

# PAWLETT PARISH COUNCIL

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The minutes of the meeting of Pawlett Parish Council held at the Village Hall, Old Main Road, Pawlett on Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at 7.00 pm

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

## **Present: Parish Councillors:**

R Winter (Chair), M Neale (Vice-chair), A Baker, C Clark, W Barnard and H Smith  
Clerk, C Morrison-Jones, together with 2 members of the public  
SCC Cllr M Healey

## **Public speaking:**

- Fly tipping – 26<sup>th</sup> Oct an was armchair dumped in Vicarage Lane. Reported to SDC, and it was removed later that day
- Could the PC consider a representative at the Remembrance Service next year?
- People are driving over fields lamping. Chairman reported that he has spoken to PC Wills. Police not able to take action unless car registration details are taken and reported

## **1. Welcome by the Chairman.**

R Winter welcomed those present to the meeting

## **2. To receive any apologies for absence.**

Apologies of absence from Cllr M Seabourne & Cllr J Woodman

### **Declarations of interest:**

None

## **3. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2017 to be presented and signed.**

The presented minutes were agreed as a true and correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman

## **4. Matters Arising:**

### **a) 'Path to no-where'**

The Chair had previously circulated a report from the new Highways rep, Katherine Tyson. This indicated that the path from the boundary of Springfield gardens to the Pavilion boundary was not included in the paths/roads that were going to be adopted by Highways. Stonewater have requested a date to meet but have yet to respond to the PC's letter enquiring if the offer of £5000 is still open. Clerk has confirmed to Stonewater that a response is required before a meeting date can be organised.

### **b) Junction of Old Main Road / Manor Road, Pound Road and Chapel Road, and Monmouth Farm Close junction**

Parking on opposite has stopped and bollards have made people slow down when taking corner. Katherine Tyson agreed that the re curbing was a final permanent solution. SCC Cllr M Healey has put this junction forward for a Small Highways Improvement Scheme grant.

### **c) Poster Competition regarding the switching on of the Christmas Tree lights**

Hasn't happened for this year. The Chair offered to find a Pawlett child to do the switch on for 2017. Switch is at 5pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> December, on is to follow on Christingle service at the church which commences at 4pm.

#### **d) Outdoor gym equipment**

MN confirmed that the RLT2 grant had been secured from SDC and agreement gained from the Pavilion re the proposed fencing (as discussed with their representatives at the October PC meeting). The order for the equipment was placed with Sutcliffe Play (SW) on 15<sup>th</sup> November. Sutcliffe Play have indicated that site preparation may commence in the week of 11<sup>th</sup> December, but this is yet to be confirmed. Fencing & gate to be installed after equipment is installed. MN will be clerk of works to ensure that land is left in good condition after works are finished

Councillors were requested by Sutcliffe Play to choose the colour for the rubber mulch safety surface to be laid around the equipment– black was unanimously agreed

#### **e) Community land**

The solicitor working for the PC has yet to hear back from SCC regarding the query of the timescale for adoption of the Springfield Close paths and roads, although the clerk's enquiries have indicated that adoption is not imminent

#### **f) January PC meeting venue**

Due to the redecoration of the Village Hall it was resolved to re-schedule the January meeting to 29<sup>th</sup> January, at the Village Hall, and cancel the meeting originally planned for 15<sup>th</sup> January

#### **g) Any other matters arising not covered by agenda items below.**

Junction of Monmouth Farm Close – Katherine Tyson agreed to repaint the junction lines as they are faded. RW told KT that buses cut the corner when making the turn into bus stop. KT suggested that putting a bollard on edge of bus stop would ensure that the bus turns into stop correctly.

Lay-by idea: KT could see benefits but there are 2 BT boxes present that could be problematic and the grass forms part of the visibility splay for Monmouth Farm.

### **5. County and District Councillor Reports**

SCC Cllr M Healey

- Devolved powers - 19 SW councils are working together to gain £30million from government. MH is seeking assurance that Somerset gets its fair share and doesn't become a 'poor' cousin to Devon councils.
- SDC. Parrett barrage is expected to be finished by 2024. Total cost is not totally defined yet, but project will go ahead. MH has raised concerns that this is not sensible to proceed without a defined project cost
- SDC review- generally came out of it well.
- Small Highways Improvement Scheme -MH will check up on it but it is not guaranteed to be accepted. Grants expected to be issued every 2 years at present, but not assured for future

### **6. Planning Matters**

#### **Any planning related matters notified to Clerk in advance of the meeting**

The below planning application has been received since the publication of the agenda, with a response to SDC required before the date of the next PPC meeting

#### **Application 41/17/00015**

#### **Removal of 2 no. Hedgerows 179m (plan 1) and 170m (plan 2) on land at Pawlett Level. Letherbridge Farm, Stretcholt TA6 4SR**

WB explained that the owner has recently acquired a field and he wishes to straighten up the field boundary. Red line indicates existing ditch & hedge boundary. Drainage board to oversee ditch rerouting. Green line indicates planned new hedging. The current hedge is not a 'heritage rich hedge'.

Councillors noted that no planting scheme has been included in the application and resolved to support the application on the basis that the hedge is replaced with a mix of native species

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

None

## **8. Roads and Footpaths**

*WB declared a pecuniary interest in this item and left the meeting at this point*

PC has received a letter from a resident in Scot Close regarding an allegation of PC involvement in complaining of dropped curb not being installed correctly.

RW had met with resident concerned to discuss the issue and asked her to put her problem in writing so that it could be investigated. He also assured the resident that the PC had not raised any complaint regarding her property or the curb.

KT (Highways) has assured RW that curb has been done correctly (even though not under Highways jurisdiction as Scot Close is an un-adopted road)

The clerk reported that she had spoken with Mr P Knight, who works for Homes in Sedgemoor, not SDC as thought by the resident, and he stated that he does not recall the letter as a correct version of events

Cllr M Healey insisted that the PC should be writing to chief executive of SDC to ask on what authority was Mr Knight acting, and what authority did he have to threaten enforcement action. Councillors expressed grave concerns under what authority Mr Knight had to approach a private home owner and the potential reputational damage that his action has caused the PC.

*WB re-joined meeting at this point*

## **9. Playground**

MN clarified with HS that the Pavilion is responsible for fencing & gates (as per the lease) as spring closure on the gate needs fixing. MN will ask Pavilion to fix the spring

## **10. Fly tipping**

This is a Somerset wide problem that is costing councils a huge amount of money to sort out CC wondered how much do councils receive from people using the recycling centres and does this outweigh cost of clearing up fly tipping? WB suggested that the land fill tax (landfill tax is over £100 per tonne) goes back to central government, rather than to district councils. WB reported that drainage board confirm that there has been a large upswing on amount of tipping on the Hams recently. It was felt by councillors that more effort could be made to investigate the source of the rubbish when it is cleared up.

RW suggested that if the problem gets worse then maybe the PC could consider trail cams to capture the culprits? HS suggested that the full implications, legal and personal, of this would need to be thoroughly investigated before such action was taken

## **11. Councillor ID cards**

RW reported that he has not actioned this yet as the software on his new IT equipment is not currently compatible with the application he was intending to use. Awaiting software update for a fix.

## **12. Christmas Tree on the Green**

M Coombes has agreed to collect the tree on 29<sup>th</sup> November and WB will erect it with his telehandler. WB has bought an additional set of lights for the tree and switch on of the lights is scheduled for 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec.

## **13. Winter salt and grit**

The clerk reported that the SCC depot open day will be on Saturday the 25 November 2017 to enable a representative from the Parish Council the opportunity to collect 10 x 20kg salt bags in advance of the winter season. Councillors resolved that the parish didn't need any more this year as previous years supplies have unused previously

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Signed and Dated .....Chairman

Additionally, the clerk had been informed that this year Highways will only be filling salt / grit bins on a reactive basis (due to last year's mild weather), therefore SCC require to be informed by Friday 24 November the specific locations in the parish that require topping up. Councillors agreed to check the bins before 24th and let clerk know if any need topping up

*2 members of the public & Cllr M Healey left meeting at this point*

#### **14. Financial Matters.**

##### **a) Approve payment of creditors.**

1	Clerk	Salary, November 2017	£384.40
2	HMRC	Clerk's PAYE	£2.20
3	Clerk	Expenses & reimbursements	£55.59
4	Green energy	Electricity on the Green	£5.86
5	Greenacres	Grass cutting	£2,700.00
6.	W Barnard	Christmas lights (plus total of £167.95, previous cheques 805 & 849 to be cancelled as mislaid)	£200.94

##### **b) Receipts received**

None

##### **c) Bank reconciliation**

The Clerk had previously circulated a bank reconciliation statement and supporting documents as at 5<sup>th</sup> October 2017 showing a balance of £43,095.52. The council unanimously agreed the statement

##### **d) Any other financial matters notified to the Clerk in advance of the**

None

#### **15. Correspondence**

- 1) Somerset County Council:
  - i. Guide to Winter Services
- 2) Sedgemoor DC:
  - i. Skills event to showcase Hinkley Point C careers
  - ii. NE Parish Cluster invite
  - iii. Wembdon Neighbourhood Plan
- 3) Avon & Somerset Police
  - i. PCC's Community Action Fund
  - ii. Peel Efficiency Report
- 4) Suzanne Nesbit, PPC solicitor in regards to Community Land Transfer
- 5) Outdoor Gym correspondence
- 6) Somerset Community Foundation – new Hinkley Point C funding for communities
- 7) St Margaret's Hospice appeal
- 8) Somerset Waste Partnership
  - i. October 2017 briefing
  - ii. Refuse & Recycling Bank Holiday Collection Dates
- 9) Correspondence from Parishioners
  - i. Fly Tipping
  - ii. Planning Applications
  - iii. Dropped Kerbs

#### **16. Topics for Future Meetings.**

#### **17. Date and time of the next meeting –18<sup>th</sup> December 2017 at 7.00 pm in the Village Hall, Old Main Road, Pawlett.**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.30pm