

MINUTES OF PILTON PARISH COUNCIL

FULL COUNCIL MEETING held at Pilton Village Hall Wednesday 21 January 2026

Present: Cllrs: R Noble, C Connock, N Hall, R Woodhouse, K Sumner (Chairman), T Moulder, L Roberts, O Powell, A Wynn

In Attendance: 8 members of the public present and Cllr Sully (Somerset Council) and Mrs H Richardson (Clerk)

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

- A resident was pleased to report that 2 branches have been cleared from Weir Lane Footpath
- A resident asked for an update on their question raised at the December meeting, whether Heras fencing on disputed land was contravening planning. It was reported that Heras fencing would be classed as a temporary structure and so would not need planning, no matter how it was fixed to the ground. It was suggested that the resident should contact Somerset Planning Enforcement if they wanted it to be investigated further.
- A resident asked for an update on item 127.a) 'Defacement of property' as the Parish Council had agreed to contact the police and also agreed to facilitate a CCTV/Ring Doorbell sharing scheme and encourage the revival of the Neighbourhood Watch. The Chair reported that he had contacted the police and would share the communication with the resident. He also reported that he had put a request in Roundabout for anyone interested to make contact but had not received any interest so far. He would consider the best way of creating a map for ring doorbell information.
- A resident noted that water was still running down the road on Abbots Way. This issue is to be discussed later.
- A representative from GFEL asked the Parish Council to help communications with Somerset Council regarding a proposed new pavement on Neat Lane, funded by GFEL. It was agreed Cllr Sully would arrange a meeting with GFEL & Cllr Moon
- The Agent for the planning application at Platterwell Lane presented the application and offered to answer any questions from the Parish Council.

150. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TO CONSIDER THE REASONS GIVEN: All councillors present

151. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: Cllr A Wynn (156b- 2025/2304/FUL), Cllr R Noble(156b- 2025/2304/FUL), Cllr N Hall (158 Glastonbury Trainlink Project)

152. DISPENSATIONS

- a. Cllr N Hall (158 Glastonbury Trainlink Project)

153. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

- a. **RESOLVED:** To confirm and sign the minutes of the Pilton Parish Council meeting of 7th January 2026.
Proposed: Cllr Moulder, 2nd Cllr Wynn. Approved

154. EXTERNAL REPORTS

- a. Somerset Council - Cllr Sully reported that rubbish collected from the litter picks would be collected by the end of this week. She has been appointed to the Board of the Somerset Rivers Authority and has been circulated flood warnings this week. She is keen to help the community with flooding issues and will circulate a report on a successful flood prevention project in Croscombe, who now have a device which records rapid flood water rises which records to an app. They have also successfully received a grant to pay to unblock a 19th Century Culvert. She is keen to see what she can do to help prevent flooding in Pilton.

155. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Mobile phone signal & broadband speed improvements.
Vodafone have said that they will install 5G prior to the next Festival.
The company that provides Worthy Farm broadband has offered to install permanent broadband for residents if they receive a commitment from 300 homes on a potential internet provider. IT was noted that phonelines would be going digital in 2027. The Parish Council will discuss further next meeting.

- Somerset/kier abandoned road signs.
At least 6 discarded road signs have been reported to Somerset several times, Somerset have responded to say that they have notified Kier as they own them. We will keep on at them until they are collected.
- Shutwell Lane drain.
Previous works have shown some reduction in the amount of water running down Shutwell Lane, but the issue has not been resolved. Somerset have apologised and admitted that the drain had not been connected to the rest of the system correctly and they would return to complete the works.
- The old laptop has been returned.
- Lloyds Bank
The clerk still needs to be given access to the Lloyds bank account. Cllr Woodhouse would contact Lloyds in Wells and the Clerk & Cllr Woodhouse(& Cllr Sumner if necessary) would visit the bank to complete the set up.

156. PLANNING & LICENCING

- To receive an update on the 2018/1843/OTS at Mid Somerset Showground, Cannards Grave Road. (Shepton Mallet 620-dwelling development). Report on Committee Notification and confirm Pilton representatives for discussions on this development.
It was reported that the Committee Sat on 6th January to discuss a revision of the existing proposal which included an amendment to how the developer will deal with Phosphates. The Committee approved the amendment but did comment that there was no community centre included in the proposals. There will be further consultation on the application when the Reserved Matters application is submitted. It was generally agreed that the Parish Council should continue to be involved in discussions. Cllr Hall is already in communication with Shepton Mallet TC and suggested that a triad or working group should be created to formally take the lead. This will be included on next months agenda after further consideration.
Cllr Sully advised that the Parish Council should be involved in discussions on Active Travel.
Cllr Woodhouse reported that a resident had asked the PC to ensure that any infrastructure promises from the Developer materialise.
Cllr Noble requested a report on impact of the proposal on the infrastructure & roads in Pilton.
Cllr Sully suggested that the Parish Council should lobby Somerset for Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) as is common place in other parts of Somerset. It was reported that the draft Heads of Terms for the S106 has already been circulated so it maybe too late for this development.
- To consider the Planning Applications below and any that arise before the meeting.
2026/0010/FUL: Barrington House, Old Wells Road, Croscombe: Change of use of office to dwelling house (retrospective) and construction of two storey extension
RESOLVED: To SUPPORT the application on the condition that the applicant produces a satisfactory Biodiversity Net Gain Report and acts upon it.
Proposed: Cllr Noble, 2nd Cllr Wynn. Approved

2025/2304/FUL: Land At Platterwell Lane, Pilton. Erection Of A Self-Build Replacement Dwelling.
RESOLVED: To SUPPORT the application as it is an improvement in Design & Appearance on the previously approved application. The layout provides a small footprint on the site, and the application offers a generous package of Biodiversity enhancements within the Design & Access statement. The Parish Council requests that the Biodiversity enhancements are made a condition of approval.
Proposed: Cllr Woodhouse, 2nd Cllr Moulder. Approved

157. PILTON COMMUNITY CAR SCHEME

Through the LCN, Shepton Mallet Town Council are considering establishing a Shepton Community Car Scheme, similar to one already in operation in Frome. Volunteer drivers are paid mileage to drive other residents to appointments and other activities, it is anticipated that this would particularly benefit elderly and young people. Other Parishes within the LCN have been invited to take part in discussions to investigate establishing their own Community Car scheme on the same model.

It was agreed that Cllr Hall should take part in further discussions to enable the Parish Council to decide whether the scheme would be viable or needed in Pilton and find answers to Councillors questions.

Cllr Connock asked what the impact would be on bus services.

Cllr Woodhouse asked what provision there might be for disabled passengers.

Cllr Powell asked how the drivers would be insured.

158. GLASTONBURY TRAIN LINK PROJECT

The project would establish a 7 day direct bus service from Glastonbury to Castle Cary Station stopping in Pilton and possibly other villages on the route. £120,000 is required to commission a 12 month pilot and they already have pledges of £26,000 including £2,000 from Pilton and £5,000 from the festival. The Parish Council agreed to help to distribute leaflets to publicise the project and request feedback. Cllr Sumner reported that the Parish Council still needed to write the terms of the pledge. To be discussed again next meeting.

159. OVERGROWN VEGETATION

Cllr Hall circulated a priority list of overgrown vegetation, recorded in October. It was agreed that the list should be updated to remove locations which had been cut back and the remaining sites would be graded A-D. It was suggested that councillors would knock on doors to ask residents on the list to attend to their vegetation, starting with the highest priority.

160. PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

Cllr Wynn asked the Parish Council to consider asking Somerset Council for road safety improvements for pedestrians using the pavement opposite the Crown. This narrow pavement is used daily by children on their route to school. A picture of a high kerb was circulated which would push vehicles back into the road if they go too close to the pavement, but concern was raised that it could create a more dangerous situation due to the width of the road.

Cllr Sumner reported that he had previously asked Somerset for a Zebra crossing by the bus stops and traffic lights, but they replied saying it would cost the Parish Council £20-30,000 for a feasibility study and even if it gave a positive outcome there was no budget to implement it.

Cllr Noble suggested traffic calming outside the Crown, but it was agreed that this would not work on the bend and traffic lights allowing traffic through in one direction at a time would be better,

Cllr Wynn suggested a sign in each direction warning oncoming traffic in the middle of the road.

Cllr Sumner agreed to approach Somerset again and Cllr Hall agreed to ask the LCN to look at it once they have completed current considerations of the Heavy Vehicle route.

161. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS/TRIADS AND RESOLVE ANY ACTIONS ARISING

a. Affordable Housing Triad - No update

b. Biodiversity Triad

i) Report of Water Quality in Whitelake River, Pilton during Glastonbury Festival

The Parish council was pleased to note that the report showed that no incidents had originated from the festival, however an incident occurred in a farm upstream of the festival site where an ammonia spike was observed and quickly dealt with using dilution tanks

RESOLVED: Cllr Hall to ask the Environment Agency whether the incident occurred in a temporary off-site campsite or unrelated to the festival. And whether the dilution tanks use chlorinated water?

Proposed: Cllr Powell, 2nd Cllr Wynn. Approved

c. Burial Ground Triad - topsoil would be brought in when the weather is dryer to distribute around some of the headstones. The siting of the bench still needed to be agreed and the loose stone has not yet been removed.

d. Flooding Triad - Shutwell Lane was still a problem as previously reported, and Whitestone Lane is still flooding after Somerset reported that they had gulped. The Chair is co-ordinating the map of drains to be jetted.

e. Footpath Working Group-West Compton footpath has reopened after a massive hornets nest has been cleared.

f. Highways Triad - Cllr Noble reported that complaints have been received about the silage bails in West Compton and hundreds of Tonnes of waste dumped in a field and all over the lane. Cllr Hall agreed to report it.

g. LCN update - meeting postponed.

162. FINANCE

- a. **RESOLVED:** To note payments & receipts listed.
Proposed: Cllr Woodhouse, 2nd Cllr Powell. Approved

163. MATTERS OF REPORT

- a. The Clerks report would be included at the end of the agenda so that issues from the report can be discussed if necessary.
- b. Due to the change of meeting date, the deadline for Roundabout is now prior to the meeting and so notices for Roundabout need to be considered prior to the meeting.

NEXT MEETINGS: Council Meeting -, 18th February 2026, 18th March 2026 The meeting closed at 9.02pm