**Meeting of the Pilton Parish Council**

**in Pilton Village Hall on**

**Wednesday 6th October 2021 at 7.30pm**

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

Audrey Brown

 David Drew

 Stephen Kearle

Roger Noble

Andrew Shaw

1 **CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

 i Mobile phones should be switched to silent.

2 **APOLOGIES:** Colin Elkin, Lynda Roberts, Joe King (via Zoom)

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS:** Councillor R Kearle (dispensation granted) and Councillor S Kearle declared a prejudicial interest in planning application 2021/1910/FUL. Councillor Drew stated a Festival ticket and that he has no interest currently in any planning application but may do so in the future. Councillor Shaw declared a Festival ticket and an interest in planning application 2021/2168/TPO, as he is a neighbour of the property. Councillor Noble declared a Festival ticket and friendship with the applicant of planning application 2021/1924/FUL. Councillor Noble’s partner rents land from the applicant of planning application 2021/1910/FUL and Festival ticket. Councillor Brown declared a Festival ticket.

4. **MINUTES:** of the 1st September 2021 were approved subject to a change of date to the Burial Ground Working Party, which should have read 2nd Saturday in November not 2nd November..

5. **MATTERS ARISING:**

 i Traffic Matters:

* New Defects: Winters Hill is particularly bad and the road is deteriorating very fast.
* There has been another accident at the Lamberts Hill Crossroads.

There has been slow progress, the lines have been repainted and new ‘slow’ signs and been erected.

 ii SIS Proposal TI004358 for the A361

* Update – There was no update this month. The Clerk was asked to chase and copy in Nigel Hewitt-Cooper to any correspondence.

iii Community Speedwatch: All is going well and the team will be out next on Park Hill. An email from a resident expressing their concerns regarding speeding within the village will be forwarded to Councillor King, who will call her. The Clerk will email Mendip District Council regarding reducing the speed limit.

 Councillor Noble has spoken to Guy Drury regarding speeding within the village and requested putting a police presence in the village to monitor speeding.

iv Local Council Alliance: There has been no update this month.

v Dog Poo Bins: Councillor Noble was asked to mark on a map the location of the poo bin proposed by Stricklands.

vi Broadband: There was no update this month.

vii Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations: There was no update this month.

viii Village Recycling: Councillor R Kearle stated that there has been no contact regarding this matter.

ix Parking at the Drew’s opposite the Chapel on Top Street: The Clerk has emailed Highways to make them aware of the parking problem and to ask for their solutions. No response has been received to date. The Clerk will chase.

x Strawberry Line and Active Travel: The Clerk has not heard anything further regarding a representative speaking to the Parish Council.

xi Vegetation: Councillor King felt it was best to approach residents in person. This has been delayed due to having to isolate. Councillor Noble has approached a couple of residents and will approach them again.

 There have been near misses in Park Hill due to hedges hanging over the road.

 There are several dead Ash trees in the village by the side of the road which could be dangerous. They are situated almost opposite Parson Batch. The Clerk will contact Highways. Councillors R Kearle and Noble offered to meet with Highways to show them the trees.

 In Top Street the Hedge at Grey Gables has fallen into the road and debris has been washed into the drains. Councillor King will make contact with the owner of Grey Gables.

xii Update from Nigel Hewitt-Cooper: See Appendix A.

6. **PLANNING:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Application Number | Proposal | Applicant & Location |
| 2021/1910/FUL | Creation of vehicular access and farm track | Mr Michael EavisWorthy Farm,Worthy Lane,Pilton |
| Pilton Parish Council Recommend: APPROVALCouncillor S Kearle spoke as an agent to the applicant and left the meeting.Mr Hall spoke against the proposal.Councillor Drew proposed Approval, Councillor Brown seconded.Councillor Shaw proposed Refusal.The vote was 2 in favour of approval, 1 refusal and 1 abstention. |
| 2021/1924/FUL | Change of use from agricultural to holiday let with installation of caravan (Retention of works already completed). | Mr B DerrickClover Hill FarmPylle Road,Pilton |
| Pilton Parish Council Recommend: APPROVALCouncillor Noble proposed Approval, Councillor Shaw seconded, the vote was 4 in favour and 1 abstention. |
| 2021/2039/TCA | T1 – Willow – Pollard | Mr ClemsonBarrow HouseFord Lane,Pilton |
| Pilton Parish Council Recommend: APPROVALCouncillor Noble proposed Approval, Councillor Drew seconded.The vote was unanimously in favour. |
| 2021/1576/FUL | Construction of a field access | Mr A HillLand at 356799 141317Lower Westholme RoadPilton |
| Pilton Parish Council Recommend: APPROVALCouncillor Noble proposed Approval, Councillor Shaw seconded.The vote was unanimously in favour. |
| 2021/2168/TPO | Tree Preservation Order M1179-G1 – Yew Tree – Pruning to height of 2.5m, 2m from main wall of house, 1m from porch. | Mr Roger BennerYew Tree Cottage,Whitstone Hill,Pilton |
| Pilton Parish Council Recommend: APPROVALCouncillor Noble proposed Approval, Councillor Drew seconded.The vote was unanimously in favour. |

 **ENFORCEMENT:**

i Update: There was no update this month and nothing further to report.

7. **FINANCE:**

i Financial Statement:

 

ii Financial News/ Requests for Grants: There were no requests this month.

8. **BURIAL GROUND**

i Maintenance reports: Two reports were received, both were fine.

ii Maintenance work: All the top soil has been used and Councillor Noble will order more. Harvey Bailey was asked to mow the Burial Ground once more this year.

 The Working Party will meet at 9am on Saturday 13th November.

9. **FOOTPATHS**

i Weir Lane Footpath:

Councillor R Kearle has approached four companies to quote for the handrails. One quote was deemed too expensive at £2850. It was felt that although wood would be cheaper it would rot and become unsafe. The vote was unanimously in favour of pursuing more quotes for metal handrails.

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

i Roundabout report:

A working Party will be meeting at the Burial Ground on 13th November at 9am, everyone is invited to come along an lend a hand.

The Remembrance Day Service will start at the War Memorial at 10.45am.

The Parish Council is looking for suggestions for the location of another dog poo bin. Please contact the Parish Clerk with your suggestions.

With the dark nights approaching please slow down when driving. Pedestrians please make yourself visible and stay safe.

Remembrance Sunday – This will be put on the Agenda for the November Parish Council Meeting. Councillor Noble was asked to make contact with the bugle player and asked to read the names out at the service. Councillor King offered to put up the poppies around the village and the Clerk will order the wreath from Pete Cheatham.

11. **GFEL**

There was no discussion relating to Festival events, including Worthy Farm Camping and the Equinox Event, this is due to a pending legal appeal.

**NEXT MEETING:** Parish Council Meeting Wednesday 3rd November 2021 at 7.30pm

Meeting closed 8.31pm

**APPENDIX A – Monthly Report from Nigel Hewitt-Cooper**

Coronavirus infection rates: As of 30th September, the number of confirmed Covid cases in Somerset was 42,800 (26.6% up from 33,812 on 29th August) and the number of Covid-attributed deaths 839. The rate per 100,000 stands at 320.2 (459.1) for Somerset with Mendip at 379.8 (358.2), Sedgemoor at 292.3 (673.0), South Somerset 298.2 (410.5) and SW&T at 321.7 (417.1). The number of total deaths across the County is currently 15% below the 5-year average and the latest R-value for Somerset is between 0.7 and 0.9.

Infection rates in Somerset continue to be high. It is therefore important even for those who have had both jabs to remember to observe Social Distancing and to Ventilate indoor areas at all times.

Somerset Coronavirus Support Helpline: A single phone number continues to be available for anyone in Somerset who needs Coronavirus-related support. 0300 790 6275, is open seven days a week from 8am to 6pm.

Vaccination programmes roll-out: Somerset continues to have one of the highest vaccination rates in the country with the latest figures showing over 95% of the adult population having had one dose of vaccine and 90.2% having had both doses. Work is now focusing on Children aged 12-15 years old via the school’s immunization service and the third booster jab which is due 6 months after the second.

Local Government Reorganisation: Following the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) decision to support the move to a single Unitary Council across Somerset the transition programme, lead teams and governance structure have been agreed by the five current Councils. On 17th September the Councils responded to the Governments request to look at possible ward boundary changes with a maximum of 85 Unitary Councillors being elected. Whilst a number of options were presented it was almost universally felt that these gave sub-optimal outcomes at such an important stage. A cross-party and cross-authority request was therefore also submitted requesting more time, more flexibility in the warding parameters and involvement of the Local Govt Boundary Commission ahead of a Unitary election. It is still expected that statutory orders will be laid before Parliament in the late Autumn and a vesting date of the new authority as April 2023.

Somerset LGR Conference: The first Town, Parish and City conference focussing on Local Government Re-organisation in Somerset is due to take place on 7th October with over 100 different Councils already signed up to attend. The one-day conference will give Councils the opportunity to hear first-hand the transition programme and input their own thought on how the move to a Unitary structure could develop.

Somerset Youth Parliament: Somerset’s Youth Parliament is seeking nominations from young people aged 11 to 18 wishing to become a Member of Youth Parliament (MYP). Nationally, over 300 elected representatives work with central and local government to make sure young people’s voices are heard. Supported by Somerset County Council, Somerset MYPs campaign on a range of issues, advise, represent, give grants and are consulted by decision makers. 11- to 18-year-olds who live in or attend school or college in Somerset can put themselves forward to be the county’s next MYPs. To do this, they should complete a short online form available here www.somerset.gov.uk/myp by Friday 5 November. Elections and voting will take place in December 2021 with newly elected MYPs taking up office on 1 March 2022 and serving a two-year term.

Young People’s views on climate change: 11 to 18-year-olds in Somerset are invited to attend two virtual events in October to help shape Somerset County Council’s Climate Emergency Strategy. Somerset Youth Parliament is running two free sessions via Zoom on Monday 11 and Monday 18 October, 6.15pm to 8pm, to learn more about the county’s plans, listen to key speakers including Rebecca Pow MP (Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) and have an opportunity to ask questions and contribute their own thoughts and ideas. To book a place at one of the virtual events email Kate Darlington at: kdarlington@somerset.gov.uk

Applications for school places 2022: For all children moving from primary to secondary school, or middle to upper school, in September 2022 applications for secondary school places opened on 13th September 2021 and must be submitted before Sunday 31 October 2021. All children starting school for the first time in September 2022, as well as those moving between infant and junior or first and middle school applications must be submitted between Monday 27 September 2021 and Saturday 15 January 2022. [www.somerset.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/admissions)

National Award (1): SCC has won a prestigious national award in recognition of its ground-breaking work in supporting the set-up microbusinesses. Leading local government publication the MJ awarded Somerset an achievement award in the Delivering Better Outcomes category, for its Community Micro-enterprise project. This supports Micro-providers who then provide help and support on the ground in local communities for people who need it.

National Award (2):

Ann Adams, Service Manager at Somerset County Council’s Support Services for Education (SSE), was a finalist in the outstanding lead governance professional category at the National Governance Association’s (NGA) Outstanding Governance Awards 2021.The category recognises individuals leading and managing governance across several schools.