

MINUTES, PAWLETT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held virtually on Zoom on Monday 12th April 2021, commencing at 7.00pm
(in the format to be presented to the next meeting for approval)

Present:

Cllrs W Barnard (Chair), J Kingman, M Smith, A Baker
C Morrison-Jones (clerk)
5 x members of the public.
SDC Cllr J Woodman, SCC Cllr M Healey

Prior to the start of the meeting the Chairman requested that those attending hold a two minutes silence; one minute to mark the death of HRH Prince Phillip, The Duke of Edinburgh and one minute to remember Covid victims in the UK

Public speaking:

None

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

Apologies of absence received from Cllr A Warner
Disclosure of interest J Kingman (landowner), agenda item 10a

2. County and District Councillor Reports

SDC Cllr J Woodman

- currently going through consultation period re Somerset Governance. There is talk of a poll being announced by Districts – he is unsure if this is going ahead but it is the consultation that Secretary of State will use to inform a decision
- Speed limit at Dunball. If the PC is behind the proposed speed limit reduction it would be helpful. JW would like explicit support from PC if it thinks it is wanted or not
- Some slippage in installation of 20mph limits outside schools due to Covid – specialist contractors have been hard to engage

SCC Cllr M Healey

- Report circulated prior to meeting. MH was late in arriving and gave his verbal report after agenda item 6a

Governance consultation is ongoing. MH concerned that both sides are not focusing on delivering the facts to enable a considered opinion to be formed

JK noted that it is concerning that PCs will be expected to carry more responsibility but won't have the capacity to do so

JW left meeting at this point

3. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 1st March 2021

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. Vacancies on the Parish Council

Cllr M Thomas has resigned from the Parish Council. Councillors requested that the clerk write to MT to express the PCs thanks for her time on the council.

SDC have been informed and the statutory notices have gone up on the boards and PC website; unless an election is called for by 10 members of the public by 27th April, the Parish Council will be free to co-opt a new Member.

If any members of the public are interested in joining the Council, please contact the clerk or Chairman for more information and to register an interest

5. Matters arising from the previous meeting

a) New website

The clerk reported that she had started working with the website designers on the new build

b) Tree planting on The Green

The clerk reported that the order has been placed with Chew Valley Trees and a planting date of 10th May has been booked and WB was nominated to liaise with company on the day of planting

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

None

SCC Cllr M Healey joined meeting at this point

6. Roads, Footpaths and River Bank:

a) Barrier work and surfacing on The Drain

Councillors had previously decided, following a site inspection, that the work to install the barriers was satisfactory and funds had been released to pay for the work completed. A quotation to carry out the laying of an additional area of hardstanding had been received and circulated. Councillors resolved not to accept the quote as it was felt to be too expensive. WB offered to approach some other contractors to quote. Councillors resolved to delegate authority to WB to authorise works to be done without coming back to council if it can be achieved under £500.

b) Any other matters concerning Highways, Footpaths or River Banks

i) Proposed speed limit reduction at Dunball to Pawlett

Councillors resolved to support proposed to 50mph with the clerk to write to SDC Cllr JW expressing the PCs support

ii) Resurfacing at bottom of Pound Road / Chapel Road outside the barn.

It was noted that the road is cracked and needs repair outside 1 Chapel Road. Those present were reminded of the SCC 'report a fault' website where it is possible to log faults and potholes

<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-pothole-or-road-defect/>

iii) Parking Old Main Road / Manor Road corner.

It was noted that there appears to be grey mini permanently parked on this corner. It was considered dangerous, and the clerk was requested to report it to the PCSO

7. Minor Parish maintenance issues

a) Grit bin installation

Greenways Grounds Maintenance have been requested to install the two bins

b) Ivy on Boundary Wall

Greenways Grounds Maintenance have been requested to carry out this work

c) Any other issues to report

i) Repainting playground equipment. WB to circulate a list of items needed to be repainted to enable quotes to be sought

ii) Finger post on river road. The hedge needs clearing back before any work can be carried out. The clerk was tasked to ask Greenways to quote for repainting the Stretcholt and Pawlett fingerpost signs, subject to access being gained where the hedge is overgrowing the Pawlett post

8. Play area and outdoor gym:**a) Any matters to report**

Although AW was not able to attend the meeting, he had sent a report saying that he had inspected the play areas and outdoor gym and there is nothing to report. Councillors resolved to re-open the outdoor gym as Covid restrictions now allow.

b) New pieces of play equipment

WB reported that he had made no progress on this matter since the previous meeting.

9. Somerset Governance Consultations

The Government consultation opened on 22nd February and provides the opportunity to comment on both proposals put forward for Somerset - The four district councils jointly submitted proposal for two unitary councils (Stronger Somerset) and Somerset County Council's submitted proposal for a single unitary council for the area of Somerset County (One Somerset).

Both proposals offer a significant change in the reorganisation of local governance and Services and responses can be lodged by individuals as well as organisations.

Information on both proposals can be found at

<https://consult.communities.gov.uk/governance-reform-and-democracy/somerset/>

where it also possible to submit an online response. It is also possible to respond by letter. The consultation closes on 19th April 2021.

Councillors were disappointed that PCs were not included as statutory consultees in this process and resolved to write to express concerns about PCs roles in the consultation and concerns about PCs limitations of responsibility and how this responsibility and structure has not been effectively communicated to PCs and residents. The clerk was requested to circulate the draft response to councillors before sending.

Cllr J Kingman left the meeting at this point due to a declared interest

10. Planning:**a) Community assets in regard to the potential development off A38**

The clerk reported the Parish Council had received a response (circulated to Members) from the developers confirming that they were willing to provide a shop / post office as part of the development and that it would be provided as part of the development rather than be gifted to the Community, which would avoid the need for the Parish Council to take on any future responsibility for a premises.

WB suggested that if a shop is going to be provided then the community should benefit from the revenue stream

AB suggested that judgement should be reserved until a formal application is actually submitted.

Councillors resolved that if a shop is on offer then, at present, the PC wishes to retain the option to retain revenue stream.

Meeting adjourned to gain public opinion

No comments forthcoming

Meeting reconvened

Cllr J Kingman re-joined the meeting and 3 members of public left meeting at this point

b) Planning Applications to consider:

i) 41/21/00003. 29 Quantock Rise, Pawlett. Proposed conversion of loft to living accommodation, with the erection of front (west) and rear (East) dormer windows and a two storey side (North) extension.

Resolved: support

ii) 41/21/00002. 1 River Road, Pawlett. Erection of a garden room on the footprint of existing porch and conservatory (to be demolished). Also, renovations to existing annex and widening of site entrance by 1m.

Resolved: support

c) Lympsham and Belvedere cricket club RLT3 application

Resolved: support support

d) Any potential planning breaches in the parish

None

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

None

11. Financial Matters.

a) i) Payments to approve

pay online

C Morrison-Jones	£538.32	salary - March 2021	
HMRC	£4.40	PAYE	
Green Energy	£9.50	electricity on the Green, March 2021	

pay by direct debit

NEST	£41.88	pension contributions	paid 9/4/21
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pay by debit card

SLCC	£123.80	governance text book	paid 29.3.21
printerinks.co.uk	£58.20	printer ink & copier paper	paid 6.4.21
Information Commissioner	£40.00	data protection registration	

ii) Amounts received

None

iii) Approve bank reconciliation, 31.3.21

Councillors resolved to approve the end of year bank reconciliation, dated 31.3.21, of £44,874.39. £27,000 of this balance is held in reserved funds

b) Online banking - update

The clerk has now received the debit card drawn from the Parish Council bank account

c) Any other financial matters notified to the Clerk

The clerk reported that the documentation required for audit for the financial year 2020-21 have now been lodged with the internal auditor for examination

12. Date and time of the next Parish Council meeting: Tuesday 4th May 2021, commencing immediately after the Annual Parish meeting which will commence at 7pm, via the Zoom virtual platform

The current legislation that allows Parish Council to meet remotely expires on 7th May. At present is not clear if this legislation is going to be renewed. If it isn't renewed, remote meeting will not be lawful and the requirement for the PC to hold its Annual Meeting (that was revoked last year) will be back in force.

Therefore, councillors considered it prudent to schedule the Annual Parish Meeting and the Parish Council's Annual meeting for Tuesday 4th May this year as the customarily used 1st Monday of the month is a bank holiday)

Then this gives the Parish Council the option to conduct the required Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Council Meeting remotely whilst still covered under the current legislation, without having to wait and see if and when any legislation will be renewed.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20.19