

MINUTES, PAWLETT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held virtually on Zoom on Monday 7th December 2020, commencing at 7.00pm

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

Present:

Cllrs W Barnard (Chair), A Warner (Vice-Chair), A Baker, J Kingman, M Smith, M Thomas (joined meeting from agenda item 5c)
C Morrison-Jones (clerk)
1 x member of the public.
SCC Cllr M Healey

Public speaking:

- Wishes to thank the Parish Council and volunteers in the parish for the Christmas Tree on the Green

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

Apologies received from SDC Cllr J Woodman

2. County and District Councillor Reports

SCC Cllr M Healey:

- District Council meet last week and have submitted the business case to Government
- MH is the Commercial and Asset management portfolio holder for SDC. SDC has invested in 5 outlets in Bridgwater which have steady long-term tenants

3. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 2nd November 2020

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. Vacancy on the Parish Council

There is still one vacancy on the Parish 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.

5. Matters arising from the previous meeting:

a) Blocked drains

Highways have informed this will be rectified within 3 months

b) A38 footpath

Highways have informed this will be rectified within 3 months

c) Old Main Road / Monmouth Farm Close junction and Pound Road / Chapel Road junction

Highways have responded that parking on the junction of Monmouth Farm Close/Old Main Road will be taken into account when the Traffic Engineer does a district wide Traffic Regulation Order parking amendment within the coming month for new parking restrictions. This will likely involve proposing double yellow lines on the junction radius to enforce the highway code of not parking on a junction. Due to the legal nature of changing the TRO this will be subject to public consultation and this can take some time before implemented.

M Thomas joined the meeting at this point

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d) Speeding at Dunball

WB has yet to follow this up with Dunball residents

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

None

6. Roads and Footpaths:

a) Kissing Gates on The Drain

The SCC Rights of Way Officer has confirmed that the kissing gates can be removed. A quotation of is £1,727.29 has been obtained to take away the existing gates at both sites, replace the gates at the Barton house location with new steel barriers, with making both sites looking tidy, to paint the new barrier with weather permitted paint (also would paint the barriers at the entrance to the playground end to), put new posts up at both locations to put your dog bins back up, and plus the labour.

Councillors resolved unanimously to proceed with the works quoted for. WB offered to check the work before the contractors leave site after finishing the work

b) Tree planting on the Green

At the November meeting it was suggested that trees could be planted around the perimeter of the Green. No councillor currently had the spare capacity to progress this project, so it was agreed to include this matter for next year.

MT wished to progress a bid to the Climate Emergency Fund for solar panels on community buildings in the village. The clerk raised the issue of the S137 spending cap and the issues that this could potentially raise in regard to distributing awarded grant funding to groups outside the Parish Council. It was agreed that MT would gather the necessary information and quotes to enable further consideration at the January meeting.

c) Any other matters concerning Highways or Footpaths

- i. What has happened to the roof on the hide on the Hams? WB reported that it had blown off and he had it in storage – it may be repairable
- ii. Reports of a pot hole in the road surface of Pilgrims Way
- iii. The grit bins purchased by the Parish Council last spring have not yet been installed (1 by the noticeboards and 1 by the bus stop opposite Manor Park). WB confirmed that they are stored at his house and JK offered to help WB install them. Once installed, the clerk will be informed in order that Highways can be requested to fill them.

*SCC Cllr M Healey left the meeting at this point
WB lost internet connectivity. AW took the Chair in his absence*

7. Somerset Unitary proposals

Both applications have been made to SoS. Waiting for government to decide

WB re-joined the meeting and retook the Chair

8. Transport and Works Act: Proposed Bridgwater Tidal Barrier

The Parish Council has now had its four opportunities to submit a written representation and the Environment Agency have avoided answering the questions raised by PPC. The clerk was requested to write stating the PC remains of the view that the questions that it has consistently asked since the first written representation have not been addressed and it hopes that careful consideration will be given to the correspondence when the decision is made

WB again lost internet connectivity. AW took the Chair in his absence

9. Play area and outdoor gym:

a) Safety banner purchases

The Village Hall Committee have given their permission for the banner on the Green to be attached to the Village Hall railings. The clerk reported that the safety information banners had been ordered and should have been delivered to WB.

b) Any matters to report

The weekly inspections are continuing, and it was resolved to keep the outdoor gym closed for the present time until further clarification of the rules could be obtained.

10. Planning:

a) Consider the protocol to be followed by the PC regarding potential engagement with developers wishing to propose new developments in the parish

Advice had been taken from SALC and the following protocols for engaging with potential developers in the parish were agreed:

- To do so as openly and transparently as possible – discussions in council meetings rather than behind closed doors
- Invite developers to present their ideas at a council meeting and run a thorough pre-application consultation exercise with the local community
- Make it clear that any negotiated community benefits will in no way mean that the council will be supportive of a future application
- To prevent the parish council being rendered inquorate and therefore unable to comment or engage, if multiple councillors were obliged to declare an interest, the parish council would consider granting some or all members a dispensation to allow them to participate in meetings

b) Any potential planning breaches in the parish

None

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

For report - Application 41/20/00008 (SDC): Temporary erection of a timber lodge to be used as a key workers dwelling for a fish farming enterprise and toilet/shower building. Land At, Seymour Lakes, Sloway Lane, Stretcholt. Planning permission refused by committee on 10/11/20

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

AW and the clerk attended a risk assessment webinar run by SALC. The key take home messages was write everything down and keep records.

12. Christmas Tree on the Green

The tree and lights are now up and looking good. Members wished to record their formal thanks to Mr Combes for once again collecting the tree. Wb to organise a 'thank you' gift from the PC. WB to organise it being taken down for no later than 5th January

13. Parish lengths man / handy person

Clerk to email local PCs to see if they have a person they could recommend / share AW reported a possible interest from a parishioner

14. Councillor training

Agreed to leave this until the next meeting

15. Website Accessibility

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Date

Many people rely on the internet as a source of information on public services. Disabilities can have a significant impact on how a person can access information online, so local councils must make their websites as accessible as possible. The Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) Accessibility Regulations 2018 aim to ensure reasonable adjustments to websites are made, so they are accessible to people with various disabilities. The clerk explained that she didn't believe that the current website complies with the rules and she doesn't have the time or technical expertise to rectify this and therefore recommended that the PC approach web design companies for quotes to build a new, compliant website for the PC. The clerk was requested to gain quotes for auditing the current site and if required the cost of a new site being built

16. Financial Matters.

a) i) Payments to approve

C Morrison-Jones	£432.00	salary - Nov 2020
C Morrison-Jones	£73.49	play area banners
Royal British Legion	£50.00	donation, wreath
SALC	£30.00	risk assessment training
Green energy	£9.20	electricity on the green (November)
Secret Valley	£95.00	Christmas tree

ii) Amounts received

None

b) Online banking – update

Thanks to AB for the IT help for AW & JK. The relevant documents to add the clerk and Cllr J Kingman as authorised bank signatories have now been collated and submitted to NatWest. Once these requests have been actioned, then applications for online banking and a debit card can be submitted.

c) Pre-budget setting (January meeting) considerations and suggestions

The clerk reported that due to Covid changing spending plans for 20/21 the PC holds significant reserves, yet none have been formally designated as specific reserves. Councillors agreed, that at the January meeting, specific amounts of money should be formally ringfenced for future spending.

d) Any other financial matters:

i) Bank reconciliation

Councillors resolved to approve the bank reconciliation, dated 30.10.20, of £54,270.20.

ii) Malicious damage to notice board (2018)

The Parish Council insurance brokers have advised that they have managed to obtain a recovery and the Parish Council's £250 excess can now be returned

Cllr J Kingman left the meeting at this point

17. Consider resolution that, due to the confidential and sensitive nature of the business to be transacted, agenda item 18 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

18. Employment matters

This matter was postponed until the January meeting

19. Date and time of the next meeting: Monday 4th January 2021, commencing at 7pm, via the Zoom virtual platform

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Chair

Date

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20.58