

PAWLETT PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council Meeting was held at the Village Hall, Old Main Road, Pawlett on Monday, 16th January 2016 at 8.00 pm.
(in the format to be submitted to the next meeting for approval as a correct record)

Present:

Parish Councillors R Winter (chair), A Baker, M Seabourne, C Clark, H Smith, M Neale, W Barnard
C Morrison-Jones (clerk).
4 members of the public

Presentation by Izzy Silvester, Village Agent for Pawlett

Izzy explained that the Somerset Village Agent project is a project of CCS and now covers over half of the county. The project uses paid, part time, highly trained individuals living in the parish 'clusters' they support. They help to bridge the gap between isolated, excluded, vulnerable and lonely individuals and statutory and/or voluntary organisations which offer specific solutions to identified needs. Village Agents offer a signposting and referral service with a difference.

Village Agents work with all ages dealing with a wide variety of issues, including health and social care, home safety, finding local activities for people to join in with, and signposting and referring people to money and benefit advice. Village Agents also have the role of helping to shape services by feeding back to the appropriate body information about gaps in service e.g. transport provision. They can also motivate and support a community to respond to a local need by working together to address issues e.g. by helping them to set up a coffee morning for a group of lonely people or start a volunteer car scheme. Anyone can contact their Village Agent and Izzy's contact details are as follows: Email: izzy@somersetccc.org.uk Tel: 07931018045

Public Speaking Time: Topics raised

- *Dog waste* – it was reported that a silver 4x4 vehicle was observed dumping a large bag of dog waste in the bin on 26th December
- *Lippitts Lane* – it is considered to be as bad as it ever was and that the £1,000 recent spend on repairs by SCC was money ill spent
- *Path to nowhere* – the Chairman of the Pavilion committee reported concerns that the construction of the path has been 'forgotten' by Sedgemoor DC. Health & safety concerns have been raised over the safety of users (who are climbing over a fence and bank before re-joining the surfaced path near the Pavilion building. Who is responsible if an accident occurs?

The Parish Council chairman agreed to investigate this with the aim to clarify the situation. It was noted that the situation potentially has an impact on Sedgemoor DC (as the land owners) and the Parish Council (lease land from Sedgemoor) as well as the Pavilion (lease the land from the Parish Council).

The Pavilion was requested to put its concerns in writing to the Parish Council in order that the concerns can be highlighted to the relevant authorities (Sedgemoor DC, SCC Highways, Stonewater)

- *Pavilion, sports field improvement funding* – the Pavilion chairman explained that £50,000 funding had already been secured from EDF for the improvements to the MUGA, cricket pitch & portable goals. £9,000 had been secured from RLT funding. This leaves a shortfall of £17,000. An application to Virador appears to be promising but Virador stipulate that 10% (£1,700) has to be fundraised via other sources. Can the PC assist in any way with this?

It was agreed that the Pavilion would supply the clerk with details

121. Welcome by the Chairman.

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Signed and DatedChairman

The Chairman welcomed those present

122. To receive any apologies for absence and disclosures of interest.

None received

123. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 19th December 2016

The Minutes were confirmed as a correct record and signed.

124. Matters Arising:

a) Springfield Close

The Chairman stated that he felt that the questions regarding the development and house allocation had been dealt with in the previous Q & A session and that the item would now be closed off the agenda. The Parish Council would continue with attempting to resolve the issues concerned with 'the path to nowhere'

b) Christmas Tree on the Green

The general feeling was that the tree had been a great success and was much appreciated in the village. The chairman thanked C Freeman, W Barnard, C Clark and P Curtan who assisted with the dismantling and disposal of the tree.

It was resolved to reserve a similar tree for 2017 – A Baker to action

c) Any Other Matters arising not covered by agenda items below

- i) Dog waste bins** The clerk had previously circulated a diagram from Sedgemoor DC to verify where the two new bins are to be placed. The placement at the Gaunts Road end of 'The Drein' was correct but the positioning at the Village Green end was amended to be placed on the fence post which can be found just inside the gate on 'The Drein' immediately under the garden on the map provided which reads Barton Ho. Councillors also resolved that the red 40 litre bins would be most appropriate and requested the clerk to confirm with Sedgemoor DC

125. County and District Councillor's Reports.

None received

126. Planning Matters:

a) Consider Planning Application 41/16/00016.

15 Gaunts Road, Pawlett, Bridgwater, TA6 4SF. Conversion of garage to living accommodation

Councillors could see no problems with the application as it involved little change to the outside frontage and resolved to support the application. Clerk to respond

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

None

127. To Receive Reports from Members of Meetings attended as representatives of the Parish Council.

None

128. Financial Matters.

a) The following payments were approved: -

- i.** Clerk's salary December, chq 941, £298.47
- ii.** The Post Office, Clerk's PAYE contributions, chq 942, £74.60
- iii.** Clerk's expenses, chq 943, £48.60
- iv.** Greenacres (grass cutting 2016), chq 944, £2700.00
- v.** Green Energy plc, chq 945, £5.86 (inc £0.28 VAT)

b) Agree Budget for 2017/18 and set Parish Precept for 2017/18.

The clerk had previously prepared a draft budget for 2017/18 and circulated it amongst Members. No changes to the draft were suggested and it was accepted by Members. Councillors resolved to request a precept of £19,500, which will result in a 2.09% increase for a band D property for 2017/18

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c) Any Other Financial Matters

None

129. Roads and Footpaths

a) Trees on the edge of the Green

The Clerk reported that Sedgemoor Tree Services had carried out the resonance testing and that a formal report was to follow. However, the initial brief report received via email was encouraging “No significant decay although will need monitoring. Some reduction work needs carrying out on both and some decompaction work to slow down decline in the oak.” Councillors resolved to wait for the formal report before planning course of action.

b) Any Other Matters relating to Roads and Footpaths in the Parish

i) Street Lighting – new lights around the village

The chairman thanked C Clark on his research regarding the replacement lights. It was noted that the new lights were very bright. However, the changing over to LEDs was a county wide policy and would ultimately lead to a 53% saving in energy and so was not a policy that should be challenged. Somerset CC Lighting Team had stressed, when contacted, that their sole intention is to light the highway, not cause any inconvenience to private households. To this end contact details for the Street Lighting team have been obtained and individuals can use these details to discuss the particular light in question with regard to possible solutions being implemented.

ii) Parking on newly hatched area Old Main Road / Gaunts Road

The chairman reported that he had attempted to contact the PCSO on several occasions regarding this but as yet has had no response

130. Sundial on the Green

W Barnard reported no progress on this. The chairman had details of a DIY kit for £625, which would then require a cost to for installation added on, or a fully fitted version for £1,100. The grant that was available for this project was £500 and it had to be questioned how much the sundial would be used – would it justify the additional financial input from the Council? It was resolved not to proceed any further with this project.

131. Consider grass cutting arrangements for 2017

In 2015 Councillors agreed a two year arrangement for Greenacres to fulfil the grass cutting contract with the option of extending for a third year if both parties were in agreement. Councillors agreed that they were most satisfied with the service provided and the clerk was requested to approach Greenacres to request they continue for 2017.

132. Consider ID cards for Parish Councillors

It was agreed that the chairman would arrange for samples to bring to the February meeting. Cost was anticipated to be circa £2.52 per ID card, inclusive of lanyard and protective cover.

133. School Competition re switching on of Christmas tree lights

The chairman suggested that the Christmas Tree lights ‘switch on’ for 2017 could be advertised on a poster. To engage younger parishioners, it would be nice if the school could become involved – a competition to design a poster with the winner seeing their design in print and being invited to turn the lights on. Councillors agreed that this was a good idea and W Barnard, as a school governor, offered to approach the Head Teacher with the idea

134. Correspondence

- 1) **Somerset Wildlife Trust:** The Severn Vision
- 2) **British Red Cross:** Introducing the Emergency App
- 3) **Somerset Waste Partnership:** December 2016 briefing
- 4) **Highways England:** update on central barrier repairs, M5 J23
- 5) **Hinkley Point C, Look Ahead:** January 2017

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- 6) **Avon & Somerset Police & Crime Commissioner:** Avon & Somerset Crime Plan
- 7) **Quantock Walking Festival**
- 8) **Civil Contingencies Unit:** Somerset Prepared newsletter
- 9) **P&S RA Correspondence**
- 10) **Parishioner's correspondence re new street lighting**
- 11) **Parishioner's correspondence re proposed new dog waste bins**
- 12) **Pawlett Pavilion:** Thanks for daffodil bulbs

135. Topics for Future Meetings

- i) Set date and format for Annual Parish Meeting

105. Date and Time of next meeting

Monday 20th February 2017 at 7.00 pm in the Village Hall

Meeting closed at 9.07 pm