

Minutes of the meeting of the
Pilton Parish Council
In the Pilton Village Hall on
Wednesday 6th December 2017 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors Robert Kearle (Chairman)
David Drew
Jean Foley
Joe King
Roger Noble
Debbie Smith

Karen Buckley (Clerk/RFO)

No members of the public were present

1 **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Mobile phones should be switched to silent.

2 **APOLOGIES:** Stephen Kearle, Holly Corfield, Angela Wynn and Nigel Hewitt-Cooper

3 **MINUTES:** of the 6th December 2017 were approved.

4 **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS:** Councillor Drew "I do not have a declaration of interest in any planning applications but I might do in the future"

5 **MATTERS ARISING:**

i Traffic Strategy:

- Update – The Clerk advised that the updated Traffic Strategy has been published on the website.
- Puffin Crossing: The Clerk was asked to email Nigel Hewitt-Cooper for an update on the Puffin Crossing and the Hinkley Point Community Funding.

ii Highways: Updates re the following:-

- Culverts: No update this month.
- Blocked Drains/ Gullies: Totterdown Farm - Neil Corp advised an inspection has been arranged ref 523161
- Overflowing drain in East Town Lane: Blocked Drain outside Chanters:- We have issued the order for the jetting of the pipeline and are currently waiting for the necessary equipment to become available. There is an issue with an unauthorised connection into the highway drainage system at this location which has been passed to environmental health for resolution.
- Potholes

The following update was received from Neil Corp, SCC:-

- a) Totterdown Lane ref 522404:- repairs to safety defects identified during the inspection were completed on 28th November 2017.
- b) Winters Hill ref 522405:- no safety defects were identified during the inspection.
- c) Back Lane ref 522406:- repairs to safety defects identified during the inspection were completed on 15th November 2017

d) Bowermead Lane ref 522407:- repairs to safety defects identified during the inspection were completed on 7th December 2017

- Road Markings on Stoodley Lane and Bowermead Lane: Chris Betty confirmed that this work has been ordered.
- Overgrown Vegetation: Neil Corp advised that the overgrown vegetation at John Beales Hill ref 522403 (an inspection was carried out on 16th November 2017) did not constitute a safety defect. We will check again in the spring and should the situation have changed we will contact the landowner. If the parish are able to provide the contact details of the landowner this would be a help.
- Gully outside Parsons Batch: Neil Corp advised all of the gullies on this section were recently cleared as part of the planned programme
- Visibility down Lamberts Hill: Chris Betty advised that he has put this location in as a Small Improvement Scheme which will be given consideration. If progressed, land acquisition is required which is likely to take some time to implement.
- Turning onto the A37 from Platterwell Lane: Chris Betty advised that improved junction warning signs are on order to be erected along the A37.
- Compton Lane Ditches and gullies: an inspection has been arranged Ref 523162. For information the responsibility of ditch clearance rests with the landowner in the majority of instances. Should the ditches require clearance we will contact the landowner if necessary.
- Work on subsidence on the A361:- the works commenced in November under traffic lights for ten days and were successfully completed.
- Defects:
Angela Pearce has emailed Neil Corp, SCC to make him aware that a section of the road at the top of the hill at Westholme/Water Lane, where the badgers undermined the road a few years ago has fallen in again. There is a large hole on the right side of the carriageway where the badgers are working their way under the road again. The hole is hard to see if driving and with wet weather will give way if cars drive over it, it is about a foot deep at present. It was suggested that some fencing be put around it to stop any damage to vehicles.

Potholes in East Town Lane

At Burford crossroads to Studley Hill there is subsidence and potholes.

On the A361 there are two manholes breaking up outside Maldean.

The drain outside Councillor Nobles home is blocked and children on their way to school could not walk on the pavement due to the water. They have to go down Beales Hill instead. SCC to contact Councillor Noble to discuss further.

iii Fords and Bridges:

- The Clerk was asked to email Nigel Hewitt-Cooper to see if a date has been selected for work to start on the Cockmill Ford Bridge.

iv Fingerposts:

- The Clerk has received the quote from Cerdic Foundries. They have quoted for far more than is required; we require a post and one finger. Councillor King has spoken with Richard Raynford and he advised that he would like the post put back where it started off and that he would be prepared to make a donation. Councillor King will request a revised quote. The Clerk will contact SCC Highways to see if they have a post the village could use, along with the base and finial. The finger needs to read North Wootton and Higher Westholme.

- v Community Speedwatch:
- Councillor King advised that 75 sessions have occurred during the past year. Vehicle numbers dropped over the Christmas period and have not yet reached the previous levels. Overall numbers have reduced since there was a diversion in place and some traffic seems to have continued using the alternative route.
 - Dave Grabham has emailed to confirm that that decision to terminate the SID scheme was not linked to the Hinkley Point project. He will try to provide a 'ball-park' estimate regarding the cost to Parish Councils if they contributed to fund a SID along with other Parish Councils. He also felt that the Hinkley Point Community Fund was only linked to Parish Councils that may be affected by the construction process and would not cover the whole county and it was something that the Parish Council needed to pursue.
 - Purchase of SID Brackets: SID's need to be sent to Germany for repair and this is no longer economical as the SIDs are quite old and breaking more frequently. Community Speedwatch SID's flash if going faster than 30mph, they are £2625 ex vat to purchase. The Speedwatch Team can periodically borrow the Community Speedwatch SID, the Parish Council will need to purchase their own brackets as then it's a comparatively easy task to erect the SID.
Councillor King will contact Westcotech to get a quote for the brackets. The brackets are universal but need to check the size of the poles they will be fitted to. Councillor King will also check if the Parish Council will be required to insure the SID whilst we have it in use. The Parish Council voted unanimously in favour of purchasing the brackets.
 - Truck Count for December was provided.
- vi The Crown Inn: Assets of Community Value: Councillor King has received the paperwork from Steve Bowler and spoken with Reg Mattherson. They will now arrange to meet to put a strong case together.
- vii Police Report: December Police Report
- 06/12 – Theft from vehicle, Whitstone Hill. Power tools taken from van.
06/12 – Attempted Theft from vehicle, St Marys Lane.
06/12 – Lamberts Hill, Non Injury RTC.
14/12 – Whitstone Hill, Non Injury RTC.
14/12 – Highway Hazzard, Broken down vehicle, Park Hill.
15/12 – Neat Lane, two vehicle RTC, Non Injury.
23/12 – Whitstone Hill, One vehicle RTC Non Injury.
25/12 – Reported tree in road Lamberts Hill.
27/12 – Reported possible drink driver.
- viii Low Cost Housing: At last month's Parish Council meeting Councillor Corfield suggested warning signs stating 'children playing' be erected in Neat Lane. Steve Russell-Yarde has obtained a quote and the Council voted unanimously in favour of this. The Clerk will advise Steve.

Councillor Noble advised that there was a lot of dog mess within the village. The Clerk was asked to contact Mendip District Council for signs to put on gates. Councillor Noble will speak to the owners of the gates.

- vv Pilton War Memorial: As Councillor Corfield was absent the Clerk was asked to email Councillor Noble the prices of the plaque that Councillor Corfield obtained. Councillor Noble will look at the size required and obtain a price.
- vvi Policies and Procedures: Approval was given at the last meeting and updated documents have been sent to Councillors.
- viii Mendip Local Plan Part II: The Clerk has responded stating the Parish Councils view.
- viiii Email from Resident regarding Enforcement, Defects and Definitive Map:
An email has been received from Harriet Ray advising the Parish Council that there is a building without planning permission at the top of the steep hill coming out of the Hamlet going towards Burford Cross and in the right of the field.
The barn at the bottom of the hill opposite Brook House Farm continues to be used for light industrial purposes without planning permission. She stated that residents have written to Mendip District Council enforcement asking them to do something about the situation. Nigel Hewitt-Cooper is aware of the situation.
Harriet also stated that there was mud on the road from West Compton to Lamberts Hill Farm making it slippery. Somerset County Council advised this was a matter for the police.

Janet Lees emailed the Parish Council to ask if something could be done regarding the state of the grass verges in the area between Hearse House and the Church Steps. The Clerk was asked to contact Barrie Fox of the ASBO team.

6 PLANNING

Application Number: 2017/3296/TCA
 Proposal: Proposed crown reduction of a Red Maple (T1) and White Beam (T2)
 Location: Holes Barn, Top Street, Pilton
 Applicant: Mr Colin Frazer- Mackenzie
 Application Type: Work/Felling Tree in a CA
 Parish Council Recommends: APPROVAL

ii MDC planning decisions and recommendations:

Application Number: 2017/2565/TCA
 Proposal: T1 – Removal of Leylandii Hedge
 T2 and T3 – Removal of No.2 Beech Trees
 T4 – Removal of Flowering Cherry Tree
 Location: The Shelling St Mary's Lane, Pilton
 Application Type: Works/Felling in a CA
 Decision: TPO Not Required

Application Number: 2017/2566/TCA
 Proposal: To remove a Leylandii hedge and a Apple tree in a conservation area.
 Location: The Bower, St Mary's Lane, Pilton
 Application Type: Works/Felling in a CA
 Decision: TPO Not Required

Application Number: 2017/1389/TCA
 Proposal: T1. Ash – reduce height by approx. 8 metres
 Location: St Christophers, Cumhill Lane, Pilton
 Application Type: Works/Felling in a CA

Decision: TPO Not Required (No Objection)

Application Number: 2017/2776/HSE

Proposal: Single storey extension to rear of property

Location: Hartley House, Higher Westholme Road, Pilton

Application Type: Householder Application

Decision: Approval with Conditions

Application Number: 2017/2940/TCA

Proposal: Proposed works to reduce trees in a conservation area:-

T1 – T2 Thuja – Reduce height and sides x 1m

T2 – Yew – Reduce height and sides x 1m

Location: The Old Vicarage, Park Hill, Pilton

Application Type: Works/Felling in a CA

Decision: TPO Not Required (No Objection)

Application Number: 2017/2782/TPO

Proposal: T1 – Yew – prune back small diameter lateral growth (south side of tree, growing over the garden of Quill Cottage) to a maximum of 2m, maximum diameter pruning cuts 100mm (10cm). NB. Amended specification – agreed by email 19/12/17

Location: Yew Tree Cottage, Whitstone Hill, Pilton

Application Type: Works/Felling of TPO Trees

Decision: Approval with Conditions

Application Number: 2017/0912/FUL

Proposal: Demolition of existing cow shed. Replace with one storey safari style tent with canvas sides on raised wooden decking (amended local plan received 24/11/2017)

Location: Pennard Hill Farm, Stickleball Lane to Pennard Hill Farm, East Pennard

Application Type: Full Application

Decision: Approval with Conditions

iii Enforcement:

- Cock and Bull Drove: No update this month
- Beggars Roost: No update this month
- Friars Oven Farm: The Clerk was asked to advise Simon Snartt, Enforcement Officer, that properties are being let and being advertised on AirB&B. The Clerk will copy in Nigel Hewitt-Cooper.
- Tanyards Lane: No update this month

7 **FOOTPATHS:**

i Update: Councillor King advised that he has met with Steve Bowler. The Footpaths Committee has been running smoothly, Councillor King now has a list of committee members and has spoken with Barrie Fox and Colin Watts. He will now arrange an informal meeting.

Prior to the Annual Parish Meeting Councillor King will divide up the footpaths and Councillors can then walk them and decide what work needs to take place in 2018/19.

- Overgrown footpath off Platterwell Lane: This work has now been completed and can be removed from the agenda.

8 **FINANCE:**

i Financial Statement:

Balance b/f from 31/12/2017			£	22,536.46
Plus banked:				
			£	-
Less cheques drawn:				
2001	Mrs K Buckley (Clerk) - salary & o/t (5 hours)		£	240.80
	(£10 home working allowance,)		£	10.00
2002	Mrs W Lynn (Burial Secretary) - salary		£	35.00
2003	Pilton Working Mens Club		£	12.00
	Mr R England		£	-
1999	Audrey Brown - Litter Pick Catering		£	30.00
1998	Brooks Agri Ltd		£	72.00
2000	Pilton Parish History Group - Book		£	9.00
2004	Mendip Community Transport		£	250.00
			£	658.80
Balance at 31/12/2017			£	21,877.66

ii Financial News:

- Precept – It was agreed at the Precept/budget setting meeting immediately prior to this meeting to keep the Precept at £8000.
- West Pennard School has requested that the Parish Council continue to assist in funding the School Bus, It was agreed unanimously to continue.
- The ASBO's requested that the Parish Council continue to donate £400 per annum so they can continue their work. This was unanimously agreed.

9 **CORRESPONDENCE:**

- i. Weekly Email News Digest, Rural Services Network Monday 4th December
- ii. Public Sector Executive Online 4/12
- iii. Public Sector Executive Online 5/12
- iv. Rural Opportunities Bulletin, Rural Services Network 6/12
- v. Public Sector Executive Online 6/12
- vi. Recycle SWP Monthly Briefing November 17
- vii. Public Sector Executive Online 7/12
- viii. Public Sector Executive Online 11/12
- ix. Weekly Email News Digest, Rural Services Network – Monday 11th December
- x. Group Manager Contact Details 12/12
- xi. Rural Economy Spotlight, Rural Services Network 13/12
- xii. Member Information Sheet – New Waste Treatment Facility Update, moving away from landfill.
- xiii. Public Sector Executive Online 15/12
- xiv. Public Sector Executive Online 18/12
- xv. Rural Services Network 18/12
- xvi. Recycle SWP monthly briefing December 2017
- xvii. Rural Vulnerability Network, Rural Fuel Poverty Newsletter 20/12
- xviii. Parish and Town Council Information Bulletin –December 2017
- xix. A quick guide to winter health and safety – Zurich Insurance

- xx. Claire Dicken – MDC Calendar of Meetings 2018/19
- xxi. Somerset Prepared – Winter Newsletter 21/12
- xxii. Mendip Local Plan Part II: Sites and Policies 22/12
- xxiii. Public Sector Executive Online 22/12
- xxiv. Weekly Update from James Heapey 22/12
- xxv. Rural Vulnerability Service – Rural Transport – December 2017

10 **BURIAL GROUND:**

- i Maintenance reports:
Two were received both were fine.
- ii Cutting of vegetation: A working party has now been organised for a few weeks time when the ground is drier. Councillors Foley and Smith will provide refreshments.

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

- i Roundabout report
The date for the next Village Litter Pick is Saturday 17th February, meeting at the Village Hall at 9am. Refreshments will be provided.

Residents are reminded not to put their recycling out too early as on windy days it is being blown about the village. Please ensure rubbish is picked up outside your property and help to keep the village tidy.

It has been brought to the Parish Councils attention that there is a lot of dog mess around the village. Dog owners are reminded to be responsible and clear up after their dogs.

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A date for the next Village Litter Pick has been arranged for Saturday 17th February, meeting at the Village Hall at 9am. Councillor R Kearle has organised the refreshments. The Clerk will book a room at the Village Hall for Soup after the litter pick.

There is a lot of rubbish on the road to Shepton Mallet at Elm Farm to Lamberts Hill crossroads and along East Compton– The Clerk will report this to MDC.

The sign has been turned round on the road at Lambert Hill crossroads to Shepton Mallet before the railway line bridge – The Clerk will advise MDC.

The Clerk reminded Councillors that the Annual Parish Meeting is being held on Wednesday 18th April at 7.30pm.

- 14 **NEXT MEETING:** Parish Council Meeting Wednesday 7th February 2018 at 7.30pm
Meeting closed 8.28pm