

PAWLETT PARISH COUNCIL

www.pawlettparish.org

The Pawlett Parish Council Meeting held at the Village Hall, Old Main Road, Pawlett on Monday, 18th March 2019, commencing at 7pm.

(in the format to be presented to the next meeting for approval)

Present

Cllrs W Barnard (Chair), A Warner (Vice-chair), A Baker, M Smith, M Thomas, H Smith, C Clark

C Morrison-Jones (clerk)

8 x members of the public

Public speaking:

- Is a visit to Hinkley Point C still a possibility?
MT said that she was due to visit on Wed and will report back at April meeting
- Thanks were given to the PC for the new noticeboards, especially to Cllr CC for his help with erecting them
- Pleased with new seat on Gaunts Road
- Will Pawlett remain classified as a Tier 3 settlement when the shop and Post Office close?

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

No apologies of absence received

WB declared an interest in items 8 a & b as the applicant

2. County and District Councillor Reports

A report from SCC Cllr M Healey was circulated

3. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 18th February 2019 to be presented and signed.

Councillors resolved that the minutes represented a true record of the meeting and they were signed by the Chairman

4. Matters Arising from the minutes:

a) Bench on Gaunts Road and new salt / grit bin

WB reported that both the grit bin and bench have now been installed.

The grit bin fitting kit was designed for concrete, not tarmac, so there is some vertical play (but none sideways) which will be eliminated when the bin is filled with grit

b) Noticeboards at the junction of Gaunts Road and Old Main Road

The new noticeboards are now installed and open for use. The contractor failed to remove debris on the Tuesday but this was rectified on the Thursday by local waste disposal company engaged by the contractor.

Thanks must go to CC for his help with the erection of the boards.

WB reported that he has signed a police statement on behalf of PC, confirming that the PC owned both boards and that they were both in good state of repair prior to the accident.

c) Any other matters arising not covered by agenda items below.

None

5. Roads and Footpaths:

a) Access road running alongside the Green

WB reported that he has been contacted by DJ Cox, and will meet up with him shortly to discuss the required repairs

b) Any other matters relating to roads and footpaths in the parish

A pot hole has been noted on Old Main Road, on the bend just past the hairdressers. Clerk to report to Highways

6. Playground and Outdoor Gym:

a) Routine playground and outdoor gym inspections

CC reported that last inspection was carried out on 15th with no issues to report. The roundabout on the Green is squeaking slightly but is ok

b) Any other matters relating to the playgrounds or outdoor gym

The clerk reported that the inspections are booked with the Playground Inspection Company for May/June 2019

7. Village Post Office / Shop

Councillors expressed their regret that the village shop and post office are to close.

AW reported that whilst there is legislation that can put on hold the selling of premises that were once shop, this is not relevant in this case as the shop building isn't for sale. Planning has previously been granted to revert the building back to a dwelling.

MT reported that Spaxton have a community shop and that there are currently a total of 25 community shops in Somerset. Should there be a public meeting to gauge interest of the village to having a community shop?

The PC agreed to fund the hire of the Village Hall for an initial meeting to gauge public opinion. However, this was not indicative of a willingness of the PC to become involved in any future community shop project. MT to lead on booking the hall and organising literature/publicity for the meeting.

8. Planning Matters

WB left the meeting at this point due to a declared interest

AW took the chair for agenda items 8 a & b

a) Consider planning application 41/19/00001

Keward Farm, River Road, Pawlett, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA6 4SE
Application for the Prior Approval of the proposed change of use from storage/distribution (Use Class B8) to dwelling houses (Use Class C3).

AW reported that prior approval is a government policy that agricultural and certain b class units should be granted unless overwhelming reasons why not

It was noted that no planning permission has been gained for storage but indicated that it has been in effect for over 10 yrs so permission has been assumed but no statutory declaration has been submitted

Highways has an impact on statutory permission. More houses will lead to more vehicles; junction of River Road starts to get congested?

CC noted that the storage was used for loose grain storage in 2016&17, not air conditioning, therefore the use was not continuous

CC also noted that there has been traffic counting survey carried out recently on River Road - what was this for?

Councillors resolved to OBJECT for the following reasons

- There are concerns that there is no statutory declaration on the continuous use of the premises as B8. It is believed that the building has not continuously used for storage of air conditioning units but was used for grain storage during 2016 and 2017
- There are significant concerns that there will be a cumulative negative effect on the substandard junction of River Road and Gaunts Road as a result of the multiple proposed developments on the Keward Farm site as a whole

The clerk was also requested to contact Highways to enquire about the purpose of the recent traffic count and its results

b) Consider planning application 41/19/00002

Keward Farm, River Road, Pawlett, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA6 4SE
Application for the Prior Approval of the proposed change of use from light industrial use (Use Class B1) to a dwelling (Use Class C3).

AW noted that the building was a commercial dairy which is agricultural not light industrial usage, therefore the wrong classification has been applied.

The problems at the River Road junction if traffic levels increased were again raised
Councillors resolved to OBJECT for the following reasons

- The parish council is not convinced that the property is correctly classified B1a; a commercial dairy would be part of an agricultural planning unit, not light industrial
- As per application 41/19/00001, there are significant concerns that there will be a cumulative negative effect on the substandard junction of River Road and Gaunts Road as a result of the multiple proposed developments on the Keward Farm site as a whole

WB re-joined the meeting & retook the chair

c) Possible planning breaches in the parish

i) Updates on previously noted concerns

None

ii) Any new concerns

Erection of wooden building, in a rear garden in Chapel Road

This issue was raised with WB by a parishioner. WB reported that it looks as if it falls within permitted development of sheds within gardens. Councillors asked WB to return to the parishioner that the PC feels that the shed falls within permitted development rights but if they are concerned to contact SDC

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

MT raised the concern that the crematorium lights are left on overnight, causing unnecessary light pollution

The clerk was requested to contact the crematorium manager to ask what hours the external hours are programmed to be on and are they complying with any restrictions applied when planning permission was granted.

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

AW reported that the Hinkley Stakeholders group is only for Hinkley A & B, not C. He would need to join another group for C. AW said his main concern is the huge amount of light pollution from Hinkley C construction. Does the lighting policy only refer to permission granted 10 yrs ago?...if so, there are more efficient ways to light now (LEDs etc)

10. Council IT equipment

The clerk reported that since 2016, PPC have had the free use of a laptop and printer owned by another PC. As of the beginning of April this would not be able to continue and the PC would need to provide its own IT equipment.

WB offered to talk with the chair of the other PC that the clerk works for to see if a shared solution could be reached and would report back to PPC at the April meeting

7 members of the public left at this point

11. Financial Matters.

a) Approve payment of creditors.

Clerks Salary, March 2019	£382.90
HMRC, PAYE March 2019	£23.00
Clerk's expenses & reimbursements	£52.05
Green energy, electricity on the Green (Feb 2018)	£8.16

b) Receipts received

8.2.19 HMRC, VAT refund

£6,554.99

c) Consider Statement of Internal Control for year ended 31st March 2019

Councillors approved the document previously circulated by the clerk

d) Consider Risk Management Report for year ended 31st March 2019

Councillors approved the document previously circulated by the clerk

e) Consider Asset Register as at March 2019

Councillors approved the document previously circulated by the clerk with the below 2 amendments

- Grit bin and bench were purchased in 2018
- The 3 seat sloper bench has now been fitted in Lippits Lane

f) Consider appointment of Internal Auditor

Councillors approved the appointment of K Smith as the internal auditor

g) Approve implementation of NALC approved salary award from 1.4.19

Councillors approved the NALC recommended pay increase

h) Any other financial matters notified to the Clerk

None

12. Local Elections

District and Parish Council Elections are to be held on 2nd May.

The publication of Notice of the Elections, and the first day of receipt of nominations is 18th March (notices have been placed on the two parish noticeboards). Nominations close on 3rd April at 4pm.

13. Circulated Correspondence

- 1) Somerset County Council
Closure of A38 at Dunball Roundabout, evening of 26th & 27th March
- 2) Sedgemoor District Council
 - a) Adoption of Sedgemoor Local Plan
 - b) The Great British Spring Clean
 - c) Garden Waste Collections
 - d) Council Tax Scammers
- 3) Somerset Waste Partnership
February briefing
- 4) Somerset Good Neighbours Scheme
- 5) Hinkley Point B March report

14. Topics for Future Meetings.

- PC meeting dates for 19/20

15. Date and time of the next meeting –15th April 2019 to immediately follow the Annual Parish Assembly which will commence at 7pm in the Village Hall, Old Main Road, Pawlett.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20.22