

PAWLETT PARISH COUNCIL

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The Minutes of the meeting of Pawlett Parish Council held at the Village Hall, Old Main Road, Pawlett on Monday, 3rd February 2020, commencing at 7pm.

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

AGENDA

Present:

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

Public speaking :

- Mendip Community Transport - until 2 yrs ago 2 people in village used it. At present though no one in Pawlett uses this service.
- Teak bench on the Green – can the PC confirm that it was treated with a 10 year treatment in the autumn of 2018. WB confirmed that yes, it was

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

Cllr M Smith had previously sent her apology of absence

2. County and District Councillor Reports

SCC Cllr M Healey sent a report which was circulated to councillors and those present at the meeting.

Cllr M Healey reported:

- He is now SDC portfolio holder for commercial and asset management. So far has brought in £1.7 million of extra money
- Social care costs are rising
- Proposed Unitary Authority – if the projected £47 million saving can be proved then then it should be taken forward
- Monmouth Farm Close parking – he is sure that something can be done with the help of Cllr J Woodman

WB asked if Cllr Healey could please attend the occasional PC meeting as well as sending reports as matters do arise that are beyond the remit of the PC.

The clerk reported that she had written to SDC Cllr J Woodman (both via email and by postal hard copy) noting that he had not attended a PPC meeting since April 2017 and to request that he attend a PC meeting, or at the very least provide a report. No response has yet been received.

Minutes, Pawlett Parish Council meeting 3rd February 2020

Chair Date

3. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 6th January 2020 to be presented and signed.

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

4. Any Matters Arising from the minutes not covered by agenda items below
None.

5. Casual Vacancy on the Parish Council

There is still one vacancy on the council to be filled by co-option. Any interested parishioners are requested to contact the clerk or any parish councillor for more information and to register an interest.

6 Roads and Footpaths:

a) Update on previously reported issues

The white lines at the Monmouth Farm Close / Old Main Road junction have been repainted.

b) Parking issues / bus access - Old Main Road / Monmouth Farm Close

Nothing further has been heard from any of the parties approached.

c) Access road running alongside the Green

WB has a list of possible dates from the contractor to take to the impacted residents to ask for best date for them; hopefully the work will start soon.

d) Existing wooden benches on the Green

WB to treat the bench soon as weather allows.

e) The planting of a live Christmas Tree on the Green

AB reported that she has started research on tree type to fit size specified at the previous PPC meeting and will report back at a later date.

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

i) parking on Pound Road. It had been suggested by a parishioner that a parking area could be established on green in Pound Road. It was noted that this is a non-adopted area, so beyond the remit of PPC.

7. Consider potential new parish council projects for 2020/21 raised during budget setting

a) Village magazine

SALC have advised that advertising in a magazine published by the PC should not carry a charge. Instead it was suggested that a donation be requested from those wishing to promote local businesses. As an approximation of potential publishing cost, the clerk reported that enquiries with a local printer had yielded an estimate of £58 for a print run of 100, an eight page A5 booklet in colour (colour outside pages, b&w inside pages). The clerk was requested to progress the project further forward and report back at the March PC meeting.

b) Additional lighting along The Green

It was agreed that the preferred solution was down lighting (to prevent light pollution but still light the way) on the posts alongside the access road alongside the Green. To run off existing metered power supply on the Green. JK offered to take this forward and gain quotes for consideration at another meeting

c) New item of play-ground equipment

The Playdale catalogue is to be circulated amongst councillors to gain ideas for the new piece of equipment to be sited on the Green. AW is meeting with GB Sports & Leisure later in the week and will report back with their suggestions. It was noted that several groups could be applied to for funding once the item has been decided on and a quotation obtained.

d) New grit bins

The clerk was given delegated authority to purchase two slim line grit bins (up to £10 per unit). One to be placed on the grass by the PC notice board opposite the old Post Office and one to be placed on Main Road by the bus stop at Manor Park. Bins to be delivered to WB.

8. Playground and Outdoor Gym:**a) Rubber matting – site visit from GB Sport & Leisure**

This visit was due to take place later in the week. AB reported that he would also discuss with them self-closing gates as these were raised in last year's inspection report. Also, ideas for the new piece of play equipment to be invited.

b) Routine playground and outdoor gym inspections

None

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

None

9. Community Land

Further correspondence had been received from the SDC solicitor acting for PPC noting the following points:

- The footpath extending from the development to the boundary of the playing fields is not subject to the section 38 agreement and is owned by Stonewater
- SCC may consider the adoption of this part of the path if it contains street lighting – this would need exploring with Stonewater & SCC
- Machinery access (to allow for maintenance) to the community land would not be possible along the path as it is designated a footpath
- The original quote of £400 for legal fees from SDC would need to increase if further work is to be carried out in an attempt to resolve the above matters
- The solicitor has suggested that access through the playing fields should be pursued further as the preferred option, even though the PC has previously stated its reluctance for this as it has the potential to leave the area landlocked in the future
- If an easement across the playing fields were to be sought, then PPC would have to engage a new, external solicitor as there would be a conflict of interest in the SDC solicitor currently acting for PPC working for PPC and SDC on such a matter

It was noted that the land was a missed opportunity with legal constraints that render it useless and awkward to take on. The deed of transfer has so many covenants placed upon it that any future use will be significantly restricted. WB offered to explore with the Pavilion their feelings on the 'path to no-where' being extended to have a meaningful destination. Cllr M Healey offered to take this matter further with Melanie Wellman of SDC on PPC behalf.

The clerk was requested to write a response to the SDC solicitor acting for PPC (copying in M Wellman – SDC, S Houlet – SDC, Cllr M Healey & Cllr J Woodman) summarising the PCs feelings in the hope that, even if this time the issues cannot be resolved, if the circumstances were to arise again the errors made with the legal restraints and access issues will not be repeated.

10. Planning Matters**a) Previously considered planning applications – updates****Applications 41/19/00017-25**

Land To The West Of, Manor Park, Pawlett, Bridgwater, Somerset

Approval of reserved matters for Appearance and Landscaping for Plots 1-9

Granted permission on 5/12/19

b) Consider PC response to Defra in regard to the Transport and Works Order Act submitted for the proposed Bridgwater Tidal Barrier Scheme

Councillors resolved to object as the fears of overtopping at Whitehouse are confirmed by the overtopping graph provided by EA. This situation can only be exacerbated by the installation of the barrage and the EA have confirmed that there are no plans within this submission to reinforce the bank at Whitehouse.

c) Environment Agency: Future plans for the Hams

Despite a request being submitted to the EA for a holistic overview of the plans for the Hams and surrounding area over the next 100 years, the responses received focused on the Bridgwater Barrier but did state

“The Environment Agency is committed to delivering a holistic long-term flood risk management strategy for the Parrett Estuary. A core component of this is to maintain and improve the existing primary flood defences, including allowance for anticipated sea level rise. The Parrett Estuary Flood Risk Management Strategy (2010) provides the strategic management recommendations for the area. The current policy for the Pawlett Hams and Huntspill Area is to ‘hold the line’ by re-engineering and improving the flood banks. In the longer term the recommended policy is for managed realignment.”

WB noted that the EA implied that embankment maintenance is the responsibility of individual land owners, rather than the EA. Stretcholt is at risk and the community needs to know who to lobby to ensure that the local communities are not at risk in the future

The clerk was requested to send the PPC correspondence with the EA to Cllr M Healey who assured the PC that he would discuss the matter with Melanie Wellman of SDC

d) Possible planning breaches in the parish

None

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

None

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

AW and MT reported that the tree planting conference ‘Re-imagining the Levels’ was enthusiastic, but short of information- such as which trees are most suitable for replanting?

SCC Cllr M Healey left the meeting at this point

12. Annual Parish Meeting

The clerk reported that the date and format needed to be decided; it has to be held in March, April or May.

JK asked if it could be added onto an existing community event? Clerk to come back with legislative restraints at eh March PC meeting so suitable dates can be considered.

4 x members of the public left at this point

13. Financial Matters.

a) Consider grant request from Mendip Community Transport

£50 granted. The clerk was requested to ask MCT for posters to display in village and on website to advertise their service as councillors were not sure that the service was as well publicised as it might be.

b) Approve payment of creditors.

Clerk's salary	(Jan 2020)	£420.30
Clerk's expenses & reimbursements		£64.88
Green energy, electricity on the Green (Jan 2020)		£9.94
Mendip Community Transport, grant		£50.00
CPRE membership renewal - councillors resolved not to renew the PC membership		

c) Receipts received

30.1.2020	Western Power, electricity wayleave across the Green	£4.13
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d) Any other financial matters

The clerk reported that a VAT reimbursement claim for £521.60 (Jan – Dec 2019 inc) has been submitted to HMRC

14. Circulated Correspondence

- 1) NHS Somerset:
 - a) 999 call handling trial
 - b) Somerset Health and Wellbeing News
 - c) Improving community and health care services
- 2) SCC: the future of local government in Somerset
- 3) Sedgemoor DC:
 - a) New SDC branding
 - b) Sedgemoor Conversation, 12th February
 - c) Ride across Britain – route briefing
 - d) Somerset climate emergency summit
- 4) South Somerset Council: River Parrett trail improvements
- 5) SWP: January Briefing
- 6) SALC: rural Village Hall competition
- 7) Keep Britain Tidy newsletter
- 8) Somerset Community Foundation: January newsletter

15. Topics for Future Meetings.

Potential Unitary authority

16. Date and time of the next meeting – Monday 2nd March 2020 at 7pm in the Village Hall, Old Main Road, Pawlett

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20.29