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

**via Zoom on Wednesday 3rd March 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

Karen Buckley (Clerk/RFO)

4 Members of the public were present and Councillor Nigel Hewitt-Cooper.

1. **CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

i Mobile phones should be switched to silent.

2. **APOLOGIES:** None

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS:** Councillor Drew reported that he has no declarations of interest at present but may do so in the future. Councillor Roberts advised that the applicant of planning application 2021/0204/FUL was her car mechanic.

4. **MINUTES:** of the 3rd February 2021 were approved.

**MATTERS ARISING:**

i Traffic Matters:

* New Defects:
* The pothole at Holes Barn has been repaired. A number of others have been marked but not repaired yet.
* The blocked drains in Top Street and Bread Street were being attended to today, the drains by Pilton House and Lower Street have also been cleared.
* It is believed that the water running into the road on the Lamberts Hill Crossroads is due to a water leak. The Clerk was asked to contact Bristol Water.
* The sunken drain on the A361 has been repaired.
* In Copse Lane the verge has dropped about 6 inches. Councillor S Kearle will investigate a complete repair work.
* The polehole on the A361 in Conduit Square has been repaired but the one at Parsons Batch has not.
* The majority of potholes have been repaired between Winters Hill and West Compton.
* As you go into West Compton as you go over the bridge there is a one foot cube hole that a vehicles wheels could drive into and tip a vehicle.

ii Community Speedwatch;

A resident was nearly knocked over in Top Street by a white van driving at speed. It seems there is more speeding within the village.

The Speedwatch Team have received authorisation to continue their work form the 8th March, although they are only permitted to work in teams of two.

iii Police Report:

* Police Reports – Future Police Reports will be received quarterly. The Clerk should have received the report by the next meeting.
* Councillors reported several thefts; a motorbike from Steanbow was recovered in Bristol. Stone has also been taken and a garage broken into.
* There was also a car chase through the village involving five police cars and a helicopter. The vehicle was stopped by the Old School.

iv Local Council Alliance:

Councillor Shaw stated that a meeting is expected to take place this this month which he hopes to attend.

v Vegetation:

Progress delivering the letters to resident has been slow due to the lockdown but Councillor King has spoken to some residents and received a positive response.

vi Weir Lane to Ford Footpath improvements:

One quote has been received, two contractors have advised that they are too busy. Councillor Noble to contact another supplier. A notice will also be put in this months Roundabout Magazine and on Facebook asking for contractors to quote.

vii Climate Emergency Funding:

Councillor S Kearle advised that he is still waiting for the information on the electric minibus.

viii Dates of future meetings:

The Clerk has sent Councillors dates of future meetings, these are also on the website.

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held next month via Zoom. The Clerk is waiting to hear when face to face Council meeting can resume.

ix Dog Poo Bins: Suggestions for locations of a new bin were by the bin church, the stile by the Tithe Barn, by the allotment, the grass at the top of Mount Pleasant or the Paddocks at the End of Mount Pleasant. The Clerk will write to Tony Bailey and Michael Eavis to request permission. To site the bin.

A dog poo bin has been stolen in West Pennard.

x Broadband: This will be removed from the agenda as the Parish Council must impartial.

xi Possible re-organisation of Council structure within Somerset:

One Somerset – Discussion took place regarding what these changes would mean. If you wish to make a comment then this needs to be done by the next meeting. No comments have been received by the Parish Clerk so it is difficult to gauge the views of the residents; there was no strong feeling amongst the Councillors.

Councillor Nigel Hewitt-Cooper provided and update – See Appendix A.

Councillor Noble raised concerns that the Ash Trees had not been cut down and could become dangerous.

5. **PLANNING:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Application Number | Proposal | Applicant & Location |
| 2021/0204/FUL | Constraint extension in west elevation for B8 storage use. | Mr Andrew Hill  Land at 356799 141317  Lower Westholme Road  Pilton |
| Councillor Drew proposed Approval, Councillor Noble seconded. The vote was 8 in favour and 1 against.  Pilton Parish Council Recommends: APPROVAL | | |

**ENFORCEMENT:**

i Beggars Roost: Update from Simon Snartt – It is Mendip District Councils Policy not to provide updates during an investigation.

Cock and Bull has still not been cleared. Councillor Hewitt-Cooper advised that it is back in the courts.

Councillor Hewitt-Cooper left the meeting.

6. **FINANCE:**

i Financial Statement:



ii Financial News/ Requests for Grants:

iii Insurance: The insurance renewal is due. The Clerk has obtained another quotation which is significantly cheaper. The Clerk will consult with Councillor Elkin to ensure everything is covered. It was unanimously decided that 3 year deal to get a better price.

7. **BURIAL GROUND**

i Maintenance reports: The perimeter fence has broken

ii Maintenance work: Both graves have been topped up.

The strimmer and mower have gone to be serviced. The mower will soon be beyond economical repair.It would be approximately £450 for a new mower. Councillor’s voted unanimously in favour of purchasing a new mower. Councillor Noble will let Ron England know.

iii Burial Fees: It was agreed to hold the fees for this financial year. The Clerk will obtain burial fees from other parishes and also ensure the rules and burial fees are put on the website.

8. **FOOTPATHS**

i Proposed footpath SM16/42 diversion order: If the footpath take the new route the landowner is keen to repair the old bridge in a proper fashion. Councillor Noble proposed Approval the vote was unanimously in favour.

ii Winter's Hill footpaths SM16/ 4 and SM16/5: The Clerk was asked to write to the owner whose name is on the planning application.

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

i Roundabout report:

When out walking please consider taking a bag and picking up some rubbish to help keep the village clean and tidy.

Please be considerate to your neighbours when having bonfires during the day.

Please park sensibly when parking around the village. There have been instances of delivery vans not being able to deliver goods, it could be more serious if an emergency vehicle could not get through.

When out walking please keep your dogs on leads, there has been a reports of a serious dog attack, which is now in the hands of the police.

The Parish Council are looking for contractors to quote to make necessary improvements to the Weir Lane Footpath. Please contact Councillor Roger Noble or the Parish Clerk for further details.

**NEXT MEETING:** Parish Council Meeting Wednesday 7th April 2021 at 7.30pm

Annual Parish Meeting Wednesday 21st April 2021 at 7.30pm

Meeting Closed 9.04pm