

Minutes of the Meeting of the Pilton Parish Council
in the Pilton Village Hall
on Wednesday 5th August 2015 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors Robert Kearle (Chairman)
Steve Bowler
Holly Corfield
Dave Drew
Jean Foley
John Howe
Joseph King
Roger Noble

Karen Buckley (Clerk/RFO)

5 Member of the public were present also MP James Heapey, Councillor Nigel Hewitt-Cooper and Councillor Nigel Woolcombe-Adams.

1 **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

i Mobile phones should be switched to silent.

2 **APOLOGIES:** Stephen Kearle

3 **MINUTES:** Councillor King stated that on 5iii, of meeting held on the 1st July 2015, should read Councillor King advised that 5iii of the meeting held on 1st July 2015 should read

‘The Cockmill Footbridge falls within the Parish of Pylle and not East Pennard. The footbridge has nothing to do with East Pennard Parish Council, which is not a District Council, as stated in error in the minutes. If the Parish Council takes over ownership of the bridge no third party has to be involved. Councillor Howe checked this with ALC directly. He confirmed that it is perfectly legal for Pilton Parish Council to own structures outside of the Parish Boundary. ALC’s Chairman pointed out that several Parishes in the West Country own “Village Halls” outside of their Parish Boundary because of a lack of land available within the Parish.

Councillor King then went on to say that he felt that the minutes should clearly state the motion that the Councillors voted on as a general principle, stating the proposer and seconder. It is particularly important when as in this case the amount of potential expenditure is substantial.

4 **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS:**

Item 12 Festival: Councillors R Kearle (dispensation approved), Councillor Corfield declared a prejudicial interest (employment). Councillors Bowler Corfield, Drew, Foley, King, Howe and Noble, declared a personal interest (ticket).

Councillors R Kearle and 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 man hole cover at the junction of St Mary’s Lane and Top Street rattle. The Clerk will inform Higways.

- ii Zebra crossing between bus stops on the A361:
The Clerk received an email from Sara Davis, SCC advising that Councillor Woolcombe-Adams needs to submit an application in the Autumn. Councillor Woolcombe-Adams agreed to put the scheme forward to try to obtain funding as part of the Legacy Fund.
- iii Fords and Bridges:
Councillor Howe provided photos of the bridges. The Clerk was requested to chase Paul Tucker SCC for an update.
Councillor Bowler will be investigating whether funding could be available through Rees Jeffries Road Fund.
- iv Fingerposts:
The Clerk advised that John Pratt has been a great help in providing information to enable her to obtain quotations for the fingerposts. The Clerk and John Pratt will liaise further with the company, Sign of the Times.
- v Mendip Community Transport Service (Slinky Bus):
After emailing surrounding Parishes, the Clerk has interest from Baltonsborough and North Wooton, regarding a new service from Mendip Community Transport Service. Councillor Woolcombe-Adams confirmed funding had been cut and it was unlikely that the service would revert back to how it was. The Clerk has been in further discussion with Mendip Community Transport Service regarding presenting to local communities about a possible new service. Mike Curtis has written to local Parishes regarding setting up a new service and once he has received responses and a new date will be arranged for him to present his proposal.
- vi Community and Ownership and Management of Assets Programme:
No update
- vii Speed Camera Devices:
Jude Glide presented her finding relating to a Freedom of Information Request.
The Clerk has contacted SCC to ask what actions will be forthcoming from this information. The Clerk has also contacted the Police and Councillors Nigel Woolcombe-Adams and Nigel Hewitt Cooper. Councillor Woolcombe-Adams did not receive a copy of the email and asked the Clerk to resend. The Police are requested to attend Septembers Parish Council Meeting, the Clerk will arrange this. Once confirmed a notice will be put in the Roundabout. No response has been received from the Police and the Clerk will chase them.
It was suggested that Ann Elmsleigh of Lydford be contacted as she has arranged a local speedwatch in her village. Councillor Woolcombe-Adams will send the Clerk her contact details.
- Close meeting
Open meeting
- viii Local Resident: Letters have been sent to Sue Mountstevens, John Long, Stuart Brown and emails to Councillor Hewitt Cooper and Councillor Woolcombe-Adams. MP James Heapey asked the Clerk to write to him regarding this and he will discuss this with Sue Mountstevens as he has a meeting arranged with her.
- Closed meeting

A member of the public advised that they were nearly run off the road by the resident during the festival (and is heavily pregnant). They reported it to the police the next day and the police advised it was too late for action to be taken, even though they had witnesses.

Open meeting

During the festival the Village Liaison Officer was assaulted and the resident received a conditional discharge.

It was felt by the Parish Council that there should be a call for the resident's driving licence to be removed and a mental health assessment be carried out.

ix Highway Gullies at Toll Cottage:

The Clerk has received emails from Janet Raynsford of Toll Cottage, of her concerns that the drains are blocked and when it rains water is rising to nearly reach her front door. Emails have been sent to Neil Corp and Jeff Bunting of SCC but no response has been received. The Clerk will chase.

x Potholes:

The Clerk has emailed to SCC to report potholes and some has now been marked for repair.

xi Count of Gypsy and Traveller Caravans and Sites:

Councillor Noble has completed the Gypsy and Traveller Caravans and Sites count for MDC. Councillor Noble confirmed that there were between 35-40 unauthorised caravans in the village and 17 authorised caravans.

6 **PLANNING:**

i Application Number: 2015/1530/TCA

Proposal: Proposed works to/felling of trees in a conservation area

Location: Barrow House, Ford Lane, Pilton, Shepton Mallet

Application Type: Works/Felling Trees in a CA

Parish Councils Recommendation: APPROVAL

Application Number: 2013/0676

Proposal: The seasonal use (11 Months) of the caravan (with an existing Certificate of Lawful Use or Development) for holiday letting. The siting of a septic tank. The re-opening of an access onto a classified road and the creation of a parking area suitable for two (2) vehicles.

Location: Wintrow, Pylle Road, Pilton, Shepton Mallet, BA4 4HP

Application Type: Full Application

Parish Councils Recommendation: APPROVAL

Discussion took place regarding the above planning application. It was confirmed that no more than 8 people were expected to be on staying on site at any time. Councillor Drew proposal approval of the application and Councillor Bowler seconded. It was voted 4 in favour, 3 against, the Parish Council therefore approved the application.

ii MDC planning decisions and recommendations:

Application Number: 2015/1243/LBC

Proposal: Replacement windows and doors

Location: Corner Cottage, Pilton, Shepton Mallet, BA4 4DX

Decision: APPROVAL WITH CONDITIONS

Application Number: 2015/9070/LBC

Proposal: Replacement of existing front door and frame

Location: Durston Cottage, Park Hill, Pilton, Shepton Mallet, BA4 4AX

Decision: APPROVAL WITH CONDITIONS

iii Enforcement:

Discussion took place regarding Cock and Bull Drove. Concerns were raised that this has been under enforcement since 2004. The Clerk has sent a Freedom of Information request to MDC regarding payments made to the site since enforcement relating to Council Tax, Housing Benefit and the costs involved with enforcement. MP James Heapey attended the meeting. James Heapey confirmed that this is a nationwide issue which was debated in Parliament Hall 8 weeks ago. James Heapey is working with other MP's to give District Councils more empowerment and currently Planning Enforcement is powerless due to backlog and planning process.

Councillor Woolcombe-Adams advised that MDC have done all that they can and it is currently with the Courts. He also stated that MDC will be getting 2 new Enforcement Officers.

The Clerk has contacted the Chief Executive at MDC regarding what action is to be taken and advising that if no action is taken the Parish Council will contact the Local Government Ombudsman.

Councillor Hewitt-Cooper stated that Councillor Woolcombe-Adams has given his full support to this matter as has MDC and the Parish Council thanked them for their support.

FOOTPATHS:

i Councillor Bowler confirmed that maps would be produced with the map that an app or a downloadable PDF document could appear on the Pilton website. The Clerk has contacted SCC Footpaths to see if an online version is available and whether we could have a link to the Pilton website however they advised that we contact Ordinance Survey, who charge for maps. Councillor Bowler advised that he is discussing with Scott, who runs the Pilton Website, regarding putting maps on the website.

No update was received regarding Councillor Bowler contacting Steambow Farms regarding reinstating the footpath through their maze field, or purchasing signs requesting keeping dogs on leads and picking up dog waste.

8 **FINANCE:**

i Financial Statement:

The Clerk explained the financial statement for this month.

Balance b/f from 01.07.15	£41,456.46
Plus banked:	
Karen Buckley (refund on laptop)	£24.85
Forsey & Son	£20.00
	£ 41,501.31
Less cheques drawn:	
Mrs K Buckley (Clerk) - salary/expenses	£249.20
Mrs W Lynn (Burial Secretary) - salary	£30.83
R England (Groundsman) - wages	£32.00
SALC (Councillor Training)	£20.00
Total cheques drawn:	£332.03
Balance at 05.08.15	£41,169.28

ii Clerks laptop:

The Clerk has received a credit of £24.86 which she will refund the Parish Council.

iii Employee Pension

The Clerk has since received information regarding pensions and will look into what action is required.

9 **CORRESPONDENCE:**

- i Letter from Mendip District Council:
The Parish Council were made aware that a complaint from resident has been received by MDC. The Clerk has responded accordingly.
- ii Email re Hedge Cuttings:
Email from Miranda Ryder received as hedge cuttings for the verges have been dumped in her garden. The Clerk and the Chairman have looked into this but is unable to identify who it was.
- iii Empty Homes Working Group:
Call for District Councils to join MDC working group, no volunteers were forthcoming.
- iv Adopt a Path Scheme:
Email from SCC. Councillor Bowler suggested John Pratt take this on as it links in with the work the ASBO's do.
- v Press release from Plant Life:
Bee Survey and Road Verges Campaign. Councillor King asked for further details regarding this. The Clerk will forward the email.
- vi Planning Training for New Councillors:
Presentation from MDC emailed to Councillors
- vii Temporary Road Closure at Parsons Batch, Pilton
The road will closed on the 10th August for 26 days, including Bank Holidays, for earthworks to be carried out.
- viii Temporary Road Closure at Wraxall Road, Ditchet
The road will close on the 10th August for 2 days, for resurfacing works.
- ix July Parish Bulletin: Email from MDC

10 **BURIAL GROUND:**

- i Maintenance reports:
Councillor Drew produced 2 reports, both were fine.

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

- i Roundabout report
Somerset Choices – Somerset Choices has been launched by Somerset County Council. It aims to put people in control of their care and wellbeing and give them more choice when it comes to who provides their care. For more information visit www.somersetchoices.org or leaflets are in the Village Hall.
County Councillor Grant – Your suggestion are required, as a small amount of money may be available for a worthy cause.

Mendip District Councillor Grant – The Parish Council will be applying once again for this Grant.

The

Skate Park was the result of a previous grant.

Unauthorised Business

Councillor Nobile advised that a business is being run from Kenton Farm, no planning permission has been sought. The Clerk will advise MDC.

Bourne Farm

Councillor advised that Bourne Farm have a new drive which alters the landscape. This has sought planning permission.

The Gables

Councillor Nobile advised that there is a new entrance to The Gables, were planning permission has not been sought. This will be added to September's agenda for further discussion.

Rubbish Dumped

Councillor Noble stated that rubbish has been dumped in a layby near Steambow and Lower Westholme Road. The Clerk will advise MDC.

Rave at Platerwell Lane

Councillor Noble advised that loud music was being played until the early hours at Platerwell Lane, the weekend of 1st and 2nd August, which was louder than the Festival. The Clerk was asked to advise MDC.

White Van Opposite Village Hall

The white van opposite the Village Hall should be put on the agenda for September's meeting.

12 **FESTIVAL:**

i Vehicle access to Worthy Farm:

MP James Heapey regarding the Clerk send him future GFL meeting dates.

A map was provided from GFL showing off site camping. As requested at the GFL meeting the evening before.

The Clerk was asked to review the responses regarding Festival Feedback and not the key points and advise the Parish Council at the September meeting.

Discussion took place regarding Festival signs that have been left up warning of narrow lanes etc. It was decided that these would be left at discussed further at the September Parish Council meeting.

Councillor Howe advised that he had been given parking signs by GFL, he felt it was not the Parish Councils job to erect these. Councillor Kearle advised that he has spoken with the Village Liaison Officer and this was a misunderstanding. The Clerk was requested to email Phil Appleton to request that they are collected from Councillor Howe.

The clearway system and enforcement should be added to the agenda for next month's Parish Council meeting.

ii GFL/PPC

A meeting took place on the 4th August 2015. Future dates to be confirmed

13 **NEXT MEETING:** Wednesday 2nd September 2015 7.30pm

Meeting closed 9.40pm