

Minutes of the meeting of the Pilton Parish Council held
in the Pilton Village Hall
on Wednesday 8th January 2020 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors Robert Kearle (Chairman)
Lynda Allen
Audrey Brown
David Drew
Colin Elkin
Stephen Kearle
Joe King
Roger Noble

Karen Buckley (Clerk/RFO)

14 members of the public were present.

1. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

i Mobile phones should be switched to silent.

2. **APOLOGIES:** Andrew Shaw and Nigel Hewitt-Cooper

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS:** Councillors R Kearle (dispensation approved), declared a prejudicial interest (employment) GFEL. Councillors R Kearle, S Kearle and Brown declared an interest in planning application 2019/2935/FUL. Councillors Allen, Brown, Drew, Elkin, S Kearle, King, and Noble declared a personal interest (ticket).

4. **MINUTES:** of the 6th December 2019 were approved.

5. **MATTERS ARISING:**

i Traffic Matters:

- A361 Bypass: It was stated to the Parish Council by a member of the Bypass Action Group that consultants have been commissioned to do a business case on the two proposed options. MP James Heapey has spoken to the Transport Minister and asked that he discourage support for the scheme and decline funding on the grounds that it is not supported by the community. An email address will be provided by Councillor King so the Clerk forward copies of letters that the Parish Council have sent. The Action Group requested that Councillor King be elected as the Parish Council Representative. The vote was unanimously in favour of support. The Parish Council stated that they were happy to share any information with North Wooten. There is very strong feelings regarding how Mendip District Council have and are dealing with the situation, Councillor R Kearle stated that we must focus on getting the Bypass stopped and not on what has happened so far.
- Highways: Clerks Report – See Appendix A
- Puffin Crossing: There was no update from Nigel Hewitt-Cooper this month. Councillor King will provide figures of the number of children crossing the A361 at the next meeting.
- New Defects:

There are potholes in East Town Lane, near East Town Farm and at the top of Burford.

The road edges in Neat Lane are getting worse.

There are large potholes at the Springfield Crossroads on the Pilton to Shelpton Mallet turn off. The sign was knocked down and is now missing.

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.

There are two large potholes by Two Oaks in Totterdown Lane.

There are bad potholes at Stumps Cross towards the crematorium.

- ii Community Speedwatch:
 - The Speedwatch Team took a well-earned week off over Christmas. During 2019 thirty thousand vehicles were monitored with one thousand receiving letters. The Team are waiting for the potential new site to be assessed. Truck Count - The traffic flow on Wednesday 8th January was 400 vehicles per hour, 37 were HGV's, this is half the number of vehicles being counted 6 months ago.
- iii Police Report: December Report - Specific reports for...Pilton

02/12 – St Marys Lane, Double parking at Village Hall & multiple vehicles parked on nearby roads. No clear obstructions reported.
05/12 – St Marys Lane, Reported parking issues, no VRN'S given or actual obstructions.
12/12 - Whitstone Hill, minor RTC non injury, Police attended, vehicles recovered.
19/12 - Reported Bull in road, Whitstone Hill Cross Road, area for none found.
- iv Neighbourhood Watch: Councillor King advised that the Neighbourhood Watch is being run by Peter Lawrence.
- vi Hedge near Lamberts Hill Farm (going towards Shepton on A361): It was confirmed that the owner will be cutting the hedge back by the farm at the top of the hill. It is hoped that Somerset County Council will grant the road closure notice so the trees and hedge can be ripped out or cut down to the level of the road. Councillor S Kearle will be doing the work subject to the approval of MDC as they have not taken the necessary action required to make this junction safer. Steve Russel-Yarde will be the person liaising with Highways.
- vii VE Day Anniversary: There has been no feedback as yet from Councillor Shaw. To date, a church service and afternoon tea is planned. The Parish Council confirmed that they are happy to support the celebrations and are happy to accept suggestions.
- viii Bus Shelter: Councillor Drew will check to see if the work to the bus shelter is complete.
- ix Dog Poo Bins: Bins at the playing fields are the responsibility of the Playing Fields Trust to empty. It was confirmed that the land own did not agree to the proposed additional Dog Poo Bin. It was agreed not pursue any further bins.
- x Update from Nigel Hewitt-Cooper: There was no update from Nigel this month.

6. **PLANNING:**

i

Application Number	Proposal	Applicant & Location
2019/2896/HSE	Erection of two storey side extension.	Mr Patrick Barrett Manor Cottage Compton Lane West Compton Shepton Mallet BA4 4PD
As there is a significant dispute over ownership of the land the Parish Council voted unanimously in favour to defer a decision until the dispute is resolved.		
2019/2986/TCA	Proposed works to trees in a conservation area:- T1-T3 - Maple - Fell	The Haven Cumhill Lane Pilton Shepton Mallet
Pilton Parish Council Recommends: REFUSAL. The reasons being loss of ecological habitat, loss of trees and effect on conservation area. General Observations: The Parish Council would support 'sensitive pruning' of the trees, to preserve them for the future. The Parish Council received 6 letters of objection to the planning application. A resident spoke in favour of refusal of the application.		
Councillors R Kearle, S Kearle and Brown left the meeting. Councillor Noble took over as Chairman. Councillor Noble proposed refusal, Councillor King seconded.		
2019/2935/FUL	Erection of a barn for storage of agricultural and machinery storage, not for Glastonbury Festival use	Glastonbury Festivals Ltd Worthy Farm Worthy Lane Pilton Shepton Mallet BA4 4BY
Pilton Parish Council Recommends: APPROVAL Councillor Elkin proposed approval, Councillor Allen seconded.		

Councillors R Kearle, S Kearle and Brown returned to the meeting. Councillor R Kearle took over as Chairman.

ii MDC planning decisions and recommendations:

Application Number	Proposal	Location	Decision
2019/1768/LBC	Proposed alterations and change of use to annexe and outbuildings to create 3 holiday lets	Manor Farm Farm Lane East Compton Shepton Mallet	Approval with Conditions
2019/2378/FUL	Rear first storey extension over existing (revised plans received 11/11/2019).	1 Beardly Batch Church Lane Cannards Grave Shepton Mallet	Approval with Conditionals
2019/2494/HSE	Proposed flat roofed single storey rear extension	Weir Cottage Weir Lane Pilton Shepton Mallet	Approval with Conditions

2019/2822/HMA	Application for prior notification of agricultural development 2019/1541/HSE to vary wall finish to render on North and East elevations.	Totterdown Farm Totterdown Lane Pilton Shepton Mallet	Approval
2019/2924/AGB	Application for prior notification of agricultural development for a farm store building	Somerset View Farm Compton Lane West Compton Shepton Mallet	Prior Approval is not Required
2019/1927/ADV	1 no. Fascia, 1 no. Projecting sign, 1 no. Suspended logo	Pilton Parish Hall St Marys Lane Pilton Shepton Mallet Somerset	Refusal
2019/1547/FUL	Application for prior notification of agricultural development 2019/1547/HSE to vary wall finish to render on North and East elevations. information received 11th November).	Glasonbury Festivals Ltd Worthy Farm Worthy Lane Pilton	Approval with Conditions

- iii Enforcement: Councillor Noble advised that there was another caravan on Old Wells Road, in the field, passed the bridge, on the right.

7. FOOTPATHS:

- i Update: Update from Councillors: The ASBO's are not working much, no issues have been reported.

It was asked whether the ASBO's could repair 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. The Clerk will notify Highways.

There is a large amount of Ivy on a tree close to Society House, turning right. This needs to be removed to increase visibility on the bridleway. There is also overhanging hazel towards the old railway bridge. The ASBO's will investigate.

At West Compton at Friars Oven, there is an electric fence stopping people using the footpath. Councillor S Kearle will make enquiries.

On the Copse Lane footpath the sign had snapped off. The Clerk will report this to Highways. The sign near East Town Farm needs straightening.

8. FINANCE:

- i Financial Statement:

Plus banked:								
	Bank Interest						£	1.80
							£	1.80
Less cheques drawn:								
cq number	details							
2153	K Buckley	(salary + expenses)						343.05
(HWA £10 insurance £5.50)								
2150	AC Pearce (Bus Shelter)							398.50
2151	A Brown (Refreshments)							60.00
2152	Pilton Working Mens Club							28.00
2154	HMRC	(Clerk 182.00 Burial Ground £14.40)						196.40
2155	W Lynn							37.00
							£	1,062.95
							£	5,281.03
Balance at 31/12/2019								

- ii Financial News/ Requests for Grants:
- Improving Lives Grant Scheme – there has been no update from Nigel Hewitt-Cooper.
 - It was unanimously agreed to give Mendip Citizens Advice a grant of £100.
 - The Clerk asked for an updated list of Parish Council owned assets for the Asset Register and to prepare for the insurance renewal.

9. **CORRESPONDENCE:**

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

10. **BURIAL GROUND**

- i Maintenance reports:
Two reports were received, both were fine.
The Clerk will chase the Funeral Director to improve the condition of the grave at the Burial Ground.

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

- i Roundabout report
Please beware in the wintery weather of icy patches around the village,
Residents are asked to keep hedges cut back and tidy to ensure that footpaths and pavements are kept clear.
Please ensure dog waste is picked up and taken home.

Councillor Noble advised that although Mendip District Council have not requested one, he will look number at the traveller's sites.

12. **GLASTONBURY FESTIVAL:**

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

13. **NEXT MEETING:** Parish Council Meeting Wednesday 5th February 2019 at 7.30pm

Meeting closed 8.34pm

Appendix A

Outstanding Pilton Parish Defects – December 2019

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 spring. 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**
- k)

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.

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.
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- 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.

Appendix B

Pilton Parish Council

List of Correspondence received December 2019

- i. Bus Service: 5 Yeovil – Babcary, 8 Pilton – Yeovil and 19 Bruton – Yeovil 2/12

- ii. The Rural Bulletin, Rural Services Network 3/12
- iii. Acknowledgement of FOI Request – Benjamin Sugg 3/12
- iv. RSN Rural Funding Digest – Rural Services Network December 2019
- v. Engagement Bulletin 4/12
- vi. Neighbourhood Watch Scheme 6/12
- vii. Candice Bahouth December 2019
- viii. Community Speedwatch (CSW) Monthly Activity Report 7/12
- ix. Notes on Leading a Community Tree Planting Day 16/11
- x. Rural Services Network 10/12
- xi. Parish Forum 12th December – Cancellation 10/12
- xii. December Parish Bulletin 10/12
- xiii. Engagement Bulletin 11/12
- xiv. School Admission Arrangements 11/12
- xv. Acquiring Dog Waste Bins 11/12
- xvi. Citizens Advice Letter Annual Report 12/12
- xvii. Rights of Way Issue 13/12
- xviii. Wellers Hedley's Newsletter 13/12
- xix. SALC – Repairs to property relating to affairs of the church 13/12
- xx. SALC - Good Councillors Guide to Transport Planning 13/12
- xxi. SALC – Councillors Training Events Winter 2020
- xxii. Websites and Mobile Applications – Accessibility Regulations 16/12
- xxiii. The Rural Bulletin, Rural Services Network 17/12
- xxiv. Engagement Bulletin 18/12
- xxv. Invite to a talk on “How are Stroud District Council responding to the Climate Emergency?” 18/12
- xxvi. Recycle, SWP Briefing December 2019 20/12
- xxvii. Happy Christmas from the Rural Services Network 23/12
- xxviii. The Rural Bulletin, Rural Services Network 27/12