

# PAWLETT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held virtually on Zoom on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020, commencing at 7.00pm  
(in the format to be presented to the next meeting for approval)

## Present:

Cllrs A Warner (Vice-chair), A Baker, M Thomas, M Smith, W Barnard (Chair) (joined meeting after agenda item 3)

C Morrison-Jones (clerk)

1 x members of the public.

SCC Cllr M Healey

*Cllr A Warner took the chair in the absence of Cllr W Barnard*

## Public speaking:

- Parking, Monmouth Farm Close junction. Cllr M Healey has been helpful and there maybe hope on the horizon
- Overgrown footpath along A38. A little improvement in the cutting back of offending branches but the pavement overgrowth vegetation still needs attention
- The drains mentioned at the August PC meeting still have not been cleared.
- Playground maintenance. The swings need lubrication as they are squeaking.

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

Apologies received from Cllr J Kingman, Cllr W Barnard (late arrival)

## 2. County and District Councillor Reports

A report has been received from SCC Cllr M Healey and circulated to Members.

- Unitaries. The Government White Paper due out at the end of September will show the need and desire to change local government. High effort is being placed in improving social care needs and improving the needs of senior residents.

Cllr Healey wouldn't comment on his preference for either the current 1 or 2 unitary proposals, but he was clear that a change is needed. He does stand for change and change is needed for the good of Somerset residents

## 3. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 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.

*Cllr W Barnard joined the meeting at this point*

## 4. Matters arising from the previous meeting:

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

An update was given during public speaking; hopefully progress will be made and something will be done.

### b) Overgrown footpath along A38

On 19<sup>th</sup> August Highways contacted the clerk to report that the verges at the back of the reported footways have now been cut but according to the member of the public present

there was still vegetation encroaching onto the pavement. The clerk was requested to recontact Highways to ask that it be revisited

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

The two blocked drains between Old Main Road and Vicarage Lane that were reported at the August meeting have yet to be cleared.

*Cllr Warner handed the chair to Cllr W Barnard*

**5. Roads and Footpaths: Any matters concerning Highways or Footpaths**

MT asked why the gate at the bottom of River Road always locked, is it not a public footpath? WB responded that it is not a public right of way – the footpath goes over the style that runs up to the river bank which then joins to the coastal path. The two gates that are locked are owned by the Environment Agency and the angling club.

**6. Play area and outdoor gym**

**a) The re-opening of the play areas and outdoor gym**

The agreed signage is in place and the equipment appears to be being used sensibly.

**b) Any other matters concerning the play areas and outdoor gym**

AW offered to take a grease gun to squeaky swings reported in public speaking.

**7. Public Space Protection Order consultation**

No response required

**8. Consider the proposals from the District Councils for a ‘Stronger Somerset’**

No views were expressed by Councillors at present. AW & WB are to attend a SDC virtual meeting which will expand on the proposals for ‘Stronger Somerset’ so hopefully will have some more information from district to feed back at the next PC meeting

*Cllr M Healey left the meeting at this point*

**9. Planning:**

**a) Consider the application 41/20/00010. Erection of a single storey extension to South elevation of annex at 1 River Road, Pawlett,**

Resolved to support the application as improvement is needed and the proposals are a better use of space than the existing arrangement

**b) Possible planning breaches in the parish**

A query was raised regarding the ongoing development at Manor Park. There are three static caravan in place with people residing in them. Is this allowed within the granted permission? Also, what is the definition of self-build as the same contractor is building all the houses. The clerk was asked to raise these queries with enforcement / planning at SDC.

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

None

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

Transport and Works Act: Proposed Bridgwater Tidal Barrier - Written representation from Applicant

The Parish Council has received the Environment Agency’s written response to the Parish council concerns.

Councillors resolved to respond as follows:

*Pawlett Parish Council agreed to accept the modelling data provided that indicates that the downstream flood risk is not increased as a result of this barrier.*

*However, in regard to point 3.1.2, the Parish Council still has concerns about the banks at White House, Combwich; specifically*

*1) regarding the level of risk that has been applied to the bank failing at White House. It is ascertained by the Environment Agency that the banks are only protecting agricultural land but if the banks fail the houses in Stretcholt will be flooded.*

*2) that modelling indicates that the banks provide flood storage in the event of a storm surge and without those banks in place the secondary banks are insufficient to provide the required level of protection to Bridgwater. This is contrary to point 4.1.2 made in the Environment Agency submission.*

*The Parish Council believes that the long-term maintenance of the banks form a secondary, but intrinsically linked, part of the Barrier Project and its anticipated benefits and sincerely hopes that a more holistic overview is adopted which encompasses all residents and businesses that have the potential to be impacted.*

## 11. Financial Matters.

### a) For report

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

C Morrison-Jones	(salary Aug 2020)	£420.30
C Morrison-Jones	(reimbursements)	£39.82
Green Energy	(Aug 2020)	£9.50
SPFA	membership renewal	£15.00

#### ii) Amounts received

None

### b) Approve bank reconciliation

Councillors resolved to approve the bank reconciliation, dated 31.7.20, of £46,826.09. The money previously held in reserved funds (CIL payments) has been used in part payment of The Green access road resurfacing, leaving no ringfenced reserves.

### c) To further consider the acquisition of a parish council debit card for minor purchases and facilitate on-line banking and electronic payments

The clerk had circulated a report outlining the options available with NatWest to councillors prior to the meeting

Councillors resolved to

- 1) add the clerk as an authorised signatory
- 2) apply for a debit card for the clerk to use for minor purchases
- 3) enrol for (free) online banking with NatWest
- 4) add JK as an authorised signatory

In order for the above to be actioned, the Parish Council's Financial regulations will have to be amended at a future meeting.

### d) Approve clerk's NALC recommended pay increase, back dated to 1.4.20

Councillors approved the NALC recommended pay increase, back dated to 1.4.20

### e) Any other financial matters notified to the Clerk

None

## 12. Date and time of the next meeting: Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October, commencing at 7pm via the Zoom virtual platform

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20.03