial unit  
Location: Mead Lane Industrial Site, Mead Lane, North Wooton  
Applicant: Mr G Watts  
Application Type: Full Application  
One letter of complaint in the internet due to overdevelopment.

Closed meeting  
Open meeting

Decision: Approval (5 approved, 1 abstained, 2 refusal)

- ii MDC planning decisions and recommendations:  
Application Number: 2015/2004/TCA  
Applicant: Mr Vero Blyth  
Address: Barrow Cottage, Barrow Lane, Pilton  
Proposal: Proposed felling of a Macrocarpa (1) and Elder (2) in a conservation area.  
Decision: TPO Not Required (No Objection)
- iii Enforcement: In Tanyard Lane/Watery Lane Corner, yurts and mobile homes have appeared. MDC have been informed by a Parishiner and Councillor Hewitt-Cooper is aware.

Councillor Hewitt-Cooper confirmed that MDC now have two extra enforcement officers.

Cock and Bull Drove: Councillor Hewitt-Cooper provided the following update:  
A hearing took place on the 1<sup>st</sup> December before Mr Justice Newey, a High Court Judge sitting in the Bristol District Registry of the High Court of Justice, Queens Bench Division.

MDC was represented by Counsel as was one person described in the court papers as “Persons Unknown”. This person lives on the site and her Counsel applied and was granted leave to have her join in proceedings as a named-defendant. She intends to oppose the application for an injunction.

Three of the named defendants also appeared in person and indicated to the Court that they also intend to oppose the Counsels application for an injunction.

In order to ensure that the case is properly prepared for the final hearing, the Judge made a procedural directions timetable as to the filing of acknowledgements of service by the Defendants as to the filing of evidence etc.

He also directed the matter to be listed for a two day hearing, first available date after the 8<sup>th</sup> February.

The Gables:

## 7 FOOTPATHS:

- i Update: The ASBO’s have now stopped work for the winter. The next Footpaths Sub-Committee Meeting will take place at 7pm on the 3rd February, before the Parish Council Meeting.  
The ASBO’s have applied for a grant. Discussion took place as to whether this should be added to the Precept but it was felt no, as they are getting money from the Parish Council when it is required.

The Clerk was asked to write to the ASBO's and Ron England thanking them for their good work.

**8 FINANCE:**

i Financial Statement:

Plus banked:

Adams Memorials	£55.00
W J Trotman	£55.00

£110.00

Less cheques drawn:

Mrs K Buckley (Clerk) - salary/expenses	£200.60
Mrs W Lynn (Burial Secretary) - salary	£30.83
R England (Groundsman) – wages	£0.00
Pilton Working Mens Club	£12.00
Mrs Elkin Parish Council Wreath	£25.00
R England Petrol & Strimmer expenses year 2015	£43.75

Total cheques drawn:	£312.18
Balance at 02.12.15	£38,225.14

ii Pension Regulations: Remove from the agenda.

iii Filing Cabinets: Instead of a financial charitable donation, Brian Derrick has had a road sign made stating 'Bush Lane'

iv Precept 2016/17: The Precept meeting will take place at 7pm on the 6<sup>th</sup> January before the Parish Council Meeting.

The Clerk will check with SALC regarding the new Auditing Procedures.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

- i Rural Services Network - Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November
- ii Rural Opportunities Bulletin 4<sup>th</sup> November
- iii Recycle 2015 SWP Monthly Briefing 5<sup>th</sup> November
- iv Rural Services Network - Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November
- v Rural Vulnerability Service 11<sup>th</sup> November
- vi Sector Led Body Induction & Factsheet
- vii Rural Services Network - Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November
- viii Housing and Planning Bill 16<sup>th</sup> November
- ix Mindline Somerset Press Release 17<sup>th</sup> November
- x Good Councillor Training 18<sup>th</sup> November
- xi New Procurement Toolkit 18<sup>th</sup> November
- xii Pick your own Christmas Tree
- xiii Rural Services Network - Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> November
- xiv SCC – Listening, Learning, Changing
- xv Somerset Rivers Authority, Community Dredging Briefing
- xvi Dementia Awareness Training

**10 BURIAL GROUND:**

- i Maintenance reports: Two were received both were fine.
- ii Mrs Whiteway: The Clerk has been in touch with AJS Memorials regarding straightening the headstone. They will do it free of charge if it is a straightforward job.

11 **ITEMS FOR COUNCIL'S INFORMATION:**

i Roundabout report

Mendip Community Transport are asking for your requirements for community transport. The new service is starting in March 16 and they would like to arrange dates and schedules for local villages. Please email them and the village Clerk with what you need as soon as possible to ensure our requirements are met. Mendip Community Transports email address is mentrans@btconnect.com

If you are interested in receiving training to become a Speedwatch Volunteer, please contact either the Parish Clerk or Joe King.

The next Footpaths Sub-committee meeting will be held at 7pm on Wednesday 3rd February.

Parking at Top Street/ Bread Street is potentially stopping emergency vehicles getting through. Please park considerately.

Councillor R Kearle advised that the Multi use arena is going ahead.

The Clerk advised that she has received a request from a foreign student for information regarding the Parish Council's view on the Festival. The Clerk will send the Clerks report and Mendip District Councils report.

12 **FESTIVAL:**

- i Festival feedback: Festival feedback, top issues to take forward.
- ii Clearway System and Enforcement: The Council voted whether they wanted the clearway system left informal or enforced. The vote was 1 informal, 1 abstention, 6 enforced. It was carried that the Clearway System will be enforced.
- iii GFL/PPC minutes: Dates of next meetings  
6pm on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2016  
6pm on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2016  
6pm on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2016

13 **NEXT MEETING:** Wednesday 6th January 2015 7.30pm

Meeting closed 8.59pm