**Minutes of the meeting of the Pilton Parish Council via Zoom on**

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

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

Audrey Brown

David Drew

Colin Elkin

Joe King

Roger Noble

Lynda Roberts

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:** Stephen Kearle, Nigel Hewitt-Cooper.

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS:** Councillor Drew reported that he has no declarations of interest at present but may do so in the future.

4. **MINUTES:** of the 13th January 2020 were approved.

**MATTERS ARISING:**

i Traffic Matters:

* New Defects:

There is a lot of surface water on the road which could freezing and as traffic drives through it, it is spraying onto a roadside house and affecting their power supply box.

The potholes are deteriorating quickly in Lower Street.

The drain by Culverwell House has not been cleared.

The Clerk was asked to chase MP James Heappey for a response to a letter send about the state of the Pilton drains.

There is a new pothole on the A361 by Red Gate.

The drain is blocked and water is flowing onto the road by The Retreat.

* Puffin Crossing: The Clerk has responded to Highways stating that the Parish Council are disappointed by their decision not to install a Puffin Crossing but will support any improvements to the safety of crossing the A361.
* Double Yellow Lines: The Clerk has responded to Highways confirming that the Parish Council wish for the Double Yellow Lines to be installed in Totterdown Lane.

ii Community Speedwatch;

The Speedwatch Team are currently not permitted to work. There is concern in the village regarding speeding in Totterdown Lane, Westholme and the A361. Councillor King advised that they can only monitor the traffic in authorised locations.

iii Police Report:

* January Police Reports

iv Local Council Alliance:

Councillor Shaw has tried to contact the Parish of St Cuthberts(Out) to see when their next Zoom meeting is taking place.

v Vegetation:

Letter have been produced ready to be given to residents. Councillors King and Noble will deliver the letters and provide an update at next month’s meeting.

vi Additional Defibrillator:

The Clerk advised that approval has been given to site a Defibrillator on the new housing development.

vi Weir Lane to Ford Footpath improvements:

Councillors R Kearle and Noble have met with potential contractors at Weir Lane to discuss the improvements. Quotes will be sent to the Clerk and a decision will be made at the next Parish Council Meeting.

Footpath 16 above Weir Lane is in a terrible state as water is running off the field and onto the footbath. Councillor R Kearle will take a look and see if he can improve it.

The Clerk was asked to contact the Ramblers Association to report the Electric fence blocking the Footpath near Winters Hill.

viii Climate Emergency Funding:

There was no update as Councillor S Kearle was absent from the meeting

5. **PLANNING:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Application Number | Proposal | Applicant & Location |
| 2020/2596/CLE | Application for a certificate of lawful existing development for the use of buildings for commercial storage use. | Mr & Mrs James Dickson  Wellhayes Farm, Lower Westholme Road,  Pilton |
| Pilton Parish Council Recommends: APPROVAL  Council Noble proposed approval, Councillor Shaw seconded. The vote was unanimously in favour. | | |
| 2021/0064/TCA | T1, T3 and T6 – Field maples. Fell, T5 – Field Maple – Crown Reduction x 2m, T7 – Sycamore – Crown Reduction x 1m. | Mrs Suzanne House,  Cedar Lodge,  Top Street,  Pilton |
| Pilton Parish Council Recommends: APPROVAL  Council Noble proposed approval, Councillor Shaw seconded. The vote was unanimously in favour. | | |
| 2020/2531/TEL | Application for prior approval of telecommunications development for the erection of 1no. 11m telegraph pole required to support 1no. 407mm x 315mm dish, 1no. 650 x 386mm dish, and 2no. 700mm x 135mm x 73mm antenna. with 1no 550mm x 320 x 420mm equipment cabinet attached to the telegraph pole and all associated ancillary development. | Mr A Goodman  Land at Bowermead Lane,  Whitstone Hill,  Pilton |
| Six members of the public spoke against the planning application.  Councillor King proposed Refusal, Councillor Noble seconded. The vote was 4 in favour.  Councillor Elkin proposed Approval, Councillor Brown seconded. The vote was 3 in favour.  The vote was based on the majority for Refusal.  Pilton Parish Council recommends: REFUSAL  The reasons for refusal are:  1. The visual impact to the area due to the mast visibility within the landscape and the conservation area.  2. Inappropriate development and impact on the community.  3. The applicant has not fulfilled their legislative statutory requirements.  We hope this will be taken into account when making your decision. | | |

**ENFORCEMENT:**

The Clerk was asked to seek advice from SALC regarding the emails received from Simon Snartt. Further action may be taken.

6. **FINANCE:**

i Financial Statement:



ii Financial News/ Requests for Grants:

* Approval of Precept : Councillors vote in favour of approving the Precept, with on abstention.

7. **BURIAL GROUND**

i Maintenance reports: Councillor Drew confirmed everything was fine.

ii Maintenance work: A bush has blown over in the wind. Councillor R Kearle will speak to the landowners. The Clerk will chase the Burial Secretary regarding which Funeral Directors to contact to top up the sunken graves.

Councillors King and Noble will tidy up the Burial Ground from the removal of the trees and removed the wire fence.

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

i Roundabout report

Dog owners are asked to be more sensitive and pick up their dogs waste. It is a criminal offence not to pick up the waste under the Dog Act 1987 and dog owners could be fined.

Councillors will be delivering letters to homeowners who need to cut back their vegetation. Homeowners are requested to keep vegetation clear of pavements and roads.

Any residents interested in signing up to receive fibre broadband please contact the Parish Clerk on [piltonparishclerk@yahoo.com](mailto:piltonparishclerk@yahoo.com)

Councillors were asked to provide a suggested location for a Dog Waste Bin at the next meeting. The Clerk will contact the Church Warden or Vicar to see if a bin could be located on the church wall.

**NEXT MEETING:** Parish Council Meeting Wednesday 3rd March 2020 at 7.30pm

**APPENDIX 1 – Report from Nigel Hewitt-Cooper.**

Current Covid-19 Restrictions in Somerset: Residents must stay at home, they must not leave, or be outside of their home except where necessary. They cannot leave to meet socially with anyone they do not live with or are not in a support bubble with. They may exercise on their own, with one other person, or with their household or support bubble. This should be limited to once per day, and residents should not travel outside their local area. People should stay 2 metres apart from anyone not in their household or support bubble. Colleges, primary and secondary schools will remain open only for vulnerable children and the children of critical workers. All other children will continue to learn remotely until 8 March at the earliest. Early years settings remain open.

Coronavirus infection rates: As at 29th January the number of confirmed Covid cases in Somerset was 16,417 (up from 9,355 on 31st Dec) and the number of Covid-attributed deaths 469 (335). The rate per 100,000 currently stands at 229.8 for Somerset with Mendip at 217.2, Sedgemoor at 208.6, South Somerset 209.1 and SW&T at 278.5. The current number of total deaths across the County is currently 19% above the 5-year average and the latest R-value for Somerset is between 0.9 and 1.2. It is vitally important to remember, even those who have had a jab, to observe Hands-Face-Space at all times.

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

Vaccination programme roll-out: In just seven weeks, teams across the wider Somerset health and care system have worked round the clock to design, develop and launch 13 GP-led community vaccination sites, two hospital hubs and two large vaccination centres at Taunton Racecourse and the Bath and West showground. A new Covid vaccination site has also opened at Morrison’s in Yeovil, and is one of the first pharmacy sites in Somerset to offer the jab with pre-booked vaccination appointments between the hours of 8am and 8pm, seven days a week. All sites will continue to offer vaccinations to the priority groups as identified by the Joint Committee for Vaccination and Immunisation, including the over 80s and frontline health and care staff.

SCC Transport Support: Somerset County Council is working with bus operators and community transport providers to make it as easy as possible for residents to get to appointments including:

• providing a bus service every 30 minutes from Wells Bus Station via Shepton Mallet terminating at the showground – seven days a week, providing connections to/from other bus services at both Wells Bus Station and Shepton Mallet Cenotaph.

• Suspending current concessionary bus pass rules so these can be used on all public services before 9.30am.

• Working with Community Transport and Slinky Demand Responsive services across Somerset to allow free travel for bus pass holders when attending vaccination appointments.

National Highways Award: Bridgwater’s Colley Lane Southern Access Road project, also known as Squibbers Way, has been awarded Most Innovative Highway Authority Scheme of the Year at the 2020 Highways Magazine Awards. The £18.4m project has now been recognised for six major awards since its opening in December 2019.

Older Age Domestic Abuse: Ten per cent of older people will experience some form of domestic abuse and in Somerset the number of people over sixty-five reporting abuse is on the increase. Social isolation during lockdown has been identified as one of the leading contributors. If you are experiencing domestic abuse, worried about someone you know, or are concerned about the impact of your behaviour towards others, then help is available: www.somersetsurvivors.org.uk or by telephoning 0800 69 49 999.

Investing in communities:

a. Bruton Enterprise Centre: Business in Bruton is set for a boost with work beginning on a new £2.7m Enterprise Centre. The Bruton site will be Somerset County Councils eighth Enterprise Centre and will be home to new offices, meeting rooms and industrial units.

b. Shepton Mallet Library: Plans have been agreed for Shepton Mallet library to receive a substantial makeover and serve as a hub for the local community. Somerset County Council’s Libraries Service team has been in discussions with Shepton Mallet Town Council and members of local community interest group, to agree a new model for the library. The County Council’s agreement to enter into a partnership will see the building used as a venue for a wide range of community-based activities outside the library’s regular opening hours.

c. Comeytrowe Primary School: Proposals for a new 420-place primary school primary school as well as a nursery with capacity for up to 60 children to serve a significant new housing development in Taunton have been approved. It is expected that the new school will open in September 2022.

Census 2021: Households across Somerset will soon be asked to take part in Census 2021. It will be the first run predominantly online, with households receiving a letter with a unique access code, allowing them to complete the questionnaire on their computers, phones or tablets. Census day will be on March 21 and results will be available within 12 months, although personal records will be locked away for 100 years.

One Somerset: It is expected the Governments eight week statutory consultation phase on the transition to a Unitary Authority in Somerset will commence in mid to late February.