

PAWLETT PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council Meeting was held at the Village Hall, Old Main Road, Pawlett on Monday, 24th April 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, C Clark, H Smith, M Neale, W Barnard
C Morrison-Jones (clerk). County Councillor M Healey, District Councillor J Woodman
7 members of the public

Public Speaking Time: Topics raised

- *County & District Councillors Attendance* – Although it was acknowledged that both were in attendance today, it is disappointing that they don't attend more regularly.
- *Springfield Close* – pleased to note that the grass had been cut twice already by Stonewater and hoped that this would continue. Cllr H Smith responded that tenants there paid a management fee so this would be an ongoing arrangement
- *Pavilion* – J Thorne reported that the fence at the end of the 'path to no-where' had been cut again, and also thanked the chairman for his help the previous Saturday regarding dog walkers on the football pitches. MUGA update – funds are now in place and a provisional start date for works is estimated to be June/July
- *Buses* – The Residents Association again brought up the rumours about buses bypassing the village. Cllr Winter reminded those present that this had already been discussed and minuted (Feb 20th 2017, minute 145 vi) "First Group, the company running the service through Pawlett, and whilst the timetables are changing slightly, due to Summer Time services there is NO intention to alter any of the routes"

168. Welcome by the Chairman.

The Chairman welcomed those present

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

Apologies received from Cllr Seabourne
Declaration of Interest from Cllr Barnard, item 173 a

170. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 20th March 2017

Two items were noted by councillors and duly amended: minute 157 – spelling of Wylds Road was corrected and minute 164, line 5, the letter t was removed to make 'not' read 'no'. The minutes were then confirmed as a correct record and signed.

171. Matters Arising:

a) Path to Nowhere

The Chairman stated that cutting the fence was criminal damage and people should realise that this is a criminal act. He reported that he had attended the official opening of Springfield Close, where the Stonewater Director was also present. He was unaware of the issue surrounding the path but shortly after this conversation, a Stonewater representative had approached Cllr Winter to confirm that the matter will be resolved very soon: it is hoped that Stonewater will confirm this in writing soon. (see minute 174 for more information)

b) School Competition re switching on of the lights

W Barnard reported that there was a Governors meeting planned for next month when he hoped to bring this matter up. Councillors agreed that it would be necessary to have the designs for the

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competition submitted by the end of October at the latest to give enough time for posters of the winning design to be produced.

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

None

172. County and District Councillor's Reports.

Cllr Healey reported that SCC was now in 'purdah' due to the impending elections. He apologised if he did miss any parish council meetings but mitigated this by reminding those present that he is also heavily involved with Fire Service business which often takes him out of the area - Police and Fire services are working together with the Home Office to save money by prevent duplication of services. The construction of the park and ride is adding to the traffic chaos in the area caused by the high level of road work / construction projects. All these projects do mean more employment opportunities, which is positive, but the local impact level is high.

The chairman drew attention to the road surface on Dunball roundabout which is breaking up due to extra HGV traffic – M Healey reported that Highways will address this with the works on junc 23.

Cllr Woodman reported that there were plans to make the standards committee more transparent over the next year with regard to parish councils code of conduct and how to action a complaint. More code of conduct training will be made available to councillors.

In order to be prepared for any potential changes to the way bus services are offered in the future, Cllr Woodman suggested positive identification of local need in case it was necessary to challenge any proposals in the future.

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

173. Planning Matters:

a) Application for certificate of lawfulness for the existing dwelling as built.

The House, Keward Farm, River Road, Pawlett TA6 4SE

It was resolved to respond that the parish council's stance was the same as when previously consulted as nothing has changed and again it was questioned why the variances from granted permission were not acted on by planning control during construction.

Cllr J Woodman suggested that SDC Cllr John Filmer, chair of planning control, may be able to help resolve the parish council's concerns.

Cllr W Barnard re-joined the meeting

b) Any planning related to the Clerk in advance of the meeting

None

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

The chairman reported that he had attended the opening event of Springfield Close on 20th April. Representatives from SDC, Stonewater, Spillers and the estate agents were present. Following the ribbon cutting ceremony, guests were shown around two of the houses.

The chairman discussed the 'path to no where' issue with the Director of Stonewater, who was unaware that there was an issue. Later during the event a Stonewater representative informed Cllr Winter that it was intended to gift money to the Pavilion to enable the path to be completed, but the details of this have yet to be confirmed in writing. Time is short as work is anticipated to start on the MUGA early in the summer and any new path would have to have planning permission granted and be built to specifications agreed with Highways to enable adoption to occur after construction. Due consideration would have to be given by the Pavilion to the potential liability implications, both now and in the future. The parish council would continue to try and bring together the interested parties to resolve this problem (meeting scheduled for 13th April was postponed by Stonewater) but final responsibility and associated liabilities for any agreements and work must be the responsibility of the Pavilion

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1 member of the public left the meeting

175. Financial Matters.

a) Payments / Receipts

The following payments were approved: -

- i. Clerk's salary, chq 957, £384.60 *
*to include NALC approved pay increase for SCP 21 as of 1st April 2017
- ii. HMRC, clerk's PAYE, chq 958, £2.00
- iii. Clerk's expenses, chq 959, £48.60
- iv. Mrs K Smith, internal auditor, chq 960, £40.00
- v. Green Energy plc, chq 961, £6.16 (inc £0.29 VAT)
- vi. ICO, data protection registration, chq 962, £35.00
- vii. SLCC, membership, chq 963, £149.00
- viii. Sedgemoor DC, dog bin empty, £585.31 (deducted from precept payment)

Reported Receipts:

- i. 20.4.17 SDC, 1st half of precept, £9,750
- ii. 20.4.17 SDC, council tax support grant, £378

b) Agree Bank Reconciliation Statement as of 31st March 2017

The Clerk had previously circulated a bank reconciliation statement and supporting documents as at 31st March 2017 showing a balance of £30,402.58. The council unanimously agreed the statement.

c) Approve Statement of Internal Control for the year ended 31st March 2017

The Clerk had previously circulated the document. It was considered and approved by councillors, and signed by the chairman

d) Approve Risk Management Report

The Clerk had prepared and previously circulated the document which was considered and approved by councillors, and signed by the chairman

e) Approve Asset Register as of 31st March 2017

The list of assets owned by the council was agreed, with the list being amended to reflect the revised positioning of one bench and revised storage location of the projector

f) Any Other Financial Matters

None

176. Roads and Footpaths

a) Trees on the edge of the Green

The chairman reported that works had been carried out on some of the trees with limbs being removed. Decompaction work will be carried out soon and remaining tree trimmed later in the year (summer surgery is more appropriate for certain tree species).

A mulch (wood chips) had been spread under each tree. Unfortunately, this was raised as a problem by the grass cutting contractor as these chips would cause damage to their equipment. Cllr Winter offered to meet with tree works contractors to try to find a solution to the problem.

It was suggested in the results of the tree survey that consideration be given to the relocation of the bench from under the canopy. Councillors considered that as the recommended work had now been carried out on the trees to make them safe, there would be no merit to relocating the bench.

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

The clerk confirmed that there had been no response to a further email to Highways regarding this issue. Councillors acknowledged that re curbing was the best solution, but at a cost of over £22,0000 this was unlikely to happen soon. The chairman had sent photographs of the offending vehicles to Police Officer Wills but had received no response as yet. Councillors requested that the clerk write to the MP in an attempt to gain support for some form of action.

c) Road Disruption in Bridgwater

The clerk reported no response to an email requesting further information but it was understood that the project was ahead of schedule and should end earlier than originally planned.

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**d) Any Other matter relating to roads and footpaths in the Parish
Bench by Noticeboard, near Post Office.**

Cllr Clark reported that the condition of the bench had deteriorated since last considered and advised that it should be removed from use. It was resolved to ask C Freeman to remove the bench and advise if repairs were possible

177. ID cards for Parish Councillors

The chairman produced a 'mock up' card for councillors to consider. It was agreed that it was suitable and, with the addition of the council's website address, should be rolled out for each councillor.

178. Correspondence

- 1) **Sedgemoor DC:** Press releases:
 - i) New text number to combat rural crime
 - ii) Community Grants
 - iii) Garden Waste Collection
 - iv) Village of the Year
- 2) **Trading Standards:** Updated Measures re Avian Flu
- 3) **Somerset Drainage Board:** Pawlett Hams Water Supply
- 4) **Somerset Waste Partnership:** April 2017 briefing
- 5) **EDF Energy:** Hinkley Point C news
- 6) **Hinkley Point C:** Look Ahead, April 2017
- 7) **Annual Parish Assembly publicity**

179. Consider Parish Council meeting dates for the 2017/18 Municipal Year

Resolved: 3rd Monday of each month, commencing at 7pm at the Village Hall:

15th May 2017 – Annual Parish Council Meeting

19th June 2017

17th July 2017

August – summer recess

18th September 2017

16th October 2017

20th November 2017

18th December 2017

15th January 2018

19th February 2018

19th March 2018

16th April 2018

180. Topics for Future Meetings

- i) Night Time Landing of Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance on the Green
- ii) Additional Sports Facilities on the Community Land
- iii) Outdoor Gym Equipment

181. Date and Time of next meeting

Monday 15th May 2017 at 7.00 pm in the Village Hall

Meeting closed at 8.17 pm