

**Minutes of the meeting of the Pilton Parish Council held
in the Pilton Village Hall
on Wednesday 5th February 2020 at 7.30pm**

Present: Councillors Robert Kearle (Chairman)
Lynda Allen
Colin Elkin
Stephen Kearle
Joe King
Roger Noble
Andrew Shaw

Karen Buckley (Clerk/RFO)

12 Members of the public were present.

1. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

i Mobile phones should be switched to silent.

2. **APOLOGIES:** Audrey Brown, David Drew.

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS:** Councillors R Kearle (dispensation approved), declared a prejudicial interest (employment) GFEL.
Councillors Allen, Drew, Elkin, S Kearle, King, Noble and Shaw declared a personal interest (ticket).

4. **MINUTES:** of the 8th January were approved.

5. **MATTERS ARISING:**

i Traffic Matters:

- A361 Bypass: Consultation possibly in June. A joint letter with North Wootten has been sent. AAIR (Alliance Against Invasive Roads) are having a public meeting on the 27th February in the Village Hall. They are collecting information on both of the proposed routes. The Parish Council voted 3 in favour, 1 against and 1 abstention in favour of co-hosting the meeting with the AAIR group.
Nigel Hewitt-Cooper is meeting with MP James Heapey next week. The person at Mendip District Council who is responsible for making the decision is Councillor Peter Goater. The Clerk will write to Peter officially asking him to withdrawal the Bypass Scheme. This letter will be shared with AAIR.
Nigel has asked for all affected landowners to be contacted but has received no response. Nigel will forward the Clerk a copy of the email.
- Highways: Clerks Report – See Appendix A
The Clerk asked Councillors to review the report and asked for the list of defects to be updated.
- Puffin Crossing: Update from Nigel Hewitt-Cooper – Highways believe that the traffic on the A361 will be moving too fast to site the puffin crossing as it is at the bottom of the hill. Councillor King has a Speedwatch location in the middle of the village and will provide Nigel with the traffic speeds.

Councillor R Kearle asked what legislation Highways were using to make this decision. Nigel will enquire.

- New Defects:

The potholes are very bad by East Town Lane Farm, they have been patched up but the holes are getting bigger.

In West Compton in Lower Street, opposite Beech Cottage there are potholes. At Stumps Cross two motorists have had damaged cars caused by potholes. These have been reported by the motorists.

There has been a lot of debris left where a new entrance has been made in Neat Lane opposite Neo Gratis.

ii Community Speedwatch:

- Update – Speedwatch are collecting data regarding the school bus. On the A361 adjacent to the Neat Lane junction, there were 40 cars speeding per hour, now around 20 per hour as residents are aware that Speedwatch monitor that area. Total traffic numbers are down at present.
- Truck Count – 50/60 HGV's per hour at school bus times. Between 8am and 9am there were 900 vehicles per hour, 700 per hour at school bus times

iii Police Report: January Report - Specific reports for Pilton

07/01 – Dwelling burglary, John Beales Hill. Insecure property, investigations proved negative.

15/01 – Cumhill, report of suspicious male who had stopped and parked to have a cigarette. No action taken.

20/01 – East Town Lane, burglary of garage, tools and materials stolen. No obvious scope for CSI, no adjoining door to property, no CCTV or witnesses.

31/01 – A361 Whitstone Hill, broken down vehicle, blocking live lane. Police in attendance.

iv Village Signs: Nigel Hewitt-Cooper met with residents regarding the signs. The new signs will be erected in approximately 3 weeks. This should rectify any confusion.

vi Hedge near Lamberts Hill Farm (going towards Shepton on A361): An application to carry out the works has been submitted to Highways. Highways have visited the site 4 times. Work cannot take place until there is agreement from Highways and they have done a survey.

Councillor S Kearle suggested that the Parish Council write to suggest a roundabout be put in place at the junction. This would slow traffic down and with the new housing development at the showground, traffic will only increase. The Parish Council voted unanimously in favour. A letter will be sent to Rebecca via email. Nigel confirmed that he fully supports this proposal.

vii VE Day Anniversary: It was agreed that it should go in the Roundabout Magazine asking for suggestions on how the village want to celebrate VE day and for residents to email Councillor Shaw. This will also be raised at the end of the AAIR meeting on the 27th February.

viii Bus Shelter: Work has now been completed. Further repairs have been suggested and Councillor Drew will review and report back to the Parish Council at the March meeting.

ix Update from Nigel Hewitt-Cooper: See Appendix C.

6. **PLANNING:**

i

Application Number	Proposal	Applicant & Location

ii MDC planning decisions and recommendations:

Application Number	Proposal	Location	Decision
2019/1505/FUL	Partial erection of crane structure for a temporary period until 1 st August 2023	Steanbow Farm, Steanbow, Pilton	Refusal
2019/2526//CLE	Confirmation of the existing status of the use of existing land, which has been used for the stationing of caravans for non-residential purposes, such as storage and other occasional uses on an ongoing basis at the land for more than the statutory ten year period.	Beggars Roost, Pylle Road, Pilton	Approve
2019/2773/LBC	Refurbishment works to include rebuilding external wall using existing stone, improve structural support to part of gable end wall, re-point property with a lime mortar, rebuilding part of roof frame and replace bedroom 1 floor construction.	Riverdale East Town Lane, Pilton	Approval
2019/2893//APP	Application for the approval of details reserved by conditions 3(materials – Submission of Schedule and Samples), 4 (joinery), 5 (ducts, pipes and rainwater goods, 6 (roofing) on listed building consent 2018/3140/LBC	Upper Westholme Farm, Perridge Hill. Pilton	Approval

iii Enforcement: A resident in West Compton, who is part of the Carnival Club, situated past West Compton Farm has been burning toxic waste. A resident has approached them but did not receive a good response. Nigel Hewitt-Cooper will take this forward.

The caravan reported last month is on Ridge Road on the right hand side from Knowle Lane, beyond the bridleway near Society House.

Councillor Noble advised that there are 60 caravans located in Pilton. There is frustration as it seems that Mendip District Council do not take action on the Traveller Counts that have previously been provided.

At West Compton there are 40 people living in caravans. Councillor Noble will write this up and send to the Clerk, who will forward to Nigel Hewitt-Cooper.

7. **FOOTPATHS:**

- i Update: Update from Councillors: FP 16/42, Copse Lane to Riverdale was a bridleway in the past, unsure of its present status. Andrew Saint, Rights of Way at Somerset County Council states its legal status is a footpath. Councillor King will organise a sign. A local resident will add this to the next Bridleway's Agenda and ask for research into the status.

Councillor Noble felt it was important the homeowners were kept informed as the footpath/bridleway goes through the owners garden.

The ASBO's have met with Somerset Bridleways Adam Clerk and the owner of Society House. It was agreed that Adam Clerk will do the necessary work and Bridleway's will pay.

8. FINANCE:

i Financial Statement:

Plus banked:							
	cq refusal					£	1.50
	Bank Interest					£	5.02
	HMRC refund					£	735.45
						£	<u>741.97</u>
Less cheques drawn:							
	adjusted cq amt from dec					£	1.40
cq number	details						
2156	K Buckley	(salary + expenses)					409.74
(HWA £10 insurance £5.50 ink £64.99, postage £1.90)							
2160	Mendip Citizens Advice						100.00
2158	AC Pearce (Bus Shelter)						100.00
2159	Pilton Working Mens Club						15.00
2157	W Lynn						127.00
						£	<u>753.14</u>
						£	<u>5,268.06</u>
Balance at 31/01/2020							

ii Financial News/ Requests for Grants:

- Improving Lives Grant Scheme – there was no update this month. The Clerk will chase Nigel Hewitt-Cooper.
- West Pennard School Bus Grant – It was agreed that the Parish Council will write the cheque for the £1000 grant. It will be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting if there is enough money to provide a further grant. It was stated that the school should also be applying for a Pilton Show Grant.
- The Parish Council were made aware that the School Bus was causing congestion in Top Street.

9. CORRESPONDENCE:

- Clerks report: See Appendix B
- Any correspondence requiring further discussion:

10. BURIAL GROUND

- Maintenance reports:
Two reports were received both were fine.

Councillor Noble agreed to meet with Forsey and Sons to discuss what work needs to be done to improve the condition of a grave.

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

i. Roundabout report

The Parish Council is concerned about the amount of rubbish within the village, Neat Lane is particularly bad.

The next Parish Litter Pick is taking place on Saturday 21st March, please look out for the posters and join the Parish Council in keeping the village a place to be proud of. Food and refreshments will be provided for all those that help.

Residents are reminded to cut overhanging vegetation, hedges and bushes to keep pavements clear. This needs to be done now; before the birds start nesting.

Please contact Councillor Andrew Shaw with your suggestions on how the village should celebrate VE day. Andrew can be contact on asshaw98@gmail.com

The Clerk was asked to contact the website administrator as the agenda's etc are not being uploaded. The Clerk will also check with SALC regarding whether the Parish Council should have its own website.

Thanks was given to the person who has cut the trees at Neat Lane/Cannards Grave.

12. **GLASTONBURY FESTIVAL:**

i. Date of the next GFEL/PPC meeting: Tuesday 11th February 2020

13. **NEXT MEETING:** Parish Council Meeting Wednesday 4th March 2019 at 7.30pm

Meeting closed 8.58pm

Appendix A

Outstanding Pilton Parish Defects - January 2020

Blocked Drains/ Gullies:

- a) Overflowing drain in East Town Lane: SCC advised complete however Councillors advised that the drain is full and water is not running away. The drain needs sucking. Still awaiting a details of locations as unable to locate. The highway gullies adjacent to Pilton House were cleared on 28/10/19
- b) There is still flooding at Pilton House. Further location details required.
- c) Water going from Lower Street towards Beales House next to Gable House, either the drain is blocked or sprung. Under investigation
- d) Top Street to Culverwell Cottage, drain is blocked and not taking water. This has been inspected and a jetting order placed for clearance of the blockage as soon as resources are available ref: 536996
- e) Westholme House water is coming out of a drain causing flooding outside of the Lodge. This has been inspected and a jetting order placed for clearance of the blockage as soon as resources are available ref: 536996.
- f) Near the railway bridge on the B136 the BT cover is overflowing and the water will freeze. Manhole near the railway bridge.
- g) Hill, this item has been inspected and a jetting order placed for clearance of the blockage as soon as resources are available. Ref 536998 as per recent reply to PC.
- h) Neat Lane before the allotments, the drain is full with detritus.
- i) The drain at Burford has been cleared.
- j) Perridge Farm Crossroads Flooding. This item has been inspected and a jetting order placed for clearance of the blockage as soon as resources are available. Ref 536997 as per recent reply to PC.

Potholes

- a) There is a large Pothole at the top of Mount Pleasant. Inspection arranged ref 531013
- b) A parishioner has highlighted potholes in Compton Lane, at the end where it turns left (East) and runs along the side of Manor Barn. There are several holes and at least 3 large ones appear to fall within Somerset CC's criteria for repair.
- c) Stoodley Hill potholes getting worse. Some have been repaired but not all. Works order issued
- d) Bad potholes in St Mary's Lane. Works Order issued.
- e) The large pothole outside the gates of Springfield House at the top end of Neat Lane is causing cars to come round the bend from Shepton direction on the wrong side of the road, trying to avoid the deep pothole there. The hole appeared there as it seems to have got rougher and deeper. Ref 533859
- f) Pothole at East Town Lane by East Town Farm– more damage has been done to the road. A resident advised of four accidents due to speeding in the last few weeks including a car being written off. Safety defects already repaired no further defects apparent Ref 536441.
- g) Bad potholes in Perridge Hill – Not currently classed as a safety defect. Ref 536438
- h) The road between Burford and West Compton needs attention. No safety defects apparent. Ref: 536440. The roads through Burford and West Compton have been inspected twice recently on 28/10/19 and on 13/11/19 on each occasion no actionable safety defects were apparent. We are aware that some sections of the road are showing signs of deterioration and will be monitored for consideration for inclusion in the future planned works programme.
- i) On the West Compton Road towards Friars Oven the potholes are very bad and there is mud and scalplings on the road. No safety defects apparent Ref 536442
- j) Platterwell Lane before Platterwell Cottage there is bad potholes. An inspection of the lane has been carried out and no actionable defects could be identified. Ref: 536999
- k) North of Perridge Farm there are very deep potholes.

- l) There are potholes in East Town Lane, near East Town Farm and at the top of Burford. Ref: 538333
- m) There are large potholes at the Springfield Crossroads on the Pilton to Shepton Mallet turn off. The sign was knocked down and is now missing. Ref: 538335
- n) There are two large potholes by Two Oaks in Totterdown Lane. Ref: 538336
- o) There are bad potholes at Stumps Cross towards the crematorium. Ref: 538337

General

- a) Road Markings on Stoodley Lane and Bowermead Lane: These have been inspected and passed to traffic for inclusion in their works programme. These have been added to our parking review programme.
- b) Visibility down Lamberts Hill: This has been referred to the 'Traffic Section' *An inspection has been carried out and no actionable defects could be identified.* A Councillor had a near miss due to the visibility at the Lamberts Hill/Shepton Mallet cross roads. There is poor visibility when looking right towards Lamberts Hill into Pilton. Traffic section dealing (SIS submission) In light of accident history Traffic Management will look at what improvements can be made and they will advise Nigel Hewitt-Cooper of updates. No timescales can be given.
- c) Yellow Lines at the bottom of Totterdown Lane: This has been added to the next Mendip Traffic Regulation Order with the support of Nigel Hewitt-Cooper. This is now only done once a year and likely to be done later in the year with all other Mendip sites. Traffic section dealing (SIS submission)
- d) The wall belonging to Orchard House in Pylle Road seems to be unstable, it is along the road that leads to the playing fields and there is concern that children could be walking along side it. Item passed to building control MDC.
- e) The road down Perridge Hill is veering to the right and the road is cracking up in the middle. No safety defects identified, site subject to Badger excavations. To be monitored when staff in areas. An inspection of the subsidence at the top of Perridge Lane north of Perridge Farm has been arranged and any safety defects identified will be actioned as necessary. Ref 537137. For information works have recently been carried out on the Badger damage on Perridge Hill.
- f) The Bridge has now been hit for a third time and the Parish Council think it's in a dangerous state. This has been reported twice previously. SCC advised that this has been passed to the Structures Team in Taunton bridges@somerset.gov.uk. The bridge at Stoodley has been hit for the fourth time. Urgent action is required. The Clerk has chased March 19. Update (March 19) there is now a large section, approx. half a metre wide, which has fallen off completely, exposing the risk of falling through into the stream. The Bridge at Stoodley has been repaired after it was driven into on numerous occasions. The Clerk has asked Highways for the availability of a 'narrow bridge', 'weak bridge' or 'weight restriction' sign.
- g) The Clerk was asked to contact SCC regarding a request for 'Stop' signs at Burford. SCC advised that this has been forwarded to the traffic team for consideration. Not aware of this request, however if you are requesting a stop sign in place of a Give Way, DfT guidance states that new approvals for stop signs are only in exceptional circumstances. It is widely considered that all existing junctions requiring a stop sign would already have one approved. The guidance also states that a stop should only be used where visibility is so restricted that it is essential to stop, and that it cannot be used where visibility can be improved by cutting back a hedge etc.
- h) Lot of detritus in the drains, a list needs to be compiled of the locations and Councillor King will ask the ASBO's to clear the drains. Ridge Lane into Compton Lane. Noted
- i) Shop Lane and Top Street, an ambulance couldn't get through. Nigel will chase the painting of the double yellow lines. Forwarded to Traffic Section.

- j) The pavement at the bottom of Shop Lane has been damaged since the Water Board was working there. An inspection of the location has been arranged and safety defects identified will be actioned as necessary. Ref 530986.
- k) The weight limit sign at Barrows Hill needs putting back up.
- l) The sign at the top of Compton Lane (no through road) has been knocked over: Not aware of this request, please could you confirm whether the sign still needs to be erected? Is the sign still there? With Traffic Dept
- m) Fingerposts - A temporary repair on the one at the top of Copse Lane hill. ASBOs are looking into replacing the other listed damaged ones. With Traffic Dept
- n) The plastic chevron road sign on the verge outside the Manor House has been knocked over and people are driving on the verge. Further location details required.
- o) A361 the tarmac has broken away outside Fairfield Bungalow. Reported
- p) The grass verge has been gouged out to the tarmac at Copse Hill to Pylle Road. This is deemed urgent as will damage a tyre. Ref: 533862
- q) The reflectors need replacing by the Manor House. Ref:533841
- r) Stoodley Hill is pretty rough at moment in places. Ref: 533857
- s) Uneven camber at top of lane going to Perridge Farm. Ref: 533857
- t) On the way to Shepton on the B road, the next turning on left after the West Compton turn, going along the ridges down to Dinder has got dreadfully rough side edges not good for tyres, which I keep getting pushed into by 4 x 4.
- u) There is a rough edge to the road as you go down Neat Lane on the left gully.
- v) At Copse Hill/Copse Lane along Pylle Road the verges need reinstating. This will be brought up at the next GFEL/PPC meeting.
- w) The edges to the road in Stoodley Lane need attention.
- x) On the B136 before Shepton Mallet 150 yards before the railway bridge there is a large sunken drain which is blocked. This has been inspected and a jetting order placed for clearance of the blockage as soon as resources are available. Ref: 536998
- y) The sign and wall at the War Memorial have been damaged due to a car crash, the sign needs re-erecting please. The post has been erected and the repeater speed plate will be fixed as soon as possible.
- z) The verges on Top Street near Oathill Cottages are mud and it's a mess.

- aa) Where cars pull in by The Manor, the verge is in a dreadful state.
- bb) A 20 metre stretch of road on Perridge Hill by Brown Cow Organics has subsided.
- cc) Outside Walnut House the manholes have sunk and are very noisy when vehicles go over them. Just in case no-one else has noticed it, the "temporarily repaired" sunken manhole at the bottom of Lamberts Hill is now as bad, if not worse, than ever. Moreover, drivers are either more aware of it now or can see it better with its new red border and are swerving onto the wrong side of the road to avoid it. Surely even Highways would consider this a safety issue. The covers in question are the responsibility of Bristol Water to maintain and have been reported to them via the Street Works Team for action as they deem necessary. Previously notified to the PC.
- dd) Whilst repairing that one they might also look at another one, also in Lamberts Hill but this time on the southbound side (OS 142 Ref 605,420 approximately).
- ee) The ridge road by Stumps Cross to Canards Grave the condition of the road is very bad, the tarmac is worn away. The road also floods. An inspection of the lane has been carried out and no actionable defects could be identified. Ref: 536000
- ff) There is silt in the middle of road in Bakery Lane. The ASBO's were asked to see if this was work they could do.
- gg) The manor wall it rutted near the Bier House.

- hh) The verge under the Manor wall is a pile of mud and becoming deeper every day. The reflector posts, originally four of them, are all missing. I remember making the same complaint last year but nothing has been done. If the highways refuse to reinstate this verge is it not possible for the Parish Council to be responsible for getting the work done which would improve the approach to the church?
- ii) The corner on the left hand side of the above same road, just below the hearse house, is also unkept and there is a manhole cover standing out above the mud which could cause damage to any vehicle forced to drive off the road on to this area.
- jj) Top Street heading east after Culverwell vehicles have encroached off the edge of the road on the right hand side in order to pass one another. This has created a significantly deep rut which could again damage a vehicle.
- kk) Manhole near the railway bridge, Lamberts Hill, this item has been inspected and a jetting order placed for clearance of the blockage as soon as resources are available. Ref 536998
- ll) Winding Lake Farm. This item has been inspected and the details passed to the Structures Team who maintain the culvert and headwall for action as they deem necessary.
- mm) Hedge and Bank near Crown Inn. An inspection of the hedge and bank on the Eastern side of the Crown Inn has been carried out and in our opinion the hedge does not currently encroach onto the highway to a point where official action would be required as generally the high sided vehicles prevent the hedge from spreading outwards. This section of hedge is not unlike many other sections along the main road through Pilton. It may be advantageous if the PC could remind residents that the responsibility to maintain roadside hedges rests with the landowner as a local approach is often better received.
- nn) Stoodley Hill HGV signage. I have no objection in principal to additional signage, please could you provide a plan/map showing where you would like signage to be placed for me to consider? Would these be the advisory white on blue 'not suitable for HGV's' signs?
- oo) Lamberts Hill crossroads. This junction has been highlighted as an area for improvement and I am aware of the accident history therefore I will be looking at what minor improvements can be made to the signing and lining at this location. With regard to timescales, these improvements will be implemented in the next financial year (After April 2020). Unfortunately I am unable to be more specific at this time however will update you once I have more information.
- pp) Springfield crossroads, I will have a look at the accident record and see if we have any speed data. As discussed I will then look to see what improvements could be made based on the evidence available. As advised I am only able look at minor improvements to the signing and lining. My initial thought was that it is possible that the 30mph speed limit could be made more conspicuous in this area with an aim to reducing the speed of vehicles approaching the junction. I will have a look at this in the next few months and any works and update you.
- qq) A361 - Protruding kerb - We also discussed the pinch points along A361 Whitstone Hill at the hedge and the kerb. I am aware of the issues and as discussed we will look at the option of introducing 'dragons teeth' road markings in this area to highlight to narrowness of the highway. I will draw up some proposals in the next few months and share the with the parish for your support. Again, with regard to timescales, these improvements will be implemented in the next financial year (After April 2020). Unfortunately I am unable to be more specific at this time however will update you once I have more information. .
- rr) The road edges in Neat Lane are getting worse.
- ss) There is 8-10 bags rubbish at the Burford Crossroads at the top of Stoodley, going west. There is more rubbish going towards East Compton on the right hand side and a huge amount of litter on both sides of the road on the A3136 at Lamberts Hill.
- tt) On the Copse Lane footpath the sign had snapped off. **Forwarded to Rights of Way Team.**
- uu) The sign near East Town Farm needs straightening. **Ref: 538299**

- vv) The footpath by the Ford, there is tarmac on the bridge and on one side, however the other side is mud. It was agreed this was a safety hazard and needs tarmacking by Highways. Ref: 538295

Appendix B

Pilton Parish Council

List of Correspondence received January 2020

- i. Buckingham Palace Garden Party 5/1
- ii. Effectively managing your Councils Documents 1/1
- iii. Tree Grant Information 6/1
- iv. The Rural Bulletin, Rural Services Network 7/1
- v. Final 2019 CSW Figures

- vi. RSN Rural Funding Digest – January 2020
- vii. A361 Update from Nigel 8/1
- viii. Rainwater harvesting 8/1
- ix. Future of Local Government in Somerset – Next Steps 8/1
- x. Engagement Bulletin 8/1
- xi. Neighbourhood Plan Seminar – New Year New Plan – What’s in it for us? 13/1
- xii. Well Wessex Day 13/1
- xiii. NALC Spring Conference 2020 13/1
- xiv. Councillors Training Events Winter 2020
- xv. Countryside Signs & Graphics Cheddar 13/1
- xvi. The Rural Bulletin, Rural Services Network 14/1
- xvii. Shepton Mallet United Charities 14/1
- xviii. Invitation to Training 10/1
- xix. Engagement Bulletin 15/1
- xx. Parish Forum Agenda 16/1
- xxi. January Parish Bulletin 16/1
- xxii. Consultation on the future of acute mental health inpatient 17/1
- xxiii. Ash dieback Awareness Open Evening 17/1
- xxiv. Content for parish newsletters and websites – mental health 17/1
- xxv. Quick question about village and community halls in your parish 20/1
- xxvi. Mendip Local Plan Part II: Sites and Policies 20/1
- xxvii. The Rural Bulletin, Rural Services Network 21/1
- xxviii. Standards Committee Agenda 21/1
- xxix. Your change to play at Glastonbury 2020
- xxx. Letter from Cllr Rose Wyke, Leader of the MDC to the Parishes 22/1
- xxxi. Engagement Bulletin 22/1
- xxxii. Rights of Way Issue 54705 with signpost 37389 reported on the 23/1
- xxxiii. Training Dates for Parish Councils – 30th January and 11th February 24/1
- xxxiv. Presentations from the Parish Forum 23rd January 2020
- xxxv. JPAG Practitioners Guide Survey 27/1
- xxxvi. The Rural Bulletin, Rural Services Network 28/1
- xxxvii. Planning Training Sessions 30th January and 11th February. How are Stroud District Council responding to the Climate Emergency? Presentation 28/1
- xxxviii. Engagement Bulletin 29/1

- xxxix.Engagement on community health and care services in Somerset – now live 30/1
- xl. Content for parish newsletters and websites – engagement on community health and care services 30/1
- xli. Recycle – SWP Briefing January 2020
- xlii. Nigel Hewitt-Cooper – Proposed Pilton bypass scheme 02/2

Appendix C

Nigel Hewitt-Cooper Monthly Report

Attached notes for this month (SCC).

For the Mendip side:

The stance from the district council on the unitary issue, is that they favour a closer working arrangement with the other three districts in the county. We've tried to work with the others previously, and it's not worked out as planned, so I'm looking forward to seeing, as with the SCC preferred option at this stage, an evidence based case put forward.

The waste contract comes to an end soon, and the new contractor (SUEZ) will roll out the first tranche of the new arrangement from June. Mendip is the first to benefit from this arrangement, which will see the number of items collected for recycling increasing, and the residual waste collection will drop to thrice weekly. Rather worryingly, around 20% of the residual waste collected is food waste, so I'm hopeful that the campaign to increase awareness of the importance of food waste will encourage those who don't currently bother, to be nudged into action. All residents will receive details imminently.

In Pilton, MDC are still refusing to accept any blame for the handling of the bypass issue. They still say they weren't the ones to leak any information, despite them arranging the briefing with the parish councils, and the presentation itself being branded as coming from MDC. The continued silence from the portfolio holder speaks volumes.

Regards

Nigel