

PAWLETT PARISH COUNCIL

**A Meeting of Pawlett Parish Council was held at the Village Hall, Old Main Road, Pawlett on Monday, 21st March 2016 at 7.00 pm.
(in the format to be submitted to the next meeting for approval as a correct record)**

Present: Parish Councillors R Winter (Chair), A Baker, W Barnard, M Ritson, T Heap, M Neale.
Clerk C Morrison-Jones, Ward County Councillor Mark Healey.
Six members of the public.

Public Speaking Time: Topics raised:

- Potential erection of an illuminated cross on the Village Green for the Easter Period
- Sign on Guants Road
- A38 / Old Main Road junction visibility
- Any update on resurfacing on Lippits Lane
- Residents Association and Community Land Trust – their value to Pawlett
- Planning Application - consultation with neighbours / residents
- Pot Hole, Chapel Road, Stretchholt end
- Pigs – Use of buildings for high intensity pig rearing in Sloway Lane without planning permission

169. Welcome by Chairman

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed those present.

170. To receive any apologies for absence, disclosures of interest and requests for dispensation.

Apologies received from Ward District Councillor John Woodman
M Ritson declared an interest in item 175d)

171. Co-option to Fill Casual Vacancy

No candidate came forward for co-option.

The clerk advises that if the vacancy is not filled by the April meeting, the entire process of advertising a casual vacancy would have to be re-started.

It was resolved to display the posters requesting volunteers for co-option for another two weeks in the anticipation of co-opting a new member at the April meeting.

172. Appointment of a Vice-Chairman

M Neale proposed W Barnard. This was seconded by M Ritson.

A vote was held and W Barnard was unanimously voted as Vice-Chair.

Therefore W Barnard was duly elected as Vice-Chairman for the remainder of the municipal year. Mr Barnard then signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

173. Correspondence – Clerk to report

*R Winter left the room before item 1 a) as there could be a perceived conflict of interest
W Barnard (Vice-Chair) took the Chair for this item*

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Signed and DatedChairman

The following items were in the bundle for members to circulate:

1. Sedgemoor District Council
 - a) Code of Conduct Complaint
The Clerk read out, with the prior permission of the Monitoring Officer, an email reporting that the code of conduct complaint previously lodged against a member had been investigated and a decision made to take no further action.
M Ritson pointed out that the complaint could be escalated to the ombudsman if the decision of the Monitoring Officer was disputed.

R Winter rejoined the meeting and resumed the Chair

- b) Residents Association poster regarding the development at Chapel Road
 - c) Council Tax Set – News release
 - d) Proposed Footpath Link, Chapel Road
 - e) TRL2 & RTL3 contributions
2. Residents Association response to Sedgemoor DC re Chapel Road development
3. Hinkley Point C, Look Ahead
4. Somerset Waste Partnership – Monthly Briefing March 2016
5. SALC – section 137 grants 2016/17
6. Sanska – Road Works, M5 junc 23
7. Avon and Somerset Police News Letter Spring 2016

174. Minutes.

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 15th February 2016 were presented.

The number 174 was deleted from the foot of page 2 in reference to suggestions made by M Ritson. Following this amendment, the minutes were approved by the Parish Council and signed as a true and correct record by the Chairman.

175. Matters Arising

a) 91 a - Health and Wellbeing projects

The Clerk reported that confirmation had been received from SCC of the £700 grant, from the Health and Wellbeing Fund towards providing an electricity supply to the Village Green, promise by M Healey at the previous meeting (minute 159). Thanks were given to Mr Healey

b) 91 b - Miscellaneous Works

The Chair reported that he had spoken with Mr Barnett and painting of the swing will start on 14th April. It was confirmed that lead free paint would be used and the structure would be stripped back to bare metal before painting

c) 91 e - Uneven surfaces on Parish Council land

R Winter confirmed that Mr Criddle had erected the extra post but it had already been hit and slightly damaged by a vehicle. Awaiting the purchase of reflective strips

d) 121 Chapel Road Development – suggested removal of pathway

The Clerk read out the email from Sedgemoor DC enclosed in the correspondence bundle regarding the request to allow the proposed path. M Ritson pointed out that part of the path would pass over land still owned by Mrs Parish. In addition the proposed path would run over the foul water drain for the

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Pavilion, hindering access to the drain in the future. The Pavillion have no plans to continue the path once it enters their area, therefore the path will lead no where. T Heap suggested contacting the police for their opinion – windy paths or ‘hidden areas’ are difficult for them to monitor.

Councillors felt that the views of residents of Pilgrims Way should be listened to but in order to support the Parish Council response to Sedgemoor DC it was agreed to contact the school and Pavilion to request copies of the original correspondence they submitted during the application and to seek opinion from the Police. Clerk to inform Sedgemoor that decision and response deferred until the next meeting.

M Healey took a copy of the email correspondence and agreed to investigate further on behalf of the Parish Council.

e) Copying of The Green’s ‘Deed of Gift’ for framing – update

R Winter showed the framed deeds to the public present and agreed that he would liaise with the Village Hall regarding hanging them.

f) Any other matters arising

None

176. Planning Matters

a) Decisions notified by Local Planning Authorities to be recorded.

None

b) Any other planning related matters

It was raised that one of the planning condition for the Chapel Road development was that vehicle cleaning facilities be maintained. However vehicles are leaving site and depositing mud on the road. R Winter offered to speak to the foreman at the site

M Ritson left the meeting at this point

177. District Councillor’s Report

None

178. County Councillors Report

M Healey reported that there had been a 2% rise in the precept regarding adult social care which would raise an additional £3.4million. However this was more than cancelled out by the introduction of the Living Wage which will require SCC to find an extra £4.6million. Hinkley C: EDF will be appearing in front of the selection committee and it is thought that the French Government may plug the funding gap to allow the project to commence.

Ward County Councillor Mark Healey left the meeting at this point.

179. To Receive Reports from Members if Meetings attended.

M Neale reported that he had recently attended the ‘Good Councillor’ course run by SALC and that it proved very interesting, both with the content of the course and meeting fellow councillors from other parishes.

180. SALC Training Courses

The clerk reported that there were several SALC courses coming up, all at Edgar Hall in Somerton, in the next few months and invited members to attend.

R Winter requested to be booked into the next Good Councillor course – 11/05/16, 7-9pm

R Winter and W Barnard to be booked onto Being a Successful Chairman – 8/06/16, 6-9pm

181. Financial Matters.

a) Approve/confirm payment of creditors.

The following payments were approved :-

- i. Green Energy £5.86 (inc £0.28), chq number 820
- ii. Clerks salary £285.20, chq number 817
- iii. HMRC – Clerk’s PAYE £71.20, chq number 818
- iv. Clerk’s expenses & reimbursements £87.39, chq number 819
- v. R Winter, reimbursement of Deeds copying & framing costs £98.93, chq number 821

b) SAAAL Audit Requirements

Following on from the letter circulated in the February correspondence pack, the Clerk explained that, if the annual turnover of the Parish Council was under £25,000, from 2017 the council would not be obliged to carry out an external audit. However, a decision had to be reached, covering the next five financial years, that if an external audit were to be necessary, whether to remain with the designated local authority auditors or to seek alternative arrangements. It was unanimously agreed to remain with the designated auditors.

c) Any other financial matters notified to the Clerk in advance of the Meeting.

None

182. Roads and Footpaths.

a) Bus Shelter repairs, Old Main Road - Update.

Repairs will be done when C Freeman’s back is better

b) Provision of extra Dog Waste Bin, Stretcholt – Update

The new bins have now been fitted by Sedgemoor DC and will be included in the weekly emptying rounds. The old bin from by the bus stop was going to be held for a week until a decision was reached by the Parish Council if it wants to keep it. It was unanimously agreed to ask Sedgemoor to dispose of the bin.

c) Land adjoining A38 between Old Main Road and Manor Road - Update.

No new information available

d) Consider street name for new Development off Chapel Road.

The Clerk reported that both Sedgemoor DC and the developer had approved the proposed street name of Springfield Close

e) Speed Control / Traffic Calming on Old Main Road

The Clerk read out an email from County Roads that indicated that they would look into low cost measures that could be introduced although they believed that could be some misconceptions regarding the speeding so would also obtain some speed readings. Traffic calming features, due to cost, could only be done under a Small Improvement Scheme which is promoted by Cllr M Healey

f) Damage to Surface Water Drain outside 23 Manor Road

The Clerk reported that she had an email from Western Power indicating that investigations were in hand and that the council would be continued to be informed of progress.

g) Damage to Footpath along A38 – update

The Clerk reported that County Roads carried out some clearance work in order to expose the full width of the footpath. The consequentially exposed eroded areas were not considered a safety defect but the footpath will be prioritised for future resurfacing work

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h) Any other matters relating to roads and footpaths in the Parish.

- i. A line of potholes is appearing in the tarmac junction of Guants Road and Old Main Road
- ii. The Clerk reported that Sedgemoor did not consider the grass verge outside the school a safety concern and no further action would be taken
- iii. The pole supporting the 30mph sign in Guants Road, near the school, on the Left Hand Side when travelling up from the direction of the Hams, has rusted through and needs replacing
- iv. Damage to the footpath along A38, 3rd February. The clerk reported that this damage had already been reported to Highways but as yet no response had been received.
- v. The Clerk reported that the missing sign at Guants Road had been reported again and was going to be replaced

183. Parish Path Liason Officer

T Heap declined to take on the role as it was too much work. W Barnard offered to take the paperwork and investigate what was involved..

184. Play Equipment Inspections

The playgrounds had both been inspected earlier in the week by Wicksteed, accompanied by M Neale who reported that the whole process had been very informative and educational. Various deficiencies had been identified. The Clerk is to circulate the inspection report amongst councillors with a view to discussing a repair schedule at the next meeting.

185. Chapel Road Development – housing availability update

The Council had been contacted by Sedgemoor DC, giving the below contact details for those interested in securing housing on the new development:

- i. The homes that are rented will be offered on Homefinder Somerset, Sedgemoor District Council's choice based lettings system. Telephone number: 0300 303 7793, email: housing.advice@sedgemoor.gov.uk.
To apply on line go to www.homefindersomerset.co.uk
- ii. The homes that are shared ownership – potential owners will have to register on Help to Buy South West. Telephone : 0300 100 0021.
To apply for shared ownership go to www.helptobuysw.org.uk
- iii. Only those who have a local connection to Pawlett, and are in housing need will be able to apply for the properties, there is no priority basis. The S106 states that 11 of the homes are specifically available to those who have local connections. However Stonewater have kindly agreed to look at the remaining 16 being let to those who have a local connection to Pawlett in the first instance.

186. Britain in Bloom

The Chairman had received requests from residents regarding Pawlett entering Britain in Bloom. After investigation it was discovered that the closing date for 2016 entries had passed but the website provided a wealth of information, in particular the autumn 2015 newsletter. The Council agreed that in principle an entry from the village would be a good

idea and the Chair offered to consult with the residents that originally made the request to see if a someone could be prepared to take on the co-ordinator role

187. Possible Erection of an Illuminated Wooden Cross on the Green for Easter

Due to the time factor and C Freeman’s injury it would not be possible this year but a request was received from the Methodist Church to erect an illuminated cross on the Green for Easter week.

The proposal was discussed and it was agreed that as it would form such a strong statement and was on village ground it would be appropriate to consult with the parishioners before granting permission. The subject is to be revisited at a later meeting.

188. The Queen’s Birthday Celebrations, 11th/12th June

Councillors questioned if anything was planned in the village to mark this event. The Village Hall have nothing planned as yet but the committee may consider afternoon tea and cakes on 11th. T Heap offered to enquire with the WI if they would join in with this if it were to go ahead.

189. Topics for Future Meetings

- i. Pig farm expansion in Sloway Lane
- ii. RLT2 & RLT3 payments due to Pawlett
- iii. Playground Inspection report – to discuss and plan necessary repair schedule

190. Date and time of next meeting

18th April 2016 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall, Old Main Road, Pawlett

Meeting closed at 8.46 pm