

# MINUTES OF PILTON PARISH COUNCIL

## FULL COUNCIL MEETING

### held at Pilton Village Hall

### Wednesday 1 February 2023

**Present:** Cllrs Woodhouse, Hall, Noble, Moulder, Hollings, Sumner, Roberts, Powell and King.

**In Attendance:** G Pettitt, (Parish Clerk), 12 members of the public, Cllr Sully (SCC).

#### PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

- Query regarding declarations of interests - questioner referred to item 119.
- GFEL - all TTROs will remain the same in 2023 as they were in 2022 - these applications will be submitted this week.

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

All members present.

#### 119. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Clerk apologised for her misunderstanding of Declarations of Personal Interests at the last meeting. She reported that it is each Councillor's responsibility to inform the Monitoring Officer of any changes or amendments and to update their Notice of Registrable Interests held by Mendip District Council. Also noted that, if non-disclosure of a Pecuniary Interest is challenged, and the challenge is agreed by the authorities it may result in a criminal record for the councillor involved. Regarding the receipt of Festival Tickets, every councillor and every parishioner receives one, this could be viewed as a personal and pecuniary interest, however would render consideration by council on GFEL issues impossible if Councillors were excluded from voting.

To allow council business to function regarding GFEL issues **the Clerk provided each Councillor a Dispensation** for their **term of office** for the personal and pecuniary Interest of receipt of Festival Tickets

It was noted that Councillors may need to further declare pecuniary Interests in the Festival if other financial benefit has been received during the current term of office. Councillors were advised to contact the Monitoring Officer to gain clarity on their position regarding GFEL matters if they were unclear of their position.

Cllr Noble stated that he rented land from the owner of the festival site but did not feel that this was a pecuniary interest in the festival itself. Cllr Roberts stated that she was employed by the festival for 8 weeks last year and that she would seek clarity during the break before item 132 would be considered. Cllr Moulder stated that has worked for the festival since the May 2022 election and that he also would seek clarity during the break.

**Declaration of Pecuniary Interest** was declared in item 132 by Cllr Powell as a trader at Glastonbury Festival and landlord of the Crown Inn.

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

No exclusions of Press and Public required.

#### 121. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

- a. **RESOLVED:** To approve the minutes of 11 January 2023. Proposed Cllr Sumner.  
Approved.

#### 122. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS - None

#### 123. LOCAL AUTHORITY REPORTS - all reports received were noted.

- a. Avon & Somerset Police
- b. Mendip District Council
- c. Somerset County Council

#### 124. PLANNING

- a. Planning Applications
  - 2022/0733/LBC and 2022/0555/HSE - Appeal T1- T2 (x2 No) Sycamore - Fell Barrow House Ford Lane Pilton. Appeal noted.

- 2023/0151/HSE - Two storey side extension, demolition and rebuild of store into habitable accommodation and erection of a lean-to porch. Springfield Cottage, Neat Lane  
**RESOLVED:** To offer no objection to 2023/0151/HSE. Proposed Cllr Noble; 2<sup>nd</sup> Cllr Sumner. Approved.
- 2022/0073/TCA - T1- T2 (x2 No) Sycamore - Fell. Barrow House Ford Lane Pilton  
**RESOLVED:** To offer no objection to 2023/0151/HSE. Proposed Cllr Noble; 2<sup>nd</sup> Cllr Sumner. Approved.
- 2023/0061/TCA - T1 Ash - Fell - Ebenezer Chapel Pylle Road  
**RESOLVED:** To offer no objection to 2023/0061/HSE. Proposed Cllr Hollings. Approved.

#### 125. FLOODING AND WATER ISSUES

- a. Report on flooding and improvements: Drains overflowed 3 times over last 4 months on Weir Lane from the sewage system into the river system - Wessex water state this is due to malfunctioning pumps during torrential rain.  
There are questions as to responsibility re Bread St flooding. Floods have occurred twice since the last meeting, it is not clear where the issues arise - private property or SCC Highways land. Cllr Sully will follow through with the Highways department. Parishioners or Councillors must report incidents online at Somerset Fort <https://swim.geowessex.com/somerset> , the Lead Flood Authority may also be emailed at [llfa@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:llfa@somerset.gov.uk) Various camera investigations have taken place. Another issue with roots blocking the system at the west side of West Street. GFEL have conducted repairs on Top Street in the past and are prepared to do the same to remove the blockage affecting Bread Street. Six or seven blocked drains had been reported.  
During recent cold weather the flows of water had iced up. By ways are not gritted - the Parish Council provides bins for parishioners to grit local roads, however the sheer volume of water made passages through the village very dangerous for pedestrians and traffic.  
Cllr Sully suggested the Council develop a Winter Emergency Plan.
- b. Appoint Flood Working Group. **RESOLVED:** To appoint a Flood Working Group. Proposed Cllr Sumner, 2<sup>nd</sup> Cllr Hollings. Approved.
- c. Appoint members to the Flood Working Group. **RESOLVED:** To appoint Cllr Hollings; Caroline Griffiths; Liz Mayhew; Cllr Sumner; and Andrew Shaw as members to the Flood Working Group.

#### 126. WILDFLOWER VERGES

- a. **RESOLVED:** To support the planting of wildflower verges. Approved.
- b. The Clerk will contact Somerset County Council.

#### 127. CORONATION EVENT

- a. The initial budget for the Coronation Event is £5,500 though could be reduced if covered by Parish Council insurance.  
**RESOLVED:** To approve that Parish Council run the Coronation Event in liaison with the Community Events Group. Proposed Cllr King. Approved.

#### 128. FINANCE

- a. Payments: **RESOLVED:** To approve payment of PAYE - £407.40. Proposed Cllr Hall. Approved.

#### 129. TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP - This group has had its first meeting.

Prepared a Mission Statement - 'To represent residents' interests to inform the strategic decisions of the Parish Council with regards to highway issues.' Cllr Sully suggested that evidence-based data collection of speed, incidents, etc. be included within the mission statement

**RESOLVED:** To investigate using Survey Monkey to identify and prioritise need including but not exclusive to the following areas: Potholes; Drains; Speed limits; Signs; Pedestrian / horse / vehicle conflict and to possibly combine this with the Parish Plan Survey, which is expected to start during the early summer. Approved.

#### 130. UA STRATEGIC PLANNING

- a. **Update on move to Unitary Authority.** Cllr Sully's report detailed update so far. LCN boundaries have been approved, Pilton is within the Shepton Mallet LCN. A budget has been allocated to LCNs. Planning and Licencing procedures are being decided now. Pilton will be under the East Area Planning Committee. The time allocated to Parish Council/Ward Councillor representation to Board is under review. Parish Council will be able to request referral to Board, the point at which the referral would be approved is unclear. Statement of Community Involvement is out for consultation, deadline 16 March.
- 131. Matters of Report**
- a. Items for Roundabout January '22 - To report drains and flooding issues to Cllrs Hollings and Sumner. Volunteers required for the wildflower verge planting.
  - b. Suggestion that Garden Centre may sponsor volunteers.
  - c. Update on Somerset Shooting Ground. Cllr King reported on meeting with Mendip District Council Officers. The next stage is for SSG to produce a Noise Management plan by end January. The Officers asked that the plan be shared with the Parish Council.
  - d. Request that the Burial Ground be on the agenda regularly.

Cllr Powell, who has a pecuniary interest in the Festival, left the meeting.

#### **MEETING CLOSED FOR COMFORT BREAK**

18 Members of Public present.

Members present: Cllrs King, Sumner, Woodhouse, Hall, Roberts, Moulder, Noble, Hollings.

Cllr King introduced the procedures that would be followed in discussing the GFEL Planning Application.

The Application was presented to the meeting by Chris Beaver and Steve Russell-Yarde, representatives of GFEL. The Festival does not require Planning Permission - this consultation is on the infrastructure. MDC would not permit another temporary licence. Representative felt that permanency of infrastructure is good for the Parish. This application would make no material changes to the operation and infrastructure of the 2022 Festival.

Cllr King highlighted the areas that council can comment upon:

1. Proposed mixed use comprising continued agricultural use
2. Continuation of annual Festival on a permanent basis
3. Continuation of the annual Pilton Party
4. Camping event to take place during fallow festival years
5. Permanent regulation of structure of Pyramid structure and festival storage building
6. Provision of areas to accommodate the temporary festival workforce

Members of the public made representations:

Considerations were the increased build and break, occupancy camping period, increase in area and the loss of the fallow year. Ecological plans are good, compensation is not included for the impact upon Pilton of large numbers of people arriving. Should be thinking of periodic approval rather than permanent. Permanency is a big issue. Request that residents are formally consulted on any changes. Objection to camping during fallow years. Item 6 could be seen as covert change of use to residential. Permanency means that the festival does not have to consult with the council in the future. Need to ask for a condition on the Planning that it is operated in accordance with the existing premises licences or unless modified or amended following consultation with the parish council.

Representatives of GFEL responded to public comments. The red line area is larger because previous approved planning was inaccurate. The structure in this application did not cause issues in previous years.

**132. GFEL PLANNING APPLICATION 2022/2458/FUL**

<p>2022/2458  <a href="#">Documents (27)</a>          Tessa Hampden</p>	<p><b><u>Proposed mixed use comprising: (i) continuing agricultural use (ii) continuation of annual festival on a permanent basis; (iii) continuation of the annual Pilton Party; (iv) camping event to take place during fallow festival years; (v) permanent regularisation of pyramid structure and festival storage building; and (vi) provision of areas to accommodate the temporary festival workforce.</u></b>          Land At And Adjacent To Worthy Farm Worthy Lane Pilton Somerset  <b>Response Date</b> 2 February 2023  <b>Pilton PC Response ..... 1 February 2023</b></p>	<p>FUL</p>
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Cllrs Moulder and Roberts decided not to Declare Interest in this item.

Cllrs held a prolonged discussion, inviting representatives from GFEL to respond throughout.

The application 2022/2458/FUL was considered through a motion and counter motion. The motion receiving most votes in favour was carried as follows:

**Resolved:**

**Motion A:** To offer no objection to Planning Application 2022/2458/FUL with the conditions that  
 a/ Glastonbury Festival and Pilton Party should be held in accordance with the licences PRL767 and PRL 739 and any amendments or modifications have been the subject of thorough and meaningful consultation with Pilton Parish Council and;  
 b/ that in reference to item iv) of the application, that no camping events should take place during fallow years. Proposed Cllr Sumner; 2<sup>nd</sup> Cllr Hollings  
 4 members present voted for this motion.

**Motion B:** To object to Planning Application 2022/2458/FUL on the grounds of material considerations as follows:

1. Both the temporary nature of the existing planning permission and the expansion of the development area from 162 Ha to 492 Ha, make this a new development rather than one of 'continuing' use. One new part of the proposal is for 8 weeks of camping in 'fallow' years for 3,500 people at a time.
2. Public nuisances are only regulated through the Premises Licenses (PRL767 and PRL 739) for the duration of the events, (not over the proposed six month build and break period). Moreover, the Licensed Areas are substantially less than the proposed development area of 492 Ha. We refer to paragraph 185 of the NPPF.
3. The nutrient neutrality and biodiversity assessments assume that all foul water is removed from the whole 492 Ha site via holding tanks at Worthy and Steanbow Farms. It is not clear how robust this assumption is given there is evidence that urine entered the Whitelake river at 2019 and 2022 festivals.
4. The heritage assets which include Holt Farmhouse, Cockmill Farmhouse and the Pilton conservation area could now be exposed to six months of visible and audible activity. This is not compatible with Section 16 of the NPPF or Policy DP3 of Mendip Local Plan.
5. The Transport Statement does not include the large numbers of under 13-year-old children who attend Glastonbury Festival. Also, two public roads sit within the red line and their use could be curtailed for six months a year. Proposed Cllr Hall; 2<sup>nd</sup> Cllr Woodhouse

4 members present voted for this motion. As there was an equality of votes for each motion, the Chair exercised use of his 2<sup>nd</sup>, (casting), vote in support of Motion B.

Motion B was approved.

Cllr Hall suggested that the Council has representation at the Planning Board if the application is referred there.

Cllr Hall suggested Council investigate costs and of engaging the services of a planning lawyer for discussion at the next meeting.

Meeting Closed at 22:00

Date of next meeting: 1 March 2023

Signed .....

Date .....