

# PAWLETT PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council Meeting was held at the Village Hall, Old Main Road, Pawlett  
on Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> February 2017 at 7.00 pm.  
(in the format to be submitted to the next meeting for approval as a correct record)

## **Present:**

Parish Councillors R Winter (chair), A Baker, M Seabourne, C Clark, H Smith, M Neale, W Barnard  
C Morrison-Jones (clerk).  
5 members of the public

## **Public Speaking Time:** Topics raised

- *Path to nowhere*– J Thorne from Pawlett Pavilion reported that the fencing had been cut and people were continuing to use a short cut across the playing field and that dogs were now being walked on the playing fields.  
The response from Sedgemoor DC, via the clerk, that their public liability would cover them was disappointing.  
Their insurance company had confirmed that it would be ok to erect no access/no right of way signs.  
Would the Parish Council be willing to assist with the cost of erecting a new, better fence?
- *Springfield Close* – it was noted that there are no white lines at the junction of Springfield Close with Chapel Road.

## **137. Welcome by the Chairman.**

The Chairman welcomed those present

## **138. To receive any apologies for absence and disclosures of interest.**

Apologies received from SCC Councillor M Healey due to illness

## **139. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> January 20167**

The Minutes were confirmed as a correct record and signed.

## **140. Matters Arising:**

### **a) Path to Nowhere**

The Chairman read out a letter from the Pavilion to the Parish Council that raised several questions regarding the path to nowhere and access to the playing fields. On the previous Monday, he and the clerk had a site visit and noted that the fence across the end of the path had been cut and folded back to allow for easier access. This had not been sanctioned by the Pavilion and was criminal damage. It was suggested that a five-rail post and rail fence be erected in its place to make access more difficult and signs put up to confirm that there is no access via that route to the playing fields. Councillors suggested that this was part of a many pronged approach, which should include reporting the damage to the police to obtain a crime reference number. Then Sedgemoor DC and Stonewater could be approached with proof that the failure to complete the path was now leading to criminal activity. The question was raised who was ultimately responsible for the fence – The Pavilion? It was suggested that SDC / Stonewater should be approached to help with this as it is because the 'path to nowhere' is not completed that these issues have arisen. The chairman also reported that during the site visit, it was noted that a tractor had driven from Springfield Close, over the flowerbed, onto the path and around to erect a fence to protect the

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soakaway surrounding the development. This highlighted the ease of access to motorised vehicles...when the council takes ownership of the community land, consideration needs to be given to the erection of a fence along the boundary of the land along the path to prevent access by motorbikes / vehicles.

The Chairman reported that he had a meeting arranged with SDC the following day and he would seek answers to these questions.

Whilst councillors agreed that they were willing to assist the Pavilion seek solutions to the problem, it was noted that there was a potential for ongoing liability issues if the PC undertook work to complete the path itself. The aim of the PC must be to broker a solution between involved parties, not to become directly involved in engaging contractors etc.

**b) Dog Waste Bins**

Both bins are now in place and being used by the public. The gentleman who had previously organised the 'unofficial' bins had passed his thanks onto the PC.

**c) Grass cutting arrangements for 2017**

The clerk confirmed that Greenacres had agreed to complete the work for the 2017 for the same price as the 2016 season

**d) School Competition re switching on of the Christmas Tree lights**

W Barnard confirmed that this was scheduled to be discussed at the next Governors meeting. The chairman confirmed that the Village Hall had been booked for 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 5.30-7.30pm for the light switching on

**e) Any Other Matters arising not covered by agenda items below  
Neighbourhood Watch.**

The chairman reported that leaflets had been distributed by police looking for a replacement co-ordinator for neighbourhood watch. Three people have put their name forward – appointment to be made soon.

**141. County and District Councillor's Reports.**

None received

**142. Planning Matters:**

**a) i) Consider Planning Application 41/17/00001**

**21 Manor Park, Pawlett TA6 4SU. Conversion of garage to living accommodation, formation of new parking space, erection of a covered storage area to the north elevation and enclosing of existing porch**

Councillors could see no problems with the application as it wouldn't look out of place and was shielded by an existing wall. Resolved to support the application

**ii) Consider Planning Application 41/17/00002**

**41 Monmouth Farm Close, Pawlett TA6 4SP. Retention of conversion of garage to living accommodation**

The chairman informed councillors that normally planning consent would not be required to convert an attached garage to living accommodation but it was a condition of the planning permission granted for the building of Monmouth Farm Close that such a conversion would not be allowed under permitted development rights and planning permission would have to be sought.

*The meeting was adjourned*

Jane Carter, the architect for the above application, explained that her client's wife has a degenerative disease, meaning ground floor living was necessary. They had already carried out the work as they had been informed by SDC that planning consent was not required. However, it had now been found that this was not the case for properties in Monmouth Farm Close and an enforcement notice had been served, resulting in this retrospective application being made.

The Enforcement Officer expressed concerns regarding parking as the SDC requirement for Pawlett is that a 4+ bedroom house must provide 3 off road parking spaces. This application ensures that this requirement is met.

*The meeting was re-convened*

The view was expressed that this application was little different to other applications recently considered regarding conversions and that, as the parking concerns of SDC had been met, Councillors resolved to support the application.

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

None

*3 members of the public left the meeting at this point and 1 arrived*

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

None

**144. Financial Matters.**

**a) Consider grant request by Pawlett Pavilion**

The chairman reported that he had spoken with the Pavilion and currently fundraising was ongoing so it was agreed with the Pavilion that this grant request would be deferred until the March meeting to gain a better picture of the amount of funding still required

**b) The following payments were approved: -**

- i. Clerk's salary December, chq 946, £1125.07. This included a refund from HMRC of £752 which would be claimed back by PPC
- ii. Clerk's expenses, chq 947, £77.29 (inc £2.40 VAT)
- iii. CPRE membership renewal, chq 948, £35.00
- iv. Green Energy plc, chq 949, £9.45 (inc £0.45 VAT)

**c) Agree Bank Reconciliation Statement as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016**

The Clerk had previously circulated a bank reconciliation statement and supporting documents as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016 showing a balance of £35,569.37. The statement was unanimously agreed by the council

**d) Any Other Financial Matters**

None

**145. Roads and Footpaths**

**a) Trees on the edge of the Green**

The Clerk reported that Sedgemoor Tree Services had yet to provide the report of resonance testing

**b) Any Other Matters relating to Roads and Footpaths in the Parish**

*The meeting was adjourned at this point to allow a member of the public to speak*

A member of the public raise the issue of a tree/bush by the Post Office that was overgrown and encroaching onto Gaunts Road

*The meeting was re-convened*

**i) Overgrown tree by Post Office**

The chairman offered to approach the Post Office to highlight the concern that had been raised

**ii) Lack of white lines at Springfield Close / Chapel Road junction**

Taking note of the issue highlighted in public speaking, the clerk was requested to write to Highways

**iii) Red Lane / Sloway Lane**

A Baker reported that potholes and verge damage caused by the recent road works and diversions had yet to be repaired. Previously Highways had assured the PC that once work contractors had finished the repairs would be carried out, in conjunction with Wessex Water.

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Work is now complete so the clerk was requested to contact Highways to request that the work was carried out as soon as possible

**iv) Lippitts Lane**

This is now impassable to walkers – the repairs carried in the autumn have been ineffective

**v) Parking on newly hatched area Old Main Road / Gaunts Road**

The chairman reported that he had spoken with PC Pete Wills who had confirmed that it is difficult to enforce but he would have a word with the owner of the car that regularly parked on the hatching.

Whilst he agreed the ideal solution would be the installation of curbing, as Cllr M Healey has agreed to submit to the small highways improvement scheme, Axbridge council has placed planters in strategic positions on the square to prevent car access. Clerk was requested to write to Highways to ask if this could be an acceptable, cheaper solution.

**vi) Rumours concerning Bus services in Pawlett**

C Clark confirmed that he had contacted First Group, the company running the service through Pawlett, and whilst the timetables are changing slightly, due to Summer Time services there is NO intention to alter any of the routes.

**146. Consider Sedgemoor District Local Plan**

The Sedgemoor District Local Plan is currently open to consultation. It was noted that Pawlett was to remain as a tier 3 settlement. Whilst 690 houses are needed over 17 parishes, currently the housing need in Pawlett is covered by the Springfield Close development.

It was resolved not to pass formal comment to Sedgemoor DC regarding the consultation.

**147. Consider ID cards for Parish Councillors**

The chairman reported that, despite submitting the required information to the printing company, no samples had been received yet.

**148. Play areas**

**i) Annual Inspection**

The clerk reported that the annual inspections were due in April. It had previously been noted by councillors that Wicksteed, the company which has done previous inspections, appeared to use the inspection as a promotional opportunity. It was agreed to engage the services of an alternative company for 2017. M Neale offered to approach both The Playground Inspection Company and GB Sport and Leisure for quotes to inspect, and it was resolved that M Neale would engage the most appropriate company to do the 2017 inspections.

**ii) Maintenance**

A Baker noted that there was a large amount of moss growing on the safety surfaces around the equipment on the Green. M Neale agreed to inspect and formulate a plan of action

**149. Annual Parish Meeting**

Councillors had considered changing the format of the Annual Parish Meeting to make it more inclusive to village groups and encourage a greater sense of community spirit and involvement. It was agreed to make it a 'standalone' event for 2017, separate from the Annual Parish Council Meeting, and invite community groups to give a short presentation regarding their activities over the year and host a stall / table in the room showcasing their group.

In order to give plenty of time for groups to prepare it was thought that a date in May would be most suitable, probably a Friday evening to encourage the maximum number of villagers to attend. The Village Hall is already booked for Friday evenings so the chairman offered to discuss a suitable date with the Pavilion.

**150. Correspondence**

- 1) Police Update
  - 2) Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group: Proposals for future development of services at Western General Hospital
  - 3) Bridgewater Library: River Parrett event
- Minutes Pawlett Parish Council – Meeting 20<sup>th</sup> February 2017

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- 4) Sedgemoor DC: Great British Spring Clean
- 5) Sedgemoor DC: Heart of the South West devolution press release
- 6) Sedgemoor DC: Homes in Sedgemoor, new website launch
- 7) Hinkley Point C, Look Ahead: February 2017
- 8) SALC: South West regional conference
- 9) P&S RA Correspondence
- 10) Pavilion Correspondence
- 11) Somerset CC: Thank Somerset's Volunteers
- 12) Sedgemoor DC: Local plan

**151. Topics for Future Meetings**

- i) Road chaos in Bridgwater

**152. Date and Time of next meeting**

Monday 20th March 2017 at 7.00 pm in the Village Hall

Meeting closed at 8.35 pm