

Pilton Annual Parish Meeting

15 May 2024, Pilton Village Hall

Present: Liz Mayhew, Steve Russell-Yarde, Mike Mayhew, John Dilkes, Simon Lodge, Maureen Tofts, Nicky Davey, Peter Davey, Cllr Roger Noble - Pilton Parish Council (PPC), Cllr Nick Hall (PPC), Colin Watt, Thom Bonneville, Liz Elkin, Gail Milne, George Milne, Christine King, John Boucher, Cllr Claire Connock (PPC), Cllr Richard Woodhouse (PPC), Cllr Terry Moulder (PPC), Jenny de Gex, Tony Wheat, Cathy Lowe, Steve Lowe, Cllr Kelly Sumner (PPC), Cllr Claire Sully - Somerset Council (SC), Gill Pettitt (Parish Clerk).

1 Apologies

Lynda Roberts, Owain Powell, Tom Hollings, Joe King.

2 Minutes of 11 May 2023 Annual Parish Meeting

Minutes were not seen by enough members present to approve.

3 Chair of the Parish Council's announcements and matters arising from last year's Parish Meeting

Cllr Sumner thanked all the councillors for the work they had done during the year. The Parish Council is the eyes and the ears of the parish but has very little power. The Council does support parishioners as much as possible, it responds to planning applications along with many other consultees, it looks after the burial ground, bus shelter and war memorial, and organises events such as Remembrance Day and Litter Picks. This year the Council has worked with the Pilton Playing Fields Trust to set up a new Trust Document - thanks to John Boucher for all the work that he put into this. Other work has included dealing with flooding, looking at affordable housing allocations and a speed reduction program with Glastonbury Festival Events Ltd (GFEL) who were very helpful with the design of the scheme and the costs. The Council has also worked with GFEL to improve security and traffic management in the village. GFEL has announced that a grant of approximately £40,000 will be made to the village.

4 Verbal reports from Speakers:

- a. **Tony Wheat - West Pennard School** - Tony gave an overview of the school's year, mentioning a visit from NSPCC who spoke about the digital world and the Speak Out, Stay Safe initiative. The school is seeing larger numbers of children attending now and thus larger classes, the new intake of 30 children came from 17 different pre-school groups. The school had 214 students at the start of the year, there are now 224.
A parent's information evening was held to discuss the curriculum, values and learning behaviours. A Harvest Festival was held with some amazing artwork from the children. At an October workshop, the author M G Leonard told tales of her school years to year 6 students. Music provision has improved, and a community singing events were held at Christmas and again during Easter in a care home. The library is well stocked. School is at risk of flooding - in January the community helped to ensure the school was not affected but in February, during half term, damage occurred that has now been dealt with. The children dressed up for World Book Day and the Easter Bonnet parade.
- b. **Jenny de Gex - Pilton Show** The aim is to include all village aspects and ages. Jenny gave a brief history of the show over the years. There should be

something for everyone. Living Homes and the Carnival Club help with storage during the year. The team needs new blood and new ideas and welcomes more people to join to support this important event. Jenny announced that she is standing down from organising the event this year. There are 18 members on the Committee, the constitution is linked to the Pilton Playing Field Trust and support is received from GFE, members of the community can apply for grant funding from Pilton Show funds.

- c. **Cllr Kelly Sumner - Flooding** Shop Lane and Weir Lane are notably affected as more rainfall is occurring. Drains are not being cleared frequently enough by SC, which are on a 4-yearly rota. We are awaiting 40 or 50 drains to be cleared. Top Street has a collapsed drain and works should be done to repair it this summer. Pilton village is experiencing more water run-off from the A361 down Shutwell Lane, exacerbated by a blocked culvert in Shutwell - works should be completed this year. This culvert then passes under properties on Shop Lane where it is the landowners' responsibility to keep it clear.

- d. **Steve Russell-Yarde - GFEL** There will be a liaison meeting on the coming Wednesday. The company has looked at the numbers of vehicles accessing the Green car park during the festival and have implemented a scheme whereby vehicles must have their registration plate pre-recorded through the on-site portal. Letters have gone to all residents who are eligible for parking however some have not arrived - parishioners are asked to contact the hot line (hotline@glastonburyfestivals.co.uk) to request replacement letters.

GFEL has been working on the speed reduction scheme with SC - to 20mph around Pilton and from 60mph to 50mph in East Compton. Work started on Monday, posts should be in position in a couple of weeks. If the work is not completed by the time of the festival, GFEL have standby signs to put in place.

The community grant - GFEL received a rebate during COVID which will go to surrounding parish communities. It will be distributed based upon the size of population in each parish. Pilton will receive £49,450, out of which half of the speed reduction scheme costs will be paid (expected to be approximately £9,000).

At the festival - an art exhibit is to be announced in early June. The Park area is changing. The Wednesday fireworks will be a drone show that is hoped will spread the crowd - there will be 100-200 drones and last for 8-10minutes from around 10:45pm. Footpaths have been closed since April for safety reasons. All on-site personnel must have a Health and Safety induction. If visiting, please enter via Red Gate. Neat Lane access will be exit only. Visitors to the village should contact the hot line for passes and information on routes to their destination. Check points will start next week, Monday to Friday only, to stop larger vehicles initially.

- e. **Cllr Claire Sully - SC** Reflecting on her two years as a Somerset Councillor, she noted that Somerset has over half a million population, the council has a turnover of £1billion, 120 councillors and over six thousand staff. The Council has, in the last two years, transitioned to a unitary council and dealt with achieving sustainable funding and devolution. Problem solving is a large part of her work. It is always best when people come together as a community and acts with one voice. Claire's ward is

rural and great ideas come out of rural communities.

Achievements in Pilton include nearly 200 potholes being filled. In Mendip new multiuser pathways are being laid under the Active Travel initiative - £1.5million funding is budgeted for these. Somerset ranks 28th of 228 Local Authorities for recycling rates - 97% is recycled and 99.4% of plastic is recycled locally. Council buildings are being de-carbonised. Nature Recovery Strategy maps have been developed to guide us to where work is needed. A Somerset Tree Strategy and Biodiversity Net Gain policy have been developed and the council has worked to save bus services, install electric charging stations, introduced 8,000 glass eels to the waterways and Somerset now has its first net zero school.

- f. **Cllr Richard Woodhouse - Pilton Parish Community Survey** Delivered on behalf of SALC, funded by Somerset Council supported by the Community Council for Somerset. The survey will ask parishioners to respond to questions about what can be done in the parish, the best focus for the future to help the Council and the community implement change for the better - this is the opportunity for change. Currently the Steering Group is processing potential hot topics, examples of which were on display, such as wellbeing, young people, and communication. The survey will include questions specifically for young people. If you have an ideas, please let Gill Pettitt, the Parish Clerk know, or any of the Steering Group members - Cllr Richard Woodhouse, Cllr Nick Hall, Cllr Claire Connock, Lise Sorensen, Carolyn Griffiths, Angela Wynn, and Kelly Knight before the next meeting on 23 May '24. The Parish Council will agree the final survey questions and the survey will go live on 3 September '24. Notices will go out in the Roundabout and a stall at the Pilton Show will be available to discuss and have help to fill out the survey with members of the steering group if you wish.

Any Parish Council that has a parish plan in place, resulting from a survey, is much more likely to receive funding for new initiatives.

- g. **Cllr Nick Hall - Pilton Burial Ground** The Parish Council is responsible for the Burial Ground and Cllrs Richard Woodhouse, Roger Noble and Nick Hall are members of the Burial Ground Working Group. During this year the Burial Ground records have been digitalised, procedures have been updated, the price list revised on a cost neutral basis, inspections have taken place every two weeks, the gates have been painted, hedges laid, and a new roadside fence installed. The group is now considering ideas to improve the area around the water tap and enhancing the landscape of the bare areas with some planting.
- h. **John Boucher - Affordable Housing Allocations** Concern was expressed last year at the allocation process for affordable housing and the Parish Council set up a Working Group to look into this. Applicants register with the Somerset Council Homefinder portal, which ranks applicants according to housing need. Housing in Pilton is advertised on Homefinder where Hastoe Housing Association and the Guinness Trust are the local providers. For Hastoe, SC forward the list to them and the housing association relates the applicants to the three S106 planning agreements for which each has different eligibility requirements.
The Parish Council has received a report from the Working Group, which will be considered at the June meeting

Members of the public noted that Social Housing, (as opposed to Affordable Housing), is an issue in the parish as properties are being sold on. Also noted that best practice is to integrate new estates with a mix of properties, the recent developments have not done this and have poor design. Request that any future development is built to the right specification.

- i. **Cllr Kelly Sumner - Speed Reduction scheme** See item 4.d. above - it is expected for work to be completed over the next few weeks. There are considerations around Conduit Square and Neat Lane that will be discussed at item 6.
- j. **Cathy Lowe - Pilton Bell Ringers** The Bell Ringers need more recruits please. Bell Ringing is good for mental and physical health. There are 8 bells - so 8 people are needed. It is quite technical - a bit like ringing a knitting pattern. On Saturday 8 June the Tower will be open to visitors. Practise sessions are held on a Tuesday 7:30pm. There is a teaching tower in Street where experts help, both Cathy Lowe and Maureen Tofts are experts.
- k. **Steve Lowe - Pilton Players** The group has been active for 100 years but recently it has been hard to recruit new members. The group needs youngsters for young parts. The Christmas Carol production was successful with assistance from players from outside the parish. There will be no productions in 2024, but in January 2025 there will be a production for the wassail and small plays during the year. The group needs people, especially young people. Cllr Connock volunteered to deliver leaflets for the group. Noted that there used to be a directory of village activities, it would be nice to see that updated.
- l. **Thom Bonneville - Pilton Table Tennis** The first session was held at the Pavilion on 31 July, it is held every Monday 5-9pm at a cost of £5 per session. The first session is free. The group now has two tables. Attendees tend to be middle to upper middle-aged, but there are some younger players. There are around 9 players per session. The group would like to expand to Saturdays - a Youth Club and exhibition would be good. There is no pre-booking - just come along.
- m. **Mike Mayhew - Gabriel's Orchard** It's Pilton's village orchard, available due to a generous donation in 2000. It is always open and can be accessed across the road from Red Gate. Every villager is welcome to come and learn and practice orchard skills - the apple juice and cider produced are sold on a non-profit basis. There is always excess fruit available free - Pick Your Own.
It is good company - there are many varieties of apple and the orchard is one of the 'rare breed' orchards that provide a seedbank for the future. Season activities - Spring - beautiful blossom; Summer - bring a picnic and watch the crop; Autumn - Harvest - 1,000s are picked, many are left behind. Come and help yourself, Winter - pruning.
The group needs recruits for attending the Gabriel's Orchard stands at the Wassail, Pilton Show and Christmas Fayre. There are 6 trustees - more are needed. The group is independent and self-sustaining. The orchard needs more visitors. The morning of the first Thursday of each month the group works in the orchard - all are welcome. It is hoped to start early summer evening group sessions in the future.
- n. **Maureen Tofts - Pilton Village History Group** The group has been active for 40 years, has 70 members and holds 10 meetings a year with one outside

visit. 40-50 people attend each meeting. The group recently received 200 slides of Pilton and received a grant to fund a website. Around 790 volunteer hours are needed to populate the website. All the archive documents have been sorted and catalogued ready to upload to the web. The images will be digitalised and searchable. The conditions of the grant funding require that the work must be completed within the year. Members need to help with uploading data. Training will be available. Please also collect documents and images of current events and initiatives - these will form part of the continuing archive.

- 5 **Informal chat and refreshments** The meeting adjourned for a glass of wine, informal chat and to look at the display. Cllr Sumner left the meeting at this point and handed over the Chair to Cllr Woodhouse.
- 6 **Open Forum - discussion and comments on the previous year in Pilton and suggestions for the future.**
 - a. Cllr Woodhouse noted that the Parish Survey and resultant Plan will be informative to the Parish Council and community as to how it should spend its time.
 - b. Conduit Square traffic measures - ideas are up for discussion, such as traffic lights allowing traffic to only move in one direction - this could be another project after the 20mph scheme is completed. Noted that the local Speed Watch team records the numbers of vehicles passing through.
 - c. Suggestion of a roundabout at Springfield crossroads.
 - d. Noted that Top Street traffic is much increased - traffic levels are generally greater than the infrastructure was designed for.
 - e. There are rumours that Dulcote Recycling Centre may close.

Meeting Closed at 8:38pm