

Pawlett Parish Council

Clerk to the Parish Miss Sam Warren
9 Sloway Lane, West Huntspill, TA9 3RJ
07887618248 clerk.pawlett@gmail.com

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held Monday 5th February 2024 at 6.30pm At Pawlett Village Hall.

**Present: Chairman W Barnard, Vice Chairman A Warner, Cllr M Sims, Cllr Malpass, Cllr M Turford & Cllr J Kingman.
S Warren Clerk and Village Hall Committee Chairman R Winter.
District Cllr M Healey and 18 members of the public.**

6.30pm Public discussion regarding the EDF consultation of their proposal to convert over 800 acres of the Pawlett Hams into saltmarsh. Please find a separate sheet attached summarising all the points raised by the attendees.

7.06 pm 19.0 A minute to remember Anona Baker – Discuss something to honour her memory and her years of dedication to the Parish, possibly a tree on the green. *A minute's silence was held to remember Anona and contemplate the impact of her sad loss on all of us. We will decide on a memorial tribute at the next meeting.*

Reports from County & District Councillors

The County & District Councillors are invited to give short oral or written reports on matters affecting Pawlett Parish. Members of the public, as well as Councillors, may ask questions or make comments on matters raised.

19.1 To receive and agree any apologies for nonattendance- *Apologies accepted from Cllr M Smith.*

19.2 To receive any declarations of interest- *Cllr Sims 19.5b.*

Cllr's AW< WB & JK 19.12, the Clerk approved a dispensation for this item as per the Standing Orders, as it is felt they are important to the consultation process due to their knowledgeable input. This may not be the case if the proposal goes to planning.

19.3 To receive and approve the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council from 8th January 2024. *Approved*

19.4 Matters arising from the minutes and anything for the clerk to report from last meeting. *The Clerk reported she had attended the LCN meeting, an online budget meeting, and the Moors Association meeting at The Orchard. She also met with Highways and the Sign installer to confirm exact locations ready for the installation. There has been no news regarding the installation of the new light in Chapel Road – the Clerk will chase again.*

19.5 Planning Applications to consider –

19.5.a Planning application number: [41/23/00012](#)/CM

Proposal: Erection of a two storey detached garage and annex.

Location: 8C Bristol Road, Pawlett, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA6 4RT

No further comment

19.5.b Planning application number: [41/24/00001](#)/CM

Proposal: Erection of garage/home office on site of existing (to be demolished).

Location: Bella Vista, Gaunts Road, Pawlett, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA6 4SS

Support

19.5.c Planning application number: [41/23/00014](#)/CM

Proposal: Erection of a detached garage.

Location: 39A Manor Road, Pawlett, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA6 4SN

Cllr Kingman abstained, all other Cllr's supported the motion to support the application, with the following comment "Whilst we support the application we feel the external finishes are not in keeping with the aesthetics of the village"

19.5.1 Planning Application outcomes - 41/23/00011 Whitehouse Farm - REFUSED

19.5.2 Planning breaches to report - none

19.6 Speeding in the village – Locations are now approved by Highways. Next opportunity to apply for funding is April 2024, so the Clerk will prepare to apply.

19.7 Welcome to Pawlett signs – All agreed with Highways, awaiting installation.

19.8 LCN Meeting held on Wednesday 10th January at Puriton Village Hall – Minutes have been circulated to all Cllrs, the Clerk did attend the meeting, which mainly covered the shortfall of money within Somerset Council and the measures they are considering making cutbacks, but it is all speculation at present.

19.9 Payments to approve. *Approved*

Clerk Salary due 5/02/24	£508.30
Green energy December	£20.64
Stretcholt Builders – Village Hall repairs	£7990.80 incl vat

19.10 Community Land Access – Land registry plan to be approved. *Approved*

19.11 Play area issues. The Fence between the car park and the play area at The Pavilion is very rotten, The Clerk has asked J Thorne for a quote to replace with the same fencing that they have installed along the edge of the same car park. (hoping to have this by the meeting) It is metal fencing not timber. We believe we can use CIL funds to cover the cost. Awaiting two further quotes for fencing.

19.12 Roads, Footpaths, River – Discuss EDF proposed compulsory purchase of Pawlett Hams. Clerk will have full hard copies of all the information.

Please see attachment for full report. Cllr Kingman spoke about the serious concerns of residents in Stretcholt regarding the imminent risk of flooding if the embankment collapses. Temporary repairs have been carried out to a small portion which will last for 2 years. The future of the embankment is very worrying, as this proposal delays any planned works being carried out, and should it not go through what will be done then. He also voted in favour of the proposal for this reason. All other Cllr's voted to oppose the EDF proposal.

Adj 7.40pm Cllr M Healey spoke about EDF, and offered to help as he could. 7.46pm resume.

19.13 Playground equipment at The Pavilion –New grant in the process of being submitted to Valencia Credits.

19.14 Village Hall Committee. – The works on the Village Hall have been completed, the Clerk will invoice the Village Hall Committee £4159.00.

19.15 Clerks hourly rate – Can we discuss the Clerks pay please, her employment began in April 2022 on £11.73, the same recommended pay scale for this year is £13.73 per hour. *A back dated pay increase was unanimously approved of £1 per hour from 1st April 2023. The Clerk will enquire which pay band she should be in, and her pay will be reviewed again in April 2024.*

19.16. Springfield Footpath trees and maintenance – Clerk has been informed by Stonewater that the path will be regularly maintained going forward. They are also looking into the garden issue at No 32.

19.17 Grass cutting this year – Clerk is awaiting all the quotes to come through. 4 Quotes to review. *Carried forward*

19.19 Other matters to report regarding the Parish. *8.05pm Adj, Councillor J Wilks from West Huntspill Parish Council attended the meeting and put forward to the PPC the possibility of a joint neighbourhood plan, this will be discussed in the future. 8.10pm resume.*

19.20 Next meeting Monday 4th March 2024 6.30pm.

8.40pm meeting closed.

Pawlett Parish Council

Clerk to the Parish Miss Sam Warren
9 Sloway Lane, West Huntspill, TA9 3RJ
07887618248 clerk.pawlett@gmail.com

15th February 2024

To whom it may concern by email,

Prior to the recent Pawlett Parish Council meeting, members of the public were asked for their thoughts on the proposals by HPC/EDF to create a saltmarsh on the Pawlett Hams. After a debate the Parish Council voted to object to the proposal.

We set out below the Council's objections which are in two sections. First, the objections and second, without prejudice, comments on the draft scheme.

The Objection.

1. There is no detailed calculation of a correlation between the numbers of fish impacted if the AFD is not proceeded with, to the amount of land proposed for the saltmarsh.
2. The loss of 840 acres of what is described as "prime agricultural land" will significantly impact on those who have farmed/tenanted the Hams for generations.
3. It will contribute to the loss of food security which is of increasing concern to the population generally.
4. As outlined it will allow little public access either for pedestrian, dog walkers and horse riders.
5. It precludes any disabled public access to the river.
6. No consideration has been given to drainage from existing rhynes which will be cut off by the new flood defence embankment, (around the areas of Gaunts Farm/Gaunts Barn).
7. White House Road is of considerable historic interest, dating from Roman/Saxon periods (Herepath), being the main route to Devon and Cornwall.
8. It is not considered that the safety concerns about using divers to clean the AFD units has been sufficiently investigated, for example the use of robotic submersibles.
9. Part of the site already forms compensation land for the local landfill site, to use it for HPC compensation is double counting.
10. There would appear to be other sites nearer to HPC that could be used.

Comments

1. Public access should be provided through the two marsh areas, but not along the lines of high voltage pylons which has both high tension noise and static electricity.
2. Public footpaths should provide a circular route from which the river and saltmarsh can be seen. This is important from a physical and mental health perspective.
3. The embankment should retain it's public (albeit truncated) access as at Steart.
4. There should be provision for carparking, with the imposition of Traffic Regulation Orders to reduce traffic speeds.
5. Should it go ahead we would wish to insist the quality of the flood defence is sufficient to protect the low-lying land surrounding the area, not only from the estuary, but also from rainfall, as the Hams currently act as a drainage system for Stretcholt. This needs to have serious consideration.
6. Consideration should be given to the construction of a temporary landing stage on the riverbank (opposite Combwich) to import aggregate, thus avoiding use of local roads through Pawlett and Stretcholt.

For and on behalf of all Councillor's on Pawlett Parish Council.