

# MINUTES, PAWLETT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held virtually on Zoom on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020, commencing at 7.00pm

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

## Present:

Cllrs W Barnard (Chair), A Warner (Vice-Chair), A Baker, J Kingman  
C Morrison-Jones (clerk)  
1 x members of the public.  
SCC Cllr M Healey, SDC Cllr J Woodman

## Public speaking:

- Drains still blocked
- A38 footpath from Vicarage Lane to bottom of Bristol Road still in need of vegetation cut-back
- Parking, Monmouth Farm Close/Old Main Road. Still no real news, with the exception that the red car (parked without moving for over a year) received a notice from SDC and action was carried out either by the owner or SDC to remove the vehicle.

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

Apologies received from Cllr M Thomas

## 2. County and District Councillor Reports

### SDC Cllr J Woodman:

- JW reported that he has put in for maintenance for the re-marking the road around Chapel Road, Old Main Road this calendar year.
- West Huntspill school are to get flashing wig wag warning signs
- Pawlett school will have an intermittent 20 mph limit outside the school and flashing signs next financial year
- Concerns have been raised regarding speeding lorries at Dunball roundabout. Speed monitoring devices have been installed. M Healey noted that with new service station & fast-food outlet, traffic will increase but it may not directly affect Pawlett.  
WB offered to contact Dunball residents on behalf of PPC to gain feedback.

### SCC Cllr M Healey:

- Cllr Healey had previously sent a report which has been circulated amongst - Members.
- New national lockdown starts on Thursday; please think of the elderly forgotten few
- Unitary bids at County and District level carry on

## 3. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> October 202

The minutes were approved by Members for signature by the Chairman as a true and accurate record of the previous meeting. The minutes will be signed when the Parish Council next meet in person.

## 4. Matters arising from the previous meeting:

### a) Blocked drains

On 20<sup>th</sup> October Highways reported that the highlighted road drains will also be inspected. The clerk was requested to contact Highways again to follow this up

### b) A38 footpath

On 20<sup>th</sup> October Highways reported that they will arrange for the footway to be inspected with a view to adding any required back of footway clearance works to a future works programme. Any tree/hedge branches will be the responsibility of the adjacent property owner. The clerk was requested to follow this matter up with Highways

**c) Bench on Gaunts Road**

WB reported that he had rechecked the bench and it appeared secure.

**d) Any other matters arising from the minutes not covered by the agenda items below**

None

**5. Roads and Footpaths:**

**a) Parking Old Main Road / Monmouth Farm Close junction**

JW had reported that a site visit would be taking place by a Highways Inspector but he himself would not be attending. WB requested that JW direct the Inspector to investigate how this situation can be improved.

**b) Pound Road / Chapel Road junction**

JW assured councillors that he will ensure that this junction is looked at when the re-marking is carried out. WB stated that there are real concerns that eventually there will be a fatality at this junction; cars move so fast from so many different directions and pedestrians have so little refuge space.

**c) Kissing Gate on The Drain**

WB reported that there appears to be little scope for further repairs to the existing structures. No quotes were available for councillors to consider. Before any contractors could be engaged, it was agreed that clarity was required on what actions could be taken. The clerk was requested to contact Rights of Way to enquire if it is permissible to replace lower gate (nearest Gaunts Road) with bars and remove the top gate.

**d) Bench on Gaunts Road**

Already discussed, agenda item 4c

**e) Any other matters concerning Highways or Footpaths**

None

**6. Update: Somerset Unitary proposals**

No update

*Cllrs M Healey and J Woodman left the meeting at this point*

**7. Transport and Works Act: Proposed Bridgwater Tidal Barrier**

Further correspondence has been received from the Environment Agency in response to the PPC response agreed at the October meeting. A response by PPC is required by 13<sup>th</sup> November.

Councillors felt that the EA responses bear little resemblance to the PC concerns and EA is, despite direct requests, is denying the PC information that would enable it to make a considered response. The agency needs to be formally requested to provide details of the number of properties at risk in event of a breach, both in Pawlett and Stretcholt areas -both of these areas are in the remit of the parish council

The EA state that they are committed to maintaining the flood defences and preventing breaches, but the PC sees no evidence of this on the ground. The planned small secondary banks will not act as a primary defence, it relies on the volume of Pawlett Hams acting as a catchment area. If the flood storage is to work as planned, then the Hams need to be permanently empty to prevent Stretcholt being threatened. There are no secondary defences to protect Stretcholt; if it breaches at Whitehouse Stretcholt will flood. Erosion at Whitehouse is a real, present and serious problem.

Councillors requested that the clerk response encompasses the points discussed, with the clerk to circulate the draft response for comment before submission.

## **8. Play area and outdoor gym:**

### **a) Consider safety banner purchases**

WB had previously circulated pictures of safety advisory banners on SDC play areas to councillors. SDC have given PPC permission to use their artwork and quotes have been received as below:

2 x vinyl banners 52 x 91cm +p&p = £17.95

2 x vinyl banners 76x 366cm + p&p = £73.49

Councillors resolved to purchase two large banners and that the clerk to request permission from the Village Hall Committee to hang the banner for the Green play area on the Village Hall railings.

### **b) Any matters to report**

Current Government advice is that play areas can remain open during the second national lockdown period. AW advised that he is happy to continue with the weekly safety checks and so councillors were happy that the play areas and outdoor gym could safely left open for use.

\*\* guidance from Government since the PPC meeting is that outdoor gyms must be closed. PPC has therefore removed the outdoor gym from use and signage has been put in place advising of the closure. Both play areas remain open.

## **9. Planning:**

### **a) Consider planning applications**

**i) : SDC 41/20/00013/LE** 28 Quantock Rise, Pawlett. Erection of a dormer extension to front (SE) and rear (NW) elevations.

Councillors resolved no objection

**ii) SDC 41/20/00012/AGE** 26 Gaunts Road, Pawlett. Erection of a single storey extension to the rear (North) elevation, erection of a front porch and detached garage.

Councillors resolved no objection

**iii) SCC/3752/2020** Walpole Waste Transfer Station, Walpole, Pawlett  
Retrospective application for the retention of 13 no car parking spaces and retention of substation

Councillors resolved no objection

### **b) Any potential planning breaches in the parish**

None

### **c) Any other planning related matters notified to Clerk in advance of the meeting**

None

## **10. To Receive Reports from Members of any Meetings attended as a representative of the parish council**

Cllr M Thomas attended the Climate Emergency Online Event hosted by SALC on Saturday 24th October. A report had been circulated to councillors in her absence. Councillors wished to thank MT for the time spent in attending the meeting and writing her report.

AW suggested that planting trees around the Green to provide further shielding from A38; but this would not be of a scale that would be appropriate for this grant scheme (funding bids have to be between £5,000 and £75,000) but could be a possible future plan

## **11. Christmas Tree on the Green**

The PC has been advised that the same parishioner is again willing to pick up the Christmas Tree for the PC. WB and JK offered to erect it once on site.

Councillors agreed for AB to purchase a tree of approx. 14' height and authorised a budget of up to £150.

JK reported to councillors that the Equestrian Centre usually holds a Christmas fancy dress show. Because of Covid, this would not be happening this year and suggested that a best decorated house competition could be held in the village, with the Equestrian Centre happy to sponsor the prize fund. Judges to be drawn from Village organisations eg PPC, WI

*JK then withdrew from the meeting as he declared an interest in the discussion to follow*

Councillors felt that it was a lovely idea, a local business trying to say thank you to the village in such a hard year. Whilst the PC couldn't run the competition, it would be happy to support its promotion and for the Chairman to be the PPC representative to be nominated for the judging panel.

*JK re-joined the meeting*

**12. Parish lengths man / handyperson**

The advert has been placed up on the noticeboards and website. AW reported that he had a possible candidate who he will approach.

**13. Councillor training**

SALC organise various training sessions for councillors but historically PPC uptake has been poor. WB reminded councillors that they have a duty to undertake training. An audit of training taken by Members is needed to show compliance.

WB also asked if there was an interest in some in house training (eg IT training)? WB to continue research on this via email between Members.

**14. Financial Matters.**

**a) Consider purchase of a Remembrance Day wreath**

It is understood that, due to the new national lockdown measures that come into force on 4<sup>th</sup> November, there will be no Remembrance Day service this year. Councillors have been invited to lay a wreath

Councillors resolved to support the purchase of a wreath, agreed sum of £50.

**b) For report**

**i) Payments approved since the last meeting**

C Morrison-Jones	£432.00	salary - Oct 2020
SALC	£25.00	councillor essentials training, Cllr M Thomas
Green Energy	£9.50	electricity on the Green, October 2020
SDC	£585.31	dog waste bin emptying Oct 2020-March 2021

**ii) Amounts received**

15.9.20	SDC	£9,500	second half of precept
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**c) Online banking – update**

The forms to add Cllr J Kingman and the clerk have been circulated to the relevant parties for completion and authorisation. Once returned to the clerk they will be submitted to NatWest

**d) Any other financial matters notified to the Clerk**

None

**15. Consider resolution that, due to the confidential and sensitive nature of the business to be transacted, agenda item 16 is to be conducted in confidential session with the public and press excluded**

Unanimously agreed

*The one member of the public left the meeting at this point*

**16. Employment matters**

Councillors resolved to re-evaluate the clerk's working hours and annual leave. To be discussed further at the December meeting

**17. Date and time of the next meeting: Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December, commencing at 7pm, via the Zoom virtual platform**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 21.00