**Minutes of the meeting of the Pilton Parish Council**

**Held via Zoom on Wednesday 5th August 2020 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)

3 Members of the public were present.

1. **CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

i Mobile phones should be switched to silent.

2. **APOLOGIES:** Lynda Allen and Audrey Brown

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS:** Councillor Drew stated that he does not have an interest at present but may do so in the future. There were no other declarations of interest.

4. **MINUTES:** of the 1st July 2020 were approved.

**MATTERS ARISING:**

i Traffic Matters:

* New Defects
* There is a sunken drainhole cover on the A361 near Threlfalls, the noise that is made when cars go over it is causing a nuisance.
* The road is eroding opposite Parsons Batch, the edge by the curb the road has sunken.
* Pothole in Pylle Road opposite Mary’s Lane, on the corner when turning left into Copse Lane.
* Serious potholes outside Perridge House, on Perridge Hill in Pilton and on the West Compton road.

Community Speedwatch is up and running again. Councillor King stated that they have had incidences where motorists have stopped and become obstropilos.

ii Police Report: July Police Report not yet received.

iii Website:Update: The Clerk advised the website is still work in progress and information needs to be transferred from the Village Website to the Parish Council website. The new website address needs to be put in the Roundabout Magazine. Councillors were reminded that the Clerk still needs photos of the Councillors for the website.

iv Draft Cycling and Walking Manifesto: The Clerk confirmed that she has written to the Council but has not received a response. This will be chased up.

v Community Fridge: A presentation was given by Kelly Knight. Kelly proposed an open fridge to be situated outside the Co-Op (but under cover) for those in need of extra food. The food would be donated by the Co-Op. The food would be out of date and a suitable warning would be located on the fridge, this would eliminate any embarrassment of asking for help. There are 60 Community Fridges across the country. Kelly will contact the Co-Op regarding any funding available for setting up this service. She will also liaise with Councillor R Kearle the Village Hall Trustees. Councillors voted unanimously in favour of this scheme.

vi Cock and Bull Drove: Councillor Noble advised that the police were called to an incident where a caravan was blocking the road as it was moved into Bush Lane (previously Cock and Bull Drove). The caravan was blocking the footpath for two days. When asked the owner of the land stated the caravan was for office accommodation and they did not require planning permission. The Clerk was asked to formally write to Mendip District Council (copying in Nigel Hewitt-Cooper) advising them of the situation.

vii Parish Notice Boards: The Clerk was asked to contact Steve Ladyman requesting that the Village Hall noticeboard be erected and to ask where it is expected to be located. Parishioners need to have visibility every day.

Councillor King is drafting a notice to be included into the Roundabout Magazine inviting parishioners to attend the Parish Council Zoom meetings.

The meeting was halted for 20 minutes due to technical issues with Zoom but resumed after with 1 member of the public. The remaining 2 members of the public emailed to say they left the meeting due to a family issue.

5. **PLANNING:**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Application Number | Proposal | Applicant & Location |
| 2020/1262/TCA | T1 Pine - Fell | Ms T Hewer  The Old Bakery  Whitstone Hill  Pilton |
| Pilton Parish Council Recommends: APPROVAL  Councillor Noble proposed approval, Councillor Brown seconded. The vote was unanimously in favour of approval. | | |
| 2020/1153/FUL | Erection of an arena for equestrian use | Mr & Mrs Paul & Lesley Skinner  Hearne Farm  Lower Westholme Road  Pilton |
| Pilton Parish Council Recommends: APPROVAL  Councillor Noble proposed approval, Councillor King seconded. The vote was unanimously in favour of approval. | | |
| 2020/1225/HSE | Erection of carport and side/rear single storey extension. | Mr & Mrs Rice  The Crow’s Nest  Higher Westholme Road  Pilton |
| Pilton Parish Council Recommends: APPROVAL  Councillor King proposed approval, Councillor Roberts seconded. The vote was unanimously in favour of approval. | | |

6. **FINANCE:**

i Financial Statement:



ii Financial News/ Requests for Grants:

There were no requested for grants.

7. **BURIAL GROUND**

i Maintenance reports:

ii Grave: Council Noble confirmed that the graves are now in a good condition.

Councillor Drew has put up a new notice board and list of Burial Ground rules.

It was confirmed that the grave of Joy Stacey is now of a good standard. Councillor R Kearle stated how lovely the Burial Ground looks and thanked everyone for their hard work.

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

i Roundabout report

Residents please be respectful of your neighbours when having bonfire during the day, please check prior to lighting a bonfire whether your neighbours have their washing out.

Please remove any Ragwort you have around your property and dispose of it correctly and please keep your hedges trimmed to keep the footpaths clear for pedestrians. Hedges are particularly bad in Shop Lane, complaints have been received that pedestrians have to walk into the road in order to pass.

Residents are reminded to park with consideration, there have now been instances of emergency vehicles being unable to get through and also a Co-Op was unable to gain access. Please bear this in mind when you are parking your vehicle.

Councillor King will speak to the ASBO’s regarding removing Ragwort around the village. Councillor King advised that any at Gabriel’s Orchard will removed the following day.

Councillor Noble stated that a wooden type building is located at the new traveller’s site in West Compton. The Clerk was asked to write to Mendip District Council to see if this legal.

The Clerk was asked to chase the police for a response as to who was responsible for phoning the police regarding an illegal rave and stating that they were the Parish Council.

A resident stated that they felt that the wall by the Post Office is very high and restricts the view of traffic and pedestrians coming down the hill, also if you are pulling into the car park you do not have visibility into the car park. The Clerk was asked to contact Steve Ladyman regarding this and copy the resident into the email.

Appendix A – attached, update from Nigel Hewitt-Cooper.

**NEXT MEETING:** Parish Council Meeting Wednesday 2nd September 2020 at 7.30pm

Meeting closed 8.38pm

**APPENDIX A – Update from Nigel Hewitt-Cooper**

**SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL**

**BRIEFING SHEET FOR PARISH AND TOWN COUNCILS**

**AUGUST 2020**

**Corona Virus Update:** Whilst every death is undoubtedly an absolute tragedy, the situation in Somerset has been throughout the pandemic relatively quiet compared to the rest of the Country. As at 30th July, the number of confirmed Covid cases in Somerset was 1308 and the number of Covid-attributed deaths 201. There have been no further Care Home deaths since 3rd July and the current number of total deaths across the County is currently 12% below the 5-year average. The latest R value for Somerset is between 0.8 and 1.1.

**Covid 19 Outbreak Management:** The Local Outbreak Engagement Board has met for the first time and agreed the Local Outbreak Management Plan. This Board will oversee the public engagement should any local lockdown actions be required. The Government has also passed down powers to the local authority to close premises, restrict open spaces and ban events in instances where the number of infections begins to rise sharply.

**Covid 19 Business Survey:** Somerset are undertaking a business survey to assess the impacts of COVID-19 (coronavirus) on the economy and will provide vital intelligence to help support local business response and recovery work. This survey forms part of a package of intelligence gathering being undertaken on the business and labour market impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, working in partnership with business leaders and stakeholders across the county. The survey can be accessed online at [www.somerset.gov.uk/businessrecoverysurvey](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/businessrecoverysurvey)   until 14 August. Businesses can be reassured that their data will not be shared and all responses will be completely anonymised.

**One Somerset:** The business case to move to a Single Unitary authority across Somerset is available on [www.onesomerset.org.uk](http://www.onesomerset.org.uk) and details the reasons for the recommendations and the substantial benefits to the residents of Somerset. The business case was approved by Full Council on the 29th July for submission to the Secretary of State. Engagement and consultation activities on One Somerset will continue through the later summer and autumn.

**AV1 Learning Robots:** Somerset County Council’s trail-blazing use of robot technology, to help poorly children learn, is in line for a top national award. In the biggest initiative of its kind in the country, the Council invested in 50 AV1 robots to support children who can’t be in school – whether it’s because they are sick or overcoming physical or mental health challenges. Now the project has been shortlisted in the Digital Transformation category of the national MJ Awards 2020. The winner is due to be announced in early October. Since being introduced late last year, 45 schools have already asked to use a robot to support children who cannot physically be in the classroom, including through the Covid-19 crisis.  SCC expects that in the new school year students who are still required to shield due to the Covid-19 situation will benefit hugely from the AV1 Robot scheme.

**Library Services:** The County’s Library service now allows people to use an online request form to receive a selection of up to 10 books, DVDs or Talking Books which staff pick out for customers, based on the types of authors or genres that are of interest to them. The service originally operated from Taunton, Frome, Yeovil, Minehead and Bridgwater libraries and has had nearly 900 order and collect requests. From the 27 July, this was extended to Wells, Dulverton and Ilminster and from the 3rd August, Burnham-on-Sea, Williton, Wincanton and Shepton Mallet. South Petherton Community Library will be doing the same from the 4th August. Computers in the libraries need to be pre-booked and are available for one-hour slots, with time built in for cleaning. To date over 520 sessions have been booked. All current loans that would have been due back during the lockdown period have been extended to the end of August, and any overdue charges have been waived.

**Domestic Abuse Service:** Somerset County Council’ domestic abuse service is to receive a share of a half million-pound fund to support local services. The Council’s service provider, The You Trust, is one of a number of local agencies who help victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence, which will benefit from the fund. The You Trust are often the first point of contact for someone who is seeking help and the recent lockdown had a significant impact on victims who were living with perpetrators and felt that there was no way to escape. Help is available – 0800 69 49 999 or [www.somersetsurvivors.org.uk](http://www.somersetsurvivors.org.uk)

**Maternity Toolkit:** The newly launched Somerset Maternity Toolkit developed by Somerset County Council and the wider Local Maternity System offers a digital guide designed to support the beginning and early part of the maternity and parenting journey. It then leads supportively onto the Parent Carer Toolkit for parents/carers of school age children and young people. The service can be accessed 24/7 from home or on a smartphone on <https://cypsomersethealth.org/maternity_toolkit>