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

**via Zoom on Wednesday 4th November 2020 at 7.30pm**

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

Audrey Brown

David Drew

Colin Elkin

Stephen Kearle

Joe King

Roger Noble

Andrew Shaw

Karen Buckley (Clerk/RFO)

8 Members of the public were present.

1. **CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

i Mobile phones should be switched to silent.

2. **APOLOGIES:** Lynda Roberts and Nigel Hewitt-Cooper

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS:** No declarations of interested were reported. Councillor Drew reported that he has no declarations of interest at present but may do so in the future

4. **MINUTES:** of the 4th November 2020 were approved.

**MATTERS ARISING:**

i Traffic Matters:

* New Defects:

Orange markers have been drawn around the potholes in West Compton.

The road has disintegrated at the bridge at the foot of Winters Hill as you enter West Compton. There is a pothole where the tarmac has fallen away approximately 11/2ft square. This is deemed very urgent as it is dangerous especially with the high use of HGV vehicles using the road and causing more damage.

The mud on the road at West Compton still remains, Councillor S Kearle confirmed that he did speak to the farmer regarding this. A West Compton resident has spoken to PSCO Sheila Thompson who has also visited the farmer and he confirmed that he will remove the mud form the road.

The same resident stated that during a recent litter pick forty beer cans were collected form the sides of the road, causing concerns regarding drink driving through the village.

As you drive up Mount Pleasant from Lower Street, the drain on the right hand site is completely covered with leaves. Councillor Drew offered to clear it.

In Top Street where the stream runs into the soakaway, this is very blocked, when traffic drives through the standing water it splashes onto the neighbouring house (Hells Barn) and caused the electrics to fuse in the house twice.

* Grit Bins – Councillor Brown will email the Clerk the locations of the grit bins and which ones need filling.

ii Community Speedwatch; The Team was not in action during the lockdown but now are back to their usual pattern of being out every week unless the Police tell them otherwise.

iii Police Report:

* October & November Police Reports – No reports have yet been received.
* Police Report – The Police have asked what information the Parish Council required. It was stated that we require no more information than we currently receive. Chris Norris is the current Beat Manager

Councillor R Kearle stated that that there have been a number of thefts in Pilton, including a Chainsaw from the Chairman. Villagers are advised to keep all equipment and machinery locked up at all times.

iv Local Council Alliance: St Cuthbert (Out) have signed up to the Local Council Alliance. This is to enable local rural Parishes to work to together to have a louder voice. Discussion took place regarding the benefits of this. It was decided that the Clerk will resend the initial email detailing the proposal and it will then be discussed further at the next meeting.

v Data Protection: The Clerk advised that new email addresses have been created for Councillors and be issued with passwords shortly.

vi Vegetation: The hedge at Mount Pleasant has been cut along with great deal of other vegetation around the village. Further discussion will take place at the next meeting and Councillors will identify residents to send letters to where action needs to be taken. The Hazel in Ford Lane are the responsibility of Highways but they are not taking any action. Council King is happy to help coppice, Councillor Noble agreed to help and Councillor R Kearle will provide a tractor and trailer.

vii Additional Defibrillator: The Clerk has written to Mr Eavis but not received a response as yet.

viii Weir Lane to Ford Footpath improvements: Councillor Noble has met with the resident who lives at the end of the footpath, he agreed that the Laurel needs to be cut back to the fence and the footpath needs levelling as it slopes towards the river. The resident will monitor the growth of the Willow tree and confirmed that he is happy to go with what the Parish Council feels needs to be done. Councillor Noble will approach the other landowners. Councillors will now obtain three quotes to carry out the works.

ix Climate Emergency Funding: Cathy Lowe spoke regarding this. During the second phase applicants can bid for between £5k and £75k for projects to reduce carbon emissions.

Suggested projects for Pilton include:

* Community composting working with the Allotment Society.
* Cycle Paths
* Community electric cars
* Tree planting (but would need land)

It was stated that electric charging points are being installed by the Village Hall, this would provide an opportunity to upgrade the village minibus to an electric minibus.

As removing the Ash trees in the village due to Ash Dieback it was felt it would be a good idea to plant more trees in the village. Trees could be obtained from the Woodland Trust, the Clerk will investigate.

Cathy will send the application forms to the Clerk who will distribute to Parish Councillors, Councillors Brown and S Kearle will look into this further and Councillors R Kearle and King offered to help with the paperwork.

5. **PLANNING:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Application Number | Proposal | Applicant & Location |
| 2020/2264/HSE | Erection of a single storey side infill extension, partial conversion of garage with first floor extension to create a residential annex associated with main dwelling. | Mr & Mrs A Steel  Willow Cottage,  Whitstone Hill,  Pilton,  BA4 4DT |
| Pilton Parish Council Recommends – APPROVAL  Councillor Noble proposed Refusal on the grounds that the extension was too big. No-one seconded the proposal.  Councillor Shaw proposed Approval, Councillor Elkin seconded.  The Parish Council voted was 7 in favour of approval, 1 against. | | |
| 2020/2379/TCA | T1 – Leylandii – Fell | Dr Stephen Tofts  Ashfield,  Bakery Lane,  Pilton  BA4 4BJ |
| Pilton Parish Council Recommends – APPROVAL  Councillor Drew proposed Approval, Councillor Noble seconded, the Parish Councillor voted unanimously in favour of approval. | | |

**ENFORCEMENT:**

* Winters Hill: A file has been set up by Simon Snartt, Planning Enforcement Officer. Councillor Noble visited the site, solar panels and patio doors have been fitted on three sides of the building. The footpaths cannot be used due to the amount of mud, an electric fence and pigs in the field. Councillor Noble has spoken with Simon Snartt, was extremely rude and stated that he lived in Bristol and doesn’t know the area. A resident reported that this breech of planning was first reported two years ago.

The Clerk was asked to email Nigel Hewitt-Cooper regarding the site and blocking the footpath, as this is clearing a dwelling and not for housing animals.

* Cock and Bull Drove and Friar’s Oven:

A number of villagers have received letters and visits from the Police regarding Knowle Ground (Friars Oven). This is now a Police investigation involving harassment. The Chairman stated.that the Parish Council will step back and have no further involvement.

The Clerk advised that she has received a Freedom of Information request asking for all complaints received by the Parish Council relating to the site.

There is no further updated on the Cock and Bull Drove site. There is a log cabin on site and the site near the road has been cleared. The Clerk will report this to Simon Snartt.

6. **FINANCE:**

i Financial Statement:



ii Financial News/ Requests for Grants:

* Precept – The Clerk advised the Precept meeting will precede next month’s Parish Council meeting and will start at 7pm and be via Zoom.

7. **BURIAL GROUND**

i Maintenance reports: Councillor Drew advised that everything is fine at the Burial Ground. The new grave dug needs some additional soil, the Clerk will report this to Forsey and Sons.

ii Ash Trees: Two quotes have been received and the third due next week. Councillors decided they would award to the cheapest quote. Councillors will ensure that the chosen contractor knows to clear the site except for the timber which will be use for firewood. The Clerk will notify the successful supplier once all quotes are received.

Councillors Noble, King and R Kearle will meet in the New Year to discuss further works to the Burial Ground.

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

i Roundabout report

Happy New Year!

Please report any blocked drains in the village to the Parish Clerk or a Parish Councillor. We are working hard to get the drains in good working order.

Please pick up rubbish and ensure that recycling is picked up if blown around on recycling days.

Concern was raised regarding parking by the Chapel Coffee Room, the road is very narrow and it is difficult to pass. It was confirmed that the coffee shop would not be opening this month.

The Clerk was asked to email Mendip District Council about emptying dog bins and whether this was a service they could provide.

**NEXT MEETING:** Parish Council Precept Meeting Wednesday 6th January 2020 at 7.00pm

Parish Council Meeting Wednesday 6th January 2020 at 7.30pm

Meeting closed 8.48pm

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

Covid-19 Restrictions: Revised Government regulations mean that Somerset will enter Tier 2 restrictions on from December 2nd. The main requirements of this Tier are:

• No mixing of households indoors, excl. support bubbles. Max of 6 outdoors.

• Pubs and bars must close, unless operating as restaurants.

• Hospitality venues can only serve alcohol with substantial meals.

• Venues must stop taking orders at 10pm and must close by 11pm.

• Retail, indoor leisure, accommodation, hairdressers, places of worship will all be able to open

• Early years settings, schools, colleges and universities will remain open

Tiers and regulations will be reviewed again on December 16th and full details found at www.gov.uk/guidance/full-list-of-local-restriction-tiers-by-area

Coronavirus infection rates: As at 27th November, the number of confirmed Covid cases in Somerset was 5,110 (up from 2,738 on 1st Nov) and the number of Covid-attributed deaths 228 (208). The rate per 100,000 currently stands at 99.1 for Somerset with Mendip at 138.4, Sedgemoor at 115.3, South Somerset 89.1 and SW&T at 67.7. The current number of total deaths across the County is currently 3% below the 5-year average and the latest R-value for Somerset is between 1.0 and 1.3. It is vitally important to remember at all times the Hands-Face-Space message.

Christmas bubble guidance: Here are the main points to be aware of:

• You can travel between tiers and UK nations to and from your Christmas bubble between 23 and 27 December.

• Once at your destination you should follow rules in that tier.

• Three households can form a Christmas bubble together.

• You can only be in one and cannot change your Christmas bubble.

• You can only meet your Christmas bubble in private homes or in your garden, places of worship, or public outdoor spaces.

• You can continue to meet people who are not in your Christmas bubble outside your home according to the rules in the tier where you are staying.

• If someone is in your Christmas bubble, you can visit each other’s homes and stay overnight.

http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/making-a-christmas-bubble-with-friends-and-family/making-a-christmas-bubble-with-friends-and-family

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

Christmas shopping online: Somerset’s Trading Standards are advising online consumers to only buy from ‘reputable’ traders. The COVID-19 lockdowns have led to a rise in consumer spending online and 87 per cent of UK consumers are estimated to have purchased a product online. The public spends around £2bn a week on online purchases. A new information video if is available to explain how issues and problems can be dealt with https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dA75JeXrcu0

Domestic Abuse: During the first three months of lockdown, Somerset Integrated Domestic Abuse Service saw over 10,000 people reach out for information and help to their website – an increase of more than 8,000 in the same period during the previous year. Covid-19 has exacerbated the problem for both male and female victims, with lockdown increasing the amount of time they spend at home with their abuser, potentially escalating the threat of domestic abuse and restricting their freedom. Help can be accessed by calling 0800 6949 999 or if someone is in immediate danger by calling 999.

One Somerset: The final supporting submissions for One Somerset will be sent to the Secretary of State, MHCLG by 9th December. It is then expected that he will carry out consultation in Spring 2021 and make a decision in early summer. Further details can be found at [www.onesomerset.org.uk](http://www.onesomerset.org.uk)

Export Growth Plan: Somerset County Council are raising awareness of the new opportunities emerging for local companies to export goods and services. The South West is one of three areas chosen in the UK to benefit from the Export Growth Plan funding with a range of support. The Department for International Trade (DIT) is offering one-to-one engagement with businesses where specialists can provide support for companies who want to export goods. This can be accessed by emailing [DITSW@mobile.trade.gov.uk](mailto:DITSW@mobile.trade.gov.uk)

Climate Emergency Strategy: The five councils in Somerset have given the green light to implement the recently launched plan for Somerset to go carbon neutral by 2030. The Somerset-wide Climate Emergency Strategy considers how climate change will impact the County of Somerset and describes some of the key actions to tackle our carbon emissions including developing an energy plan for the County, developing an electric vehicle strategy, Improving walking, cycling and public transport infrastructure, improving resilience to climate change impact such as flooding and working with businesses and residents to reduce their own emissions. A copy of the approved strategy can be found at: http://www.somerset.gov.uk/climate-emergency

**APPENDIX B**

**Outstanding Pilton Parish Defects – November 2020**

**Blocked Drains/ Gullies:**

1. Water going from Lower Street towards Beales House next to Gable House, either the drain is blocked or spring. Under investigation.
2. The drain outside John Burns Cottages is running past the Stricklands property are particularly bad and will become very dangerous. Ref: 602869
3. The drain as you head towards Culverwell House is still blocked as the water is running along the road towards Councillor Noble’s house. Ref: 602870.
4. There is standing water opposite and adjacent to The Manor. Residents state that they have never seen the water so deep. There are no channels for the water to run away. Action needs to be taken before winter. Need more information.
5. The drains at Top Street, at the eastern end of Culverwell Cottages are full with silt.
6. Lower Street by Thornton House and Chanters House and Neat Lane, the drains are blocked solid.
7. At Springfield House into Lower Street water is running down the road.
8. Blocked drains 100m south of the old railway bridge on the B136.
9. There is a blocked drain in Totterdown Lane/ Parsons Batch, Glastonbury side of the road, south of Lays Lane.

**Potholes**

1. There is a large Pothole at the top of Mount Pleasant. Inspection arranged ref 531013
2. A parishioner has highlighted potholes in Compton Lane, at the end where it turns left (East) and runs along the side of Manor Barn. There are several holes and at least 3 large ones appear to fall within Somerset CC’s criteria for repair. Ref:600918
3. On the Pilton to Shepton Mallet turn off the sign was knocked down and is now missing. Ref: 538335. This has been referred to the Traffic Team in [Taunton.TrafficManagement@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:Taunton.TrafficManagement@somerset.gov.uk)
4. A361 breaking up outside the School House and the Forge House. Ref 601470
5. Potholes from Burford to West Compton Ref 601471
6. John Beales Hill and Chapel Hill the road surface is bad Ref 601472
7. Potholes between Westholme Road and Top Street. Ref 601473
8. Potholes outside Burford House
9. Potholes in Perridge Hill
10. Potholes on the West Compton road.
11. Serious potholes outside Perridge House, on Perridge Hill in Pilton and on the West Compton road. Ref 601901.
12. Pothole in Pylle Road opposite Mary’s Lane, on the corner when turning left into Copse Lane.
13. Deep pothole in Compton Lane, North from East Compton House to Ridge Road. Ref: 602866
14. Pothole in Top Street. Ref: 602867 Westholme going towards North Wootten the potholes are getting much bigger
15. The potholes in East Town Lane have not yet been dealt with. Ref: 602868

**General**

1. Road Markings on Stoodley Lane and Bowermead Lane: These have been inspected and passed to traffic for inclusion in their works programme. These have been added to our parking review programme.
2. Visibility down Lamberts Hill: This has been referred to the ‘Traffic Section’Traffic section dealing (SIS submission) In light of accident history Traffic Management will look at what improvements can be made and they will advise Nigel Hewitt-Cooper of updates. No timescales can be given.
3. Yellow Lines at the bottom of Totterdown Lane: This has been added to the next Mendip Traffic Regulation Order with the support of Nigel Hewitt-Cooper. This is now only done once a year and likely to be done later in the year with all other Mendip sites. Traffic section dealing (SIS submission)
4. The wall belonging to Orchard House in Pylle Road seems to be unstable, it is along the road that leads to the playing fields and there is concern that children could be walking along side it. Item passed to building control MDC.
5. The Bridge has now been hit for a third time and the Parish Council think it’s in a dangerous state. This has been reported twice previously.SCC advised that this has been passed to the Structures Team in Taunton [bridges@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:bridges@somerset.gov.uk). The bridge at Stoodley has been hit for the fourth time. Urgent action is required. The Clerk has chased March 19. Update (March 19) there is now a large section, approx. half a metre wide, which has fallen off completely, exposing the risk of falling through into the stream.

The Bridge at Stoodley has been repaired after it was driven into on numerous occasions. The Clerk has asked Highways for the availability of a ‘narrow bridge’, ‘weak bridge’ or ‘weight restriction’ sign.

The Clerk was asked to contact SCC regarding a request for ‘Stop’ signs at Burford. SCC advised that this has been forwarded to the traffic team for consideration. Not aware of this request, however if you are requesting a stop sign in place of a Give Way, DfT guidance states that new approvals for stop signs are only in exceptional circumstances. It is widely considered that all existing junctions requiring a stop sign would already have one approved. The guidance also states that a stop should only be used where visibility is so restricted that it is essential to stop, and that it cannot be used where visibility can be improved by cutting back a hedge etc. An update can be obtained from the traffic team Traffic Management [TrafficManagement@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:TrafficManagement@somerset.gov.uk)

1. The pavement at the bottom of Shop Lane has been damaged since the Water Board was working there. An inspection of the location has been arranged and safety defects identified will be actioned as necessary. Ref 530986.
2. The weight limit sign at Barrows Hill needs putting back up. We are not aware of a weight limit.
3. Fingerposts - A temporary repair on the one at the top of Copse Lane hill. ASBOs are looking into replacing the other listed damaged ones. With Traffic Department [TrafficManagement@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:TrafficManagement@somerset.gov.uk)
4. The plastic chevron road sign on the verge outside the Manor House has been knocked over and people are driving on the verge. Further location details required.
5. The reflectors need replacing by the Manor House. Ref:533841 [TrafficManagement@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:TrafficManagement@somerset.gov.uk)
6. The sign and wall at the War Memorial have been damaged due to a car crash, the sign needs re-erecting please. The post has been erected and the repeater speed plate will be fixed as soon as possible.
7. Outside Walnut House the manholes have sunk and are very noisy when vehicles go over them. Just in case no-one else has noticed it, the “temporarily repaired” sunken manhole at the bottom of Lamberts Hill is now as bad, if not worse, than ever. Moreover, drivers are either more aware of it now or can see it better with its new red border and are swerving onto the wrong side of the road to avoid it. Surely even Highways would consider this a safety issue. The covers in question are the responsibility of Bristol Water to maintain and have been reported to them via the Street Works Team for action as they deem necessary. Previously notified to the PC.
8. The verge under the Manor wall is a pile of mud and becoming deeper every day. The reflector posts, originally four of them, are all missing. I remember making the same complaint last year but nothing has been done. If the highways refuse to reinstate this verge is it not possible for the Parish Council to be responsible for getting the work done which would improve the approach to the church? The verge over run is not classed as a safety defect as such we do not currently have the necessary resources to undertake what is essentially works for aesthetic reasons. If the parish wish to reinstate the verge we would have no objections subject to the works being licenced under section 17 permit.
9. The corner on the left hand side of the above same road, just below the hearse house, is also unkept and there is a manhole cover standing out above the mud which could cause damage to any vehicle forced to drive off the road on to this area. Ref: 600924
10. Winding Lake Farm.This item has been inspected and the details passed to the Structures Team who maintain the culvert and headwall for action as they deem necessary. [Bridges@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:Bridges@somerset.gov.uk)
11. Stoodley Hill HGV signage. I have no objection in principal to additional signage, please could you provide a plan/map showing where you would like signage to be placed for me to consider? Would these be the advisory white on blue ‘not suitable for HGV’s’ signs? [TrafficManagement@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:TrafficManagement@somerset.gov.uk)
12. Lamberts Hill crossroads. This junction has been highlighted as an area for improvement and I am aware of the accident history therefore I will be looking at what minor improvements can be made to the signing and lining at this location. With regard to timescales, these improvements will be implemented in the next financial year (After April 2020). Unfortunately I am unable to be more specific at this time however will update you once I have more information. [TrafficManagement@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:TrafficManagement@somerset.gov.uk)
13. Springfield crossroads, I will have a look at the accident record and see if we have any speed data. As discussed I will then look to see what improvements could be made based on the evidence available. As advised I am only able look at minor improvements to the signing and lining. My initial thought was that it is possible that the 30mph speed limit could be made more conspicuous in this area with an aim to reducing the speed of vehicles approaching the junction. I will have a look at this in the next few months and any works and update you. [TrafficManagement@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:TrafficManagement@somerset.gov.uk)
14. A361 - Protruding kerb - We also discussed the pinch points along A361 Whitstone Hill at the hedge and the kerb. I am aware of the issues and as discussed we will look at the option of introducing ‘dragons teeth’ road markings in this area to highlight to narrowness of the highway. I will draw up some proposals in the next few months and share the with the parish for your support. Again, with regard to timescales, these improvements will be implemented in the next financial year (After April 2020). Unfortunately I am unable to be more specific at this time however will update you once I have more information. [TrafficManagement@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:TrafficManagement@somerset.gov.uk)
15. The road edges in Neat Lane are getting worse. Ref: 6009526
16. There is 8-10 bags rubbish at the Burford Crossroads at the top of Stoodley, going west. There is more rubbish going towards East Compton on the right hand side and a huge amount of litter on both sides of the road on the A3136 at Lamberts Hill. Details have been forwarded to MDC
17. On the Copse Lane footpath the sign had snapped off. Forwarded to Rights of Way Team. [RightsofWay@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:RightsofWay@somerset.gov.uk)
18. The footpath by the Ford, there is tarmac on the bridge and on one side, however the other side is mud. It was agree this was a safety hazard and needs tarmacking by Highways. Ref: 538295 This does not meet the safety defect criteria, therefore any works at this location will have to be put forward for consideration for inclusion in the future works programme. Unfortunately , the number of works requested far outweigh the available resources in any given period therefore all works have to be prioritised on an area wide basis with only the most deserving being successful in any given year. Therefore, we are unable to say if any bid will be successful or not.
19. Signs need repairing at the Top of Beard Hill which point to Bowermead Lane and Burford. Ref: 600122 Forwarded [to TrafficManagement@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:to%20TrafficManagement@somerset.gov.uk)
20. Sign at the Whitstone Hill is not facing the correct direction. Ref 601474
21. 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.
22. The road is eroding opposite Parsons Batch, the edge by the curb the road has sunken.
23. There is rubbish at the top of Lamberts Hill that is blowing into the road. Please forward to the relevant depart within MDC.
24. Perridge Hill going into Watery Lane, the road in breaking up.
25. The road is breaking up on John Beales Hill.
26. The road is subsiding at Parsons Batch.
27. The road where Burford House is situated is in very bad state also as you travel through West Compton up to Stumps Cross.
28. The white lines at Stoodley to Bowermead Lane have faded. There was a near miss there between vans. The Parish Council will ask for the white lines to be replaced.