**Meeting of the Pilton Parish Council**

**in Pilton Village Hall on**

 **Wednesday 1st December 2021 at 7.30pm**

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

Audrey Brown

 David Drew

 Stephen Kearle

 Joe King

Roger Noble

Lynda Roberts

3Members of the public attended the meeting.

1 **CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

 i Mobile phones should be switched to silent.

2 **APOLOGIES:** Councillors Elkin and Shaw and the Clerk

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 Brown, Noble, King and Roberts

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

5. **MATTERS ARISING:**

 i Traffic Matters:

* New Defects: Last month’s defect have been given a ref number.

The road surface into Shepton Mallet, near the old railway bridge is bad. There are blocked drains in Neat Lane and by Culverwell House.

There is an old car bumper in the hedge on Winters Hill, West Compton, Councillor S Kearle will remove this.

* Lamberts Hill: No update has been received, the Clerk will chase.

 ii SIS Proposal TI004358 for the A361

* Update: No update has been received, the Clerk will chase.

iii Community Speedwatch; The team have been out every week in November, with 85 vehicles reports to the police. The top speed reported was 57MPH. The Speed Indicator Device with be in the village for a month.

iv Local Council Alliance: There was no update this month.

v Dog Poo Bins: No update received this month, the Clerk will chase.

vi Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations: There was no update this month.

vii Parking at the Drew’s opposite the Chapel on Top Street: Councillor Drew to liaise with Mendip District Council.

viii Strawberry Line and Active Travel: There was no update this month.

ix Vegetation: A letter has been produced for Councillors King and Noble to distribute to residents who have overgrown vegetation requesting that action be taken to cut it back.

x Pollution: The report written by Bangor University was distributed to Councillors, it was agreed that the Clerk will write to Mendip District Council asking what action they will be taking.

xi Letter to Trustees of the Village Hall: All Councillors should have received a copy of the draft letter from Councillor Shaw. The vote was 5 in favour, 1 against and one abstention of sending the letter to the Trustee of the Village Hall.

xii Update from Nigel Hewitt-Cooper: This has been emailed to Councillors.

6. **PLANNING:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Application Number | Proposal | Applicant & Location |
| 2021/2585/TCA | A – Willow – Removal of large limbs. B – Willow – Thin crown cutting limb | Mr LeachBarrowfields House,Barrow Lane,Pilton |
| Pilton Parish Council Recommends: Approval.Councillor Noble proposed approval, Councillor Drew seconded, the vote was unanimously in favour |
| 2021/2370/FUL | Erection of Pool Room and Smoke House (Retention of works already completed) | Crown InnWhitstone HillPilton |
| Pilton Parish Council Recommends: Approval.Councillor Noble proposed approval, Councillor King seconded, the vote was unanimously in favour |

 **ENFORCEMENT:**

i Update:

7. **FINANCE:**

i Financial Statement:

 

ii Financial News/ Requests for Grants: No requests received.

iii Precept/ Spending for 2022/23: Councillors were asked to consider any spending for next year prior to the Precept meeting in January.

8. **BURIAL GROUND**

i Maintenance reports: Two were received both were fine.

ii Maintenance work: Need another new rail and a few more branches removed. The working part went well, four councillors attended, Councillors Drew, R Kearle, King, Noble and Shaw.

9. **FOOTPATHS**

i Weir Lane Footpath: A tree is down on footpath on 16/52, Councillor S Kearle to organise removal with Mr Eavis’ tree surgeon.

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

i Roundabout report:

 Happy New Year.

 The grit bins are available for use on the highways.

 Villagers are reminded to cut back any overhanging vegetation.

11. **GFEL**

i. Dates of Festival Meetings & public involvement:

It was unanimously agreed to hold the usual meetings between the Parish Council and GFEL. The Clerk will liaise with GFEL to arrange dates. Councillor Noble suggested that the first meeting should be at the end of January. It was unanimously agreed for better public involvement in meetings and to have Zoom for the public to attend virtually.

**NEXT MEETING:** Parish Precept meeting at 7pm and Council Meeting will take place on Wednesday 5th January 2022 at 7.30pm

Meeting closed 8.15pm

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

Coronavirus infection rates: As of 29th November, the number of confirmed Covid cases in Somerset was 68,307 (18% up from 57,072 on 30th September) and the number of Covid-attributed deaths 927. The rate per 100,000 stands at 435.2 (709.7) for Somerset with Mendip at 564.1 (853.9), Sedgemoor at 418.1 (653.5), South Somerset 505.5 (668.3) and SW&T at 276.6 (713.0). The number of total deaths across the County is currently 8% above the 5-year average and the latest R-value for Somerset is between 0.8 and 1.0.

Infection rates in Somerset continue to be very high. With the new Omicron variant it is important, even for those who have had both jabs, to remember to follow Government guidance on wearing masks, to continue to observe Social Distancing and to always ventilate indoor areas.

Somerset Coronavirus Support Helpline: A single phone number continues to be available for anyone in Somerset who needs Coronavirus-related support. 0300 790 6275, is open seven days a week from 8am to 6pm.

Vaccination programmes roll-out: Somerset continues to have one of the highest vaccination rates in the country with the latest figures showing over 91.3% of the 18+ population having had one dose of vaccine and 88.3% having had both doses. To date 83% of over 80-year old’s have had the booster with 56% of all over 50. Work is focusing on Children aged 12-15 years old where the current vaccination level is 49.7%. In total, in Somerset 126,000 doses (including boosters) are being delivered a week.

Local Government Reorganisation: Following the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government (now renamed Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities DLUHC)) decision to support the move to a single Unitary Council across Somerset the transition programme, lead teams and governance structure have been agreed by all Councils. A LGR Joint Committee to oversee the transition sat for the first time on 5th November 2021 and will meet again on December 17th. A Joint Scrutiny Board is now being formed by approval through the five Councils. The Advisory Board met for the third time in Donyatt on 25th November. It is expected that statutory orders will be laid before Parliament in January 2022 with an agreed vesting date for the new authority as April 2023.

The Queens Platinum Jubilee: In 2022, Her Majesty The Queen will become the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee, marking seventy years on the throne. To help Somerset play its part in celebrating The Queen’s legacy, a new website has been launched: https://platinumjubileesomerset.org.uk/. There are already various plans for celebrations across the County to mark the Jubilee, including a four-day national Bank Holiday weekend from Thursday 2 June through to Sunday 5 June. The Platinum Jubilee Somerset website features information about how individuals and communities can get involved either through the Queen’s Green Canopy scheme, by registering a beacon, or by organising a street party.

Community renewal funds: Eight projects in Somerset are to benefit by more than £3.6m thanks to successful bids to the Government’s UK Community Renewal Fund. The County Council invited applications from a wide range businesses and organisations across the county for submission to Government in June this year. The successful projects include ‘Unlocking Somerset Prosperity (£726,000) which provides innovative support for 210 businesses across the County; Bridgwater Carnival Workshops Design and Feasibility (£270,300) and Social Enterprise Support Programme for Somerset (£601,399) which helps community and voluntary Groups to build greater resilience.

Reaching Carbon Zero (1): Somerset County Council has commissioned Climate Guide to run a series of free, accredited Carbon Literacy training days for City, Town, and Parish Councils. The training is designed to help local authorities understand the actions they can take to help combat climate change effectively. SCC has also launched its new Climate Emergency webpage https://www.somerset.gov.uk/climate-emergency/ which will provide a hub for anyone wanting information about Somerset’s work towards tackling climate change including the latest environmental news for Somerset, information and tips for individuals and organisations on how they can reduce their carbon footprints.

Reaching Carbon Zero (2): A new £7.3 million primary school is set to become Somerset’s first net zero carbon school, and only the third ‘passivhaus’ school in the south west. The new 420-place primary school, which includes a 60-place nursery, will serve the Orchard Grove housing development in Comeytrowe has been designed by architect firm Stride Treglown to minimise any environmental impact in line with Somerset’s commitment to achieve carbon zero by 2030.

The England coastal path: SCC’s Rights of Way team have completed work on a major new section of the English Coastal Path around the Doniford section. The decision to create the footway was part of the original establishment works for the England Coast Path and marks the completion of one of the last pieces of major work on the England Coast Path in Somerset

Applications for school places 2022: All children starting school for the first time in September 2022, as well as those moving between infant and junior or first and middle school applications must be submitted by Saturday 15 January 2022. [www.somerset.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/admissions)