

**Meeting of the Pilton Parish Council**  
**in Pilton Village Hall on**  
**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2022 at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Councillors Robert Kearle (Chairman)  
David Drew  
Stephen Kearle  
Joe King  
Roger Noble  
Lynda Roberts

7 Members of the public attended the meeting plus 2 via Zoom.

1 **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

i Mobile phones should be switched to silent.

2 **APOLOGIES:** Councillors Brown, Elkin and Shaw.

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. Councillors Noble and King stated Festival ticket.

4. **MINUTES:** of the 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2022 were approved.

5. **MATTERS ARISING:**

i Traffic Matters:

- New Defects: Potholes on the road to from West Compton towards Shepton Mallet.  
A inspection took place on 28/1/22 regarding the potholes in Top Street. The situation is now much worse.  
In East Town Lane some of the potholes have been repaired, others left.  
At the top of Springfield the potholes are still bad.  
In Totterdown the poles with markers with the blacked stripes have been knocked over.  
The potholes are bad at Stumps Cross.  
The cats eyes have come out in the road at the Pilton side of the Crown Inn.  
Past the Festival Entrance and up the hill there are potholes and the road is subsiding where there is water constantly leaking.  
By the old School House the road is subsiding and being pushed up.  
Potholes in Bakery Lane.
- Lamberts Hill: The Clerk was asked to write to MP James Heapey and Nigel Hewitt-Cooper to express disappointment regarding the work at Lamberts Hill and to report that there was another accident last week.

- ii SIS Proposal TI004358 for the A361
  - Puffin Crossing: The title will now read A361 Pilton not Puffin Crossing.
- iii Community Speedwatch:

Councillor King reported that the speed of over 5000 vehicles have been monitored and the details of 225 vehicles passed onto Avon and Somerset Police. Councillor King advised that Pilton will be receiving the Speed Indicator Device on Saturday for three weeks. Thanks was given to the Speedwatch Team.

  - Speed Indicator Device: It was confirmed that there are no free SIDs available, the option to purchase will be discussed at the May meeting.
- iv Local Council Alliance: There was no update this month.
- v Dog Poo Bins: An email was forwarded to Councillors regarding accessibility of the poo bin at the Playing Fields.

Councillor Noble was asked to provide a map with a mark showing the proposed location of the two new poo bins.

The Clerk asked for a list of where the current no fouling signs are and where new ones should be located. One suggestion was outside of the Drew's residence.
- vi Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations: Plans are progressing and there is another meeting tomorrow. A letter has been delivered to Mr Eavis regarding the Jubilee Wood and insurance is being arranged.
- vii Pollution: There was no update this month. The Clerk will chase Mendip District Council, the Environment Agency and copy in Nigel Hewitt-Cooper
- viii Letter to Trustees of the Village Hall: It was agreed that the new Parish Council should decide the dates of future meetings.
- ix Shooting Ground: The Clerk has received an email from the Shooting Ground which she will forward to a concerned resident. The Clerk was asked to write to James Heapey regarding the issues at the Shooting Ground.
- x Radiofrequency Radiation: Councillors had nothing to say regarding the email that was received. The Playing Fields Trust has given permission a 4G mast on the Playing Field site during the Festival. Rumours that is was going to be a 5G mast are totally untrue. They have assurances in place and no planning application is required.
- xi Update from Nigel Hewitt-Cooper:. See Appendix A

6. **PLANNING:**

Application Number	Proposal	Applicant & Location
2021/0344/FUL	Proposed alterations to agricultural building	Mr T Harvey Land at Winters Hill Lane West Compton Shepton Mallet
<p>Pilton Parish Council recommended: REFUSAL  Councillor Noble proposed Refusal, Councillor King seconded.  The vote was 4 in favour of rejection and 1  The reasons for refusal were:  A Habitats Regulation Assessment is not present as demanded.  The CPRE Report has numerous failings.  Pollution - run off into the stream due to the lands steep gradient of waste from calves and drainage.</p>		



9. **FOOTPATHS**

i Weir Lane Footpath:

Councillor Noble is expecting to receive another quote. The Clerk will then ask the other potential suppliers to provide and up to date quote.

At Mill Lane on the West Compton Ridge Road. Highways will repair the track but the stream needs to be dug out, which is the land owner's responsibility. Until this work is completed Highways will not start work. It was agreed to write to the homeowner requesting that work be carried out. Kelly Knight at MDC will be contacted as they may be able to help.

Danny Kearle was thanked for creating a safe route for horse riders on his land alongside the B3136.

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

i Roundabout report:

Thank you to our outgoing Parish Council for their service over the past years,

The biggest thank you goes to Robert Kearle for over 24 year's service to the Parish Council, your hard work, dedication and generosity of your time will be greatly missed.  
Good luck to everyone in the elections.

11. **GFEL**

i. Dates of Festival Meetings & public involvement:

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2022

1. Does the Parish Council want the location of the hotline to be in the Village Hall or on site?  
It was unanimously agreed that the hotline will be located at the Control Centre but there needs to be a presence in the village.
2. Closure of Cockmill Lane.  
It was voted unanimously in favour of the closure.
3. Joint letter to the off-site campsites from the Parish Council/GFEL.  
A draft letter will be provided to the Clerk and Councillors were asked to provide bullets points they want included e.g. campsites being good neighbours, conduct, pedestrians and taxi pick-ups.
4. Top Street Clearway  
TTRO in place and AA signs. The Council ticketing team will ticket vehicles without an exemption pass and on the Monday they will be towed away. GFEL will investigate vehicles prior to ticketing. Signs will be visible at each end of Top Street the week prior to ticketing.  
Councillors voted unanimously in favour. A joint letter will be sent by Steve Russell-Yarde to Top Street residents.
5. Clearway/speed limits in Bread Street.

This was requested by the Parish Council, a resident asked for access to Green Car Park via a different route.

It was asked that the volume of traffic be discussed.

**NEXT MEETING:**

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm  
Parish Council Meeting will take place on Wednesday 11th May 2022 at 7.30pm

Meeting closed 21.45pm

## **APPENDIX A – Report from Nigel Hewitt-Cooper**

Coronavirus: From 1 April -

- PCR and lateral flow Covid tests will no longer be free for most people
- Covid passports will no longer be recommended, except for international travel
- employers will no longer have to consider Covid as a separate risk when working out how to keep employees safe

Over-75s and people with a weakened immune system are now eligible for a Booster jab provided it is six months after their previous dose.

Local Government Reorganisation: Following the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) decision to support the move to a single Unitary Council across Somerset the Structural Changes Order were approved by the House of the Lords and passed into law on 17th March. The first elections to the new authority together with Somerset Town and Parish elections are being held on 5th May 2022.

Local Community Networks: The Local Government Association (LGA) has awarded a £50k funding boost to help develop Local Community Networks (LCNs) in Somerset. The grant is to develop LCNs and deliver new ways of working prior to Vesting Day, when the unitary authority officially begins. Some of the £50k will be used to facilitate three community-led LCN pilots bringing public services together with local people and other community organisations to explore opportunities around children and families; health and wellbeing; and local street scene and highways matters in the first instance.

Health Checks: NHS Health Check is a mandated SCC Public Health programme. The check is available for people aged 40 to 74 and assesses a person's 10-year risk of developing heart disease, stroke, diabetes, kidney disease or dementia. The check takes around 20-minute to complete and each person receives a comprehensive health report with their results, together with advice and support about how to maintain good health and make lifestyle changes that will help them to improve their health. The checks are available through a range of GPs, pharmacies and community locations in Somerset. More information about the Health Checks programme is available at <https://bit.ly/freehcheck>

Road safety: Drivers are being warned by Somerset County Council's Road Safety Team of tough new legislation to punish mobile phone use at the wheel. As of Friday (25 March 2022), drivers caught using a phone while in charge of a vehicle can expect six points on their licence and a £200 fixed penalty notice. If you have only had your driving licence for less than two years, it will be revoked, and you will have to pass your test again. The Highway Code will also be changed to say that handheld phone use in traffic jams or when stationary is also illegal.

Saltlands Solar Park: A former landfill site near Bridgwater will be used to generate clean energy and save hundreds of tonnes of carbon a year. Somerset County Council's Cabinet has voted to start a procurement process to appoint a contractor to build a new solar park on the Saltlands landfill site, in the Chilton Trinity area of Bridgwater. Landfill operations at the site ceased in the 1980s and it is not

suitable for most kinds of development. However, as a solar park it could generate 3,635,000 kilowatt hours of clean, renewable energy per year, save 805 tonnes of carbon per year, and play a key part in the Council's ambitions to achieve carbon neutrality in Somerset by 2030.

Ukrainian refugees: Somerset County Council has committed £250,000 to support refugees fleeing war-torn Ukraine as part of a county-wide response to the humanitarian crisis. Somerset has a proud record when it comes to welcoming refugees, with the County Council working with partners, charities and the community to help over 160 people safely resettle here since 2016. Support can include access to public services, education and health support, housing, travel, food and interpretation services. Sponsoring households may also require support. A further £50,000 was pledged for a new Somerset Ukrainian support fund. More details on actions around refugees can be found at [www.somerset.gov.uk/ukraine/refugee-resettlement/](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/ukraine/refugee-resettlement/)