

Pilton Annual Parish Meeting

11 May 2023, Pilton Village Hall

Present: Audrey Brown, Cllr Terry Moulder (PPC), Maureen Tofts, Cllr Roger Noble (PPC), John Broxup, Trish Broxup, Andrew Shaw, Cllr Richard Woodhouse (PPC), Cllr Nick Hall (PPC), Christine King, Mo Reynolds, Rowena Elkin, Liz Elkin, Carrie Hemmings, Angela Wynn, Peter Lawrence, Steve Bowler, Louisa Byng, Lynn Andrews, Cllr Claire Sully (SC), Cllr Lynda Roberts (PPC), John Boyce, Steven Lowe, C H F Lowe, Mike Case, Fiona Case, Jake Cornelius, Lynne Cornelius, Cllr Tom Hollings (PPC), Cllr Kelly Sumner (PPC), Gill Pettitt (Parish Clerk).

- 1 Apologies
Philip Eavis, Owain Powell, Joe King, Jenny de Gex, Paula Jordan
- 2 Minutes of 20 April 2022
Noted that Robert Kearle, Audrey Brown, David Drew, Colin Elkin, Stephen Kearle and Lynda Roberts did not attend. Cllr Roger Noble, Cllr Joe King, Cllr Andrew Shaw and Karen Buckley (Parish Clerk) were present. The meeting was not held on Zoom.
Proposed to approve the 20 April 2022 APM minutes with the above amendments. Cllr Sumner, 2nd Cllr Hollings. Approved.
- 3 Announcements - This was a very well attended meeting, largely due to the efforts of former councillor, Joe King. Cllr Sumner reported that a Parish Plan would be developed over the coming year. Once a full consultation has been undertaken with the parish, this will support funding applications, the council's approaches to Somerset Council and other authorities, the confidence of the council in the knowledge that it is representing the will of parishioners.

Current councillors introduced themselves to the meeting. There was some discussion of the recent GFEL planning application. Cllr Claire Sully (Somerset Council) introduced herself - she is on the SC Planning Board and involved with 19 parishes. There are 18 parishes in the Local Community Network, which provides an opportunity to get the parish's voice heard. She described 'three things' that she has focused on as a County Councillor :

- Helping parishioners with sporadic bin collections - the contractor is not meeting the mark - this is being attended to;
 - A parishioner who was having problems - she got the story into the national press, spoke with the Home Office and provided help with funding;
 - Suicide Prevention - she has attended training and supports prevention initiatives.
- 4 The meeting adjourned for half an hour for refreshments and to look at the displays from council and community groups; the booklet of Pilton parish community groups that had been produced for the meeting; and to have informal discussions. Notes placed on the Wailing Wall by those present included: "We forget about East Compton, West Compton, Cockmill"; How can we stop people from dropping litter?"; "I ♥ Pilton"; Vibrant Village; Potholes
 - 5 Reports were delivered by :
 - a. Gill Pettit, the Clerk, who reported that council is putting a lot of work to policies and communications. It was noted that some groups were not

included in the community groups booklet including: the Village Hall, the Playing Fields, Community Fridge, Reading Group, Craft Group, Choir;

- b. Cllr Woodhouse, reported regarding finances - the accounts are now fully reconciled and ready for the end of year audit, the council is working with a detailed budget, the Asset Register has been reviewed and Financial Risk Assessment produced; a number of Councillors have taken training - these are listed on the website - the Clerk is working through her Continuing Professional Development, the council is making significant progress in getting policies in place and up to date;
- c. Cllr Hollings presented maps of the village parish systems, noting that property owners are responsible for maintaining culverts under their land. A number of drain blockages had been identified and high-risk areas had been moved from a 4-year clearance cycle to an annual cycle. A ruptured culvert on Bread Street is to be repaired in August. Steve Barlow noted that sandbags are stored at Vivienne Goode's property.
- d. Cllr Sumner reported that the parish council website (piltonparishcouncil.org) has been updated with archive and current documents and news, and a village website (piltonvillage.com) has been produced, which can be used as a portal as the community wishes.
- e. Cllr Hall spoke on the Community Speedwatch team, which is co-ordinated by Joe King. He thanked everyone who goes out to the regular roadside sessions. The speeding records have been high; letters are sent to offenders by the police. The data collected by Speedwatch and the GFEL SID will help implement changes for the better.
The Parish Council's Traffic Plan Working Group is working on issues around East Compton, the bottom of Wraxall Hill, which is a black spot and Conduit Square and, is working to build up a plan for the parish's road calming, with full consultation through surveys, taking all road users into consideration. If any one notices an issue, it should be reported to the Somerset Council portal on the website '[Report a Problem on a Road](#)'.
- f. Andrew Shaw spoke on footpaths: The ASBO (Aged Suave Broom-pushing Operatives) team walk most of the 53 footpaths in the parish noting repairs needed and attending to them. More volunteers are always welcome.
There were queries from those present on the possibility of more dog bins; cleaning fingerposts; and the cast iron milestones need attention.
- g. Litterpicking - 2 sessions in the last 6 months. Some present felt GFEL did not clear rubbish after the festival quickly.
- h. Playing Field Trust - a lot of work is going in to building up the documents for the Trust with the help of John Boucher.

6 What was lacking in 2023 - there was no report.

7 What do parishioners want to see for the future?

- a. There was considerable discussion on speed limits with a consensus agreeing that something needs to be done. Specific thoughts included: Work on speeding, flooding, gateway markers to Pilton to change the feel of entrance to Pilton and lower speed. Chicanes. Road markings. Move 30mph sign to where it can be seen at the crossroads. Within the village, a SID is needed before Conduit Square. East Compton Action Group is looking to achieve better signage and reducing speed limit from 60mph to 30mph. Noted it could cost £15,000 to reduce speed limits.

Verges are being destroyed - need notice in Roundabout "Verges are not for parking".

Dog bins.

Overgrown hedges - call to be more responsive to cutting hedges but noted that this is not possible in nesting season.

Off-site camping - needs to be in a suitable place. Noted again that issues need to be reported immediately on the Somerset Council website.

Procurement - Evercreech car park opposite Bush Verge looks like a massive lorry layby.

Opposite Chapel, the ditch needs investigation.

Fingerpost pointing to Gulp Mill outside Bushell has been covered with scalplings.

Lamberts Hill - litter bins at laybys.

Aesthetic - groups are run by senior citizens - integration with new estate residents is difficult. Community groups need new blood. Noted there are already some active younger folk in community initiatives including in the Allotment Association and that it is difficult for people with young families.

Organise some community events during the day? Advertise in Roundabout.

Have an active Playing Field Trust Committee with young and old in the room. Need to be more representative.

Representatives need commitment, to be observant and to listen.

- 8 The Parish Plan - Cllr Sumner gave a brief overview of what would be required to develop a Parish Plan and called for members of the public to join the Steering Group.