

PAWLETT PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council Meeting was held at the Village Hall, Old Main Road, Pawlett on Monday, 19th September 2016 at 7.00 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.
C Morrison-Jones (clerk).
8 members of the public

Public Speaking Time: Topics raised

- Chapel Road closure, pedestrian access now restricted
- Lippitts Lane - request for update on re-surfacing
- Pilgrims Way – concerns re security to the rear of properties
- Quantock Rise – overgrown hedges restricting pavement use
- Pawlett Pavilion, RLT3 application to upgrade MUGA

58. Welcome by the Chairman.

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

Apology of absence from Cllr H Smith. Apology of late arrival from Cllr W Barnard

60. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 18th July 2016

The Minutes were then confirmed as a correct record and signed.

61. Matters Arising:

a) Springfield Close

The Chairman reported that he had spoken with contractors and had been assured that the closure would not go beyond 30th September. This had been confirmed with the receipt of an official closure authorisation from Somerset Highways.

The bidding process has now closed for the rental properties. It was suggested by the Chairman that a local person be involved in the allocation process, which was welcomed by Sedgemoor, but this had been declined by Stonewater on the basis of data protection

Progress regarding 'path to no-where' is still unclear as a new planning application would be required to enable construction. It was not yet known if the questions raised by the Pavilion had been answered to their satisfaction to enable an application to be progressed.

b) Playground Maintenance and repairs

M Neale reported that Adam Barnett had been contacted and had agreed to add the remaining items (minute 46 b) to his painting list. At present the repairs to the 'wet-pour' surround had not been started. M Neale also reported that the gate latches on the enclosed area at the Pavilion needed replacing and he offered to carry out the required repairs. It was resolved that M Neale should proceed with purchase and installation of necessary latches.

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

C Clark showed the finalised drawings of the proposed base to councillors, who approved the design. It was expected that the cost would be in the region of £170-£180. It was agreed to finalise a purchase decision at the next meeting.

W Barnard joined the meeting at this point

d) Website

The Chairman reported that the parish website was now live and that he hoped it would be a useful asset to parishioners. He thanked the clerk for her time in constructing it.

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

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Signed and DatedChairman

None

62. County and District Councillor's Reports.

County: M Healey had sent apologies for being unable to attend or provide a report

District: No report provided

63. Planning Matters

a) Consider Planning Application 41/16/00008/SJH.

Formation of fenced horse arena at Gaunts Farm, Gaunts Road, Pawlett TA6 4SS

Councillors noted that the field was already subdivided by electric fencing and that the surrounding area already had several similar equestrian developments.

Resolved to support the application. Clerk to respond to Sedgemoor DC

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

- i. 41/16/00009, 12 Old Main Road. This application was received during the August recess and due to the uncontroversial nature of the application it was not deemed necessary to call an extraordinary meeting to discuss and pass opinion on the application
- ii. 41/16/00010, 15 Gaunts Road. This application is to gain a certificate of lawfulness on a previously approved application. As such the parish council are not consultees on this application
- iii. 41/16/00011, Sloway Cottage. This application was received too late to be included on the agenda for this meeting and will be discussed at the October meeting.

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

M Neale reported that he had attended the Bridgwater Tidal Barriers Scheme Meeting on 15th September and distributed literature he had collected to councillors. This planned scheme is not designed to prevent flooding on the Levels but purely to preserve Bridgwater in the event of a high tide surge. Five options had been presented. Option 2 (the nearest to Pawlett) had been rejected on cost (£85million). Options 4 & 5 (costs £45-60million) were being carried forward as the most likely to be adopted at this stage.

It is hoped that, which ever option is finally decided on, that it will be functional by 2024. Other measures will have to be considered for upstream to accommodate the water build up behind the new barrier.

65. Financial Matters.

a) The following payments were approved:-

- i. Clerk's salary September + additional hours for website construction, chq 859, £439.44
- ii. The Post Office, Clerk's PAYE contributions, chq 860, £109.80
- iii. Clerk's expenses, chq 921 (inc £6.75 VAT), £95.68
- iv. Green Energy Plc, chq 922 (inc £0.56 VAT), £11.72
- v. Grant Thornton, external auditors, chq 923 , £240.00

b) Notice of Conclusion of Audit

The Clerk reported that Grant Thornton, external auditors, had successfully concluded the audit for 2015/16 and no items of report had been recorded.

c) The Pensions Regulator – staging date and requirement to choose a pension scheme

The Clerk reported that the date to start the declaration of compliance has been set by the Regulator as 1 October 2016, and that although the advice was that the Council should have in place a pension provider by the staging date (1 January 2017), the Regulator had confirmed that it was not a statutory requirement and could be delayed until an employee expressed an intention to participate in a workplace pension. The Clerk also reported that whilst she did not intend to opt into a workplace pension it was still necessary for the Council to formally give notice of the options to its employees. It was resolved that notice be given of the rights of automatic enrolment and that no pension provider be nominated at this stage

W Barnard left the meeting due to a declared interest

d) Re- Consider Grant Application from Pawlett & Stretcholt Residents Association

The grant re-application had been circulated amongst councillors and still several questions were raised regarding the financial status of the association and what, if the application were successful, it was intended to spend the grant on.

It was agreed that the application was still insufficient to proceed and that the clerk would write to the association again to request clarification on the points highlighted and to invite the grant application to be presented again.

W Barnard re-joined the meeting

e) Parish Council Computer

W Barnard reported that he had attempted to start the old laptop that he had been storing for the parish council but it failed to boot up (battery or disc?). It was considered too old to be worth attempting to repair

f) Any Other Financial Matters

None

66. Roads and Footpaths

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

The clerk had received clarification from Somerset Highways that they agreed that the line of concrete posts/wire fencing represented the boundary and they agreed to clear their side of the ditch/land adjacent to the footpath/highway.

This still leaves in question the ownership of the area of 'no mans land' between the Highways boundary and the garden fences – is it still owned by the developer of Monmouth Farm Close?. The large trees appear to grow from this area. It was resolved to inform the relevant residents of the decision of Highways and make them aware of the situation as it stands at present

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

The clerk reported that Mark Healy had agreed to research the possibility of a small highways improvement scheme for this junction

c) Trees on the edge of the Green

M Seabourne and R Winter had met with Sedgemoor Tree Services to discuss the condition of the trees. The company quoted £200 (+VAT) to conduct a tree survey which would highlight the work required. Quotes could then be obtained to carry out the necessary work.

Resolved that the clerk proceed with requesting a tree survey be carried out

d) Parish Road Signs Audit

The Chairman reported that he had completed a survey of the signs in Pawlett. The list of signs requiring attention was passed to the clerk, who will liaise with Sedgemoor regarding repairs/replacement. It was intended to carry out a similar survey of Stretcholt signs too in the near future

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

A Baker raised concerns regarding Red Lane and Sloway Lane. The diversions in place due to the road closures are causing increased traffic around these small lanes and the sides of the road are collapsing where traffic pulls over to allowing for passing. Clerk to report to Highways

67. RLT2 & RLT3 payments held by Sedgemoor District Council

a) Consider Pavilions request to endorse RLT3 Application to upgrade the MUGA

The Chairman reported that the parish council were delighted that the Pavilion wanted to upgrade the facilities as it mirrored the ambitions of the council in promoting exercise for all age groups. At an earlier meeting with Pavilion representatives it was confirmed that the Pavilion were well advanced with their strong application to EDF for funding to upgrade the MUGA. The £8,840 being applied for from the RLT3 funds represents the 10% deposit required by the Pavilion.

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It was resolved to endorse the application and congratulations were given to the Pavilion on the work that they have put into the upgrade so far. Clerk to respond

b) Update on spend suggestions made by Parish Council on recreation provision

As plans to upgrade recreational facilities depend on the future use of the MUGA, further discussions will be put on hold until the result of the Pavilions application to EDF are known

68. Consider Pawlett & Stretcholt Residents Associations Request regarding the notice board at Stretcholt

An additional noticeboard was not considered to be affordable as, in addition to the cost of a new board, a licence from Highways would be required which would be several hundred pounds. It was agreed that the board currently in situ was looking a little tired and the chairman offered to re-varnish it. It was noted that the board was originally erected to display parish council notices but had evolved into a general board over time. In order to maximise available space, it was agreed to be vigilant in removing 'spent' notices and to request that other users do the same. Clerk to respond to the Residents Association

69. Consider change to Parish Council Meeting Dates

It was agreed that there were difficulties with members of the public hearing at the last meeting but it was unusually hot and normally the hall doors are not open, and therefore bellringing is not usually a problem. It was pointed out that the hall has a speaker system that could be utilised if those circumstances arise again. Resolved that meetings remain on the third Monday of the month

70. Consider ID Cards for Parish Councillors

M Neale raised the need to be able to identify councillors to members of the public. The clerk reported that she had consulted with Sedgemoor on the possibility of issuing cards but it was not a possibility as the cards issued by Sedgemoor are chipped and cover much more than simply identifying an individual. Sedgemoor had suggested investigating the possibility of the council having their own version made. Councillors agreed that the Chairman should investigate this further.

71. Sundial on The Green

The Chairman reported that he had spoken to C Freeman and the design originally envisaged was pavers set into the ground. The Heath & Wellbeing grant was awarded on the basis that it was an interactive feature for children. W Barnard to research further and report back

72. Correspondence to be circulated

- 1) **Somerset County Council:**
 - a) Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Public Summary 2016
 - b) 'Report a problem' on Highways and Footpaths
 - c) M5, Junc 23 press release
 - d) Travel Somerset – live traffic & travel information
- 2) **Sedgemoor District Council**
 - a) Confirmation of receipt of expression of interest in Community Land, Chapel Road
 - b) Free bulbs to parish councils
 - c) Planning Application 41/16/00011 Sloway Cottage, Stretcholt. To be considered at October 17th meeting
- 3) **PSRA correspondence**
- 4) **NALC**
 - a) **Neighbourhood Planning Bill**
 - b) **Community Led Housing Survey**
- 5) **Stonewater Housing Association correspondence**
- 6) **Avon & Somerset Police – press release**
- 7) **CPRE**
 - a) Countryside Voice magazine
 - b) Invitation to AGM
- 8) **Hinkley Point C – 'Look Ahead' September & October 2016**
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73. Topics for Future Meetings

None

74. Date and Time of next meeting

Monday 17th October 2016 at 7.00pm

Due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, this item was conducted in confidential session with the public and press excluded

75. Consider Process to be followed in regard to Vexatious Complaints

A process to be followed in the event of a vexatious complainant was discussed and agreed

Meeting closed at 9.10pm