

# MINUTES OF PILTON PARISH COUNCIL

## FULL COUNCIL MEETING

### held at Pilton Village Hall

### Wednesday 5 March 2025

**Present:** Cllrs: K Sumner, N Hall, R Woodhouse, R Noble C Connock, T Moulder, L Roberts, T Hollings.

**In Attendance:** 7 members of the public, Gill Pettitt (Parish Clerk).

#### PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

- Question as to whether the Parish Council will be marking VE Day 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 8 May 2025. There will be a village jumble sale on 5 May.

#### 166. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TO CONSIDER THE REASONS GIVEN

Cllr Powell gave his apologies, out of parish.

**RESOLVED:** To accept Cllr Powell's apologies and reason for absence. Proposed Cllr Moulder, 2<sup>nd</sup> Cllr Connock. Approved with two abstentions, Cllr Hall, Cllr Noble.

#### 167. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

#### 168. DISPENSATIONS

No dispensations were requested.

#### 169. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

- a. **RESOLVED:** To confirm and sign minutes of the Pilton Parish Council meeting of 5 February 2025. Proposed Cllr Sumner, 2<sup>nd</sup> Cllr Woodhouse. Approved with one abstention, Cllr Hollings.

#### 170. EXTERNAL REPORTS

- a. Avon and Somerset Police - No report
- b. Somerset Council - No report
- c. Noted SALC report.

#### 171. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Works to drainage system - Whitstone Hill works are progressing to stop ingress of road run-off to a property. The work on Whitstone Hill has reduced run-off to Shutwell Lane to an extent, works were initially scheduled for this financial year. Pilton is a priority. After jetting and reviewing with a camera, it was found that the drain is blocked and will need digging out rather than flushing, which has caused the delay.

#### 172. PLANNING

- a. 2025/0364/TCA [T1 - Ash - Reduce by 40% and remove lower limb](#). Noted.
- b. 2025/0355/HSE [New Perimeter Fencing](#) A member of the public spoke to object to the application. Noted that there were no planning notices on the property.  
**RESOLVED:** To object to application 2025/0355/HSE with reference to Material Considerations: 3 - Visual effect - the height is overbearing; 6 - Loss of trees and 7 - Loss of ecological habitat - the application proposes cutting through tree roots, which will weaken trees along the road potentially; 8 - Highways safety - the fencing will affect visibility on the road at a corner that is already vulnerable to accidents; 11- Flood risk - provision needs to be made for the stream water flow, which would otherwise flood the road.  
Noted that the park rail fencing is good and should be retained. Also noted that fencing along the track does need replacing. Proposed Cllr Woodhouse, 2<sup>nd</sup> Cllr Connock. Approved.

**173. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS AND RESOLVE ANY ACTIONS ARISING**

- a. **Burial Ground Working Group** - Council thanked the Burial Ground Working Group for all the work that has been done over the last two years. Noted that the issue of bins no longer being emptied is being looked at. Many thanks to the volunteers who helped plant wildflowers, it was very much appreciated.
- b. **Traffic Planning Working Group** - 7 weeks of traffic data, at 7 contact points through the village, was supplied at the GFEL Liaison meeting, which will be reviewed. Top Street speeds last year were much reduced during the last festival. Some discussion following a child being hit on the A361 after leaving a bus - ideas included a lollipop person, wig wag lights, and a crossing, however a zebra crossing would cost £70,000 and a pelican crossing £120,000-£150,00 and would need to be funded by the parish. Some discussion on whether S106 funding could be used however no recent developments are applicable to this. This will be discussed at the next Traffic Planning Working Group meeting.
- c. **Flooding Triad** - A quote of £1,400 has been received to gulp 80 to 100 drains in the parish over the course of one day. Other quotes to be sought. The Flooding Triad will be meeting to discuss reviewing the drain survey last completed two years ago and to recommend priorities.  
**RESOLVED:** To approve the review, obtain quotes and accept a cost of up to £1,400 to gulp up to 100 drains. To invoice Somerset Council as the Parish Council considers this work should be classed as a statutory duty of the higher authority and to ask Somerset Council for the plan of their gulping works over the last 6 years. Proposed Cllr Sumner, 2<sup>nd</sup> Cllr Hall.  
A copy of the drain plan from Somerset Council to be requested, detailing when the drainage system was last gulped in the last six years.
- d. **Parish Plan Steering Group** - The Annual Parish Meeting on 12 March will focus on the outcomes of the Parish Plan - 7pm at the Village Hall. There was a 30% response to the survey which represents a good proportion of the eligible parish residents. It will be the responsibility of the various trustees to decide how/if they wish to action the suggestions arising from the survey. The Steering Group timeline includes a meeting in July tbc. with trustees of local community assets.
- e. **Footpaths Working Group** - Mill Lane is an unmetalled track from West Compton towards the Strawberry Line - noting this could be improved for access to the Strawberry Line. A new Footpath sign is needed for the bridleway at Mount Pleasant. Westholme Lane - planning inspectorate decision on new bridleway has been extended.

**174. ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** - Preparations are in order. More chairs will be requested as several attendees are expected.

**175. GFEL**

- a. To consider and approve (or not) to write to GFEL to accept their offer to make good the landslip at Winters Hill, West Compton where 5 or 6 feet of watermain is exposed. It is pertinent to GFEL because the route is used by emergency services during the festival. Noted that the work is Somerset Council responsibility as it is part of the highway that is disintegrating, and the bridge will require repair as it is cracking as a consequence of the landslip.  
**RESOLVED:** To thank GFEL for the offer, and to seek confirmation as to whether the works will be temporary or permanent, and to request that the works be carried out to Somerset Council specifications and approval. Proposed Cllr Sumner, 2<sup>nd</sup> Cllr Moulder. Approved.
- b. To consider on which lanes to cut back hedges/low growth pre-festival to improve safety during the festival. Hedges under consideration include: Pylle Road from Top

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Street to Muddy Lane/Mary's Gate; from Mary's Gate to Copse Hill; Lower Street to Mount Pleasant; Pylle Road to Copmill Lane; Neat Lane; Parson's Batch to A361; by Old School House on A361; Park Hill.

- c. To appoint a representative(s) to meetings regarding off-site camping and to consider the Council's stance on off-site camping - 27 March and 2 June. Representatives from North Wootton and East Pennard PCs will also be in attendance.

**RESOLVED:** To appoint Cllrs L Robers and K Sumner to attend the off-site camping meetings of 27 March and 2 June. Approved with one abstention - Cllr Noble. The Parish Council stance is that it hopes the meeting fosters good neighbour relations, noting that there is a benefit to the local economy. It wishes to work with considerate campsites. That these meetings provide a point of contact for when things go wrong. Would like to see an off-site camping charter agreed. Noted that there should be no more than 500 campers on each site, otherwise a TENS licence will be required. Request that campers do not come and go in their vehicles between arrival and leaving the sites. That security is in direct communication with GFEL.

- d. To consider whether parishioner traffic in the village can be reduced whilst Pilton villager traffic is not impeded. Request that parishioners may use the carpark that is nearest to them.
- e. The Parish Council would like to see a presentation from the Noise Management team and ask the Environmental Health team if a presentation from them can be included.
- f. To note that, with the Action Plan almost completed, the community may soon be able to apply for funds from the GFEL donation. To consider and approve (or not) any policy and or conditions to approving grants from the donation, including the GFEL condition that any parish group recipients must consist of at least 75% parishioners.

**RESOLVED:** To amend the existing grant policy to a GFEL donation-specific policy including the conditions applicable to the donation. Proposed Cllr Sumner, 2<sup>nd</sup> Cllr Moulder. Approved.

#### 176. FINANCE

- a. Payments were noted.

**MATTERS OF REPORT** Yellow lines notice response required by 13 March. Noted that this is a retrospective traffic order for lines that were painted without approval.

**RESOLVED:** To refer to Somerset Council but to note that the Parish Council is not happy with the retrospective nature of the TRO. Proposed Cllr Sumner, 2<sup>nd</sup> Cllr Roberts. Approved with one abstention, Cllr Hall.

Cllr Noble will provide the clerk with a list of items for the next agenda.

No items suggested for the Roundabout.

#### 177. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Vote not required.

#### 178. CLOSED SESSION

- a. Staffing Committee
- i. No overtime this month.

**NEXT MEETING:** Full Council - 2 April 2025