

Pawlett Parish Council

Clerk to the Parish Miss Sam Warren
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MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held Monday 2nd October 2023 at 7pm At Pawlett Village Hall.

Present: Chairman W Barnard, Cllr M Sims, Cllr M Smith, Cllr Warner, Cllr T Malpass, S Warren Clerk and Village Hall Committee representative Chairman R Winter.
35 members of the public attended.

6.30pm Extra time for public discussion regarding Planning application for Convenience store and six commercial units, not part of the Parish Council meeting.

7.00pm Reports from County & District Councillors *A written report was circulated*

17.1 To receive and agree any apologies for non-attendance- *Apologies accepted from Cllr's Kingman and Turford.*

17.2 To receive any declarations of interest- *None*

17.3 To receive and approve the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council from 4th September 2023. *Approved*

17.4 Matters arising from the minutes and anything for the clerk to report from last meeting.

Clerk now has access to the bank account again and will make efforts soon to remove old signatories and perhaps update current signatories' signatures.

The new play area signs have been installed and look rather smart.

Clerk reported that daffodil bulbs will no longer be supplied by Somerset Council. Cllr Malpass still wishes to plant some around the village so the Clerk will purchase 50 bulbs on behalf of the PPC for him to plant.

17.5 Planning applications to consider – *Unanimous objection, although Cllr M Smith abstained, full objection at the end of the minutes.*

**[41/23/00010](#) - Erection of new convenience store and 6no. smaller commercial units, with associated access, parking and landscaping.
Land At, Bristol Road, Pawlett, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA6**

Details of the OBJECTIONS are:-

The site is outside the village envelope. It appears to be a speculative application suggesting the provision of retail and job creation facilities for the Village. There is no evidence of the Village wanting or needing such facilities on this site.

It is situated on the wrong side of the A38. Despite a light controlled crossing it is considered that this will lead to significant highway safety concerns with people crossing the trunk road at other places, especially near the children's playground.

The public questionnaire carried out by the developers earlier this year had only 37 responses (out of a possible 500). The questions asked were only if residents wanted a convenience store in Pawlett with no mention of the location. The application site is not in the village.

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Signed by Chairman _____

Dated ____/____/____

Buildings on the site will intrude into the view of the Mendip Hills from the village green (I will email a photo separately detailing the view at present) which is an important amenity setting and will consolidate the existing sporadic development on the East side of the A38.

The parish council considers that the proposal does not comply with policy CO1, as there is no overriding need for the development nor of the proposed scale and number of units, neither does it comply with policy D15, as being on the opposite side of the A38 it is not well related to the settlement boundary. Similarly, it does not comply with D35 as it is not in a suitable location.

17.5.1 Planning application outcomes – 41/22/00024 BCA Lighting Approved – Including lighting restrictions from 9pm to 6am.

17.5.2 Planning breaches to report – None

7.15pm 28 members of the public left the room.

17.6 Speeding in the village – Waiting for Highways to approve locations so we can apply for the grant. Clerk will attempt to find suitable locations asap enabling us to proceed with the process.

17.7 Welcome to Pawlett signs – Clerk has quotes for signs from local companies. The quotation from Town & Country signs was approved, so the clerk will now speak with Highways regarding the final locations and installations.

17.8 LCN Meeting 31st October It was agreed that a member of the PPC will attend, that person to be confirmed nearer the time.

17.9 Payments to approve. All approved

Clerk Salary due 5/10/23	£508.30
Ashcroft Gardening – Church Path August	£15.00
L Saunders Handyman	£200.00
Somerset Council grass cutting 4 th & 18 th July	£592.80 incl vat
3 rd swing seat clerk overlooked to order	£179.03 incl vat
Green energy (still in credit by £13.17)	£19.97

17.10 Community Land Access – New lease agreements to be reviewed. Cllrs were happy with the proposed wording and asked the Clerk to continue the process.

17.11 Approve new safeguarding policy- Approved, it will be uploaded to the website this week.

17.12 Roads, Footpaths, River – Cllr Smith noted the trees adjacent to the Village Green footpath are over hanging the street lighting and asked if they may be trimmed. The clerk is asking the handy man to have a look. The clerk raised the ongoing issue with overgrowth along the A38 footpath behind the gardens of Old Main Road and Monmouth Farm Close. It was agreed to investigate the option of the PPC employing a private contractor to trim with a tractor hedge cutter as it is becoming a danger to pedestrians. Unanimously agreed. The Clerk reported that there is still no news from SC regarding the Church path. Cllr Sims reported that the street light in the cul-de-sac of Pound Road is still not working and will chase SC again.

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17.13 Playground equipment at The Pavilion – Clerk is currently completing the grant application.

17.14 Village Hall Committee. *Mr R Winter addressed the PPC regarding repairs needed to the Village Hall, it was agreed a grant request will be included in the next PPC agenda. He also spoke of new media equipment he is researching with the hope of it being installed in the future.*

17.15 New play area signs – Is it ok for handy man to remove old signs? Yes

17.16 Meeting start times for winter - ? 6.30pm from Nov to Feb as last year. Yes

17.17 Other matters to report regarding the Parish. *Today, on behalf of Pawlett Parish Council, Cllr Sims attended the Burnham & Highbridge Town Council's 'drop-in session' for residents and the Police. The session was not well attended. Representatives from the Police find it difficult to attend Parish Council Meetings and find that drop-in sessions during the day are more favourable to them. However, it was not felt necessary for Pawlett to host such sessions at this stage.*

17.18 Next meeting Tuesday 7th November 2023 6.30pm.