

Meeting of the Pilton Parish Council
at Pilton Village Hall on
Wednesday 1st June 2022

Present:- Joe King – Chairman
Kelly Sumner – Vice Chairman
Lynda Allen
Owain Powell
Nick Hall
Richard Woodhouse
Terry Moulder

Members of the public – 13 plus 2 via Zoom.

1 **CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

i Mobile phones should be switched to silent.

2 **APOLOGIES:** Roger Noble, Tom Hollings

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS:** Councillors King, Allen, Noble and Powell – Festival ticket. Councillor Woodhouse – Sunday festival ticket. Councillor Hall – Festival ticket, Trustee of the Playing Fields and Trustee of the Village Hall. Councillor Moulder & Councillor Allen – Festival ticket and temporary Festival employment.

4. **MINUTES:** of the 11th May 2022 were approved subject to minor amendments.

5. **MATTERS ARISING:**

i Traffic Matters:

- New Defects: Councillor King has arranged to meet with Neil Corp on Monday 6th June at 9am. Highways to discuss the state of the roads in Pilton and show him the defects. Other Councillors are welcome to attend.
- Bad potholes between Burford and West Compton and on East Town Lane and Bakery Lane.
- It was reported that on the A361 going down Park Hill, there are patches of road standing up.
- Lamberts Hill: There was no further update this month.

There was a comment from a member of public that since the road has been resurfaced the traffic has sped up near Ridge Road. The roads surface was not the issue, the issue is poor visibility due to the hedge. It was suggested that the police may help to put pressure on Highways to keep to the scheduled start date of September as the Lamberts Hill crossroads is classed as an accident blackspot.

Councillor King will discuss this with Neil Corp.

ii A361Pilton:

- The kerbs have been lowered and wooden bollards erected to create a safer crossing.

Thanks was given to Nigel Hewitt-Cooper for his hard work in pushing this forward. This will now be removed from the agenda.

- iii Community Speedwatch:
 - Speed Indicator Device: Everything is going well, the team is out every week and settled into their work.
 - Speed Indicator Device: Pilton is able to access a Speedwatch SID twice a year free of charge. Ideally want a village owned SID but someone would be require to undertake Chapter 8 Training and the cost to purchase at least £2500. GFEL were approached and will provided a SID for 3 months pre and post Festival at their expense. The SID arrived this morning. Councillor King has details of some funding that may be available and will look at feasibility.
The Parish Council expressed their thanks to GFEL and Steve Russell-Yarde.
- iv Local Community Networks: This is a working group as of the new Unitary Authority. There is another forum taking place on the 30th June. The last one was cancelled. Councillor Hall will attend.
- v Dog Poo Bins: The issue of emptying the Poo Bins at the Paying Fields has been resolved. There are currently two bins but one is damaged and is going to be removed.
- vi Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations: Jenny De Gex confirmed that everything is ready and everyone is welcome. A huge thank you was given to Jenny and the Committee for all their work on the event.
- vii Pollution: The Clerk has chased the Environment Agency to see what action they are taking to monitor pollution during the Festival period and for their comments on the Bangor University Report.
- viii Letter to Trustees of the Village Hall: It was agreed that future Parish Council meetings will remain on the first Wednesday of the month in the Perridge Room. The Village Hall will be provided with future meeting dates.
- ix Shooting Ground: The residents of West Compton asked James Warbarton to help however he stated he does not cover this area. The Clerk has written to James Heapey but no response has been received.
- x New Website: Councillor Sumner advised that he hoped the new website would be live by the next Parish Council meeting. He has paid for the set-up costs himself so the only running costs will be updating the website.
- xi Update from Nigel Hewitt-Cooper: See Appendix A

Claire Sully, Unity Authority Councillor spoke to the room, advising how they will be working with communities and what work they will be concentrating on going forward. Claire is intending to attend all Pilton Parish Council meetings in the future. Claire will attend the meeting with Councill King and Neil Corp on Monday 6th June.

6. **PLANNING:** There were no planning applications to be discussed

i Enforcement: No update this month.

7. **FINANCE:**

- i Financial Statement:
 - Internal Audit – The Clerk advised that the Internal Audit has been completed and signed off by the Internal Auditor.

- Financial review: Councillor Woodhouse will take over as the Responsible Financial Officer. He will be reviewing all aspects of the finances including changing the bank account to have the facility for direct debits and BACs payments.

ii Financial News/ Requests for Grants:

- Playing Fields Play Area Upgrade & Maintenance: A letter has been received asking the Parish Council for a contribution towards the upkeep and maintenance costs. It was agreed by Parish Councillors that the request lacked detail and they should ask for further details as it could be a significant contribution. Councillor Woodhouse has drafted a letter asking for a business plan, their level of current income and the sum of money they are requesting.
- There was no further update on the Playing Fields upgrade.

8. **BURIAL GROUND**

- i Maintenance reports: The reports will continue to be completed on a fortnightly basis.
- ii Maintenance work: The tree work has been completed to a high standard and inspected. A site meeting was held with Councillor Noble to ascertain future work required, this includes painting the gates.
- iii Notes and Regulations: Councillor King as been reading up on the rules and regulations. The Burial Secretary is currently unwell so Councillor King has not had the opportunity to meet with her yet. Councillor Allen offered to help Mrs Lynn and will also meet with her when Councillor King does.

9. **FOOTPATHS & BRIDLEWAYS**

- i Weir Lane Footpath: Councillor Hall has received a handover from Andrew Shaw, who has documented 57 footpaths in the village. Councillor Hall will be provided with contacts for the Rights of Way and Ramblers Association, as well as Claire Haskin (MDC Footpaths Officer) and Councillor Hall will make contact with Harriet Ray regarding the Bridleways.

Councillor Hall stated that he was unsure what the solution is for the Weir Lane to Bread Street Footpath and the 5/6 foot drop as there is no guidance available. He suggested that a risk assessment be carried out and look for alternative resources and ascertain who owns the land.

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

- i Roundabout report:

Councillor King will prepare the Roundabout Report this month which will include an update on his meeting with Highways.

- Update from the Clerk: Thank everyone present for support of the past 7 years and wished everyone the best of luck in the future.

11. **GFEL**

- i. Dates of Festival Meetings & public involvement:

- ii The next GFEL/PPC Meeting will be a site visit to the Control Centre on the Festival site. This will take place on Monday 20th June at 5pm. Councillors and the Clerk were encouraged to attend.

The final debrief is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 12th October at 6pm in the Winding Lake room.

NEXT MEETING: Parish Council Meeting will take place on Wednesday 6th July 2022 at 7.30pm

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Appendix A

Cllr. report June 2022.

Mendip District Council has recently joined 190 other councils by passing a motion expressing its support for the Climate and Ecology Bill (CE Bill).

The CE Bill is calling for a new law that addresses the full extent of the climate and nature crisis, in line with the most up to date science. The Bill is the only proposed legislation before the UK parliament that ensures a comprehensive and joined up approach to the emergency.

The CE Bill has the support of 120 MPs from across all political parties, and on 25 May 2022 it started its journey through the House of Lords.

Mendip District Council, in partnership with the Woodland Trust, hosted a Tree Walk for Mendip Councillors, Parishes and tree wardens.

The tour, at Loxley Woods, near Street, gave attendees the opportunity to discuss the challenges of tree management, address carbon emission issues, and focus on how to make our environment better for nature and people.

Mendip District Council and bike tour specialists The Open Road Experience, held their final free e-bike taster session in Glastonbury.

The event took place at the Somerset Rural Life Museum and was the last of five sessions delivered across the district in recent weeks, and was well attended.

Mendip District Council hosted a retail and hospitality networking event in Street, which saw dozens of businesses gather to learn about free marketing opportunities in Somerset.

The event took place in The Loft Lounge and Bar in Street, and featured businesses from the retail and catering sectors, venues, accommodation and other tourism related businesses.

Mendip Business Hub hosted a free networking event which saw over 30 businesses attend to learn of opportunities and avenues that could help them be more eco-friendly.

The event took place at The George Inn, Nunney, and hosted local entrepreneurs from a variety of business sectors in Mendip.

More than two thirds of eligible council tax payers in Mendip have been paid their £150 council tax energy rebate.

So far, 27,179 households have received the support - a total of more than £4 million paid out. Mendip District Council began processing payments to eligible residents in Bands A-D who pay their council tax by direct debit, earlier this week. Some 67.2% have been paid on this first payment run which is also 91.5% of all those paying by Direct Debit.

MENDIP District Council has become the first UK local authority to declare a cost of living emergency and urged the government to take action to tackle economic hardship. Councillors unanimously backed a motion calling on the Government to do more to halt the drop in living standards.

They are calling for:

A windfall tax on large energy companies;

A cut in the standard rate of VAT from 20 per cent to 17.5 per cent;

Restoring the £20 universal credit supplement;

Restoring the pension triple lock whereby pensions rise by average earnings, inflation or 2.5 per cent a year, whichever is highest.

The phosphate issue continues with many hundreds of applications stuck in the system. Pilton has now dropped from the catchment area so there should be movement on those applications soon.

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