

Meeting of the Pilton Parish Council
in Pilton Village Hall on
Wednesday 2nd March 2022 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors Robert Kearle (Chairman)
Audrey Brown
David Drew
Colin Elkin
Stephen Kearle
Joe King
Roger Noble
Lynda Roberts
Andrew Shaw

9 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:** None

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 Elkin, Noble, King and Shaw stated Festival ticket.

4. **MINUTES:** of the 2nd February 2022 were approved.

5. **MATTERS ARISING:**

i Traffic Matters:

- **New Defects:** There are potholes on the main road to Shepton on the back lane behind the pub and on Perridge Hill towards Watery Hill and also at the top of Neat Lane.
A lorry has hit the bridge again at Stoodley Hill. It was suggested that signs be put up at Cannons Farm stating no HGV's.
There is a blocked culvert outside Arks Villa in Bread Street.
In Top Street, outside 'Meadowcroft' the road is damaged. Highways have been emailed and will be investigating in the new financial year. Steve Russell-Yarde will forward the email stating this to the Clerk.
At Park Hill at the back of the Manor House the trees need attention. The Clerk was asked to request that Highway's approach the owners of the Manor House as the trees could be dangerous.
- **Lamberts Hill:** A licence to cut the back was not applied for. Contractors are now saying by the time it will have been approved it will be nesting season. Councillor R Kearle replied suggesting that netting be placed over the hedge to avoid nesting. No reply was received. The Clerk was asked to write stating how disappointed the Parish Council were by this and their lack of organisation.

- ii SIS Proposal TI004358 for the A361
 - Puffin Crossing: The Clerk was asked to obtain an update from Andrew Nellist at Mendip District Council.
- iii Community Speedwatch:
 - Everything is going well. Ninety drivers were recorded speeding, the top speed being 57mph in a 30mph limit, this data has gone to the police. Based on the data sent in by Pilton Speedwatch, the official Avon and Somerset Speed Enforcement Unit had carried out a considerable number of enforcement sessions on the A361 adjacent to the Neat Lane/ B3136 junction.
 - Speed Indicator Device: Councillors voted unanimously in favour of obtaining a speed indicator device for the village. A villager suggest we try for 3, to be located in Park Hill, Neat Lane and the layby in ??????. Councillor King volunteered to receive Chapter 8 training to be able to change the battery in the device. It was asked what the running costs would be. The Clerk will take this forward.
- iv Local Council Alliance: Councillor Shaw was unable to attend the most recent meeting but will update Councillors at the next Parish Council Meeting.
- v Dog Poo Bins: The Clerk has emailed Mendip District Council for an update but has not yet received a response. Nigel Hewitt-Cooper has approached the Clerk to ask with poo signs were still required as they were requested over a year ago. It was confirmed that they were and that 24 should be requested. This would replace missing signs and the opportunity to put up new signs in new locations. It was suggested that Hitchen Hill needs a sign.
- vi Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations: A committee comprising of 8 villagers has been formed. The committee has requested a grant from the Parish Council of £1000 to help fund the event. The treasurer for the event is Paul Warry. The committee asked if the insurance could be arranged through the Parish Council. The Clerk has received a response from their insurers BHIB stating that as the Parish Council is not organising the event then the events cannot fall under the umbrella of their insurance.
Mr Eavis has agreed to the tree planting being on Worthy Farm. Councillor King will liaise with the Alan Powell Trust to advise them and to check that a sign stating Jubilee Wood and acknowledging the Alan Powell Trust and the location of the planting is acceptable. The money should be paid to GFEL. This is requested in writing and should be minuted at the next Jubilee Committee Meeting.
Councillor Noble suggested that the Parish Council plant a tree, this was unanimously agreed. Councillor R Kearle will donate a Hornbeam tree and it will be planted where the pine tree has fallen in the Burial Ground. The new tree will be planted when the current tree works are completed.
- vii Parking at the Drew's opposite the Chapel on Top Street: The problem has eased considerably at Chapel Green. It was agreed to remove from next month's agenda.
- viii Pollution: The Clerk has had a conversation with MDC regarding the Bangor University report. Mendip District Council are not responsible for pollution at the Festival but that is dealt with by the Environment Agency. She has however read the report and in her opinion the findings did not add up
- ix Letter to Trustees of the Village Hall: Dates and location of future meetings – It was suggested that voting should be delayed until the new Parish Council has been elected.

The counter proposal was to move meetings to a Tuesday evening in the Winding Lake room. A third proposal was to try the other part of the bar on either a Tuesday or Wednesday. The vote was 4 in favour of delaying the decision, 2 in favour of moving to a Tuesday and nobody voted in favour of meeting in the bar area.

- x Shooting Gound: No update has been received this month. The Clerk was asked to email Andy Langston to ask what action is being taken.
- xi Update from Nigel Hewitt-Cooper:

6. **PLANNING:**

Application Number	Proposal	Applicant & Location
2022/0278/FUL	Converting an existing outbuilding to holiday let accommodation	Mr Gavin Longman Avalon Cottage, Tanyard Lane Pilton
Pilton Parish Council could not make a decision as they were unable to view the documents on the Mendip District Council Planning Portal.		

- i Update:

7. **FINANCE:**

- i Financial Statement:

Banked								
	M J Franks					£	120.00	
						£	120.00	
	Less cheques drawn:							
	cq number	details						
	2282	K Bucley	(HWA, Insurance £15.50 & Zoom 14.39)				473.14	
	2283	W Lynn					41.30	
	2284	Pilton Working Mens Club					15.00	
						£	529.44	
	Balance at 28/02/2022						£	20,839.14

- ii Financial News/ Requests for Grants:

- Playing Fields Play Area Upgrade: No grant request has been received as yet. The Clerk should receive a grant request once it has been approved by the Playing Fields Committee. The Clerk advised that she was in the process of renewing the insurance and asked if there was any changes to be made on behalf of the Playing Fields.
- Mendip Citizens Advice: It was unanimously agreed to donate £200.

8. **BURIAL GROUND**

- i Maintenance reports: Two reports were received both were fine.
- ii Maintenance work: The trees on the roadside should be reduced. Councillors R Kearle and Noble to see what work needs to be carried out.
- iii Notes and Regulations: Councillor King attended a Zoom meeting regarding the management of burial grounds. The review of document did not happen but it was unanimously agreed to buy a copy of the recommended book 'Essential Law for Cemetery and Crematorium Managers' to assist in rewriting the new Burial Ground rules and regulations.
It was agreed that details of how to contact the Burial Secretary and relevant forms to be available on the Parish Council Website.

9. FOOTPATHS

- i Weir Lane Footpath: The Clerk was asked to provide Councillor King with Kelly Knight's email address. It was asked whether planning permission for the black steel railings was required for the new railing as the footpath is situated in a conservation area.
Two quotes have been received and a third is still required. Councillor Noble will ask Alan Connock to quote.
Councillor R Kearle has been approached by a resident who is happy to have a bridleway/ walking route on their land between East Compton and West Compton. Councillor R Kearle has approached Mendip District Council as they may be approached to fund gates. Claire Haskins is already involved.
The ASBO's are due to start work again in early April.
A villager reported a burnt out vehicle at Stumps Cross. It was removed the next day.
The fence alongside the Playing Fields is down and the footpath mark sign has been propped up. The ASBO's will repair footpath marker.

10. ITEMS FOR COUNCIL'S INFORMATION:

- i Roundabout report:

Parish, District and County Council Election are taking place on the 5th May.
To obtain a Nomination Pack visit
<https://www.mendip.gov.uk/article/10641/Elections-2022>

The next GFEL/PPC meeting will take place on 14th April at 6.30pm.

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on 20th April at 7.30pm.

Villagers are reminded to cut back overhanging vegetation before the bird nesting season starts.

Thanks was given to Councillors and team for the work completed at the Burial Ground.

It was suggested that The Guinness Trust pay for and maintain the defibrillator. The Clerk will forward the quote to Steve Russell-Yarde. Attendees at the meeting were advised to be vigilant as defibrillators have been vandalised at Wells and Shepton Mallet.

There is a lot of ivy on the wall in Beales Hill. It was requested that the ASBO's remove it to prevent further damage to the wall.

An email has been received from Karen Churchll, (Fromeforsafetech) regarding radiofrequency radiation, this will be discussed at the April Parish Council meeting.

Quad bikes have been stolen from the Frome and Mendip area. There have been reports of hare coursing – be vigilant and report anything suspicious.

11. **GFEL**

i. Dates of Festival Meetings & public involvement:

Wednesday 14th April 2022

It was reported that the GFEL/PPC meeting was pretty comprehensive and Councillors were very impressed by Melvin Benn.

Steve Russell-Yarde stated that there is a ruling in place to try to restrict parking in Top Street.

Mendip District Council want issues reported immediately not after the event. GFEL will ensure this message gets passed onto villagers.

Items for discussion at the next Parish Council Meeting:

- Does the PPC want a hotline located in the Village Hall or on the Festival site.
- Closure of Cockmill Lane.
- Joint letter from PPC/GFEL to off-site campsites.
- Top Street clearway
- Clearway/speed limits in Bread Street.

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

Appendix A – Report from Nigel Hewitt-Cooper

Coronavirus infection rates: The Government published its Living with Covid-19 report on 21st January 2022. Under the plan

- people with Covid are not legally required to self-isolate
- however, guidance recommends that those who test positive stay at home and avoid contact with others for at least five full days
- self-isolation support payments of £500 for those on low incomes have stopped
- routine contact tracing has ended - people in contact with someone with Covid will no longer be advised to self-isolate or take daily tests
- workers are not required to tell their employer if they need to self-isolate
- face coverings are not mandatory but they are still "strongly encouraged"

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 also being offered an extra Covid booster jab this spring, six months after their previous dose.

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.

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 Commons Committee on 23rd January and will now go before the Lords on or before 14th March. The first elections to the new authority together with Somerset Town and Parish elections will be held on 5th May 2022.

County Council Revenue Budget: Highlights of the 2022/23 Somerset budget include: An extra £18 million investment in Adults Social Care (13% increase), an extra £12 million invested in Children's Services (13% increase), an additional £8.4 million identified to invest in schools and £48 million in capital projects, including roads. Additionally there is a major investment in supporting the commitment to create a zero carbon Somerset by 2030 with £7.8 million allocated to reduce energy use in council buildings and £1 million invested in the electrifying the council fleet and building a charging infrastructure in the county. The County Council's share of Council Tax is proposed to rise by a two per cent with a further one per cent rise under the social care precept. For a home rated Band D for Council Tax this is equivalent to a rise of 78p a week.

iAero: A new £10m aerospace centre in Yeovil dedicated to innovation, collaboration and sustainable aviation has officially opened. The iAero project, led by Somerset County Council, is a hub for collaboration and innovation on new products. It stands next door to world-leading aerospace company Leonardo UK Ltd, a key partner in the project. The centre will be the gateway for the aerospace industry to access small and medium enterprises who are looking to collaborate and innovate on new products.

Opportunity Boost Scheme: A new grant has been launched to help people in Somerset overcome financial barriers when seeking employment and returning to work. The Opportunity Boost Scheme will provide grants worth up to £500 to help with the cost associated progressing into work, such as transport costs, childcare, work clothes, learning resources and training courses. The funding for the scheme has been provided through the Somerset Recovery Fund, and the initiative is being delivered in partnership between Somerset County Council and Citizens Advice Somerset. To qualify, applicants must be aged 16 or over, not be entitled to any other financial assistance for job seeking, and had a pre-Covid salary of less than £25,000. For More information visit www.westsomersetadvice.org.uk/?p=1380

Half Term and Easter food support: Somerset County Council is again working with schools to provide food vouchers to families eligible for Free School Meals to combat holiday hunger over the February half-term and Easter holidays. The Council has helped provide food vouchers to those children in need of support during the school holidays since October 2020, providing a much-needed boost to families who have felt the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic. The allocation for February half-term and Easter provides vouchers worth £15 per pupil for the week and includes additional funding so that schools can also allocate vouchers to families who are in need of support but do not qualify for Free School Meals.

Ukraine: In addition to flying the Ukrainian flag and lighting County Hall in Yellow and Blue the County Council are offering extra support to Ukrainian members of staff and residents in Somerset. The Council stands by, ready to support the national humanitarian aid effort to relocate refugees displaced by Russian aggression.