

Pawlett Parish Council

Clerk to the Parish Miss Sam Warren
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MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

held Tuesday 2nd April 2024 at 7pm

At Pawlett Village Hall.

Present: Vice Chairman A Warner, Cllr M Sims, Cllr Malpass, Cllr M Smith. S Warren Clerk and Village Hall Committee Chairman R Winter, and 3 members of the public.

Start 7.00pm A member of the public raised concerns over the volume and speed of traffic on the A38 at Walpole on behalf of homeowners within that area. This included the volume of vehicles visiting Valencia landfill, questioning if it was more than their allowance. The Parish Council advised that they have no powers to assist directly but would be open to supporting any action the homeowners were able to take.

Reports from County & District Councillors *This was circulated to the PC by email.*

21.1 To receive and agree any apologies for non-attendance- *Apologies accepted from Cllrs Kingman, Turford and Barnard and Cllr Aujia.*

21.2 To receive any declarations of interest- *None*

21.3 To receive and approve the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council from 4th March 2024. *Approved*

21.4 Matters arising from the minutes and anything for the clerk to report from last meeting. *The new streetlight in Chapel Road has finally been installed. The plaque for Anona Baker is on order.*

21.5 Planning Applications to consider –

[41/24/00004/STP](#)

Proposal: Erection of a rear single storey extension to the West elevation.

Location: 15 Monmouth Farm Close, Pawlett, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA6 4SP

Unanimously supported

21.5.1 Planning Application outcomes – 41/23/00014 39A Manor Road, approved.

21.5.2 Planning breaches to report – *Further concerns were raised about activities in Rose Farm, so the PC asked the Clerk to chase the enforcement officer.*

Concerns have been raised to the Clerk by at least parishioners regarding a Farm Shop being developed behind A38 tyres without any planning consent. The PC asked the Clerk to report this to the enforcement officer at Somerset Council.

21.5.3 The Appeal Hearing for PA 41/21/00012 is set to be 10.00am Tuesday 23rd April at The Deane House, Taunton. *Cllr Sims would probably arrange to attend as would the Clerk.*

21.6 Speeding in the village – Locations are now approved by Highways. *The Clerk is applying for funding this month.*

21.7 Email from resident asking us to justify the precept increase. *The PC increased the precept for this year by 10%, as they did last year. Due to the issues at Somerset Council, they are devolving many of the Highway's services, meaning Parish Councils will have to pay for their own repairs and maintenance of many services that would have been previously covered by Highways. Please see an extract below from an article by Somerset Council:*

NATIONAL: Parishes and towns raise council tax surcharge

Parish and town councils will spend almost £800 million in the next financial year after increasing their average council tax surcharge by 8.5 per cent, according to official figures. Data from the Department for

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Signed by Vice Chairman _____

Dated ____/____/2024

Levelling Up, Housing and Communities shows parish and town councils will increase their spending from £708 million in 2023/24 to £783 million in 2024/25.

21.8 LCN Meeting to be held on Thursday 25th April at Puriton Village Hall - Clerk & Cllr Sims will be attending.

21.9 Payments to approve. Approved

Clerk Salary due 5/04/24	£551.64
HMRC PAYE	£27.40
Green energy January	£20.56

21.10 Community Land Access – Leases to review and include authority for the Clerk to act within the minutes.
The Parish Council authorises the Clerk to instruct the solicitors on their behalf.

21.11 EDF Saltmarsh Proposal – Any updates to report. *Cllr Warner reported that ecological surveys are being carried out. The Clerk reported that she has spoken with the Rights of Way officer at Somerset Council who informed her that he has requested the Coastal path remain accessible during any works that may go ahead and that they would like it to remain along the coast after the works are completed, not become an inland path.*

21.12 Roads, Footpaths, River – Please see letter from resident – “The stile and footpath off the the coastal path between River road and the pillbox. This stile is completely overgrown with brambles and nearly collapsed. The path is similarly overgrown at entry point and does not follow the correct ordinance survey route having been blocked off by the farmer. Could the parish council look into this? The stile leads into the field that is third one down from river road towards the wetlands-pillbox and has a large pylon in the middle; should one of the councillors wish to check up. It is also down in a dip on the field side of the river embankment.”
The PC is not aware of any obstruction; however, it has already been raised as an issue on the rights of way website.

21.13 Playground equipment and Fence at The Pavilion – New grant in the process of being submitted to Valencia Credits. Quotes are being obtained for the fence between the play area and the carpark to be replaced as it is rotten. *The application to Valencia credits has been commenced, the Clerk is awaiting updated quotes in order to finalise the submission.*

21.14 Village Hall Committee. – *Chairman Ron Winter reported that the new Audio Visual had been installed and the committee are very happy with it.*

21.15 Clerks hourly rate – Clerk has further information regarding her pay scale. *The PC agreed to increase the Clerk’s pay scale to 17 on the NALC pay scale, which is £14.95 per hour with effect from 1st April 2024. This is the higher level for small parishes as the number of meetings she is required to attend has nearly doubled due to the unitary council and the devolution issues. She will soon be part of a Highways working group within the LCN, which hopes to help Parishes cope with the reduction of services from Highways.*

21.16 Permission to use Westcott accountants for the AGAR. Granted

21.17 Flooding issues to resolve before next winter – Clerk is speaking with Highways and SRA in the hope of gaining traction to clear blocked drains and culverts before further periods of heavy rain. *Ongoing, but moving forwards.*

21.18 Repurposing the Phone box – Clerk is attempting to discover ownership of the phone box from BT. *Ongoing.*

21.19 Other matters to report regarding the Parish. *Cllr M Sims has reported the damaged bollard at the Pound/Chapel Road junction. There was a report about dogs roaming loose and motorised scooters on Ham Lane.*

**21.20 Next meeting Tuesday 7th May at 6.30pm, Annual Council Meeting. (Must start at 6.30)
8.25pm Meeting closed**

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Dated ____/____/2024