

MINUTES OF PILTON PARISH COUNCIL

FULL COUNCIL MEETING

held at Pilton Village Hall

Wednesday 5 April 2023

Present: Cllrs R Woodhouse, N Hall, R Noble, T Moulder, T Hollings, O Powell, K Sumner and J King.

In Attendance: G Pettitt, (Parish Clerk), 10 members of the public.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

- Abi McGuire introduced herself as an Independent Prospective Parliamentary Candidate. She promotes a more collaborative approach across parliament. She is experienced with many different sectors, has been a police officer, Bath university dignity and respect inspector and has experience in homelessness.
- Suggestion to set up zones for Pilton. Notification of lack of waste collection - Cllr Powell has been following this through with Somerset Waste Partnership

152. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TO CONSIDER THE REASONS GIVEN

Apologies received from Cllr Roberts - unwell.

RESOLVED: To accept apologies from Cllr Roberts and reasons for absence. Approved.

Apologies also received from Cllr C Sully (SC)

153. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllrs Moulder, Powell & Noble declared a pecuniary interest in item 163, planning application 2023/0357/FUL.

(NB this does not preclude any later declarations).

154. DISPENSATIONS

- a. No dispensations were requested.

155. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: To exclude item 169 from the press and public. Approved.

156. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

- a. **RESOLVED:** To approve minutes of 1 March 2023. Approved.

157. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS** - Noted that a complaint regarding noise outside the Village Hall had been sent for comment from the Environmental Health Officer. The Village Hall Trust had responded to the EHO.

158. START TIME OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

- a. **RESOLVED:** To move the start time of Parish Council meetings from 7:30pm to 7pm. Proposed K Sumner, 2nd O Powell. Approved.

159. LOCAL AUTHORITY REPORTS

- a. Avon & Somerset Police - Noted.
- b. Somerset Council - Noted.

160. FLOODING AND WATER ISSUES

- a. Cllr Hollings reported that he had sent a plan of affected drains to the Somerset Council Highways Officer identifying those that need to be moved to the annual gulping rota. Noted that a West Compton large blocked drain had caused a geezer 2.5ft high that has subsequently caused extensive road surface damage. Temporary repairs are already being affected. Cllr Hollings will inspect with Cllr Woodhouse. Cllr Hall will meet with Cllr Hollings regarding surface water issues.
[A member of the public intervened from the floor with an allegation that a member of Council had a vendetta. The Chair asked the member of the public to withdraw the statement, which they did.]
Water course pollutant has been identified by Wessex Water and is now rectified.
[A member of the public thanked Cllr Hollings for his work.]

161. Parish Meeting

- a. The Chair introduced suggestions for preparations of this year's Parish Meeting, with the intent of encouraging parish participation. The meeting has, in recent past, included reports from a few community groups of their year, it is hoped that this meeting will include a greater number of groups working within the parish and that the meeting will also look forward to what parishioners would like to see happen in the future.

RESOLVED: To hold the Parish Meeting on Thursday 11 May at 7pm. Proposed K Sumner, 2nd O Powell. Approved.

Proposed to hold the Parish Meeting in the Crown Inn by Cllr Powell, however it was not seconded.

RESOLVED: To hold the Parish Meeting In the Village Hall. Approved.

(Noted that an agenda item at the next meeting will consider recording member votes, for/against/abstain, for all resolutions.)

The Clerk asked members and parishioners to consider presentations for display, and groups that may wish to contribute. Groups that may be asked will be found on the Village website, the clerk will prepare a poster, information on the new Somerset Council would be useful.

The Village Hall provides food - the Clerk will enquire.

162. Playing Field Trust

- a. Report on search for Playing Field Trust Deeds. The Clerk reported that the original Deeds to the Playing Field had been retrieved and suggested that a certified copy be kept by the Parish Council as Custodian Trustee. The Trust Deed belongs to the Playing Field Trust as managers of the playing field, the Parish Council should keep a certified copy with the land deeds, which the Parish Council owns.

RESOLVED: That a certified copy of the Trust Deeds be held by the Parish Council and acknowledge there will be a cost associated with this. Proposed J King, 2nd R Noble. Approved.

The Chair invited a member of the public, to inform council of its responsibilities as Custodian Trustee (CT). All Trustees have the same general duties of care. The CT is the bare legal owner of the playing field and the buildings on it, and as such has a duty to concur in and enact lawful acts which further the efficient administration of the Trust, it assists the managing Trustees but has no managerial role or responsibility. The CT should not do anything that may constitute a breach of Trust, (so it needs to know what the terms of the Trust are) and do nothing that incurs personal liability. The CT passed over to the Managing Trust (MT), the ability to raise money from the CT's property and as such is not responsible or liable as to how that money is applied but do need to exercise some degree of involvement in what the MT is doing as if it is noted that a breach of trust is occurring as the CT has duty of care.

There followed some discussion on the responsibility of insurance for buildings upon the playing field - this will be resolved once the Playing Field Trust is newly formed.

There will be an AGM of the Playing Field on 21 May where there will be a vote on whether to separate the Village Hall and Playing Field Trusts.

- b. To appoint representatives to the new Playing Field Trust if it is formed after the AGM.

RESOLVED: To appoint Cllrs Hollings, Powell and Moulder as representatives to the Playing Field Trust if it is newly formed. Proposed K Sumner, 2nd R Woodhouse. Approved.

163. PLANNING

- a. To consider the planning applications below and any that arise before the meeting.

RESOLVED: To offer No Objection to application **2023/0379/TCA** - T1 - Walnut - Fell. Stone Cottage Shop Lane. Proposed R Noble, 2nd O Powell. Approved.

[Cllrs Powell, Moulder and Noble left the room.]

2023/0357/FUL Noted there was some confusion regarding the accuracy of the footpath and the track crosses a public right of way.

RESOLVED: To offer No Objection to application 2023/0357/FUL Construct trackway in connection with festival use of the land - Land At 358536 140234 Park Hill. Approved with Cllrs Sumner, Woodhouse and Hollings voting for, Cllrs King and Hall abstained.

[NB neither application were available on the Planning Portal to record Council response.]

[Cllrs Powell, Moulder and Noble returned to the meeting.]

164. POLICIES

- a. Review of Financial Risk Assessment - deferred. This will be sent to Councillors prior to the next meeting.

165. UA STRATEGIC PLANNING

- a. Parish Council priorities for representation at LCN meetings.
Suggestion to add Cost of Living Crisis, Flooding Mitigation and Service levels on the Highways

RESOLVED: To adopt the draft priorities plus the additional suggestions and to prioritise the priorities. Proposed R Woodhouse, 2nd N Hall. Approved.

Noted that the expectation is that the Chair will represent Parish Council at LCN meetings.

166. Reports

- a. **Wildflower verges.** Cllr Powell reported that the bank may not be viable as it is trampled on by children leaving the bus; it becomes waterlogged with run-off; there are a lot of brambles to be cleared. Seeds have been sourced, a section will be mowed and trialled after the daffodils have died back. Some other areas were suggested however, at Beales Hill, the land becomes waterlogged regularly and the other suggestion is private land.
- b. **Burial Ground.** Cllr King reported that he conducts the health & safety inspection weekly and puts the bins out. Cllr Noble arranges hedge cutting. The fence requires maintenance from which vegetation has been removed, which will be arranged by the Burial Ground Working Group. The first grass cut has been done this year. Discussed removing the zimmer frame - it is not the Council's property - suggested that a sign be placed on it saying that it will be removed in 30 days, please contact the council if it is required to stay.
- c. **Rights of Way.** Cllr Hall reported that work will be starting again as spring growth thickens. Noted a path that is wrongly marked on the map - this will be investigated. Pile of earth near Stumps Cross that impedes footpath needs removing. Also East Compton and Lamberts Hill have a lot of rubbish. Cllr Sumner will send the Clerk siting of the locations.
- d. **Coronation Event.** Member of the Public reported on progress and that the grant application to National Lottery was declined - GFEL have guaranteed the shortfall. Cllrs expressed discomfort at receiving money from GFEL after the objection to the GFEL planning application.
RESOLVED: That the community will raise funding for the £1,200 and that Cllr Sumner will fund any shortfall. Proposed K Sumner, 2nd T Moulder. Approved.
Cllr Sumner, GFEL and the members of the public working on the event were all thanked.
- e. **Traffic Plan Working Group.** Cllr King reported that it is initially asking residents of their concerns. Cllr Sully is working with the TPWG and East Compton residents who are concerned about speed. West Compton project on Mill Lane where road has degraded - landowner is experiencing difficulty getting equipment to area to clear vegetation. Conduit Square - Cllr Hollings reported a near miss with a courier van passing at speed turning into Shop Lane. Wing mirrors are often broken, suggestion of having a 20mph speed limit and traffic calming measures at the Shop Lane stretch of the A361. Need to start thinking about a Winter Emergency Plan -

provision of Grit Bins and liaising with Somerset Highways. The Asset Register will hold a record of where the Grit Bins are to facilitate reports to Somerset Council.

167. FINANCE

- a. Cllr Hollings had verified and signed off invoices, bank statements and cashbook.
RESOLVED: To approve the bank reconciliation to 31 March 2023. Approved.
- b. **RESOLVED:** To not offer St John Ambulance grant funding as it was not a local organisation. Approved.
- c. **RESOLVED:** To offer Mendip CAB £200 grant funding. Proposed T Moulder 2nd O Powell. Approved. Noted that a Grant application form and policy needs to be drafted.
- d. Amendments to the draft Asset Register were noted. The assets will be inspected before the next meeting and the Asset Register will be brought to the next meeting for approval in readiness for the External Auditor. Noted that the Clerk had consulted with the Internal and External Auditors as previous years' balances had been sent to auditor with a small excess balance and was advised how to address this on this years' returns.
- e. **RESOLVED:** To approve payments: BHIB Insurance £1,062.90; Hall Hire - Coronation £15; Coronation float £500; Hall Hire £15; HMRC £402.20; Salary Mth 12 £478.71. Proposed R Woodhouse, 2nd O Powell. Approved.

168. Matters of Report

- a. Items for Roundabout April '23 - Parish Meeting; Annual Council meeting.

169. [Members of the public left the meeting.]

170. Clerk Time Log Reports

Recommendation from Staffing Group on reporting Time Log reports - that when overtime is reported to the Payroll group, it is also reported to the Staffing Group. Noted that as systems become established the overtime will reduce.

Resolved: To approve that the time logs are reported to the Staffing Group who will report to Full Council. Proposed: K Sumner, 2nd O Powell. Approved

Meeting Closed at 21:40

Date of next meeting: 3 May 2023

Signed

Date