

PAWLETT PARISH COUNCIL

www.pawlettparish.org

Minutes of the Annual Pawlett Parish Council Meeting will be held at the Village Hall, Old Main Road, Pawlett on Monday, 21st May 2017, commencing at 19.25

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

Present:

Cllrs A Warner, H Smith, A Baker, W Barnard and C Clark

C Morrison-Jones (Clerk)

7 x members of the public

The clerk opened the meeting explaining to those present explaining that item 1, the election of a chairman, would be conducted first before adjourning the meeting to allow for public speaking

1. To Appoint a Chairman for the Municipal Year 2018/19.

It was proposed, seconded, and unanimously voted, that Cllr W Barnard be elected as the Chairman of the parish council for the next municipal year, which he duly accepted. The Chairman signed the declaration of acceptance of office form

The meeting was adjourned at this point to allow for public speaking

- Congratulations to WB
- Mr G Berry, the agent for planning application 41/18/00005 provided a short presentation outlining the planning application to be considered by the parish council later on in the meeting

The meeting was reconvened after public speaking

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

None

3. To Appoint a Vice Chairman for the Municipal Year 2018/19.

It was unanimously agreed not to appoint a vice chair until the PC until a later meeting when hopefully its full number of members is restored

4. Minutes of the Pawlett Parish Council Meeting held on 16th April 2018 to be presented and signed.

Councillors agreed that the minutes be adopted as a true record. The Chairman signed the minutes.

5. Casual Vacancies on the parish council

Since the April meeting, Cllrs R Winter and M Neale have resigned from the parish council, resulting in two casual vacancies. Sedgemoor District Council have been informed and the statutory notices advertising the vacancies are currently being displayed. If no call for election is received, the parish council will be free to fill the places by co-option at the meeting to be held on 18th June. Any parishioner who is interested in becoming a member of the parish council is invited to contact either the clerk or current councillors for further details

6. County and District Councillor Reports

SCC Cllr M Healey was not able to be present but had provided a report which will be attached to the end of these minutes

7. Matters Arising from the minutes:

a) New grit bin at Pound Road/Old Main Road junction

The clerk reported that she had received a response from Highways suggesting that a suitable place for the new grit bin would be on the kerbed footway area at the Pound Road junction, next to the telegraph pole.

Councillors agreed to the suggested location, and requested that the clerk proceeded with the purchase of a bin, checking with highways before completing the order that the bin style chosen is acceptable

b) Outdoor gym opening event

The opening event was held on Friday 20th April. Unfortunately, the event was poorly attended but it has since been observed that the equipment is being well used as the weather is improving

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

None

8. Roads and Footpaths: Any matters relating to roads and footpaths in the Parish

- i. The clerk reported that the parish council had been again contacted by a parishioner about two footpaths that still are not correctly marked. The issue has again been reported to SCC via the rights of way website
- ii. It was noted that there was a growing pothole at the T junction between River Road & Gaunts Road (outside 26 Gaunts Road), but that it had been outlined with white paint so hopefully that indicated that repairs are imminent
- iii. There had been talk in the village of gates being padlocked on river bank. WB reported that the farmer had accidentally locked the pedestrian gate when locking the big gate against eel fishermen. This had now been rectified

9. Playground and Outdoor Gym:

a) routine playground and outdoor gym inspections

The clerk reminded councillors that regular inspections are required. Cllr Neale had previously taken responsibility for the regular monitoring of the playgrounds and outdoor gym equipment. It was now need to arrange a replacement/s. This could either be one councillor taking responsibility or the organisation of a rota system to carry out inspections. CC agreed to take over this role and carry out weekly inspections and would liaise with the clerk and retired Cllr Neale regarding the inspection forms / procedure

b) Any other matters relating to the playgrounds or outdoor gym

CC noted that the paint on one of the new pieces of gym equipment was chipped

10. Planning Matters

a) Applications:

Consider Planning Application 41/18/00005

20 Pound Road, Pawlett, Bridgwater, TA6 4RZ

Outline application with some matters reserved for the erection of 4 No. two bedroom dwellings and parking, alterations to existing access (existing dwelling to be demolished).

Councillors discussed several points when discussing the application:

-demolition of existing building can be accepted and it is a site suitable for more than one unit, but four would appear to be too many.

-concerns re parking layout which appears to be double banked which could cause issues 'shuffling cars about'.

-double parking demonstrates over use of the site which is unsatisfactory. Number 24's garden is potentially going to get the exhaust fumes from cars reversing in to park

-Pound Road is narrow, and that many more vehicles will be too much

-it is overdevelopment of the site

-appreciated the opportunity to tidy up the visibility splays
Councillors unanimously resolved to object to the application because of the issues surrounding parking and exhaust pollution

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

Details of the below application have been received and an extension to the consultation period has been granted to the parish council to allow the application to be considered at the June 18th meeting

Planning Application Number: 41/18/00006

Location: Walpole Anaerobic Digestion Plant, Walpole Landfill Site, Bristol Road, Walpole, Bridgwater, TA6 4TF

Proposal: Change of use of part of the existing Anaerobic Digestion building to house fertiliser production process equipment.

3 x member of public left the meeting

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

None attended

12. Appoint the Parish Council's Representative on the Village Hall Management Committee

It was unanimously resolved to appoint Cllr A Baker

Cllr AW apologised to those present, but had to leave the meeting at this point

13. Consider Sedgemoor District Council's Gambling Policy review consultation

SDC has to review its gambling policy every three years and has drawn up a Policy Document setting out their approach to the Councils licencing functions. The consultation on the draft policy closes on 6th July 2018

Councillors resolved that the parish council had no opinion to offer

14. Consider Insurance renewal

The clerk reported that Hiscox Insurance, via the brokers Came & Company, have quoted £473.78 for cover for the next year, commencing 1st June 2018. The council had previously committed to a three-year long-term agreement, which ends on 31st May 2019. Councillors resolved to accept the renewal premium

15. General Data Protection Regulation

The clerk reminded councillors the General Data Protection Regulation comes into force in May. The ICO has said previously that "the GDPR is a journey rather than a destination and will be looking to councils to demonstrate that they are committed to making progress towards embedding the right processes and procedures." SALC advice has been for parish councils not to take action until they have received official guidance and the clerk is scheduled to attend a training event on 22nd May to learn what steps the parish council needs to take, and will report back to councillors regarding actions that need to be taken.

16. Financial Matters.

a) To approve Year End Accounts, 31.3.2018

The clerk had previously circulated the year end accounts that showed that the balance total held by the council as of 31/3/18, year-end, was £35,671.45 The accounts were unanimously approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman.

b) Approve implementation of council employees NALC approved pay increase, backdated to 1.4.2018

NALC have published the approved pay increase, effective from 1.4.18. Councillors

unanimously agreed to implement the recommended pay increase

2 x members of public left the meeting at this point

c) Approve payment of creditors

Clerks Salary, May 2018	£425.20	
Clerk's expenses & reimbursements	£74.79	
Green energy, electricity on the Green	£7.95	(inc VAT of £0.38)
SALC membership renewal	£300.52	
Pavilion- refreshments for gym opening event	£48.00	(inc VAT of £8.00)
Village Hall - room hire	£178.00	
SLCC membership renewal	£147.00	
Mrs K Smith - internal auditor	£40.00	
Came & Company -insurance renewal	£473.78	
SDC, dog bin emptying	£585.31	(deducted from the precept)

d) Receipts received

20.4.18 Sedgemoor DC, first half of precept	£9,750.00
20.4.18 Sedgemoor DC, council tax support grant	£208.50

e) Consider the addition of signatories to the parish council bank account

Only two current members of the council are now signatories to the PC bank account, W Barnard and A Baker. Councillors resolved to add H Smith and C Clark and removed M Neale and R Winter.

The appropriate mandate forms were completed and signed in order for the requested changes to be submitted to NatWest

f) Any other financial matters notified to the Clerk

HS supplied the clerk with the annual accounts for the Village Hall

17. Consider Internal Auditor's Report

The Internal Auditor, Mrs K Smith, had carried out the internal audit and found the internal audit control arrangements to be satisfactory. Accordingly, the Internal Auditor had signed-off Page 5 of the Annual Return without qualification

18. Annual Return – approve Section 1, the Annual Governance Statement

Members agreed that replies to questions 1 to 8 be “Yes”, and to question 9 be N/A. The page was then signed by the Chairman and the clerk

19. Annual Return – approve Section 2, the Accounting Statement

The Council considered the information prepared and signed by the Clerk that had been previously circulated. The statement was approved, and signed by the Chairman

20. Annual Return - to confirm that the Council wishes to certify itself as exempt from the limited assurance review

It was agreed by councillors that the PC wished to certify itself as exempt from the limited assurance review. The document was signed by the chairman and the RFO

21. Circulated Correspondence

- 1) Somerset County Council
 - a) Work underway to transform health and social care
 - b) Let's take action against dementia
- 2) Somerset Waste Partnership
 - a) All recycling sites are now taking plastic food pots
 - b) Somerset seeks new kerbside collector
 - c) April 2018 briefing
- 3) Taunton and Somerset NHS:
Somerset cancer patients to get extra help thanks to new Macmillan support role
- 4) Somerset Mobile Library:
Mechanical problems with the mobile library
- 5) Save the Willow Man Campaign

- 6) Latest news from the Information Commissioner's Office
- 7) Sedgemoor Life line Newsletter
- 8) SALC
 - a) SCC survey regarding current services for adults with dementia
 - b) Survey on planning/building control functions
- 9) Safer Somerset Partnership newsletter
- 10) Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner:
Rural residents asked to share views on police response to rural crime
- 11) Correspondence from resident regarding footpaths in the Parish
- 12) The Polden project – result

22. Topics for Future Meetings.

The clerk was requested to ask a Virador representative to attend the June parish council meeting to explain the proposals contained in planning application 41/1/8/00006

23. Date and time of the next meeting

18th June 2018 at 7.00 pm in the Village Hall, Old Main Road, Pawlett.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20.21pm

SCC Cllr M Healey's submitted report:

The Unitary Conversation: SCC have invited partners including District Councils to enter into a conversation looking at options for introducing a Unitary model of local government into Somerset. Whilst this is the very start of discussions it could see the abolition of the six current councils including the County Council and the establishment of one, two or some other configuration of single-tier authorities.

Initial estimates show that between £18 and £28 million pound could be released annually to invest into front line services as well as providing the public with greater clarity through a single point of contact on public services. SCC has also stressed the increased role that Town and Parishes would be able to play in the governance of the County to ensure local participation and consideration. The next stage is for willing partners to debate the approach before moving to a business case(s) and then Government consideration.

Primary School Places for Sept 2018: 93.8 per cent of children starting school in 2018 have been allocated places at their first choice primary school, a slight increase on previous years.

From 5665 applications:

- 1st preference met – 93.8 per cent (5313 applications)
- 2nd preference – 3.6 per cent (202 applications)
- 3rd preference – 1 per cent (59 applications)

Regional adoption agency: Somerset currently has over 500 Children in Care and although the County's adoption services are recognised as good by Ofsted the Government now requires wider regional arrangements to be set up. Later this year therefore, Devon, Plymouth, Torbay and Somerset's adoption services will join together to become a single service to be called Adopt South West. Working with partners in the new regional agency will give SCC the opportunity to make further improvements to the process, and it will make it easier and quicker to match children who need adoptive families with the people ready to adopt them.

Fit for the Future: Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group (the organisation that plans and buys healthcare services for Somerset residents) and SCC have agreed to work closer together than ever before and deliver a joint Somerset Health and Social Care Strategy called 'Fit For The Future'. The aim is to remove inequalities so that everyone gets equal access to the services they need; to get more high quality services in communities and closer to home; to invest in prevention so that people can stay healthy and as independent for as long as possible – and for everyone to have a strong voice in shaping any future proposals.

Somerset Waste Partnership: Following initial setbacks with the current contractor Somerset Waste Partnership has now submitted an official notice to procure a new contractor for the Recycle More programme starting in 2020. This invites potential bidders to register their interest ahead of the full procurement process.

Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership: The Local Enterprise partnership has appointed a new Chief Executive replacement for Chris Garcia who retires in June. David Ralph who brings a wealth of experience will be starting on Monday 4th June. Elsewhere the Somerset Chamber of Commerce will be looking for a new CEO as Dale Edwards has stepped down. The Chamber will shortly be embarking on the recruitment process to find a suitable replacement.

Somerset Energy and Innovation Centre: Phase 2 of the building of the Somerset Energy Innovation centre in Bridgwater is well underway and to mark the progress a "bolt tightening" event was held on Wednesday 25th of April. When completed this SCC-led project will almost double the office and workspace available for new and growing businesses in the centre that supports the nuclear and low carbon supply chain sector. From 2019 this will become another significant boost to the Somerset economy, supporting new businesses and jobs for decades to come.

Dementia Awareness: In the UK, one person develops dementia every three minutes, yet too many people living with dementia face the condition alone and feel excluded from their local communities and wider society. Dementia Action Week, led by the Alzheimer's Society, is taking place this week [21-27 May] and Somerset County Council is calling on everyone to come together and help create a 'dementia-friendly' County. SCC wants more people to sign up to be a Dementia Friend across the County; there are already over 12,500. To sign up to be a Dementia Friend, visit <http://www.dementiafriends.org.uk>.

Highways Enforcement: Following last month's announcement a further two utility firms have been fined a total of £40,000 after pleading guilty to several offences relating to illegal roadworks. SCC prosecuted Vodafone and BT as part of its commitment to minimising disruption to the travelling public. Vodafone was fined £15,000 for carrying out general maintenance works when directed not to and causing severe traffic disruption leading to queues of more than four miles in both directions. BT was fined £25,000 over a number of incidents relating to the replacement of telegraph poles and cabinets. The firm carried out works when directed not to by SCC as they involved blocking roads, potentially delaying the travelling public and emergency services.

Somerset Day May 11th: Somerset Day was launched in 2015 with the mission to make it a day set aside to celebrate all that's great about our county. Events are taking place across Somerset include The Great Somerset Tea Party in aid of St Margaret's Hospice and the Pride of Somerset Youth Awards at the Bridgwater and Taunton College.

Dillington House: Dillington House, which is held by SCC on a ninety nine year lease, continues to thrive, following the appointment of Adam Cowell as the new manager. A very well attended Easter Fair promoted the use of the historic location as a leading wedding venue and an excellent facility for corporate functions, business meetings and as a learning centre.