

PAWLETT PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council Meeting was held at the Village Hall, Old Main Road, Pawlett on Monday, 18th July 2016 at 7.05 pm.
(in the format to be submitted to the next meeting for approval as a correct record)

Present:

Parish Councillors R Winter, W Barnard, A Baker, M Neale, M Seabourne, C Clark, H Smith. C Morrison-Jones (clerk). Cllr M Healey (SCC) and Cllr J Woodman (SDC).
9 members of the public

Public Speaking Time: Topics raised

- Allocation of houses at Springfield Close
In response to correspondence sent by the Residents Association, Cllr M Healey denied the rumour that houses were going to be offered to refugees. He expressed his sadness that false information was being circulated and confirmed that local homes would go to local people first
- Gaunts Road
- Field on A38, past crematorium, being used as a motor bike track

43. Welcome by the Chairman.

44. To receive any apologies for absence and disclosures of interest. None

45. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 20th June 2016 Amendments were made to the spelling of Gaunts Road in 35 b) i & iii and 40 ii The Minutes were then confirmed as a correct record and signed.

46. Matters Arising:

a) Springfield Close

The Chairman thanked M Healey for addressing the rumours regarding the allocation of the houses and reiterated that he had received assurances that first choice would be given to local people with second choice to people with family connections to the village.

There is to be a meeting, hosted by Stonewater and attended by Sedgemoor DC and Parish Council representatives, on 28th July between 3 and 7pm at the Pavilion. Posters have gone up and flyers will be delivered around the village to advertise the event which will give the opportunity for any interested parties to gain information on how to apply for the houses. The completion date for the build is still anticipated to be 16th September.

W Barnard reported on a site meeting he attended regarding the path construction, which is likely to proceed, dependant on agreement being reached from all parties regarding the drainage, boundaries and future liabilities associated with the new path.

b) Playground Maintenance and repairs

M Neale reported that GB Sport & Leisure have supplied and fitted the new access net.

The ownership of the swings at the Pavilion that lie outside the boundary was questioned and it was clarified that they are the responsibility of the Parish Council. They had not been included in the original schedule of works for A Barnett – M Neale was requested to liaise with A Barnett to ensure that they were added

c) Christmas Tree on the Green – base /anchoring system

C Clark reported that he invited 9 firms to tender but at present had only received one suitable quote and was expecting one more shortly. It was agreed that costings and drawings would be discussed at the September meeting and a decision made at that point.
The Village Hall agreed to store the new stand when it wasn't in use.

d) Website

The clerk reported that the domain name "pawlettparish.org" had been secured and hosting booked with wix.com. Information was being drawn together to form the content and it was hoped that the site would progress quickly, anticipating that it would go live within the next few weeks

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

None

47. County and District Councillor's Reports.

County: M Healey reported that he had recently attended a scrutiny committee meeting, in the capacity of vice-chair, exploring if the planning system was meeting expectations. It was concluded that there was a misconception that planning issues were complex and it was necessary to make the process more 'user friendly'. It did confirm that PCs have the right to talk with prospective developers in the parish to outline 'golden desires' without fear of predetermination

The proposed park and ride at Dunball will be proceeding, whilst a useful resource, there are concerns about how the altered traffic flow will back up towards the motorway junction. It was felt that a useful addition would be a local bus service to the park and ride to allow local residents to use the service from village to Bridgwater.

District: J Woodman reported that, as chairman of the standards committee, he was concerned that the sanctions available in the case of misdemeanours were currently too weak and was intending to approach the government to request a review.

He also reported that the licensing board was bringing health & wellbeing considerations when considering applications to grant a licence.

Finally J Woodman reported that M Healey had been awarded an MBE in the recent honours list for his work in National Fire safety and for his role in the formation of the Devon and Somerset Fire Services trading arm which provided training worldwide.

M Healey & J Woodman left the meeting at this point

48. Planning Matters

a) Consider Planning Application 41/16/00007/STP.

Sedgemoor Crematorium, Red Lane, Stretcholt TA6 4SR. Erection of ancillary waiting room

This application was welcomed by all councillors as a much needed addition to the crematorium. It was pointed out by the chairman that the positioning of the new building was some distance from the main building and that it would be better for mourners if a covered walkway could be erected to connect the two buildings. It was unanimously agreed to support the application put forward and in addition use the opportunity to suggest the erection of a covered walkway. Clerk to respond.

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

None

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

None

50. Financial Matters.

a) The following payments were approved:-

- i. Clerk's salary July, chq 850, £298.47
- ii. The Post Office, Clerk's PAYE contributions, chq 851, £74.60
- iii. Clerk's expenses, chq 852 (inc £20.39 VAT), £187.02
- iv. Green Energy Plc, chq 853 (inc £0.27 VAT), £5.61
- v. Clerk's salary Aug, chq 854, combined total of cheques 854 & 855 to be £373.07

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Signed and DatedChairman

- vi. The Post Office, Clerk's PAYE contributions Aug, chq 855, combined total of cheques 854 & 855 to be £373.07
- vii. GB Sport & Leisure, Access Net-playground equipment, chq 856 (inc £80.75 VAT), £484.48

b) Bank reconciliation Statement as at 30th June 2016

The Clerk had previously circulated a bank reconciliation statement and supporting documents as at 30th June 2016 showing a balance of £32,148.65. The statement was unanimously agreed by the council

H Smith and A Baker left the meeting at this point due to a declared interest

c) Consider awarding of Burial Grants

The clerk informed the council that grants were made in 2015 to Pawlett PPC (£520) and Pawlett Methodist Church (£260). The chairman's suggestion of a 5% increase in the amounts awarded for both bodies was unanimously agreed by the council

Cheques agreed:

- i. Pawlett PCC, Chq 857, £546.00
- ii. Pawlett Methodist Chapel, chq 858, £273.00

H Smith and A Baker rejoined the meeting

W Barnard left the meeting at this point due to declared interest

d) Consider Grant Application from Pawlett & Stretcholt Residents Association

The grant application had been previously circulated amongst councillors and several raised questions regarding the fact that the application did not provide the information required to enable the council to make a decision, particularly in reference to the financial status of the association.

It was agreed that the application was insufficient to proceed and that the clerk would write to the association to request clarification on the points highlighted during the discussion.

It was pointed out that the same situation had arisen when a grant was requested previously – the Residents Association was well aware that an application had to be presented in the correct format if it were to be considered – and it was a waste of parish council time to present an application that did not meet the criteria required.

W Barnard rejoined the meeting

e) Any Other Financial Matters

None

51. Roads and Footpaths

a) Land adjoining A38 (Old Main Road to Manor Road)

C Clark reported that he had talked to a resident that backed onto the A38 who confirmed that he had paperwork regarding the boundary and was happy to share it with the parish council. After talking with him R Winter reported that 2 years ago a cable company dug along the ditch and had sought permission from Somerset CC to do so, indicating that they had ownership of the land. Clerk to chase for a response to earlier email to SCC.

b) Road markings – Junction of Old Main Road / Manor Road, Pound Road and Chapel Road. Monmouth Farm Close junction

R Winter had met with Highways to discuss the issues. Some of the suggestions proved not possible to put in place as they would have to be referred to the Department of Transport. However the existing lines can be re-painted and a 'hatched' area introduced to modify the sweep. This could be done within Highways Budget. A better solution however would be re-curbng the junction to force traffic to slow down – this could be funded by a Small Highways Improvement Scheme, accessed through M Healey as the estimated £20,000 cost was beyond Highways budget.

It was agreed Highways engineer had agreed to supply plans to the clerk who would then approach M Healey to ask for assistance.

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Signed and DatedChairman

c) Gaunts Road sign

It was noted that the replacement sign for Gaunts Road was spelt incorrectly. Clerk had already notified the installers of the problem

d) Lippitts Lane

The Clerk reported that she had spoken with the rights of way officer who had apologised for the delay in commissioning the repairs requested. He gave assurance that the project was being attended to and that work to repair a six foot wide strip down the centre of the lane should commence in the near future

e) Horse Chestnut Trees on the edge of the Green

On 29th June, after high winds, a bough from one of the horse chestnut trees on the Green broke off and was suspended over the path. The chairman pulled down the bough, ensuring that it posed no further danger to members of the public. Quotes were requested from three firms to examine the remaining trees on the Green and carry out remedial work as advised but at present no suitable quote had been received. M Seabourne offered to approach the arbour-culture team at Cannington College as they have a commercial arm. It was also agreed to include all trees on the Green in this evaluation, not just the horse chestnuts. Quotes / advice to be considered at the September meeting

f) Any other matters relating to roads and footpaths in the Parish

The Chairman reported that he had almost finished an audit of road signs in the parish and hoped to be able to report back at the September meeting

52. RLT2 & RLT3 payments held by Sedgemoor District Council, update on spend suggestions

The chairman reported that he had spoken with the Pavilion regarding their grant application who confirmed that they had yet to receive confirmation if the application had proceeded to the next stage. The result of this application would decide the future use of the MUGA

W Barnard had obtained an 'example' quote for construction of a pump track in a green space from another council and costs for a 40m x 20m were in the region of £23,000 (+VAT) for a limestone surface and £31,000 (+VAT) for a tarmac surface.

Hopefully by the September meeting the outcome of the Pavilion application for the regeneration of the MUGA would be known as this would influence the decision process for the proposals being considered for both the pump track and the outdoor gym

53. Village Hall Committee

The recent village fete was a success but highlighted the lack of volunteers to assist with both village hall functions and to sit on the organising committee. A couple of new volunteers had stepped forward since the last PC meeting but the chairman asked members of the public that were in attendance to consider offering to help the village hall, whether at events or on a more regular basis as a committee member

54. Somerset County Council, Chairman's Award for Service to the Community

It was agreed to nominate M Sims for the Chairman's Award. Members to supply the clerk with details regarding M Sims contribution to the parish to enable nomination form to be completed

55. Correspondence to be circulated

- 1) **Somerset County Council:**
 - a) Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
 - b) Listening & learning
- 2) **Sedgemoor District Council**
 - a) Affordable Housing team- following site meeting on 24th June
 - b) Parish Cluster Review
 - c) Local Plan Review
- 3) **PSRA correspondence**
- 4) **Hinkley Point C – Look Ahead**

- 5) **Avon & Somerset Police – have your say**

- 6) **CPRE, ‘Somerset Voice’– light pollution map**
- 7) **Big Lottery Funding**
- 8) **Somerset Playing Fields Association**
- 9) **SALC – planning training course information**
- 10) **Bridgwater Tidal Barrier – consultation report**

56. Topics for Future Meetings

- i) Sundial
- ii) Parish Council meeting dates
- iii) Parish Council computer

57. Date and Time of next meeting

Monday 19th September 2016 at 7.00pm

Meeting closed at 8.55pm