

MINUTES, PAWLETT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held virtually on Zoom on Monday 1st March 2021, commencing at 7.00pm
(in the format to be presented at the next meeting for approval)

Present:

Cllrs W Barnard (Chair), J Kingman, M Thomas, M Smith
C Morrison-Jones (clerk)
3 x members of the public.
SCC Cllr M Healey, SDC Cllr J Woodman

Public speaking:

- Alterations to the barrier on The Drain
- Ivy on boundary wall
- Drains on A38
- Historic Fingerposts

1. To receive any apologies for absence and disclosures of interest and consider grants of dispensation.

Apologies of absence received from Cllr A Warner

Disclosure of interest J Kingman (landowner), agenda item 9a

Disclosure of interest M Thomas (adjacent property owner), agenda item 9a

2. County and District Councillor Reports

SCC Cllr M Healey had previously sent a report that had been circulated to councillors.

Government has suspended Somerset county elections for 2021 as consideration is underway for either a unitary or combined district authority. All proposals need to now put their cards on the table and lay out what they are going to do for parish councils and local areas

WB raised concerns about parish councils being delegated powers but not the having resources available to carry them out. It is difficult to recruit new councillors even now J Woodman responded that Community networks will provide the answer – power in small communities coming together

SDC Cllr J Woodman

55 SDC highways staff currently redeployed to the vaccination rollout, so a bit of slippage on road issues currently

SDC Cllr J Woodman & SCC Cllr M Healey left the meeting at this point

3. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 1st February 2021

The minutes were approved by Members for signature by the Chairman as a true and accurate record of the previous meeting. The minutes will be signed when the Parish Council next meet in person.

JK dropped out of the meeting at this point (internet issues)

4. Vacancy on the Parish Council

There is still one vacancy on the Parish Council to be filled by co-option. Any interested parishioners are requested to contact the clerk or any parish councillor for more information and to register an interest.

Minutes, Pawlett Parish Council Meeting, 1st March 2021

Chair Date

5. Matters arising from the previous meeting:**a) Speeding at Dunball**

The clerk reported that SCC are intending to introduce a 50mph Speed on the length of the A38 Bristol Road, Bridgwater from a point 42 metres south of the junction with Puriton Road in a southerly direction to Dunball Roundabout

JK rejoined meeting

b) Parish grass cutting 2021

The contract to cut the grass for the 2021 season only has been accepted by SDC, at the same costs quoted in the originally submitted tender for a two-year period. SDC are aware that they will have to liaise with pavilion for access due to covid

c) New website

The order for the new site has been placed with Somerset Webservices and work will commence once the deposit has been paid by the Parish Council

d) Any other matters arising from the minutes not covered by the agenda items below

None

6. Roads, Footpaths and River Banks:**a) Kissing Gates on The Drain**

The contractor completed the work on Friday 26th February. WB inspected the work and suggested that maybe the paint job needs revisiting. Some barrier left as support for neighbouring fence and it is a 'snug fit' through barriers which requires users leaving the path and mounting the grass verge to access through barriers, which wasn't necessary before. It was suggested that an additional area of tarmac to build up the grass verge would solve the problem. WB suggested councillors meet at The Drain to discuss the issue. It was proposed if councillors are content that contractor has met the quote specification then the funds could be released to pay for the work, if councillors were not satisfied they would agree to withhold funds until the matter is resolved.

b) Tree planting on the Green

MT circulated the requested planting plan to councillors in February, together with the information that the quoted costs would change due to stock unavailability. Having clarified the situation with the nursery prior to the meeting, the clerk reported that a 1x30 litre *Abies lasiocarpa compacta* (planted) would cost £225 + VAT, in addition to the costs previously quoted for the other 5 trees. The nursery had confirmed that, as the trees were container grown, not bare root, that planting could occur at any time of year and was not confined to the bare root planting season of early spring.

Councillors resolved to order the 6 trees (planted) at a total cost of £1555.20 (inc VAT)

The presented planting plan was agreed

c) Any other matters concerning Highways, Footpaths or River Banks

A hole was reported at the bottom of Chapel Road

7. Minor Parish maintenance issues**a) Grit bin installation**

As work was only completed on the Drain at the end of February and has yet to be evaluated by the council, the grit bin installation has not been progressed yet

b) Historic finger posts

As previously noted, this is an area that has been visited before by the Parish Council and it had not been possible to find volunteers who were willing to undergo the necessary SCC training to allow the restoration of the posts. The clerk reported that she had obtained a list of approved restorers from SCC, but before making contact wanted Council to consider the potential high costs of restoration and, if they wished for further exploration to be made into

the costs should the other historic fingerpost in the parish (Stretcholt) be included in any requests for quotations?

Councillors resolved to maintain a watching brief unless someone is willing to volunteer to carry out the necessary work.

c) Any other issues to report

A request was received to remove the ivy on the boundary wall adjacent to the A38

8. Play area and outdoor gym:

a) Any matters to report

None had been reported by AW.

WB noted that there was a build-up of leaf litter, probably due to lack of use at present.

Resolved to keep a watching brief

b) New pieces of play equipment

In addition to funds held directly by the Parish Council, the clerk noted that SDC holds £793.14 of RLT2 funds on behalf of Pawlett which is available to spend before 2025. Additional external funding can also be sought so not all of the funds will have to come from PC funds.

WB reported that he had carried out preliminary investigations:

Skate park. Additional skate ramp – quotes of upwards of £30,000 to turn into a meaningful skate park.- needs more run in space (more tarmac, resurfacing and addition a of ramp). ...or a prefabricated 'street park'. WB also needs to speak to the Pavilion about the need for more space

Play area – wooden climbing feature and wet pour safety surface, £15-20,000.

WB to progress with gaining quotes etc to bring to council for approval in order to be able to submit a bid to Virador for funding

It was noted that letters of community support will help add weight to the bid process

c) Annual Playground Inspection

Councillors resolved to appoint the Playground Inspection Company to again carry out the inspections at a cost of £166.80 (inc VAT).

JK & MT left meeting at this point due to a declared interest

9. Planning:

a) Community assets in regard to the potential development off A38

With the departure of JK and MT for this agenda item the PC was temporarily inquorate. Under the Parish Council's Standing Orders item 1y "If a meeting is or becomes inquorate no business shall be transacted and the meeting shall be adjourned. Any outstanding business of a meeting so adjourned shall be automatically delegated to the Clerk in consultation with such members as may be available, unless specifically prohibited"

Accordingly, the meeting was temporarily adjourned and the clerk sought the opinions of the available Members to allow a response, under delegated powers, to be formulated to the developers email of 24th February regarding the potential community assets that could be available as part of the potential development off the A38.

The meeting was then reconvened.

JK & MT rejoined the meeting

b) Any potential planning breaches in the parish

None

c) Any other planning related matters notified to Clerk in advance of the meeting

None

3 members of the public left the meeting at this point

10. Financial Matters.**a) i) Payments to approve**

C Morrison-Jones	£580.21	salary - Feb 2021	to pay online
NEST	£4.39	pension contributions	to pay by D/D
green energy	£8.58	Feb 2021	to pay online
SALC	£75.00	training 14,21 & 28.1.21	to pay online
Somerset Web services	£360.00	website deposit	to pay online
Chew Valley Trees	£1,555.20	trees on the green	to pay online
Greenways Ground Maintenance	£1,992.27	barrier on drain	to pay online

ii) Amounts received

22.12.20	Hiscox insurance	£250	recovered claim excess, noticeboards
31.12.20	Pavilion	£17	playing field rent

iii) Approve bank reconciliation

Councillors resolved to approve the bank reconciliation, dated 31.12.20, of £50,585.09. £27,000 of this balance is held in reserved funds

b) Online banking – update

Payments are now able to be made to council suppliers online. The Parish Council debit card has yet to be issued by NatWest

2 authorised signatories to counter sign bank statements to verify the correct actioning of payments

c) Appoint Internal Auditor

Councillors resolved to request the previous year's internal auditor be requested to carry out the internal audit again for 2020/21

d) Consider Statement of Internal Control for year ended 31st March 2020

Councillors approved the document which had previously been circulated by the clerk

e) Consider Risk Management Report for year ended 31st March 2020

Councillors approved the document which had previously been circulated by the clerk

f) Consider Asset Register as of March 2020

Councillors approved the document which had previously been circulated by the clerk

g) Any other financial matters notified to the Clerk

None

11. Date and time of the next Parish Council meeting:

Due to the Easter Bank Holiday falling on the first Monday in April, the next PPC meeting will be held on Monday 12th April 2021, commencing at 7pm, via the Zoom virtual platform

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20.32