**Councillors: you are summoned to attend a**

**Meeting of the Pilton Parish Council**

**in Pilton Village Hall on**

**Wednesday 3rd November 2021 at 7.30pm**

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

Audrey Brown

David Drew

Colin Elkin

Stephen Kearle

Joe King

Roger Noble

Lynda Roberts

Andrew Shaw

12 Members of the public attended the meeting.

1 **CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

i Mobile phones should be switched to silent.

2 **APOLOGIES:** None

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS:** Councillor R Kearle stated Festival (Dispensation approved) and has no interest in any planning application at present but may do so in the future. 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 S Kearle stated Festival.

4. **MINUTES:** of the 6th October 2021 were approved.

5. **MATTERS ARISING:**

i Traffic Matters:

* New Defects:

Potholes in East Town Lane.

At the top of Burford the road are wearing away.

There are blocked drains in Totterdown Lane, A361 at Parsons Batch and near Gabriel’s Orchard. Outside of Little Orchard, opposite Ford Lane the drain is blocked.

Highways has missed doing the white lines outside Thornton House. This has been reported by the Clerk.

Water is coming out of the manhole/culvert outside of Vicars Cottage, Bread Street.

At the Perridge Farm crossroads, the water runs out of one drain and across the road into another drain. This will be extremely dangerous when the water freezes.

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* Lamberts Hill: Update:

15th November for 10 days under 4 way lights will be advance kerbing works around the Ridge lane junction and should include the kerbing upgrade of the lay by.

29th November for 5 days under a road closure (07.30 – 18.00) will be the resurfacing, anti-skid and vegetation cut back. A diversion drawing and associated signage will sent out as soon as it’s available.

The final phase to reshape the land take areas will we hope be done in February.

The legal process to dedicate the two parcels of land to Somerset County Council will start as soon as possible.

ii SIS Proposal TI004358 for the A361

* Update: The Clerk was asked to chase progress on the A361 crossroads

iii Community Speedwatch: Councillor King advised that 80 vehicles were caught speeding in October, the fastest travelling at 60mph. The police will try to monitor the B3136 to try to cure high end speeding.

Councillors felt that the response from Highways regarding speeding vehicles in East Town Lane was very poor. The Clerk will respond suggesting that they meet with the Council at the site and also Bush Lane. Flooding issues and potholes also need to be discussed. A speed bump was suggested as a solution. It was agreed that Councillors Noble will produce a traffic count of East Town Lane and Councillor King will monitor the speed.

iv Local Council Alliance There are no developments to report while St Cuthbert (Out) PC continue to digest the changes inherent in Somerset becoming a unitary authority.

v Dog Poo Bins: The Clerk has received the map showing the location of the Poo Bins and will forward them to Mendip District Council.

vi Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations: More support is required to organise these celebrations.

vii Parking at the Drew’s opposite the Chapel on Top Street: Councillor Drew will respond to the email received from Mendip District Council.

viii Strawberry Line and Active Travel: Kelly Knight from Mendip District Council spoke regarding the Multi-use Path Project which will create walking and cycling paths. The Shepton Mallet to Wells

route is called the Strawberry Line and will take priority. A land agent has been appointed. Residents can contact the Clerk if they want to contact Kelly who is leading on this project. It was confirmed that maintenance of the route will be considered.

Councillors King and Shaw will meet with Consultants: Kelly will email the Clerk with a date.

ix Vegetation: Councillor King will draft a letter and email it to the Chairman and the Clerk and produce a list of properties contact.

x Pollution: Councillor Noble was asked by a local resident to raise this at the meeting. An investigation was conducted by Bangor University of river pollution during the Festival period. It was confirmed that the Environmental Agency monitor this during the Festival. The Clerk will obtain a copy of the report and distribute to Councillors. Further discussion will take place at the December meeting.

xi Update from Nigel Hewitt-Cooper: See Appendix A

6. **PLANNING:**

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| Application Number | Proposal | Applicant & Location |
| 2021/1988/HSE | Erection of extension of Annexe | Morton Clarke & Wilson  St Mary’s Cottage,  St Mary’s Lane,  Pilton |
| Pilton Parish Council Recommends: APPROVAL  Councillor Brown proposed approval, Councillor S Kearle seconded. The vote was unanimously in favour of approval. | | |
| 2021/1989/LBC | Erection of extension of Annexe | Morton Clarke & Wilson  St Mary’s Cottage,  St Mary’s Lane,  Pilton |
| Pilton Parish Council Recommends: APPROVAL  Councillor Brown proposed approval, Councillor S Kearle seconded. The vote was unanimously in favour of approval. | | |
| 2021/2381/HSE | Erection of side and rear extension and internal alternations. | Tom and Bracken Hollings  Hillrise  Shop Lane  Pilton |
| Pilton Parish Council Recommends: APPROVAL  Councillor King proposed approval, Councillor Noble seconded. The vote was unanimously in favour of approval. | | |

**ENFORCEMENT:**

i Update:

* Knowle Ground:- Residents of West Compton held a meeting and met with a solicitor concerning the Knowle Ground site to discuss what they felt contradicted planning conditions.

The resident and owner of the site spoke stating that they wanted an ecologically sustainable home, which brought work to local people. They have worked with the Council every step of the way and have had regular site visits to check the work.

The residents asked if residents could stop taking photos from the boundary of the land as it is scaring their children but to go and have a cup of tea with them and talk to them about their plans.

Councillor S Kearle gave his wholehearted support. There were nobody from West Compton to speak. A member of the public stated that the villages of West Compton should be ashamed of themselves.

7. **FINANCE:**

i Financial Statement:



ii Financial News/ Requests for Grants:

There were requests for grants this month.

iii Precept/ Spending for 2022/23:

The Clerk asked that Councillors consider any large areas of expenditure that may need to be spend next financial year, in order to prepare the financial budget and precept for 2022/23 and bring them to the December meeting.

8. **BURIAL GROUND**

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

ii Maintenance work:

9. **FOOTPATHS**

i Weir Lane Footpath: No further quotes have been received. Councillor R Kearle is still awaiting a quote. Kelly Knight will see if she know any suppliers who could provide the handrails and let Councillor King know if there is any Footpath funding available.

The willow tree is being taken down in the 13th November.

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

i Roundabout report:

Pilton Parish Council would like to wish you are a

Very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Remembrance Service – Councillor Noble will read the names of the fallen and organise the bugle player. Councillor Noble and Shaw will lay the wreaths. Steve Russell-Yarde has checked everything is in place for the road closure.

The Ash trees at Gabriels Orchard are not owned by the orchard. Councillor King will speak to the owners.

The Clerk will write to Highways about the Ash trees opposite Wenlock Edge on the boundary wall if the A361. Steve Russell-Yarde has a meeting with Highways regarding the Festival and Ash dieback. Steve will contact the Clerk after that meeting to provide an update.

Discussion took place regarding the Council meeting being held in the Perridge Room as it is not ideal. Some Councillors felt it was not appropriate and that the Parish Council meetings should take priority over the boxing club as should other long standing bookings. The vote was 4 in favour, 2 against and 2 abstentions for writing to Trustees to express their views. Councillor Shaw will draft a letter for the Clerk.

The Clerk will email SALC as it is a licence premise.

Nigel Hewitt-Cooper with chase for an update regarding the Puffin Crossing.

Councillor Noble reported to Nigel that the pavement by the Cannards Grave Roundabout is in an unacceptable state due to overgrown vegetation.

11. **GFEL**

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

**NEXT MEETING:** Parish Council Meeting Wednesday 1st December 2021 at 7.30pm

Meeting closed 8:49pm

**Appendix A – Report from Nigel Hewitt-Cooper**

Coronavirus infection rates: As of 30th October, the number of confirmed Covid cases in Somerset was 57,072 (33% up from 42,800 on 30th September) and the number of Covid-attributed deaths 872. The rate per 100,000 stands at 709.7 (320.2) for Somerset with Mendip at 853.9 (379.8), Sedgemoor at 653.5 (292.3), South Somerset 668.3 (298.2) and SW&T at 713.0 (321.7). The number of total deaths across the County is currently 12% above the 5-year average and the latest R-value for Somerset is between 0.9 and 1.1.

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

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 95.6% of the adult population having had one dose of vaccine and 91.9% having had both doses. Work is focusing on Children aged 12-15 years old 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 (now renamed Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities DLUHC)) decision to support the move to a single Unitary Council across Somerset the transition programme, lead teams and governance structure have been agreed by all Councils. A LGR Joint Committee to oversee the transition has been approved by all five Councils and will sit for the first time on 5th November 2021. It is expected that statutory orders will be available in early November before being laid before Parliament in January 2022 with an agreed vesting date for the new authority as April 2023.

Major investment in infrastructure: Major improvements to the A38 northern corridor heading into Bridgwater are a step closer after the Government approved a £10 million funding bid. Money from the Treasury’s Levelling Up fund will help pay for more than £3.4 million worth of cycling and walking infrastructure along the entire corridor as well as a remodelled Dunball junction and significant improvements to the Canon/Cross Rifles junction. In the same announcement, £5 million was also approved from a separate fund to re-open a train station in Wellington.

Applications for school places 2022: 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

Young Carers Support Survey: The County Council are inviting young carers, their parents/guardians, schools and other professionals working with young carers in Somerset to complete short anonymous surveys by Sunday 21 November in order to gain a better understanding of the services and support provided across the county and how it could be improved. The electronic survey can be accessed via www.somerset.gov.uk/youngcarers (A young carer is anyone under the age of 18 who provides care for another person by taking on practical or emotional responsibilities that would normally be expected of an adult).

Reaching Carbon Zero: Somerset County Council has approved major investment to help save hundreds of tonnes of carbon every year. Earlier this year, SCC successfully bid for £4.1m from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme, to make public buildings more energy efficient. Theis and addition SCC funding will enable decarbonisation projects across several Council owned buildings, including Taunton Library, Yeovil Library, Frome Library, Glastonbury Hub, Milford Infants School, Chilthorne Domer School, and County Hall. Work will include the installation of heat pumps to either replace or supplement existing gas heating systems, replacing windows with double glazing, upgrading building insulation, improving building ventilation systems and installing solar panels. The implementation of these combined schemes is expected to reduce the carbon output of the property estate significantly and move the authority closer to its Carbon Zero target by 2030.

Making streets safer: Funding to help tackle violence against women and girls has been awarded to Somerset County Council. Working with North Somerset, SCC have made a successful joint bid to the Home Office Safer Streets Fund for £324,449. The bid presents an opportunity to work together in tackling Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) crimes across the area. The plan sets out a two-tiered approach involving: Prevent – to change behaviour and stop incidents occurring such as VAWG education and awareness in schools, communications campaigns, research and engagement within communities, and Protect – to strengthen the response where incidents are prevalent, such as a safe haven scheme and enhancing the CCTV network and street lighting.

Domestic abuse and modern slavery: New free online resources are available for both professionals and the public to help spot the signs and reduce the risk of becoming a victim of domestic abuse and modern slavery. Members of the public have free access to a set of modules providing guidance on recognising the signs of domestic abuse and modern slavery and what they can do to help. https://somersetsurvivors.org.uk/somerset-survivors/support-for-a-friend-or-family-member/