

## *Parish of Pawlett*

*The Annual Parish Meeting for the Parish of Pawlett was held on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2017 in the Pawlett Pavilion, Gaunts Road, Pawlett at 7.45 pm.*

*Due to circumstances beyond the control of the current parish council members it is not currently possible to produce a full set of minutes for this meeting.*

*However, please find below copy of the report from the Chairman of the Parish Council, and details of reports made by various groups within the parish*

## Annual Parish Meeting

May 26<sup>th</sup> 2017

Good evening, welcome to the first annual parish meeting. In previous years the annual report, which is a legal requirement, has always been tagged onto the beginning of the May council meeting however in this new format local charities and village groups may promote their activities and plans for the coming 12 months.

First, allow me to introduce your parish councillors. Vice Chairman is Malcolm Neale, Cllr. Heather Smith, Long standing Cllr. Anona Baker, Cllr. William Barnard, Cllr Colin Clark, Cllr Malcolm (Sedge) Seaborne and myself Ron Winter, Chairman of the Council. We are all approachable and contact details are on the notice boards and Parish website.

Sadly this year, Pete Spindler passed away. Peter was a long standing councillor and past Chairman. He was a very well-known person in the village, involved in lots of village activities and is greatly missed by all who knew him.

Our clerk, Claire Morrison is currently recovering from surgery and so cannot be with us this evening.

Also, by having this as a stand-alone meeting it is possible to make it a little more social and in this location we may partake of an alcoholic beverage or two - drinking at a PC meeting is prohibited. I hope you enjoyed the wine and cheese; I would like to thank Clive Richer and Norseland Cheese of Ilminster for their contribution of the cheese and the wine was supplied by The Pavilion however I hasten to add it was funded by yours truly.

I presume the main talking point of the last 12 months has to be the saga of the new homes at Springfield Close. At long last the development was completed by RG Spillers, the developers and handed over to Stonewater, the housing group, in Dec. 2016. Personally, I find the layout is very pleasing with space around each property and excellent views. When shown inside the houses, I believe the finish is to a high standard.

Shortly after the hand-over, new families started to move in. It is very pleasing to see how quickly they have made it their home with young children playing in the central square. New blood to help the village thrive and grow; I hope they will enjoy what village life has to offer. I would like to welcome each of you.

Of course, during the build there was pain and annoyance for residents of the village in the form of heavy lorries coming and going, delivering supplies for the build. Particularly difficult was the closure of Chapel Road. Originally scheduled for 19 days, it stretched to 52 days because of various delays. Thankfully, at least after some negotiation the refuse collection continued. That is all the new build planned for this village at this time.

The infamous path to nowhere continues to be problematic. Stonewater have publically committed to complete it, at an open meeting in Feb where their comments were minuted. It will eventually link up with the path at the Pavilion. To date no further information or money has been forthcoming from Stonewater.

In an effort to try and gain a positive outcome, two Parish councillors have been tasked with facilitating its completion. You will be updated at the monthly PC meetings.

In the interim period, I would urge people to respect the fact that this path is not a public right of way, as the sign at the end of the path states. The fact that the fence has been cut and broken down is an illegal act of criminal damage. The incidents have been reported to the police, insurance companies insist on this course of action.

Anyone caught damaging property will be prosecuted. It seems very unwise to gain a criminal record for the sake of walking around the block to the school or to the Pavilion. Let us continue to apply pressure on the powers that be to gain a fast and positive outcome. A cautionary note - these wheels don't seem to turn very fast.

Over the past 12 months the Council has installed more Dog poop bins in a variety of locations throughout the village. Most dog owners are responsible and pick up but a stubborn few insist on leaving it where it is deposited. Areas particularly affected include the grass verges leading to the school as well as Chapel Road approaching the Chapel, where the pre-school group meet. This is totally unacceptable, highly dangerous and a disgusting affront to responsible owners and their dogs. It is also against the law. Most people now have a mobile phone, I would encourage anyone who witnesses this behaviour to take a picture or two, email the evidence to me and I will forward it to the enforcement office at Sedgemoor DC and push for prosecution.

Some or all of you may know we erect a Christmas tree on the village green. Following the previous year's problem with storm damage, a substantial stand was fabricated. It requires 5 men to move when fully assembled and with 2 foot long spikes driven into the ground no amount of wind is going to move it. This year saw the tree stand proud and bright on the green and drew a lot of favourable comments. 2017, we plan to involve the school by having a poster design competition. The winning design will be used to promote the switch on, with the designer of the poster being invited to switch the lights on.

A strip of Communal land, approx., 110 metres long, has been donated to the village by Mary Parrish. It runs from the PTN behind the new homes and up to the edge of the field. The transfer is currently in the hands of solicitors and when transfer is completed, it will be incorporated into the playing field. But exciting projects are planned for its use. I will keep you informed as things take shape.

Parking issues have raised their head. It seems that a few individuals insist on parking cars in dangerous areas. As the new homes were nearing completion, it was recognised that increased traffic flow to the houses may cause problems at the narrow junction of Chapel Road, Pound Road, Old Main Road and Manor Road. The County Highways Adviser visited to look at and suggest a revised layout on the junction to try to avoid the area developing into an accident black spot. It was decided that a new kerb layout was the answer however funding for the alterations was a problem. So in the short term a new hatched area was put down. The point of this was to assist drivers to think about their road positioning when using the junction. Double yellow lines would also help. However, to put down yellow lines, and different road signs, we must submit to the minister of transport for ratification. So, again interim measures have been instigated.

New hatched areas were painted attempting to direct cars in a suitable manner in to and out of the junction. Some motorists seem to think it has been done to mark out a private parking area for them. That is not the case. Road safety is the issue here. As a council we do not want to appear draconian however if this practice does not stop then the police and highways will become involved. So I would urge those individuals to think before parking, and chose a more suitable place to leave their vehicles.

The bench close to the notice board had reached the end of its life, having completely rotted through. No sooner was this raised than Colin Freeman investigated as to whether it was repairable. It was beyond repair, and immediately removed to avoid any injury. Within a day of its removal, an offer of a replacement was forthcoming from Mr David Withers. He put together and sited the new bench within 3 days. It looks great. I send our wholehearted thanks to both men for their efforts. This is what communal village life is all about.

The Parish council operates under a very strict code of conduct; with openness and transparency being paramount. Our monthly meeting takes place in the village hall, on the third Monday of each month. It is open to the public, so please do come along. We have a public speaking section where you may raise questions, concerns, offer ideas or just listen to what the Council deals with on your behalf. The minutes are published on our website, [www.pawlettparishcouncil.org](http://www.pawlettparishcouncil.org). The website also contains information of village activities etc. Hard copies of the minutes are posted on the notice board outside the post office. You can also email directly to the clerk and it will be raised.

The Parish Council is here to represent every resident of Pawlett and Stretcholt, so please feel free to use it and us, your councillors.

Thank you for your attention and enjoy everything which Pawlett & Stretcholt has to offer.

Roland Heap on behalf of the Residents Association & Community Land Trust. Mr Heap informed all present that unfortunately Mrs Val Ritson had been unable to attend. Mr. Heap Outlined the areas in which both the RA and the CLT can provide local residents for example the village shop, green energy also gaining access to such things as grants & funding. They had also assisted with the funding of the MUGA.

On behalf of the Pavilion, Mr. Jonathan Thorne offered his thanks to all attending and also the Parish Council. The Pavilion host 4 skittles teams, 2 darts team also soccer and various societies. It is a successful venue for wedding, wakes, christenings etc. There was also a Marquis for larger events. Each year the were proud to host three musical events. The Pavilion had a "sports" focus and through this it was possible to access Sports & Leisure focus grants and donations from the W.I., CLT, and the POC for funding of current projects. The All Weather cricket pitch with 3 G All Season Artificial pitch with a Family Day planned for 22 July with an open invitation to all. Refurbishment of the Muzzer will be kicked off for an Open Day for the new 3G pitch. Also the Pawlett Primary School has free of charge access of the pitch.

Retired Methodist Minister, Robin Hutt informed everyone that the current minister was on sabbatical hence his standing in. There were two churches in the village with differences in history and worship but they worked closely together under the banner of "Churches together in Pawlett" for the worship of God to be the body of Christ in the village. Open and available for the important parts of human life and to play a full part in village life.

Doris Goddard informed those present about the fundraising jointly for other charities including Christian Aid coffee mornings, Lent Board for Study using films as a basis, e.g. Forrest Gump, Chocolate and Kings Speech. Most people think that clergy working one day a week but that is not accurate they are involved in other initiatives for example with schools - "Open The Book". Sunday Schools are held at both churches and we offer a listening ear to anyone. All congregations should love each other through the community. The Archbishop of Canterbury has published some material which samples are available this evening and also the Bishop of Bath & Wells recent announcement which has also been printed and again copies are available to anyone interested.

Each year Pawlett village hosts two flower shows; Spring Bulb Show held on the 3rd Saturday in March followed by the Summer Flower Show, which manifests itself on the second Saturday in August. Both shows are a staunch tradition organised by a committee of volunteers; they are unique in the area as they are "closed" shows and therefore open only to residents of the Parish of Pawlett

for the adults. The shows however do not only cater for adults and we encourage children or grandchildren of Pawlett residents to take part.

The Spring Bulb Show schedule includes classes for bulbs and other potted plants, photography, floral art, craft and domestic, while our summer event encompasses vegetables, flowers & plants, hanging baskets, fruit, domestic, wine and of course, both shows have the children's categories including a Fancy Dress Parade, which is the opener for our Summer Show.

Our venue for both occasions is the village hall and in the summer, we hope for sunny weather to allow us to enjoy the music of the silver band while savouring our afternoon cream tea.

The committee work hard to keep this custom alive and therefore welcome any newcomers who would like to become involved whether as a new committee member, a new competitor or to come along to support this wonderful tradition.

You can find us on Facebook under Pawlett Flower Show and if you would like any more information then look out on the village noticeboards.

The Women's Institute was represented by the President, Ann Gibbs. This local branch of the National Federation of Women's Institute which came into being during the First World War encouraging women to help feed the people. The local branch is filled with friendly ladies who enjoy coming together to have fun. Their institute has regular speakers, business matters, outings etc and also social activities with competitions, Raffles, Quizzes and Puzzles. April 1946 the WI will have a birthday to celebrate. It is important to support local communities not the individual. They support charities and also hold a litter collection on the 2nd Wednesday of every month to keep Pawlett tidy. They meet the 2nd Thursday every month (except August) from 7:30 - 10.00. Their speakers cover topics including Historical subjects, World travel, Demonstration of crafts, from Town Cryers, MP's Head Chef's etc. Currently one of their National Campaigns is the SIS Honey Bee Campaign.

Mr Bryon Baker, Tower Captain. Bryon reminded people the church is a place you will be welcome. The sound of the church bells are unique - individual bells tuned together. The newest bell dates to 1981 with the oldest Bell dated around 1625, around 400 years old in the reign of Charles I. There is a small band of ringers who ring every Sunday for many years, recently numbers have been deleted of better ringers. We have befriended with West Huntspill to join forces and this initiative has been highly successful. Each month the ringers visit Highbridge which hosts difficult bells. People travel from all over the country choose to visit Pawlett to ring our bells. The latest visitors include bands of ringers from Cornwall, Oxford, Northants to name such a few. Please feel free to come and ring.

Marion Thomas spoke on behalf of the Pawlett Painters which was initiated in January 2011 by the Kate Jack Brewster. We meet in the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Friday of the month. There is a limited membership at 25 with a waiting list. The club run an annual visit to an Art Venue with guest speakers. We host a Club lunch at Christmas and an exhibition in the Village Hall in August with up to 100 paintings for sale. Paintings are also exhibited in the Princess Lounge in Burnham and a special Art Display will be held at the RBL to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the RBL. The club thrives because members encourage and support each other.

Short Mat Bowls were represented by Dorothy 'Dot' Ellis. The club came into being 20 years ago and some players continue to play today with the addition of a 17 year old. There are 27 members who play twice a week Thursday afternoon and Friday evening. New members are welcome and we offer

three free sessions to allow you time to decide to join. Our Annual Fee of £10.00 plus £2.00 Green Fees each week. AGM is hosted in February with buffet and a glass of wine. Early spring we organise a annual meal with partners and I would recommend this friendly club filled with enjoyment.

Eileen Wedgwood let everyone into the secret of the Thursday Group, Eileen the President of the Group informed us that the venue was the Methodist Chapel on the 2nd Thursday of the month with the exception of August in the School Room. Everyone is welcome to join Bible Readings, Hymns, Quizzes along with Tea & Biscuits. June will see Doris as our Guest speaker the topic Liminal Places with July offering a Cream Tea.

Whist on Wednesday's takes place Wednesday afternoons in the Village Hall. Chris Bartlett continued by telling everyone that it starts at 2.00 pm with fees of £2.00 plus £1.00 for the raffle, this covers any expenses with any excess money put into the kitty for cream teas. The club break in August with the restart selling tickets in preparation for the Christmas Draw This was Keith Bartlett's idea. All the money raised goes back to the people who come along. There are players from and out of the village with a 90year old who attend all through the winter. We have a few very good players so it is a social afternoon with some elderly card sharks. It doesn't matter the level of your ability please come along. Leaflets are available on the table.

Ron Winter thanked all the presenters and commented how many clubs, groups and societies were flourishing in the village, it had been enlightening. However he believes a lack of publicity of the event resulted in the poor turnout so we will attempt to encourage more people to come along next year.