

MINUTES OF PILTON PARISH COUNCIL

FULL COUNCIL MEETING

held at Pilton Village Hall

Wednesday 2 April 2025

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

In Attendance: 6 members of the public, Gill Pettitt (Parish Clerk).

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Works had to be rushed through on the West Compton landslip and bridge, now completed, run-off is superb which will stop erosion occurring again. The Highways team pulled all the stops out to make that happen, they worked hard for us, it is a really stretched team and it was suggested that a letter of thanks be sent to them. Residents are very thankful for the work done.

179. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TO CONSIDER THE REASONS GIVEN

All Councillors present.

180. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

181. DISPENSATIONS

- a. No dispensation requests were received.

182. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

- a. **RESOLVED:** To confirm and sign minutes of the Pilton Parish Council meeting of 5 March 2025. Proposed Cllr Moulder, 2nd Cllr Hall. Approved with one abstention, Cllr Powell.

183. EXTERNAL REPORTS

- a. Avon and Somerset Police - no report
- b. Somerset Council - noted disposal of non-recyclable materials in bins, notably dangerous objects such as knives. Suggest this mentioned in Roundabout.

184. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS - There have been two requests for benches - to be discussed at the next meeting. Noticeboards need attention - for next meeting. The Annual Parish Meeting highlighted that the Burial Ground Gates may need a welcome sign or to be kept open during daylight hours - for next meeting.

185. PLANNING

- a. To consider the Planning Applications below and any that arise before the meeting. 2025/0445/TCA [Leylandi \(T1\) - Fell Ash \(T2\) - Fell T3 \(group of Thuja & Yew\) reduce height by 2 meters.](#) Noted.

(It was also noted that the trees affecting the war memorial have been discussed with the owner, who will take action.)

2025/0443/PPA [Prior Approval for a proposed change of use of agricultural building to 1no. dwelling house \(Class C3\)](#) Noted.

2025/0407/HSE [Loft conversion with rear dormer, rear single storey extension and front porch.](#)

RESOLVED: To support the application and refer to previous comment. Proposed Cllr Roberts, 2nd Cllr Connock. Approved.

2025/0394/PCS [The installation of additional 443No. roof mounted solar PV panels of total installed capacity 201.5kWp](#) Noted

186. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS AND RESOLVE ANY ACTIONS

ARISING

- a. **Burial Ground Working Group** The contractor will be meeting with Cllr Woodhouse to arrange stone feature at the water tap. Some areas have been marked out and

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markers will be placed soon. Tree safety is being reviewed. A letter of appointment has been sent to the new groundsman. Cllr Noble complained that a working group meeting had been held at short notice - this was referred to the working group. Cllr Noble requested that allocation of plots be placed on the next agenda.

- b. **Traffic Planning Working Group** No report
- c. **Flooding Triad** - The group is reviewing drains in the parish. 60 drains have been identified as requiring clearance. Review of East Compton awaited, expect around 80 drains will need to be cleared. Drains will be prioritised to the contractors.
- d. **Parish Plan Steering Group** - Will discuss Health Connectors next month.
- e. **Footpaths Working Group** - No report
- f. **List of items from Cllr Noble** -
 - i. The ASBOs will attend to overgrowth at the top of John Beales Hill and the Bus Shelter bank.
 - ii. Quotes are needed for the Neat Lane bend - hedge trimming [Note this has since been attended to.]; Lower branches on trees on island off the A361 and the other side of the road. Ford Lane trees need cutting back.
 - iii. Noted some potholes still need attention in West Compton Cllr Sumner will investigate. A bridge needs repair in West Compton - Cllr Woodhouse will follow through.
 - iv. Fingerposts are washed by the ASBOs annually. They do not all need repainting. Many are inaccessible and on private land, which means they cannot attend to them. Cllr Hall will ask them to review the fingerposts. ASBOs will also be looking at the Mile irons.
 - v. Noted that disposal of cuttings is a problem. There were agreements to place them on private land, checks will be made that permission is still in place.
 - vi. Ridge Road Lamberts Hill to Cannards Grave - polythene from bales is blowing across road and vehicles. To be reported to Highways.

187. ANNUAL PARISH MEETING - The meeting was very well attended, with good presentations from the Parish Plan Working Group. Comments afterwards - people were pleased to see the scale of the responses to the survey and that positive actions could be the outcome. General feeling that the parish is working together to move forward. Noted that the Parish Council is not able to do much of the work, but it is hoped that community groups will be able to take up the baton.

188. GFEL

- a. To approve (or not) the GFEL Donation Grant Policy

RESOLVED: To remove the draft Clause 1 relating to a deadline for applications to be made. Proposed Cllr Hollings, 2nd Cllr Powell. Approved.

RESOLVED: To approve the draft Clause 5 regarding statement that members of the public are welcome to attend Full Council. Proposed Cllr Woodhouse, 2nd Cllr Sumner. Approved.

RESOLVED: To approve the draft Clause 6. Proposed Cllr Sumner, 2nd Cllr Hall. Approved.

RESOLVED: To approve the draft Conditions Clauses 1, 2, & 3. Proposed Cllr Sumner, 2nd Cllr Woodhouse. Approved.

RESOLVED: To approve Conditions Clause 10 with amendments - add 'normally' between 'will' and 'be'. Add at the end, 'at the Parish Council's discretion.' Proposed Cllr Hall, 2nd Cllr Moulder. Approved.

RESOLVED: To approve Conditions Clause 11 with amendments - cut 'each year', replace with 'each occasion. Proposed Cllr Hall, 2nd Cllr Sumner. Approved.
- b. To receive feedback from the off-site camping meeting: Well attended with representatives from off-site camp organisers, North Wootton and East Pennard Parish Councils, Water board, Traffic, Police, Somerset Council - Licensing & Noise, Fire Service, DVSA. Water was a big point because of issues last year. Driver Vehicle

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Standards Agency are ensuring awareness of speed limits, that vehicles have licences and are road worthy. Offsite campsites drop people by Bronze gate at Steanbow, for which they pay £750 per car. The DVSA have not been checking but will this year - if there are more than 8 clients and various other checks are made - if not compliant the vehicle will be impounded. Less than 8 passengers are viewed as a hackney carriage and will need a hackney carriage license, insurance etc. Companies were advised to hire professional drivers who have the licences and insurances in place.

Somerset Council reported that TENS licences had never had to be enforced. Fire Service spoke on safety - batteries, vape disposal, batteries, clean site, etc. Good neighbours. Security of sites and GFEL security will communicate through WhatsApp.

Asked them to be considerate with their build and break processes.

GFEL are now discussing how to develop the liaison into the future. Campsites that were not represented will be visited to share the information.

As a result of the meeting some organisers have changed their plans.

Helicopters - the pad has been moved to east of the Bath & West Showground - transport to and from has been considered and vehicles will no longer drive through the village. They cannot fly below 3,100ft within a 3.5 nautical mile circle, which includes drones.

Drugs policing at camps was not brought up - save for 2027 (2026 is a fallow year). Sign that was removed from the top of Neat Lane - replacement is in process.

189. VE DAY COMMEMORATION

- a. To approve commemorating VE Day and agree actions arising. There will be a village jumble trail on May 5. VE Day is May 8. Various options were discussed. **RESOLVED:** To dress the War Memorial. Proposed Cllr Roberts, 2nd Cllr Hall. Approved. Cllr Hall will work with the Clerk to organise celebratory events. [Cllr Sumner left the room. Cllr Hollings took the chair.]

190. FINANCE

- a. Payments and receipts were noted. [Cllr Sumner returned and took the chair.]
- b. **RESOLVED:** To approve purchase of fixed price insurance for three years. Proposed Cllr Woodhouse, 2nd Cllr Sumner Approved.
- c. **RESOLVED:** To approve the purchase of SID mounting brackets to replace those lost during the 20mph upgrade scheme. Proposed Cllr Woodhouse, 2nd Cllr Sumner

191. COUNCIL MEETING DOCUMENTS

- a. **RESOLVED:** Online access to previous meeting papers will be made available to Councillors. Proposed Cllr Hollings, 2nd Cllr Powell. Approved. Cllrs Hall and Noble voted against the motion. Cllr Woodhouse abstained.

192. MEETING TIMETABLE 25/26

- a. **RESOLVED:** To approve the meeting timetable 25/26 with one amendment, the July meeting will be held July 9, not July 2. Proposed Cllr Powell Approved with two abstentions Cllrs Hall and Noble.

193. MATTERS OF REPORT Roundabout May article to include Somerset Council request on knife recycling and VE Day celebrations.

Cllrs are involved in litter picking weekly. The village is relatively clear at the moment, worst place being Lamberts Hill.

194. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: To exclude the press and public from item 195.

195. CLOSED SESSION

- a. **RESOLVED:** To approve 6hrs overtime. Proposed Cllr Sumner, 2nd Cllr Hollings. Approved.

NEXT MEETING: Annual Council Meeting - 7 May 2025