

PAWLETT PARISH COUNCIL

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The minutes of the meeting of Pawlett Parish Council held at the Village Hall, Old Main Road, Pawlett on Monday, 29th January 2018 at 7.00 pm

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

Present:

Parish Councillors:

R Winter (Chair), M Neale (Vice-chair), A Baker, C Clark, W Barnard and H Smith Clerk, C Morrison-Jones, together with 5 members of the public
J Armstrong-Butler & S Houlet from SDC

Presentation by Julie Armstrong-Butler and Stuart Houlet from Sedgemoor District Council (Development Management) to provide a brief outline relating to the SDC's intention to roll-out e-consultation on planning applications as of 2nd April 2018

S Houlet opened by apologising that the original email informing of the proposed changes wasn't sent to PPC.

From 2nd April planning will switch to e-planning which will offer cost and time saving. 70% of all planning apps come into SDC electronically and PCs are the only statutory consultees that receive a paper copy.

April 2nd is 'd-day' but SDC wanted to give a lead in time to listen to concerns of PCs Councillors explained to SDC that before the meeting, councillors are circulated the paper copy to review and the paper copy is at meeting to look at if necessary. There is no internet service at the Village Hall and many properties in the parish, particularly in Stretcholt, don't receive a good enough broadband service to view applications on line. Would SC be able to supply an A3 printer to ensure that Pawlett isn't disadvantaged?

SH explained that the documents could be downloaded away from meeting and projected at the meeting, but councillors agreed that it is easier to spread out paper maps rather than continually switch between screens. Planning online is instant and can give it much better detail as there is the ability to zoom in on drawings and maps. If PCs won't sign up to e-planning there may have to be another way, such as charging for paper copies. It is a significant culture change, but please can parishes try a twin track approach for the next few months (paper & electronic) and see how it goes? SDC would support parishes with major development proposals and it is probable that the developer would offer paper copies in cases of larger proposals

SH & JA-B left the meeting at this point

Public Speaking:

- Two members of the public spoke regarding planning application 41/17/00017, with several areas of concern highlighted
- Ham Lane & Red Lane repairs have been carried out by Highways but not Chapel Road (which was marked up at the same time) -hope that it hasn't been

forgotten? It was agreed that the clerk will check with highways when these repairs are scheduled

1. Welcome by the Chairman.

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

Apologies of absence received from Cllr M Seabourne

3. Minutes of the Pawlett Parish Council Meeting held on 18th December 2017 to be presented and signed.

The previously circulated minutes were approved by councillors to be true and correct record of the 18th December meeting and were signed by the chairman

4. Matters Arising:

a) PC Complaint to SDC regarding Homes in Sedgemoor

RW reported that he has spoken to Mrs Cocca since the letter from SDC was received and she still isn't happy. She has approached witnesses to the visits and is expecting 5 letters confirming events that occurred over the course last year The PC agreed to review this matter once these letters have been received.

b) Outdoor Gym installation

MN reported that all the equipment is now installed. Each piece of equipment has safety instructions attached to it but still waiting for the stand alone sign to be installed at the entrance to the area. When the signage is complete SDC will be invited to inspect the equipment and release the RLT2 funds to PPC. Post and rail fencing has been erected around the equipment, plus an additional pedestrian gate. A short area of hard standing (paving slab?) is needed to bridge the gap between pedestrian gate and the rubber safety surface. MN offered to liaise with the Pavilion on this matter.

RW noted that a lot of the village is under the impression that it the gym is being funded by the Pavilion. An update has been posted on the website and councillors agreed that a post on the Pawlett Life facebook page, mirroring that on the website, would be appropriate.

c) ID cards for Parish Councillors.

RW apologised, but due to personal issues he has been unable to progress this any further at present

d) Any other matters arising not covered by agenda items below.

When is the Christmas tree on the Green being removed? RW reported that whenever arrangements have been made to remove the weather has not been suitable. As soon as the weather and ground conditions allow, it will be removed

5. County and District Councillor Reports

None

6. Planning Matters

a) Applications:

Consider Planning Application 41/17/00017

Gaunts Farm, Gaunts Road, Pawlett, Bridgwater, TA6 4SS

Change of use of agricultural land to equestrian, including the erection of a stable block and hay barn and alterations to existing access.

RW confirmed that some areas of concern were raised in public speaking and councillors discussed areas of the proposals concerning drainage, the creation of an additional planning unit, access and parking, the sloping nature of the land and lack of details in the supplied plans

Councillors resolved to object to the application for the following reasons – lack of drainage detail, lack of details regarding water & electricity supply, poor access off a small lane, lack of parking for horseboxes

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

None

7. Consider PC's position on Sedgemoor District Council's intention to roll-out e-consultation on planning applications as of 2nd April 2018

Councillors agreed that they don't think the PC will have much choice over the introduction of e-planning but should endeavour to obtain an A3 printer from SDC in mitigation of the poor broadband supply to some areas of the parish.

8. Consider PC response to the 'Healthy Weston vision for North Somerset' consultation

RW attended public presentation on 11th January. A 'Campus of care' is the aim. Most of Pawlett residents go to Bridgwater or Musgrove, but some do use oncology unit at Weston.

25 attendees (8 from NHS), but no young people giving ideas and thoughts. The meeting was a 'think tank' looking for opinions and suggestions. It would appear that Weston hospital has significant problems.

Councillors considered the literature that had been previously circulated and resolved that no response was required

9. Roads and Footpaths.

a) Issues reported to the clerk since the December PC meeting

- i) plant roots damaging the 'path to no-where'

This has been reported to Stonewater who have confirmed that Spillers, the contractors, have been informed

- ii) pothole at road edge, Chapel Road, opposite Springfield Close

This has been reported to Highways, who have confirmed that it has been inspected and a repair is scheduled

MN observed that there used to be a ditch opposite Springfield but it was filled in by contractors

- iii) overhanging trees on the green in Pound Road

Pound Road and the small green are believed to be the responsibility of Homes in Sedgemoor. They have been informed

- iv) poor state of footpath to the front of 13-15 Pound Road

Pound Road is an un-adopted road and therefore not the responsibility of Highways. Homes in Sedgemoor have been informed of the issue

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

i) poor parking in Chapel Road. RW reported that he has had word with the vehicle owner, explaining the problem that it is causing, and it is no longer happening

ii) outside 10 Old Main Road. Wessex water recently carried out some work last month and the infill is very poor. Now there is a pot hole, in addition to the general poor state of Old Main Road. Clerk to report to Highways

10. Playground. Any matters relating to the playgrounds

Due to poor weather it is not much used at present. Clerk apologised for not yet locating the lease but councillors agreed that the PC should assume responsibility for the fencing and fix the gate spring issue. It was noted that there was a need to clarify the fencing responsibilities for the other items on Pavilion ground

11. To Receive Reports from Members of Meetings attended as representatives of the Parish Council

None apart from RW, as reported in item 8

3 members of public left at this point

12. Financial Matters.

a) Approve payment of creditors

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|------------------------|----------------------------|-----------|-------|
| Clerks Salary | January 2018 | £384.40 | |
| HMRC | PAYE | | £2.20 |
| Clerk | expenses & reimbursements | £48.60 | |
| CPRE | membership renewal | £36.00 | |
| Samson Landscaping Ltd | fencing around outdoor gym | £1,639.00 | |
| Green energy | electricity on the Green | | £6.54 |

b) Receipts received

None

c) Approve bank reconciliation

The Clerk had previously circulated a bank reconciliation statement and supporting documents as at 5th January 2018 showing a balance of £38,719.17. The council unanimously agreed the statement

d) Agree Budget for 2018/19 and set Parish Precept for 2018/19

The clerk had previously prepared and circulated draft expenditure figures for the 2018/19 financial year

Councillors were aware of the need to balance the need to be prudent with the need to ensure that the PC holds sufficient reserves to cover its liabilities

Councillors unanimously resolved to set the precept for 2018/19 at £19,500, the same as the previous year. In real terms this will result in an annual precept charge for a band D property of £47.27, a reduction of £1.09 (-2.26%) from 2017/18

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

Mendip Community Transport have written to the PC to request a donation.

Councillors noted that the PC have previously given money but it is unclear how many people in the parish benefit from the service. The clerk was requested contact Mendip to gain user numbers from the parish.

13. Circulated correspondence

1) Somerset County Council:

- a) Have your say on plans to upgrade A303
- b) CDS to deliver superfast broadband to thousands more in Somerset
- c) Library Services Consultation Announced

2) Sedgemoor District Council

- a) Recruitment Fair 13th February
- b) Parish Cluster Group dates for 2018

3) NHS

- i) Improvements in care for older people having surgery at Musgrove

4) Somerset Waste Partnership

- i) All change for SWP
- ii) Briefing, December 2017

5) Somerset Scientific Services

Asbestos hazards when undertaking home improvements

6) Resignation letter of Cllr Seabourne

14. Topics for Future Meetings.

- i) Consider the Parish Council's response to the Library Services Consultation
- ii) Grass cutting arrangements for 2018/19

15. Date and time of the next meeting –19th February 2018 at 7.00 pm in the

Village Hall, Old Main Road, Pawlett.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.55pm