**Minutes of the meeting of the Pilton Parish Council**

**via Zoom on Wednesday 7th October 2020 at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Councillors Robert Kearle (Chairman)

Audrey Brown

David Drew

Colin Elkin

Stephen Kearle

Joe King

Roger Noble

Lynda Roberts

Andrew Shaw

Karen Buckley (Clerk/RFO)

3 Members of the public were present.

1. **CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

i Mobile phones should be switched to silent.

2. **APOLOGIES:** None

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS:** All Councillors had a personal interest in planning application 2020/1518/FUL. Councillor R Kearle has a prejudicial interest in planning application 2020/1518/FUL. Councillors R Kearle and Drew don’t have an interest at the moment but may do in the future.

4. **MINUTES:** of the 3rd September 2020 were approved.

**MATTERS ARISING:**

i Traffic Matters:

* New Defects – See Appendix A
* The Clerk was asked to write to Nigel Hewitt-Cooper regarding the blocked drains in the village, the drains at John Burns are particularly bad and will become very dangerous.
* The drains at Top Street, at the eastern end of Culverwell Cottages are full with silt.
* Lower Street by Thornton House and Chanters House and Neat Lane, the drains are blocked solid.
* At Springfield House into Lower Street water is running down the road.
* Blocked drains 100m south of the old railway bridge on the B136.
* Perridge Hill going into Watery Lane, the road in breaking up.
* Westholme going towards North Wootten the potholes are getting much bigger.
* The road is breaking up on John Beales Hill.
* The road is subsiding at Parsons Batch.
* There is a blocked drain in Totterdown Lane/ Parsons Batch, Glastonbury side of the road, south of Lays Lane.
* Grit Bins – the Clerk will email to enquire if the Parish Council can collect the from SCC and will copy Nigel Hewitt-Cooper into the email.

ii Community Speedwatch;

The Speedwatch Team are out every week, although one week they were rained off. All is going well and speeding information is sent to Avon and Somerset Police. During one hour session they recorded thirty speeders, with a top speed of 58mph on the B136. The new site, on the hard should at The Manor House exit has been agreed and one session has taken place at the site.

iii Police Report: September Police Report:

Specific reports for… Pilton

01/09 – Conduit Square, public order road rage incident. All parties spoken with.

12/09 – Ridge Lane, report of fireworks being let off causing cattle to spook in nearby field. Victim contacted advice & reassurance given.

Break in at Cannard’s Grave included onto the Police Report. The Police were also called out regarding a suspicious person dressed smartly in a field next to a property. This was not on the report.

iv Playing Field Pavilion:

Councillor R Kearle stated that the Pavilion extension is 70% complete, the walls and roof timbers are up. The remainder will be completed when weather and materials allow.

v Draft Cycling and Walking Manifesto: The Clerk was asked to ensure that the local resident that raised this was included into Mendip District Councils response.

vi Community Fridge: ~This has been located at the Chapel.

vii Cock and Bull Drove and Friar’s Oven: Cock and Bull Drove – nothing has changed, no enforcement has taken place. Enforcement Officer, Simon Snartt needed more details regarding the Friar’s Oven site, the Clerk was asked to provide him with the planning application number.

viii Parish Notice Boards: The noticeboard has be sited at the bottom of the stairs at the Village Hall. There is no header as yet. Councillor King volunteered to post the minutes and agenda on the notice board and also details of how the Parish Council is working under Covid restrictions.

The Clerk was asked to provide a list of Councillor contact details.

ix Autumn Litter Pick: This year we won’t be able to hold our autumn litter pick in its usual format. The socially distanced litter pick will take place on Saturday 14th November. Villagers can collect the pickers and bags from Councillor King. Councillor R Kearle will be collecting the rubbish bags.

x Data Protection: Due to a local Parish Council facing a fine relating to GDPR. The Clerk was asked to enquire about having specific Parish Councillor email addresses, she will contact SALC to see if this is compulsory or just advisable.

xi Vegetation: The Parish Council has received emails from residents regarding the state of some of the hedges within the village. This includes a horse rider having her face stratched. Discussion took place about writing letters to all villagers in Bread Street, Lower Street, Pylle Road, Shop Lane and by the Church.

Counillor Noble proposed this action, Councillor Shaw seconded. Councillor Drew, Elkin, King, Brown, Roberts and S Kearle felt it was better to provide a list of problem hedges and contact the homeowners directly.

5. **PLANNING:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Application Number | Proposal | Applicant & Location |
| 2020/1692/FUL | Proposed cycle parking rack to existing car park. | Mr Lewis Fox  Pilton Parish Hall  St Mary’s Lane  Pilton |
| Pilton Parish Council Recommends – APPROVAL  Councillor Elkin proposed Approval, Councillor Drew seconded, the vote was unanimously in favour of Approval.  Councillor R Kearle left the meeting and Councillor Noble took over as Chairman. | | |
| 2020/1518/FUL | Proposed erection of 80 by 40ft barn. | Mr Robert Kearle  Threlfalls  Whitstone Hill  Pilton |
| Pilton Parish Council Recommends – APPROVAL  Councillor Brown proposed Approval, Councillor Shaw seconded, the vote was unanimously in favour of Approval. Councillor S Kearle abstained.  Councillor R Kearle returned to the meeting and took over as Chairman. | | |
| 2020/1770/TCA | T1 – Leylandii – Trim by 18 inches to 2feet.  T2 – Laburnum – Crown.  T3 – Eucalyptus – Crown and removal of dead branch. | Ms Felicity Samuels  Meadow Lea,  Shutwell Lane,  Pilton |
| Pilton Parish Council Recommends – APPROVAL  Councillor Noble proposed Approval, Councillor King seconded, the vote was unanimously in favour of Approval. | | |
| 2020/1941/TCA | T2 - Turkey Oak - Prune back one low lateral over road to primary branch to effect 5m clearance. T2 - Yew - Remove one low limb over road. Trim back soft growth to effect 5m clearance over road. T4 - Western red cedar - Reduce height by 3m to provide clearance from canopy of adjacent Turkey oak (T2). T5-T7 - 3no. Ash - Fell due to ash dieback disease. T8 - Copper beech - Remove major dead wood and upper crown dieback to suitable live growth. | Gary Wilson  Pilton House,  Lower Street  Pilton |
| Pilton Parish Council Recommends – APPROVAL  Councillor Noble proposed Approval, Councillor Shaw seconded, the vote was unanimously in favour of Approval. | | |
| 2020/1943/TCA | T1 – Common Ash -Fell | Gary Wilson  Pilton House  Lower Street,  Pilton |
| Pilton Parish Council Recommends – APPROVAL  Councillor Noble proposed Approval, Councillor Shaw seconded, the vote was unanimously in favour of Approval. | | |

6. **FINANCE:**

i Financial Statement:



ii Financial News/ Requests for Grants:

There were no requests for grants this month.

7. **BURIAL GROUND**

i Maintenance reports:

The Clerk was asked to check with the Burial Secretary that the correct payment was received for the Jean Wright burial plot.

Councillor’s R Kearle and Noble will be identifying what work need to be carried out at the Burial Ground. Councillor S Kearle will organise the cutting of the hedge.

Councillor Nigel Hewitt-Cooper joined the meeting. For Nigel’s full update see Appendix B

Nigel advised that there is a planning backlog at Mendip District Council, which is growing.

Nigel is keeping an eye on Cock and Bull Drove. Vehicle ownership is being checked and also the breach of the injunction. After the years of work that has been put into clearing the site, Nigel doesn’t want proceedings to fall behind.

Nigel was made aware of the state of the drains. Councillors R Kearle and Noble even showed Highways when they met with them. The Clerk will email Nigel with the details of the blocked drains.

Nigel was made aware that the traveller’s site in West Compton differs to what was agreed by planning and that West Compton residents are extremely unhappy about it. Simon Snart is not being very helpful when contacted and was very rude to Counillor Noble.

Discussion took place regarding how Mendip District Council are going to tackle Ash Dieback. Councillors stressed that Mendip need to take urgent action.

The Clerk was asked to add to next month’s Agenda a proposal for a third defibrillator near Maggie’s Farm.

8. **ITEMS FOR COUNCIL’S INFORMATION:**

i Roundabout report

**Pilton Village Autumn Litterpick**

This year we won’t be able to hold our autumn litter pick in its usual format, enjoying each others company and the delicious refreshments afterwards.

Government Covid guidelines permitting we hope to hold a socially distanced litter pick on Saturday November 14th and during the week before. Litter grabbers and plastic sacks will be available from Mulberry Cottage in Bread St from the Saturday before, November 7th. You can then chose which area you would like to cover and do it at a time of your convenience in a socially distanced fashion. There will then be usual collection of full sacks by Land Rover at the end of November 14th to dispose of the rubbish.

Do contact Joe King on 01749 890357 if you would like further information.

**The Remembrance Day Service**

The Remembrance Day Service will take place at the Pilton War Memorial at 10.45 on Sunday 8th November. Under Covid Guidelines social distancing will take place.

There is still a lot dangerous and inconsiderate parking within the village, please consider others before leaving your vehicle.

The Parish Council have received a number of complaints regarding overgrown hedges within the village. If you haven’t already please keep your hedges well maintained. Should the Parish Council receive further complaints they will be writing to individual households.

The Parish Council kindly request that any rubbish that has been blown out of recycling bins, after collection be picked up. Please help keep the village tidy.

The Clerk was asked to organise the Remembrance Day wreath. The cheque should be for £25 and made payable to Royal British Legion.

The Clerk was also asked to complete a risk assessment for the Service taking place at the War Memorial. Councillor Noble will lay the wreath on behalf of the Parish Council, Councillor R Kearle will controlling traffic. Councillor Noble was asked to organise a bugler, as well as someone to read the names of the fallen. Councillor King will put the Poppies on the road furniture.

A local resident expressed her thanks to Councillor King and his wife Christine for their prompt action and work on the drain,

**NEXT MEETING:** Parish Council Meeting Wednesday 4th November 2020 at 7.30pm

Meeting closed 9pm

**Appendix A – Pilton Parish Defects**

**Outstanding Pilton Parish Defects – November 2020**

**Blocked Drains/ Gullies:**

1. Water going from Lower Street towards Beales House next to Gable House, either the drain is blocked or spring. Under investigation.
2. The drain outside John Burns Cottages is running past the Stricklands property are particularly bad and will become very dangerous. Ref: 602869
3. The drain as you head towards Culverwell House is still blocked as the water is running along the road towards Councillor Noble’s house. Ref: 602870.
4. There is standing water opposite and adjacent to The Manor. Residents state that they have never seen the water so deep. There are no channels for the water to run away. Action needs to be taken before winter. Need more information.
5. The drains at Top Street, at the eastern end of Culverwell Cottages are full with silt.
6. Lower Street by Thornton House and Chanters House and Neat Lane, the drains are blocked solid.
7. At Springfield House into Lower Street water is running down the road.
8. Blocked drains 100m south of the old railway bridge on the B136.
9. There is a blocked drain in Totterdown Lane/ Parsons Batch, Glastonbury side of the road, south of Lays Lane.

**Potholes**

1. There is a large Pothole at the top of Mount Pleasant. Inspection arranged ref 531013
2. 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. Ref:600918
3. On the Pilton to Shepton Mallet turn off the sign was knocked down and is now missing. Ref: 538335. This has been referred to the Traffic Team in [Taunton.TrafficManagement@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:Taunton.TrafficManagement@somerset.gov.uk)
4. A361 breaking up outside the School House and the Forge House. Ref 601470
5. Potholes from Burford to West Compton Ref 601471
6. John Beales Hill and Chapel Hill the road surface is bad Ref 601472
7. Potholes between Westholme Road and Top Street. Ref 601473
8. Potholes outside Burford House
9. Potholes in Perridge Hill
10. Potholes on the West Compton road.
11. Serious potholes outside Perridge House, on Perridge Hill in Pilton and on the West Compton road. Ref 601901.
12. Pothole in Pylle Road opposite Mary’s Lane, on the corner when turning left into Copse Lane.
13. Deep pothole in Compton Lane, North from East Compton House to Ridge Road. Ref: 602866
14. Pothole in Top Street. Ref: 602867 Westholme going towards North Wootten the potholes are getting much bigger
15. The potholes in East Town Lane have not yet been dealt with. Ref: 602868

**General**

1. 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.
2. Visibility down Lamberts Hill: This has been referred to the ‘Traffic Section’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.
3. 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)
4. 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.
5. 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](mailto: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.

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. An update can be obtained from the traffic team Traffic Management [TrafficManagement@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:TrafficManagement@somerset.gov.uk)

1. 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.
2. The weight limit sign at Barrows Hill needs putting back up. We are not aware of a weight limit.
3. 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 Department [TrafficManagement@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:TrafficManagement@somerset.gov.uk)
4. 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.
5. The reflectors need replacing by the Manor House. Ref:533841 [TrafficManagement@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:TrafficManagement@somerset.gov.uk)
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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? The verge over run is not classed as a safety defect as such we do not currently have the necessary resources to undertake what is essentially works for aesthetic reasons. If the parish wish to reinstate the verge we would have no objections subject to the works being licenced under section 17 permit.
9. 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. Ref: 600924
10. 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. [Bridges@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:Bridges@somerset.gov.uk)
11. 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? [TrafficManagement@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:TrafficManagement@somerset.gov.uk)
12. 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. [TrafficManagement@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:TrafficManagement@somerset.gov.uk)
13. 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. [TrafficManagement@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:TrafficManagement@somerset.gov.uk)
14. 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. [TrafficManagement@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:TrafficManagement@somerset.gov.uk)
15. The road edges in Neat Lane are getting worse. Ref: 6009526
16. 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. Details have been forwarded to MDC
17. On the Copse Lane footpath the sign had snapped off. Forwarded to Rights of Way Team. [RightsofWay@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:RightsofWay@somerset.gov.uk)
18. The footpath by the Ford, there is tarmac on the bridge and on one side, however the other side is mud. It was agree this was a safety hazard and needs tarmacking by Highways. Ref: 538295 This does not meet the safety defect criteria, therefore any works at this location will have to be put forward for consideration for inclusion in the future works programme. Unfortunately , the number of works requested far outweigh the available resources in any given period therefore all works have to be prioritised on an area wide basis with only the most deserving being successful in any given year. Therefore, we are unable to say if any bid will be successful or not.
19. Signs need repairing at the Top of Beard Hill which point to Bowermead Lane and Burford. Ref: 600122 Forwarded [to TrafficManagement@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:to%20TrafficManagement@somerset.gov.uk)
20. Sign at the Whitstone Hill is not facing the correct direction. Ref 601474
21. There is a sunken drainhole cover on the A361 near Threlfalls, the noise that is made when cars go over it is causing a nuisance.
22. The road is eroding opposite Parsons Batch, the edge by the curb the road has sunken.
23. There is rubbish at the top of Lamberts Hill that is blowing into the road. Please forward to the relevant depart within MDC.
24. Perridge Hill going into Watery Lane, the road in breaking up.
25. The road is breaking up on John Beales Hill.
26. The road is subsiding at Parsons Batch.

**Appendix B**

**Somerset County Council Briefing October 2020.**

Corona Virus Update: In the last three weeks there has been a marked increase in the number of positive tests across the County but particularly in Sedgemoor and Mendip. As at 30th September, the number of confirmed Covid cases in Somerset was 1,585 and the number of Covid-attributed deaths 206. The rate per 100,000 currently stands at 10.4 for Somerset (Burnley by comparison is 314). The current number of total deaths across the County is currently 6% below the 5-year average and the latest R-value for Somerset is between 1.1 and 1.4.

It is vitally important to remember the Hands-Face-Space message.

Return to School: The number of children attending Somerset schools reached 56,410 on 10th September (92.4% attendance), before dropping slightly and then fluctuating between 88% – 94.3% - explained in part, by the required self-isolation of around 1,409 children from six schools after eleven positive COVID-19 tests in mid-September. Separately, Electively Home Educated pupil numbers have doubled – the estimate for September is 200 in comparison to highest total in previous years of 92.

2021 School Places: Whether a child is starting school for the first time, or transferring to their next school, applications need to be made through Somerset County Council’s website: www.somerset.gov.uk/admissions The deadline for applications for secondary school places is Saturday, 31 October 2020 and the deadline for primary school place submissions is Friday, 15 January 2021.

County Council Finances: Somerset County Council’s significantly improved finances have been recognised by independent auditors in their end of year report. The turnaround in just two years has seen the Council move from an “adverse” conclusion to “unqualified”– going from a very challenging position to the top ranking. The findings from auditors Grant Thornton say the Council has made “significant progress” over the past two years in improving its position. This means the Council is now in a strong position to face unexpected financial challenges. Throughout the coronavirus pandemic Somerset has been more resilient than many other councils regionally and nationally.

£1m Climate Emergency Fund: From 1st October, City, Town and Parish councils across Somerset are invited to bid for between £5,000 and £75,000 for innovative projects that can make a real difference in reducing carbon emissions and can contribute to making Somerset resilient to the effects of Climate Change. For information about the scheme, eligibility criteria and application process, visit www.somerset.gov.uk/climate-emergency.

One Somerset: Four virtual briefing meetings for Parish and Town Councillors are being held on:

• Thursday 8th October 7pm

• Wednesday 14th October 7pm

• Thursday 15th October 1pm

• Thursday 15th October 7pm

Interested Members should email onesomerset@somerset.gov.uk to confirm their attendance, clearly stating which meeting they would like to attend. They will then be sent the link and joining instructions in advance.

Library Services: From Monday 5 October iPads will be available to job seekers looking for an extra bit of help in their quest for employment. The free iPad Loan Scheme from Somerset County Council is designed to help people looking for a new job or career but who may not have the IT skills or equipment they need. The tablets which are pre-loaded with links, information and support for anyone in Somerset currently looking for employment are available for up to six weeks free of charge from Bridgwater, Chard, Minehead, Shepton Mallet and Taunton libraries.

The Somerset Fund: Grassroots community groups based in Somerset can now apply for grants up to £2,500 from The Somerset Fund. Somerset Community Foundation (SCF) manages the Fund and is encouraging applications from community groups that run on less than £100,000 per year. The grants are ‘unrestricted’, which means they can be used to pay for ongoing running costs. Applications to the Fund through SCF’s website can be made until Friday 16 October 2020.

School Transport: Wearing face coverings on public transport services –used by pupils – is mandatory as part of the Government’s COVID-19 guidelines but whilst it’s not currently mandatory for pupils to wear coverings on dedicated transport all secondary age pupils who can, are now being urged to voluntarily wear coverings.