**Minutes of the meeting of the Pilton Parish Councvia Zoom**

**on Wednesday 13th January 2021 at 7.30pm**

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

Audrey Brown

David Drew

Colin Elkin

Stephen Kearle

Joe King

Roger Noble

Lynda Roberts

Karen Buckley (Clerk/RFO)

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

1. **CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

i Mobile phones should be switched to silent.

2. **APOLOGIES:** None

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS:**

Councillors R Kearle (dispensation approved), Noble and Drew reported a personal interest (previous/future employment) in planning applications 2020/2566/HSE and 2020/2567/LBC

Councillor Drew reported that he has no declarations of interest at present but may do so in the future. No further declarations of interested were reported.

4. **MINUTES:** of the 2nd December 2020 were approved.

**MATTERS ARISING:**

i Traffic Matters:

* New Defects: -

The road outside of Meadowcroft has two large pothles.

The potholes by Holes Barn and East Town Lane by East Town Farm are worse and now deemed urgent.

There are very bad potholes as you go towards West Compton from Pilton by the bridge going towards West Compton House.

The two potholes in Totterdown Road are worse.

The drains in Top Street and Beales Hill, going past Gables Cottage are still blocked, so is the drain at Westholme.

On the main A361 below The Retreat, almost opposite the Red Gate entrance there is a blocked drain.

* Grit Bins – the locations of the Grit Bins have been reported but they have not yet been filled.
* Puffin Crossing: Councillors have received notification from Highways that they will not be pursuing a Puffin Crossing on the A361. Councillors expressed their disappointment at the decision but voted unanimously to support the Red/Amber warnings on the road which Highways have suggested they would install.
* Double Yellow Lines in Totterdown Lane: Councillors voted 7 in favour and 2 abstentions. The Clerk will advise Highways.

ii Community Speedwatch: The Speedwatch Team has had to cease operating due to current restrictions. Avon and Somerset Police has advised that they will increase the PCSO presence at the Speedwatch locations but this is not expected to be as frequently as the Speedwatch Team

iii Police Report:

October, November and December Police Reports:

Specific reports for…Pilton

04/10 – East Town Lane, flooding due to blocked gullies, Fire Brigade & Somerset Council dealing.

10/10 – Lambert Hill cross road, non-injury two vehicle RTC. Police attended & vehicles recovered.

11/10 – Two Oaks, Non dwelling burglary Theft of tools from building site. No CCTV or witnesses to progress.

11/10 – Oathill cottages, theft of pedal cycle, no CCTV or witnesses to progress.

29/10 – A361 West Pennard to Pilton. Non injury RTC, vehicle on its roof colliding with telegraph pole. Police attended & dealt, vehicle recovered.

20/11 – Speeding van stopped by police Whitstone Hill.

05/12 – Reported drone flying at East Town Lane & Whitstone Hill areas.

16/12 – Broken down vehicle, Park Hill police attended.

In additional to the Police report Councillor advised that a drone has been seen above the recycling barns at Worthy Farm. Diesel has been stolen from a property in Pylle Road and also from a property in West Compton.

iv Local Council Alliance:

v Data Protection: All Councillors, except Councillor Shaw confirmed that their new emails are working. The Clerk will rectify the problem and then publish the new email addresses.

vi Vegetation: Councillor Noble will speak to the new owners of a property in Shop Lane regarding overgrown vegetation.

Councillor Noble and King have offered to deliver letters and speak to residents regarding their overgrown vegetation and to request that the vegetation is cut back to keep pavements and paths clear for walkers. Thid will be done in a Covid safe way. The Clerk will produce a letter.

In Ford Lane the nut bushes need cutting back and the blackthorn needs removing. Work will be carried out by Councillors, R Kearle, S Kearle, King and Noble in a Covid safe way.

vii Additional Defibrillator: No response has been received from Mr Eavis as yet. Councillor R Kearle asked the Clerk to email a copy of the request to him and he will pass a copy on to Mr Eavis secretary.

viii Weir Lane to Ford Footpath improvements: Councillor Noble has spoken to residents who have properties adjoining Weir Lane to advise them of the improvements the Parish Council wish to make. Residents were supportive of the improvements and offered to work with the Parish Council to help. Councillors R Kearle and Noble have approached companies for a quote.

ix Climate Emergency Funding: Councillor S Kearle advised that he does not yet have a price for the electric minibus. They are very expensive and not expected to be viable.

x Playing Fields Pavilion Progress: Councillors were advised that the original contractor has been replaced and a new contractor has taken over. The Mendip District Council Inspector visited the site on Monday and was happy. The next check will be when work has been completed. Due to the current lockdown situation an expected completion date cannot be given.

5. **PLANNING:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Application Number | Proposal | Applicant & Location |
| 2020/2553/TCA | T1 – Multi Stemmed Ash (Fraxinus excelsior) – Fell to ground level. | Mrs Coombes  Weir Cottage,  Weir Lane,  Pilton |
| Council Noble proposed approval, Councillor Drew seconded, the vote was unanimously in favour  Pilton Parish Council Recommended - APPROVAL | | |
| 2020/2630/TCA | T1 – Ash Tree – Fell | Mr Philip Clarke  Beales House,  John Beales Hill  Pilton |
| Council Noble proposed approval, Councillor Shaw seconded, the vote was unanimously in favour  Pilton Parish Council Recommended - APPROVAL | | |
| 2020/2518/HSE | Removal of existing outbuilding & erection of single storey extension on East elevation, installations of dormer window on South elevation and internal alterations. | Morton Clarke & Wilson  St Mary’s Cottage  St Mary’s Lane,  Pilton |
| Council Elkin proposed approval, Councillor King seconded, the vote was unanimously in favour  Pilton Parish Council Recommended - APPROVAL | | |
| 2020/2519/LBC | Removal of existing outbuilding & erection of single storey extension on East elevation, installations of dormer window on South elevation and internal alterations. | Morton Clarke & Wilson  St Mary’s Cottage  St Mary’s Lane,  Pilton |
|  | | |
| 2020/2566/HSE | Erection of a two storey extension, single storey garden room extension to existing cellar. | Mr & Mrs Leng  Red House Farm  Stoodley Lane  North Wootton |
| Council Shaw proposed approval, Councillor King seconded. Councillor R Kearle and Noble abstained, the vote was unanimously in favour.  Pilton Parish Council Recommended - APPROVAL | | |
| 2020/2567/LBC | Erection of a two storey extension, single storey garden room extension to existing cellar. | Mr & Mrs Leng |
| Council Shaw proposed approval, Councillor King seconded. Councillor R Kearle and Noble abstained, the vote was unanimously in favour.  Pilton Parish Council Recommended - APPROVAL | | |
|  | | |

A member of the public raised Planning Application:-

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. 650mm x 386mm dish, and 2no. 700mm x 135mm x 73mm antenna. with 1no. 550mm x 320mm x 420mm equipment cabinet attached to the telegraph pole, and all associated ancillary development. | Land At Bowermead Lane Whitstone Hill Pilton Shepton Mallet Somerset BA4 4DT "

The Clerk advised that the Parish Council was unaware of the application and had not received notification. Nigel Hewitt-Cooper stated that the Parish Council do not get consulted if the application is for prior approval and will not get the opportunity to comment if the application does not go out for consultation. The Clerk wrote to the Case Officer, Jennifer Alvis regarding this and will send a copy of the email to Nigel Hewitt-Cooper.

**ENFORCEMENT:**

* Winters Hill: The Clerk was copied into an email between resident and Enforcement Officer Simon Snartt advising that due to GDPR Legislation he was unable to provide an update regarding ongoing investigations.

Nigel Hewitt- Cooper read his monthly report:- See Appendix A

There is no update on the Lamberts Hill Crossroads. Nigel will chase.

Thanks was given to Nigel for his continued support.

6. **FINANCE:**

i Financial Statement:



ii Financial News/ Requests for Grants:

* Precept – The precept meeting was held prior to this meeting. Councillors voted to increase the Precept by inflation only. The Precept for 2021/22 will be £11,330. The Burial Secretary and Burial Groundsman will also receive a 3% pay increase from April 2021.
* Grant Request from Mendip Citizens Advise: Councillor Noble proposed a donation of £200, Councillor King seconded.

Councillor Brown proposed a donation of £150, nobody seconded.

The vote was carried by the majority to donate £200.

7. **BURIAL GROUND**

i Maintenance reports: Councillor Drew reported that everything was fine. The Clerk was asked to speak to the Burial Secretary regarding recent graves that have been dug as these need topping up. The Clerk will then notify the Funeral Directors.

ii Ash Trees: The Ash Trees have now been felled. As agreed, Councillor Noble will pay £200 for the felled wood. Councillor King advised he did not want any.

It was agreed that a Covid safe working party would meet at 9am on the 30th January to carry out necessary work at the Burial Ground. During this time Councillors Drew and King will discuss where to site the tree in memory of Sandra Howe.

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

i Roundabout report

There was nothing that Councillors wished to include in the Roundabout Magazine this month. Councillor King advised that due to the lockdown only a digital version of the magazine would be produced this month.

The Clerk was asked to write to Mendip District Council to advise them of the state of the verges and mess on the roads and Cockmill and Copse Lane due to the hauling of building spoils transported from Dio Gratis and Neat Lane which have been dumped near the railway crossing.

The Clerk was asked to put the link to the Parish Council Agenda and Minutes on the new Pilton Village Facebook page during lockdown as noticeboards cannot be accessed.

It was agreed that a working party would be set up to tidy the hedge to clear the footpath near The Twinnings.

The hedge near the top of Whitstone Hill needs cutting back.

The Clerk was advised not to arrange any Festival meeting at this point in time.

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

Meeting closed 9.03pm

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

Somerset County Council Report January 2021.

Covid-19 Restrictions: Revised Government regulations mean that Somerset entered Tier 4 restrictions on from December 31st. The main requirements of this Tier are:

• No household mixing, aside from support bubbles and two people meeting in public outdoor spaces.

• Hospitality closed, except sales by takeaway, drive-through or delivery.

• Essential shops can open. Non-essential retail must close.

• Everyone must work from home unless they are unable to do so.

• Early years settings, schools, colleges and universities open during term time. Registered childcare and childcare bubbles permitted.

• Indoor leisure, accommodation and personal care – closed.

• You must not stay overnight away from home.

• Indoor entertainment closed. Some outdoor attractions may remain open.

• Places of worship open for private prayer and communal worship.

• You must stay at home and only travel for work, education or other legally permitted reasons. You must not leave a Tier 4 area or stay overnight away from home.

Coronavirus infection rates: As at 31st December the number of confirmed Covid cases in Somerset was 9355 (up from 5,110 on 1st Dec) and the number of Covid-attributed deaths 335 (228). The rate per 100,000 currently stands at 248.3 for Somerset with Mendip at 211.1, Sedgemoor at 332.9, South Somerset 193.1 and SW&T at 268.8. The current number of total deaths across the County is currently 3% above the 5-year average and the latest R-value for Somerset is between 1.0 and 1.2. It is vitally important to remember at all times the Hands-Face-Space message.

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, offering a range of support – from help accessing food or medicines, to emotional and financial support, and employment, housing and business advice.

Vaccination programme roll-out: Somerset residents who have been identified by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) as the highest priority are being invited for Covid-19 vaccinations first, including people aged over 80 and health and care staff. Residents should not contact their local NHS services for vaccination, they will be contacted when it’s their turn and given the information that they need for their appointment. For more information visit: www.somersetccg.nhs.uk/health/local-services/health-services-during-coronavirus/covid-19-vaccinations-in-somerset

SCC Support: More than 700 County Council staff are being redeployed to support the NHS challenge of rolling out the county’s biggest ever vaccination programme. The first community GP-led sites have begun vaccinations and follows the launch of the programme in hospital hubs. Further plans are being drawn up to ensure vaccination in other locations across the county. Operating seven days a week which will require a considerable staffing resource and whilst every effort is being made to avoid disruption to SCC services some impact will undoubtedly be felt in areas outside of vulnerable people services.

High Speed Broadband: Three companies have been selected to roll-out the next phase of full fibre network on behalf of the Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS) programme, backed by Government funding. Airband, Truespeed and Wessex Internet will be installing full fibre broadband across Devon and Somerset to more than 56,000 rural homes and businesses over the next 4 years.

One Somerset Pledges: Somerset County Council has set out ten clear One Somerset pledges in the proposed move to a single Unitary authority:

1. No disruption to local services as we change, and a promise to keep you fully informed.

2. We will protect those front-line staff working with vulnerable people across the county.

3. Council tax will not increase because of moving to a single unitary council.

4. Physical, face-to-face council contact points across the county.

5. One telephone number and one website to access ALL council services.

6. Improved services for our vulnerable residents including housing, adults’ & children’s services.

7. Improved services for our children and young people, including education, training, jobs and transport.

8. More local decision making by our town and parish councils and new local community networks.

9. Closer relationships with partners including the NHS, police, education, and the voluntary sector to deliver better services.

10. We will not split Somerset in half, divide communities, lose our proud identity, or weaken our standing on a local, regional and national level.

2021 Primary School Places: Applications for Primary School places in 2021 need to be made through www.somerset.gov.uk/admissions. The deadline for submissions is Friday, 15 January 2021.