

# MINUTES OF PILTON PARISH COUNCIL

## FULL COUNCIL MEETING

### held at Pilton Village Hall

### Wednesday 1 November 2023

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

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

#### PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

- A member of the public from West Pennard parish spoke regarding application 2021/2247/CLE, Ashcombe Farm, which is just outside the Pilton parish border, and is now with the Enforcement officer due to the hoardings and waste disposal for the site. West Pennard Parish Council will be asked to let the council know its view and Cllr Sully will be informed.

#### MEETING OPENED 7:12PM

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

All Councillors present.  
Cllr Sully sent apologies.

##### 124. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

##### 125. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

**RESOLVED:** To confirm and sign minutes of the Pilton Parish Council meeting of 4 October 2023. Proposed Cllr Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> Cllr Noble. Approved. Cllr Hollings voted against, Cllr Roberts abstained. Noted that Cllr Hollings will discuss matters of procedure in writing minutes with the clerk and may make a proposal to amend the Standing Orders.

##### 126. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS - The Chair noted that GFEL is reviewing problems with internet and phone connection during the festival and is looking for feedback from the public before opening discussions with Vodafone.

##### 127. LOCAL AUTHORITY REPORTS

- a. Avon & Somerset Police - No report
- b. Somerset County Council - Cllr Sumner spoke on behalf of Cllr Sully regarding the financial constraints within Somerset Council and potential budgetary shortfall in 24/25. Cllr Revans, of Somerset Council, will be contacting Parish Councils to explore how they may help, which may necessitate an increase in precept.

##### 128. WORKING GROUP / COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Burial Ground Working Group (BGWG) - concrete paths have been cleared of moss. Patching of concrete will take place weather permitting. The gates will be repainted this week. Investigations as to consecration status is ongoing.
- b. Parish Plan Steering Group - Noted that Cllr Noble has stood down from the Steering Group. The Clerk reported on two meetings that have taken place. Training will begin in mid-November.
  - i. **RESOLVED:** To approve and sign the Agreement with CSS. Proposed Cllr Hollings, 2<sup>nd</sup> Cllr Sumner. Approved.
  - ii. Amendments: To change quorum requirements to one member of the public, one Cllr and a third that may represent either council or the public. Noted that a schedule of Working Group meetings will be placed on the noticeboard.  
**RESOLVED:** To approve delegation of Steering Group expenditure to the Clerk.

**RESOLVED:** To approve the Parish Plan Steering Group Terms of Reference.

- c. Traffic Plan Working Group - The Chair invited Steve Russel-Yarde to speak. He had met with a Somerset Council officer who said he would potentially support a 50mph speed limit in East Compton that may be alongside the Pilton village 20mph scheme and could incorporate speed reduction measures such as hatching @ £3-5,000 and other options such as installing gateways at an estimated cost of £2,000 each. Speed data had logged speeds close to 40mph initially but increased over the summer. Speed reduction measures could bring speed down, in which case a 40mph limit could be considered. Residents have been running a petition to support speed reduction to support the application. It may be possible to support costs through fundraising.

**RESOLVED:** Cllr Hollings to write to the Somerset Council officers and Cllrs involved to approve in principle the reduction in East Compton speed limits to 50mph. Proposed Cllr Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> Cllr Noble. Approved.

- d. Flooding Working Group - Cllr Sumner reported that a preliminary report will be submitted at the next meeting, 24 November, 10am. at the New Coffee Shop, Top Street. Drain blockages at Top Street and Neat Lane amongst others have been reported.

129. **ENGAGING YOUNG PEOPLE** - Cllrs Connock and Hall attended training and have spoken with Cllr Sully. Noted that council has gaps in engagement. Training notes will be shared if they become available. Noted that Council needs to encourage interest in 20-40yr old age groups.

130. **PLANNING**

- a. It was noted that Licensing information will now be available to Parish Councils for comment if required. A database of TENS notices will be formed that will also be available to Parish Councils.

- b. **2023/1932/FUL** Conversion of 3no. barns into 4no. 4-bed semi-detached houses and a separate outbuilding. Wellhayes Farm, Lower Westholme Road.

**RESOLVED:** No Objection. Pilton Parish Council welcomes the use of brown field site development as opposed to green field; asks that consideration is given to vehicular access and that potential traffic disruption is considered along the narrow lane. Proposed Cllr Roberts, 2<sup>nd</sup> Cllr Hollings. Four Cllrs voted for the motion, Cllrs Connock and Noble voted against, Cllrs Sumner, Woodhouse and Hall abstained. Approved.

A counter motion to object fell (2 for). A counter motion to leave the decision to the planning officer had fewer supporters than the original motion (3 for the motion, 1 against, 5 abstentions).

**2023/2083/TCA T1** (Hazel) - Remove lateral growth & hedge lay stem into existing hedge line. T2 (Field Maple) - Reduce height/spread by 2.5m. Weir Cottage Weir Lane. Noted.

131. **GLASTONBURY FESTIVAL FEEDBACK (GFEL)**

- a. A proposal will be put to the December Full Council. It was noted that there is a difference of opinion over the level of noise.

- b. To consider a proposal regarding water quality in Whitelake River tabled in the agenda.

**RESOLVED:** To approve an amendment to remove reference to the Bangor Report before item iii. of the proposal. Proposed Cllr Hollings. Approved.

**RESOLVED:** To approve the amended substantive motion:

Regarding the routine water quality in the Whitelake River over the Festival period that:

- i. Pilton Parish Council (PPC) write to Glastonbury Festival Events Ltd (GFEL) to recognise the improvement that has been made in 2023 after the ammonia pollution incident in 2022.
- ii. PPC write to the Environment Agency thanking them for their 2023 Festival report and requesting that they do the same for the council for subsequent years.

- Regarding pollutant impact on wildlife and biodiversity in the Whitelake River that:
- iii. PPC continues to have concerns about the impact on wildlife and wishes to see clarification of the risks (if any).
  - iv. PPC continues to liaise with government agencies including the Environment Agency.  
Proposed Cllr Hall. Approved.

**132. POLICIES**

- a. **RESOLVED:** To adopt the Pilton Publication Scheme. Proposed Cllr Woodhouse, 2<sup>nd</sup> Cllr Hall. Approved.
- b. To adopt the Document Retention and Disposal Policy. Deferred.
- c. **RESOLVED:** To approve the review of the Equal Opportunities Policy on the understanding that it will be revised at Annual Council Meeting 2024 to include a broader aspect to the policy. Proposed Cllr Woodhouse, 2<sup>nd</sup> Cllr Hall. Approved. Noted that Council will work positively towards meeting the policy's requirements.
- d. To consider first draft of Biodiversity Policy. Deferred.

**133. FINANCE**

- a. To approve the Grant Application Policy and Application Form. Deferred.
- b. Payments - Listed below were noted with a comment that Cllr Noble would prefer that payroll were in-house.

Narrative	Total
Viking - Staples	1.43
Payroll services	96.00
Engaging with young people training	50.00
Viking - 1st Aid Kit, Accident book	60.83
West Pennard School grant	2,000.00
Staff expenses	146.81
Salaries Mth 7	843.25
Councillor Essentials PtII	25.00
Councillor Essentials PtI	25.00

- c. To note that the 24/25 Budget will be considered at the next meeting.
- d. To approve reconciliation to 30 September 2023. Deferred.
- e. To receive quotes for payroll services.  
**RESOLVED:** To accept quote at £60 per quarter with Ian Gillard, Owen Ltd, Midsomer Norton for payroll services after review of any contract for the services. Proposed Cllr Roberts, 2<sup>nd</sup> Cllr Woodhouse. Approved with Cllr Noble against.

**134. MEETING START TIME** - To consider bringing forward the start time of Full Council meetings from 7:00pm to 6:30pm. Deferred.

**135. PILTON PLAYING FIELDS TRUST (PPFT)**- Cllr Sumner reported that PPFT now has insurance in place. Noted that the council will invoice PPFT for a pro rata payment of its portion of Parish Council to the date of the Pavilion being removed from the Parish Council's policy. Pilton Parish Council will ask the PPFT to remove any signs directing enquirers to Pilton Parish Council.

- a. Cllr Hall withdrew items i.-iii. of the proposal submitted to Council.

**RESOLVED:**

That once the PPFT policy is in place the Council will confirm that the residual risk from custodian ownership of the playing fields has been minimised. Proposed Cllr Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> Cllr Sumner. Approved 4 in favour,

**RESOLVED:** To extend the meeting. Approved with Cllr Roberts against.

**136. ACCESS TO PILTON BUILDINGS** - To consider requesting that the Tithe Barn and Church be re-opened to the public. Deferred.

**137. REMEMBRANCE DAY**

- a. Final arrangements are all in place.

138. **OCTOBER LITTER PICK** - successful event. 23 people arrived. The next litter pick will be decided at the next meeting.
139. **LOCAL COMMUNITY NETWORK (LCN) OCTOBER MEETING** - The report was noted.
140. **MATTERS OF REPORT**
- a. Items for Roundabout December '23, review of mobile connections, thank you to those attending the litter pick.
141. **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**
- a. To approve item 142 to be excluded from Press and Public. Cllr Sumner proposed, 2<sup>nd</sup> Cllr Woodhouse. Approved.
142. **CLOSED SESSION**
- a. Staffing Committee
- i. **RESOLVED:** To approve staff overtime of 21hrs. Proposed Cllr Woodhouse, 2<sup>nd</sup> Cllr Moulder.

Meeting closed at 9:22 pm

**NEXT MEETING:** Full Council - 6 December 2023.

DRAFT