

MINUTES OF PILTON PARISH COUNCIL

FULL COUNCIL MEETING

held at Pilton Village Hall

Wednesday 5 November 2025

Present: Cllrs: N Hall, R Noble, C Connock, R Woodhouse, K Sumner, T Hollings.

In Attendance: Members of the public present, Cllr Claire Sully (SC).

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

- Request for member of public feedback to be passed to GFEL.
- Abandoned car will be reported.
- Noise from airplane flying over weekly - is there anything that can be done? Can complain to Yeovilton airfield or the Aviation Authority but will be referred to Highways. Flight path app would provide number of craft to help reporting.

106. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TO CONSIDER THE REASONS GIVEN - Cllr Roberts - childcare, Cllrs Moulder & Powell- personal reasons. Clerk is ill and not present. **RESOLVED:** To accept apologies from Cllrs Roberts, Moulder and Powell and their reasons for absence. Proposed Cllr Hollings. Approved with abstentions from Cllrs Hall and Noble.

106. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Sumner declared in interest in item 111.c. - 2025/1932/HSE

107. DISPENSATIONS

- a. No dispensations requested.

108. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

- a. **RESOLVED:** To confirm and sign minutes of the Pilton Parish Council meetings of 1 October 2025. Proposed Cllr Sumner. Approved.

109. EXTERNAL REPORTS

- a. Somerset Council - Cllr Woodhouse asked Cllr Sully about the 5-year strategic landbank documentation about to be published that will remove ability to argue against planning applications around there being no provision for roadside residents / caravans etc. Does this apply to caravans outside Street and elsewhere. Cllr Sully does not believe that the plan will be published soon. However, not all the land used by these dwellings is public - the plan is going further i.e. pursuing purchase of land with planning permission to offer permanent dwellings. SC is working with Bristol to share solutions. National input is needed to allow national caravan registration. Cllr Sully also noted that the phosphate policy is being reviewed to make applications quicker.
- b. Somerset Council
 - i. Local Nature Recovery Consultation - closes 7 November. This could affect future planning applications.
RESOLVED: Cllr Hall will produce draft response to the Local Nature Recovery Consultation for Councillors to look at via email before submission. Proposed Cllr Woodhouse, 2nd Cllr Connock. Approved.
 - ii. Playing Pitch Strategy and Built Sports Facilities Strategy Surveys - closes 9 November. This is largely aimed at larger facilities than those in Pilton.
RESOLVED: Cllr Hollings will produce draft response to the Playing Pitch Strategy and Built Sports Facilities Strategy Surveys for Councillors to look at via email before submission. Proposed Cllr Sumner, 2nd Cllr Connock. Approved.

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- iii. Community Governance Review - To note and consider actions arising from the Somerset Council request that Councils are asked to start to review current arrangements - e.g. boundaries, number of councillors, warding etc.; Work with neighbouring councils to review boundaries; Speak to communities about current arrangements. Main consideration over the next two years is whether Pilton Parish Council wishes to merge with other neighbouring councils. Difficulty is that local knowledge could be lost. Suggested to put to next agenda.

110. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Report back on Code of Conduct Training - Only 4 Cllrs attended - very productive. The Registrable Interests update form has been sent to Cllrs who need to register all interests including where they stand in a prominent position in local organisations, or if they or their spouses have any pecuniary interests. Updates should be sent to the monitoring officer within 28 days of any change.
- b. A discussion will be held after the meeting is closed on whether to change the day of Full Council meetings to the last Wednesday of the month. The Chair asked members of the public if this would be a popular discussion and whether any other groups meet at the end of the month. People like the idea of moving the meeting day and didn't think there were clashes with other groups.

111. PLANNING AND LICENCING

- a. Planning update from Somerset Council noted.
- b. Participation in discussions regarding the Shepton Mallet 620-dwelling development Cllr Hall has spoken with Jane Nicklin, the head of Shepton Town Council Planning Committee. She welcomes someone from Pilton PC meeting with them when they meet Somerset Council planners. Noted that development will be long-term, may be 10 years, infrastructure will only be introduced after dwellings are built. There will be questions around the infrastructure proposed. A member from Shepton Town Council confirmed that Shepton Council is interested in assurance that the infrastructure built, is what the community needs. Flooding and foul water provision is also high priority for consideration. Cllr Hall will attend the next meeting, suggested to appoint a Triad at the January Full Council.

RESOLVED: To participate in discussions regarding the Shepton Mallet 620-dwelling development and to appoint representatives to these from Pilton Parish Council. Proposed Cllr Hollings, 2nd Cllr Woodhouse. Approved.

- c. To consider the Planning Applications below and any that arise before the meeting. [Cllr Sumner left the room] [Cllr Hollings took the Chair]
[2025/2932/HSE](#) - Proposed double storey rear extension and outbuilding to be constructed under permitted development guidelines, cleaning of front elevation stonework. Noted the development will increase numbers of cars in the area. Propose object design and impact on visual appearance and overshadowing Proposed Cllr Noble not taken to vote.

RESOLVED: To support application 2025/2932/HSE as a sensitive development, off-street parking is a fundamental requirement. Proposed Cllr Woodhouse, 2nd Cllr Hall. Approved with one against, Cllr Noble.

[Cllr Sumner returned to the room]

[2025/1919/TCA](#) - T1 Leylandii Fell. Noted.

[2025/1871/FUL](#) - Partial conversion and redevelopment of existing barn to a self-contained 2-bedroom annexe within approximately one-third of existing barn footprint. A representative for the application spoke for the development.

RESOLVED: Support 2025/1871/FUL as an improvement to visual amenity with low impact. Proposed Cllr Connock, 2nd Cllr Noble. Approved.

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

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- a. Affordable Housing Triad - Survey launch is 7th November, with posters and social media posts. Printed copies available. Survey closed 7th December. Results initially in January with full report by March 2026.
- b. Biodiversity Triad - No report however work is being dealt with.
- c. Burial Ground Triad - The site of one bench has been agreed, the owner has been asked to consider how the bench will be fixed. The bench in the carpark is to be refurbished. Cllr Woodhouse is researching dressed stone sources, Cllr Sumner may have some dressed stone available. The remaining stone in the burial ground needs disposal [however, it is classed as contaminated, which workmen should be warned of.] Cllr Noble is organising hedge cutting.
- d. Flooding Triad - need dates for gulping to go ahead. Following Shutwell Lane works, water is now pooling and not diverted to the drainage system.
- e. Footpaths Working Group - Proposed footpath in front of new housing. Steve Russell-Yarde reported on behalf of GFEL - the land is Somerset Council land with underground services; a hedge would need removing. An application needs to be made to Somerset Council for permission. Cllr Sully will support the initiative, and Cllr Hall will discuss through LCN.
RESOLVED: To take proposal to the LCN to test how process works. Proposed Cllr Sumner, 2nd Cllr Connock. Approved.
- f. Highways Triad - Overgrowth vegetation - Report prepared by Cllrs Hall, Noble and Woodhouse with additions from Cllr Connock noting impediments to visibility. Parish Council could write to landowners stating safety issue, and if not done, PC may do it; verges could be strimmed and cleared by volunteers; unidentified landownership or where more work is required, quotes may need to be considered. The group will identify ownership against the list for the clerk to write to owners. Sunken drain cover on Shutwell Lane has appeared. Cllr Hollings will report.
- g. Parish Plan Steering Group is now disbanded. Thanks were given to the group for their work.
- h. Staffing Triad - Gill Pettitt has tendered her resignation. The reappointment will be discussed in closed session.
- i. LCN update - good meeting on safety of heavy goods vehicles, local haulage contractors and Highways Dept is involved. Beacon Hill crossroads safety measures were also discussed, the LCN is giving this priority.

113. REMEMBRANCE DAY

- a. Cones arriving tomorrow. No bugler, there will be a recording. Cars are available to block roads. Wreaths are available. [Contractors to manage closed road are booked.]

114. FINANCE

- a. The draft budget and precept will be brought to the next meeting. Finalised version should be available by the early January meeting.
- b. Payments are not available - will be brought to next meeting.

115. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC agreed to discuss appointment of clerk.

116. MATTERS OF REPORT

- a. Housing survey information has been sent to Roundabout.

117. Staffing Triad interviewed three candidates. In principle, Cllrs were asked if the last Wednesday in the month would be agreeable. Proposal will be brought to next meeting. Three candidates were interviewed.

NEXT MEETING: Council Meeting - 3 December 2025