

MINUTES OF PILTON PARISH COUNCIL

FULL COUNCIL MEETING

held at Pilton Village Hall

Wednesday 1 March 2023

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

In Attendance: G Pettitt, (Parish Clerk), 9 members of the public, Cllr Sully (SCC).

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

- Announcement that the portion of the Strawberry Line from Shepton Mallet to Wells will open next week. Many other sections are on track and development will continue after the start of the Unitary Authority on 1 April.

137. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TO CONSIDER THE REASONS GIVEN

Apologies received from Cllr Sumner - on holiday.

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

Apologies also received from Cllr C Sully (SCC)

138. DISPENSATIONS

- a. **RESOLVED:** Motion A: That the clerk offer dispensation for Non-Registrable Interest to all members of council for this term of office for Glastonbury Festival traffic volume and issues arising from increase traffic flow. Proposed by R Noble, 2nd N Hall. Cllrs King, Woodhouse, Noble and Hall voted for the motion.

RESOLVED: Motion B: To defer decision to offer dispensation for Non-Registrable Interest to all members of council for this term of office for Glastonbury Festival traffic volume and issues arising from increase traffic flow. Proposed by T Hollings, 2nd T Moulder. Cllrs Roberts, Moulder, Hollings and Powell voted for the motion. The Chair exercised his casting vote in favour of Motion A. Motion A was approved.

- b. To consider any written requests for dispensation the Clerk may have received from Councillors.

Cllr Hall had submitted a request for dispensation in item 145 Planning Application 2022/0025. This was approved.

139. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Moulder declared an interest in item 148 as Chair of Village Hall Trust.

Cllr Hall declared a personal interest in item 145, planning application 2022/0025

Cllr Woodhouse declared an interest in item 148 as member of the Village Hall Trust.

(NB this does not preclude any later declarations).

140. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was agreed that item 149a. be excluded from the press and public.

141. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

- a. **RESOLVED:** To approve minutes of 1 February 2023 with an amendment to note that the GFEL planning application Build and Break schedule was tabled at the meeting. Proposed: N Hall. Approved.
- b. **RESOLVED:** To approve the minutes of 16 February with amendments to note that Cllr Roberts had given apologies to members for the meeting, [N.B. Apologies must be given directly to the clerk either written or verbal. It is otherwise regarded as 'hearsay' and cannot be minuted by the clerk.] To note that a member of council considered that the amendment to planning application 2022/2458/FUL affected the Parish Council's material considerations to the original application and that Council should thus have been reconsidering the entire application, however the advice from the Planning Officer was that the amendment was not a material change. Proposed J King, 2nd N Hall. Approved.

142. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS - None.

143. LOCAL AUTHORITY REPORTS

- a. Avon & Somerset Police - Noted that Pilton was mentioned in this newsletter.
- b. Mendip District Council - Noted.
- c. Somerset County Council - No report.

144. FLOODING AND WATER ISSUES

- a. Cllr Hollings provided a full verbal report. Investigations have taken place and are ongoing. A number of drain sites are being identified to be moved from SCC 4-yearly clearance to annual clearance. A map will be drawn up to identify these to SCC Highways department. Members noted additional areas of concern at Culverwell House, Oathills, outside the Chapel and at Three Corner Orchard at West Compton.

145. PLANNING

- a. To consider the planning applications below and any that arise before the meeting.
RESOLVED: To offer No Objection to application **2023/0301/FUL** - Conversion from existing barn annexe to ancillary accommodation, Cockmill Croft Farm, Cockmill Lane, East Pennard. Proposed O Powell, 2nd L Roberts. Approved with 2 abstentions.
RESOLVED: To offer No Objection to application Erection of two-storey rear and single-storey side extensions following demolition of rear lean and side porch, Cumhill Cottage, Cumhill Lane. Proposed R Noble, 2nd O Powell. Approved with 2 abstentions.

Councillor Hall did not participate in the following item.

RESOLVED: To refer to the Tree Officer - Council noted that this tree has a TPO and is concerned at the severity of the pruning requested re application **2023/0025/TPO** - TPO (M1179) - Yew - reduce laterals by 1-2m, Yew Tree Cottage, Whitstone Hill. Proposed O Powell, 2nd R Woodhouse. Approved with 3 abstentions.

146. UA STRATEGIC PLANNING

- a. Consultation on Draft Statement of Community Involvement for Somerset. Deadline 16 March 2023.

RESOLVED: To response to the consultation with the following:

The County vision is “putting the people of Somerset at the heart of everything we do.” The draft statement could be more aspirational. In particular we request that the statement includes:

1. More encouragement and incentivisation for developers to follow best practice rather than just meeting the minimum standards.
 2. Community involvement exercises that are proportionate to the scale and importance of the issue at hand. Proposed N Hall, 2nd R Noble. Approved with 2 abstentions.
- Cllr Hall reported that 18 LCNs have been agreed. Pilton is within the Shepton Mallet LCN, the first meeting of which is expected in June. Local planning decisions will be made by an area committee, probably in Shepton Mallet. Parish Councils now have the right to refer applications to the committee.

147. Wildflower verges

- a. To receive report on the planting of roadside wildflower verges. These are expected to be planted on the north side of the A361. Cllr Powell will join the group and seek others to participate. Noted that the brambles will need to be cut back and maintenance needs consideration. Noted the Emorsgate website - wildseed.co.uk - could be useful.

148. Coronation Event - Councillors Moulder and Woodhouse did not participate in this item.

- a. The organiser of the Coronation Event reported that they are awaiting confirmation from the Village Hall Trust that the Playing Field may be used; a grant application has been submitted to National Lottery Community Fund. The Events group are receiving very positive responses from local groups.
- b. **RESOLVED:** To approve payment of refundable deposit in the region of £700 for marquee for Pilton Coronation Event. Proposed O Powell, 2nd T Hollings. Approved.

149. FINANCE

- a. This item was taken at the end of the agenda, once press and public had left the room. To receive quotes and appoint Internal Auditor for 22/23 Audit.

RESOLVED: To approve Paul Russell as Internal Auditor for 2022/23 accounts at a cost of £150 plus VAT. Proposed T Hollings, 2nd O Powell. Approved.

b. To consider and approve, (or not) grant funding to Citizens Advice Mendip (Local Gov't Act 1972 s142) - This item was deferred.

c. Payments:

RESOLVED: To approve payments: Information Commissioner £40; Hall Hire - Coronation group £15; Hall Hire £15; SLCC Membership £93.50; SLCC ILCA to CiLCA training £72; Salary Mth 11 £723.03. Noted that overtime hours will be shared with the Staffing Group monthly. Proposed R Woodhouse, 2nd T Hollings with 1 abstention.

150. TRAFFIC

a. To receive report from Pilton Traffic Management Working Group, (TMWG). Cllr King reported that the TMWG is liaising with the East Compton traffic action group which is collecting speed data; the GFEL SID will be moved to East Compton to supply data to Highways to support this and the group is working on making a good economic case to reduce speed limit; working on shared spaces e,g, horses; researching possibility of lowering the speed limit in the village. Also noted the Conduit Square recent incident.

151. Matters of Report

a. Items for Roundabout April '23 - repeat call for responsibility for drains. Thank you to the litter pickers.

b. Footpaths and Burial Ground should be on each agenda.

c. Noted Lamberts Hill on the A361 through to Shepton Mallet. Rubbish dumped at Knowle Ground on way to Stumps Cross.

d. Broken dog waste bin at the playing fields needs better signage.

e. To bring earlier start time to next meeting.

Meeting Closed at 21:50

Date of next meeting: 5 April 2023

Signed

Date