

PAWLETT PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council Meeting was held at the Village Hall, Old Main Road, Pawlett on Monday, 20th March 2017 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 (chair), A Baker, M Seabourne, C Clark, H Smith, M Neale, W Barnard C Morrison-Jones (clerk). County Councillor M Healey
7 members of the public

Public Speaking Time: Topics raised

- *Pavilion Grant application* – J Thorne from Pawlett Pavilion reported that a meeting had taken place with Virador and their decision was awaited. Out of the £1744 that the Pavilion had to raise to secure the funding, £744 had been received from SDC, £200 from the Wi and £250 from the CLT, leaving a shortfall of £550. Could the PC please bear this in mind when considering the Pavilion grant request later in the evening?

153. Welcome by the Chairman.

The Chairman welcomed those present

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

Apologies received from SDC Councillor J Woodman

155. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 16th January 2016

The chairman noted that he had made a mistake when reporting the date for the Christmas tree switch on. Minute number 140 d) was amended from the 16th December to 2nd of December to reflect the accurate date. The minutes were then confirmed as a correct record and signed.

156. Matters Arising:

a) Path to Nowhere

The Chairman thanked the Pavilion for putting out a statement explaining why the fence has been reinstated and why people should not be using the shortcut. A meeting has been arranged for 13th April between SDC, Stonewater and 2 members of the PC in an attempt to gain answers on how to move the situation forward

b) School Competition re switching on of the lights

W Barnard reported that there had been a few issues at the school that meant it wasn't possible to bring this up. He confirmed that would do so when things were a little less chaotic

c) Playground Annual Inspection

M Neale reported that he had contacted GB Sport and Leisure who had quoted £384. The playground Inspection Company had quoted £130 (+VAT) and had been booked to inspect both playgrounds – due to high demand this would be completed in May.

d) Annual Parish Meeting

The chairman reported that he had booked the Pavilion for Friday 26th May at 7pm. Clubs and Societies in the parish will be invited to present a short report on their activities for the year. There will be refreshments provided and those speaking will have the opportunity to present a table top display further information about their group.

e) Overgrown Tree by the Post Office

This has now been cut back

f) Lack of White Lines at Springfield Close / Chapel Road junction

The clerk reported that this had been notified to Highways and the junction is to be assessed

Minutes Pawlett Parish Council – Meeting 20th March 2017

Signed and DatedChairman

g) Red Lane / Sloway Lane

Highways have confirmed that Wessex Water have carried out an agreed area of patching and that the further work required will be carried out in the new financial year. A Baker confirmed that the worst holes have been repaired.

h) Any Other Matters arising not covered by the agenda items below

None

157. County and District Councillor’s Reports.

Cllr Healey reported that £3.9million had been awarded to the Huntspill Energy Park by Central Government which will be used to reorganise the road structure.

The Dunball park & ride has started construction and is anticipated to serve 1500 vehicles per day. Stone for Hinkley Point construction will be coming from the Mendips at a rate of 1 truck through the Huntspill division every 3 minutes.

All of the above will mean that traffic load in the area will be increasing and will need managing. Huntspill division parishes need to join together to make sure they are heard as one voice.

On behalf of SDC Cllr J Woodman, Cllr Healey reported that the new homes bonus has been reduced, therefore SDC needs to build 200 more band D homes per annum to stand still financially. This raises local concerns re the potential of an influx of housing in the area.

Parish Councillors raised concerns regarding the road closures in Bridgewater – it was now extremely difficult to get in for shopping and businesses in Bridgewater are suffering. M Healey was unable to confirm or deny rumours that there had been compulsory purchase orders issued for premises in Wyldes Road, but he commented that if additional entrances were constructed to the area it may alleviate congestion.

Cllr M Healey left the meeting at this point

158. Planning Matters:

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

The clerk reported that permission had been granted for the construction of a Waste Transfer Station at the Walpole Landfill Site. The 2 points addressed by the PC when consulted have been addressed and form part of the conditions of approval

- i) Operating hours to be 7am-8pm
- ii) Vehicle wheels- no vehicle shall enter the public highway unless their wheels and chassis are clean to prevent mud and dust being carried from the site

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

i) The chairman reported that he had attended the South West Regional Conference held at Taunton Rugby Club on 16th March. He attended several workshops, the most interesting being broadband where he learnt that there is grant money available to improve internet connection speeds for those that are Ofstead registered. This would obviously include the school, but also included registered child minders. Any work done to increase speed to these properties will also bring benefit to neighbours and could open up otherwise poorly serviced areas of the parish.

ii) The chairman reported on a meeting held on 13th March regarding the proposals for the tidal barrier. It was announced last week that site 5 (between Chilton Trinity & Express Parkway) has been chosen as the preferred option and it is expected that a dropdown gate form of barrier will be constructed. Better defences will be built downstream to cope with the backed-up water when the gates are activated. The gates can also be semi-lowered to manage silt build up in the surrounding area. Funding is not yet guaranteed so all the choices outlined above are still only ‘preferred options’

160. Financial Matters.

a) Consider grant request by Pawlett Pavilion

The chairman stated that the Pavilion had done a great job in bringing the project so far and being so close to the required funding target.

It was unanimously agreed to award a grant of £550 to the Pavilion to complete the funding required to secure the Virador grant.

b) The following payments were approved: -

- i. Clerk's salary, chq 950, £374.47 (included a refund from HMRC of £0.40)
- ii. Clerk's expenses, chq 951, £48.60 (inc £2.40 VAT)
- iii. SDC, dog bin purchase and installation, chq 952, £279.53 (inc £46.59 VAT)
- iv. SDC, dog bin emptying, chq 953, £218.69 (inc £36.45 VAT)
- v. Green Energy plc, chq 954, £5.29 (inc £0.25 VAT)
- vi. DALC, SW Regional Conference, chq 955, £72.00 (inc £12.00 VAT)
- vii. Pawlett Sports & Playingfield Association, grant, chq 956, £550.00

c) NatWest Bank Mandate

The Clerk reported that NatWest had not actioned the bank mandate submitted last year so new forms would have to be completed.

It was resolved that A Baker and W Barnard be added to, and T Heap and C Freeman removed from, the NatWest authorised signatory list. The required mandate to carry out these changes was signed by R Winter and M Neale and forms were given to A Baker and W Barnard to complete

d) Any Other Financial Matters

None

161. Roads and Footpaths

a) Trees on the edge of the Green

The chairman read out the resonance testing report from Sedgemoor Tree Services. They had prepared a quote of £1600 (+VAT) to carry out the necessary work.

It was agreed that the PC has a duty of care to the public and is obliged to listen to professional advice with regard to the trees. It was not felt sensible to seek other quotes as it would require the repeating of the resonance testing, which would bring further cost.

It was resolved to accept the quote provided by Sedgemoor Tree Services and instruct them to carry out the work at the time deemed to be most appropriate.

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

The clerk read out an email from Highways that stated that the idea of planters to prevent parking in these areas were not a suitable option at this location and the Police can act against those vehicles parked on the hatched areas.

However, when previous contact had been made with the local Police Officer, it was he who had directed the PC towards the planters used in Axbridge. It was agreed that re-curbng the area (as previously discussed with Highways) would be the best solution but it was currently cost prohibitive. The clerk was requested to write to the local MP to express frustration over situation.

c) Any Other matter relating to roads and footpaths in the Parish

None

162. Transfer of Community Land to PPC :-Consider appointment of legal representation

Sedgemoor District Council Legal Services had provided an estimate of £400 (+VAT) to act for PPC in the transfer. It was agreed that using another representative would involve an additional party, which would increase cost. It was unanimously agreed to request that they represent PPC.

163. Consider ID cards for Parish Councillors

The chairman reported that the costings he had previously received were for a minimum order of 100 units, which made the cost too high. He suggested that he could use a home publishing system to produce the cards and therefore keep costs down. It was agreed that this was a sensible option and that he chairman proceed with preparing a sample to bring to the next meeting.

164. Road Disruption in Bridgwater

The clerk reported that no new information had been provide by Highways following the clerk's request after the February meeting.

In addition to the disruption in Bridgwater, the construction works at the Dunball roundabout and the planned major works on the M5 will lead to a summer of congestion and potentially will 'trap' parishioners as there is not alternative to the A38 to get out of the village.
The clerk was requested to write to Highways again to reinforce the PCs concerns

165. Correspondence

- 1) Sedgemoor DC: Press releases
 - i) Boundary Commission for England starts second public consultation
 - ii) Don't be fooled by Council Tax scammers
 - iii) Sedgemoor Crime Survey 2017
 - iv) No cuts to services
- 2) Rural Services Network; Growing a Rural Community for Sedgemoor
- 3) Taunton Deane BC: Public consultation on new M5, J25 business development
- 4) Somerset Waste Partnership – February 2017 briefing
- 5) Somerset County Council: Walpole Waste Management waste transfer station, planning application decision document
- 6) Hinkely Point C: Look Ahead, March 2017
- 7) Sedgemoor Parish Cluster Meeting correspondence

2 members of the public left the meeting at this point

166. Topics for Future Meetings

None

167. Date and Time of next meeting

Monday 24th April 2017 at 7.00 pm in the Village Hall

Meeting closed at 8.20 pm