

MINUTES, MEETING OF PAWLETT PARISH COUNCIL

Held at Pawlett Village Hall on Monday 1st November 2021, commencing at 7.00pm

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

Present:

Cllrs W Barnard (Chair), A Warner (Vice Chair), A Baker, J Kingman
1 member of the public
SDC Ward Cllr J Woodman and SCC Ward Cllr M Healey

Public speaking:

- Planning application off A38; SDC have granted an extension until 11th November as AAH wish to address some of the issues raised
- Christmas tree; would be welcome to having a 'switch on' event
- Trees on Green / outside village hall

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

Cllr M Smith

2. County and District Councillor Reports

District and county are really working together and looking to join services and make savings and improve quality of service.

- Currently striving to pull together to create a Bus Improvement strategy - £160m bid to develop a reliable bus service from 7am-7pm but this is dependent on the bid success. Buses and routes are decided at county level and bus stops are decided at districts.
- Joining adult social care and homelessness.
- Could join "clean" surroundings and verge cutting
- £10m for Dunball roundabout through to Cross Roundabouts roundabout.
- Looking to improve A38 bike path, including Gravity link road.

The Service Station will stay land locked for a while yet with no firm date for resolution

3. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 4th May, EGM 26th July and 6th September 2021 to be presented and signed.

The minutes were approved by Members for signature by the Chairman as a true and accurate record of the previous meetings.

4. Casual Vacancies on the Parish Council

There are still 2 casual vacancies on the PC to be filled by co-option

5. Matters Arising from the minutes:

a) New website

The new website is now live and the clerk is awaiting training from the developer on its use

b) Parking Old Main Road / Manor Road corner

No update to report from SCC/Highways

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

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None

6. Somerset Governance – update

The One Somerset bid for a single unitary has been approved by central government. Plans are being consulted on to have a shadow executive elected in either May 2022 or 2023, with the hand over of power to the new authority to be a year later.

7. Roads, Footpaths and River Bank:

a) Surfacing on The Drain

The ‘triangle’ area by the new barrier has been surfaced by Stretcholt Builders

b) Surfacing patch on path outside Village Hall

The area of lifted path has been repaired by Stretcholt Builders. They have advised that it is probably caused by the tree roots so may be an ongoing issue

c) Consider request for a memorial plaque on an existing bench

Councillors agreed that whilst not wanting plaques attached to an existing bench, in principle it could be possible to consider the purchase of a new bench that could become a site for people to submit plaques to be fitted

d) Pre-school banner on the Green

The pre-school had contacted the Parish Council during the summer recess to ask if a banner could be hung on the Green boundary wall for July and August advertising spaces. Although this would not normally be permitted, it was considered to allow on this occasion as a trial to gauge response on the basis that no precedent was being set for any future advertising

e) Bulbs for the parish from SDC

WB has offered to collect a sack of bulbs on 5th November from SDC

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

Comments were raised that the road sweeper that comes down Gaunts Road appears to be ineffective

8. Minor Parish maintenance issues

a) updates on previous issues – Grit Bins, Ivy on Wall, Historic Fingerposts

The Parish Council has ended its association with Greenways Grounds Maintenance and is again looking for a contractor to carry out minor parish maintenance issues. The grit bins are now in place, with a small amount of grit in each. The ground anchors still need fitting

b) Any other issues to report

Trees on the Green / outside the Village Hall: It was noted that the horse chestnuts didn’t appear to thrive this year and there are also concerns that the roots are undermining the path and Village Hall. Councillors agreed that the PC should contact SDC’s Tree Officer to ask for advice on the health and future long-term management of the trees...have they reached ‘end of life’?

A parishioner has some saplings that have been grown from conkers collected from the Green...this may be a way of ensuring that the trees ‘live on’ if their removal is considered necessary

9. Play area and outdoor gym:

a) Consider Annual PlayGround Inspections in conjunction with matters reported to the Council

The annual play ground inspections were carried out in August with no high risk matters identified.

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All risks were low, except a swing seat which was rated as low-moderate. Also, some of the surfacing needs re-doing

The sharp edges noted in the in shelter have been dealt with and the pavilion are aware of the loose timbers.

Councillors resolved to authorise AW to spend up to £200 on a replacement swing seat.

b) Any other matters to report

None

c) Repainting equipment

Councillors noted that this was task that could be allocated to a 'parish maintenance' contractor. As noted in item 8a, the PC is again seeking a contractor to fulfil this role

d) New pieces of play equipment

This is ongoing. The clerk was requested to take over the fund raising applications for the 2 new pieces of equipment from WB

10. Christmas Tree

AB had obtained a quote of £115 for a 14' tree. Purchase was agreed by councillors.

The member of the public present offered to arrange transport of the tree and WB offered to lift it into place with his machinery. The aim is to have the tree dressed in place by 3rd December

11. Planning:

a) Planning Applications to consider

None

b) Planning applications responded to under delegated powers

Following consultation with Members, the following applications were responded to by the clerk on behalf of Pawlett Parish Council using the delegated powers agreed at the 4th May 2021 Parish Council meeting

- i) 41/21/00013 Plot 9, Land To The West Of, Manor Park, Pawlett, Bridgwater, Somerset. Support
- ii) 41/21/00009 Barton Cottage, School Lane, Pawlett, Bridgwater, TA6 4RX. Support
- iii) 41/21/0003 29 Quantock Rise, Pawlett, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA6 4SD. Oppose

c) Any potential planning breaches in the parish

None

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

None

12. Financial Matters.

a) i) Payments to approve

made under delegated powers since 4th May

HM Land registry	£3.00	land ownership search	paid by debit card
C Morrison-Jones	£606.54	salary - May 2021 - & reimbursements	pay online
HMRC	£5.20	PAYE	pay online
HMRC	£35.32	NI contributions (underpayment Jan 2021)	pay online
NEST	£6.49	pension contributions	pay by d/d
green energy	£10.65	May-21	pay online
Microsoft	£79.99	Office 365 software annual renewal	paid by debit card
somerset webservices	£1,344.00	2nd installment of website construction	pay online
SDC	£585.31	dog waste bin emptying	pay online
C Morrison-Jones	£626.15	salary - June 2021 - & reimbursements	pay online

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HMRC	£5.40	PAYE	pay online
NEST	£6.49	pension contributions	pay by d/d
green energy	£10.30	Jun-21	pay online
SDC	£170.00	playing field lease	pay online
somerset webservices	£819.60	final instalment of web design	pay online
Greenways ground maintenance	£191.74	grit bins installation	pay online
Somerset Playing fields Association	£15.00	membership renewal	pay online
C Morrison-Jones	£539.95	salary - July 2021 - & reimbursements	pay online
HMRC	£5.20	PAYE	pay online
NEST	£6.49	pension contributions	pay by d/d
green energy	£10.65	Jul-21	pay online
stretcholt builders	£84.00	footway repair near Village Hall	pay online
stretcholt builders	£528.00	footway repair, the drain	pay online
SALC	£297.18	annual affiliation fee	pay online
HM Land registry	£3.00	land ownership search	pay online
C Morrison-Jones	£539.75	salary - Aug 2021 - & reimbursements	pay online
HMRC	£5.40	PAYE	pay online
NEST	£6.49	pension contributions	pay by d/d
green energy	£10.65	Aug-21	pay online
SALC	£30.00	FOI training	pay online
Play Ground Inspection Company	£166.80	playground inspection	pay online
C Morrison-Jones	£539.75	salary - Sept 2021	pay online
HMRC	£5.20	PAYE	pay online
NEST	£6.49	pension contributions	pay by d/d
green energy	£10.30	Sep-21	pay online

To be approved for November

C Morrison-Jones	£516.55	salary - Oct 2021	pay online
HMRC	£5.20	PAYE	paid online
NEST	£6.49	pension contributions	pay by d/d
green energy		Oct 2021, invoice not yet received	pay online

ii) Amounts received

5.7.21	HMRC	VAT reclaim	£1,240.63
28.9.21	SDC	2 nd half of precept	£9000

b) Approve bank reconciliation

Councillors resolved to approve the bank reconciliation, dated 30.9.21, of £59,051.68. £31,094.47 of this is held in reserved funds.

c) Annual Return

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The certificate of exemption had been lodged with the external auditors on 7th June and the notices of Public Rights were displayed as required on the noticeboards and website, with the accounts being available for public inspection between 14th June and 23rd July 2021

d) Grant requests from the Churches

The clerk had informed the Council that section 8 of the Local Government Act 1894 prohibits expenditure by local councils on property relating to the affairs of the church or an ecclesiastical charity. Section 137, Local Government Act (1972) cannot be used to circumnavigate section 8, Local Government Act 1894. This is the official advice from NALC and SALC. In 1894 the act was drawn up to specifically split Church from State and no legislation has been introduced since that overrides or supersedes this

Councillors considered possible suggestions given by the parishioner present to work around the legislation – such as using section 106 / CIL money – which was thought not to be possible as once funds are in the PC's bank account they are bound by the relevant legislation, but the clerk would be requested to clarify.

e) Any other financial matters notified to the Clerk

None

13. Parish Newsletter / The Link

Councillors resolve to place an advert for a parish contractor in The Link, together with an article highlighting that Pawlett PC has casual vacancies for new councillors. It was also suggested that the clerk could write a monthly report

14. Defibrillator

A second defibrillator has now been installed in the village, attached to the Village Hall. Councillors understood that the cost of the new unit has been covered but expressed an interest in contributing to the ongoing consumable costs

15. Remembrance Day Service, 14th November 2021

Councillor resolved to authorise a £50 donation to the British Legion Poppy Appeal for the purchase of a wreath. WB offered to contact MS to see if she was able to attend the ceremony on behalf of the PC

16. Future PPC meeting dates

All meetings to be held at the Village Hall, commencing at 7pm

Monday 6th December 2021

Monday 10th January 2022

Monday 7th February 2022

Monday 7th March 2022

Monday 4th April 2022

17. Date and time of the next Parish Council meeting. Monday 6th December 2021 at 7pm

Monday 6th December 2021, commencing at 7pm

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.45pm

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