PAWLETT PARISH COUNCIL

www.pawlettparish.org

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

The minutes of the meeting of Pawlett Parish Council was held at the Village Hall, Old Main Road, Pawlett on Monday, 18th September 2017 at 7.00 pm

Present: Parish Councillors: R Winter (Chairman), M Neale (Vice-chair), A Baker, C Clark, W Barnard and H Smith
Clerk C Morrison-Jones, together with 6 members of the public

Environment Agency Presentation regarding the Bridgwater Tidal Barrier Scheme

Two representatives from the Environment Agency gave a short presentation before the Parish Council meeting commenced with the aim of answering any questions that councillors or members of the public may have regarding the Bridgwater Tidal Barrier Scheme's Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and to update people on Bridgwater Tidal Barrier Scheme and downstream defences.

- Currently there is an in informal consultation ongoing regarding the PEIR.
- SDC & EA are working in partnership on this scheme and are funded by SDC, local enterprise partnerships and the Somerset Rivers Authority.
- Aim is to protect Bridgwater & surrounding areas from tidal (not fluvial) flooding.

In 2014 a tidal event brought flood 150mm from top of defences (which are 1.5m tall) in Bridgwater.

- The proposed scheme is expected to benefit over 11,000 homes, 1000 business and £2.5 billion of assets will be protected.
- Current cost expected to be £60-70 million. Costs have increased since meeting earlier in the year indicated possible cost of £45 million. This is mainly due to ground considerations and deciding to opt for double gate proposal, not the single gate that was in favour previously. Also improving banks and downstream defences will cost more than original budget.

- The preferred option, site 5 between Chilton Trinity village and Express Park, was announced in March 2017. It was chosen as the site provides a more stable river channel, better access for construction traffic and only a 20m wide structure required due to the width of the channel at this point. At site 5 all these factors lead to it being cheaper to build and having cheaper life time maintainenace costs.
- Preferred gate type is a vertical lift gate (as at Hull) as proven in a silty environment, easier to inspect and attracts lower maintainenace and operation costs as there is less requirement for specialised staff to operate & maintain it. Bridgwater is proposed to be a twin vertical lift gate which will reduce costs and enable more versatility in operation
Modelling has shown that having a central pier won't be an issue or restrict river flow. The bed of river will be reinforced to prevent erosion issues
- Downstream defences are critical to the scheme. Currently they consist of earth banks built up over time. Existing defences will continue to be maintained to the same level of efficiency for the foreseeable future (will take account of future rises in sea level). The planned secondary defences rely on these existing defences being maintained
- Modelling shows that raising the barrier will not raise local water levels as it will reduce the inflow in to the Parrett from the Severn Estuary rather than water building up in front of the barrier. The barrier will stop 1million cubic metres of water entering the river at its estuary entrance.
- Any future development that takes place has to provide its own flood resilience &

Signed and Dated .....Chairman

protection measures to prove that they are not increasing the flood risk in the area

Objectives for downstream defences:

i. Prevent outflanking of barrier downstream
ii. Protect communities & A38 rail corridor
iii. Mustn't increase flood risk elsewhere
iv. Maintain navigation to Dunball Wharf
v. Continue to protect land

Two options to achieve the objectives have been considered

- Option 1 - raise all existing banks – this raises water level in channel & therefore pushes flood risk elsewhere as overtopping into flood plains would be totally prevented
- Option 2 – raise some of existing banks to strategically allow some overtopping

The preferred option, presented in July, is to maintain the existing defences together with raising the existing flood bank in specific areas and adding specific secondary defences (new 1.5m flood bank for 300m at Keward Farm)

Timescale:

- Environmental assessment process – PEIR sets out scope of assessment and is currently under informal consultation.

It covers water & geomorphology, biodiversity, landscape & visual amenity, community & health, landscape, navigation, archaeology, traffic & transport and heritage.

- The informal consultation will then pass to DEFRA and will then be consulted on formally
- Formal scope & opinion from DEFRA will trigger the formal start of Environmental Impact report from EA
- Transport work acts order will be submitted late in 2018 – this can take up to 18 months to achieve.
- Aim to build 2020-2024

The chairman thanked the EA for taking the time to attend and keeping Pawlett informed of the plans.

The Pawlett Parish Council meeting started at 8.05pm

Present: Parish Councillors: R Winter (Chairman), M Neale (Vice-chair), A Baker, C Clark, W Barnard and H Smith
Clerk C Morrison-Jones, together with 3 members of the public

Public speaking:
No issues raised

1. Welcome by the Chairman.

2. To receive any apologies for absence and disclosures of interest.
Apologies of absence from M Seabourne and SCC Cllrs M Healey & SDC Cllr J Woodman

Declarations of interest:
None

3. Minutes of the Extra-ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 21st August 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' – update

PC has received letter from Stonewater offering £5,000 towards the completion of the path. PC has sent letter to director of Stonewater outlining the councillors' disappointment that they have reneged on their previous assurances that they will complete the path and restating the desire for the path to be completed. The PC will continue to pursue this matter.

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

The chairman reported that the junction has been re-lined and the new markings appear to be effective as no cars are parking there anymore. The three bollards cutting off the area along the wall are due to be installed shortly. The PCs contact at Highways has moved on and an appointment has been requested with his replacement to visit village and discuss the huge problems with parking at entrance at Monmouth Farm Close and vans parking dangerously at the junction of A39 and Manor Road

It was noted that the Small Highways Improvement Scheme is to open soon. The clerk was asked to remind SCC Cllr Healey of his previous offer to put the proposed re-curbing scheme forward for consideration

c) Any other matters arising not covered by agenda items below.

None

5. County and District Councillor Reports

No reports received

6. Consider response to the informal consultation for the Bridgwater Tidal Barrier Scheme's Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)

Councillors resolved to send no formal response

7. Planning Matters:

a) 41/17/00010

3 Quantock Rise, Pawlett, Bridgwater, TA6 4SD

Erection of a single storey extension to rear (SE) elevation, on site of existing conservatory (to be demolished), erection of a single storey extension to NE elevation, to form garage and conversion of loft to living accommodation, including the installation of dormer windows to NW & SE elevations

Councillors resolved to support this application as other bungalows in the area have built similar alterations.

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

i. 41/17/00011

Gaunts Farm, Gaunts Road, Pawlett, Bridgwater, TA6 4SS

Change of use of agricultural land to equestrian, including the erection of a stable block and hay barn, formation of an all-weather riding arena and alterations to existing access

Last year the PC supported previous application for all-weather arena. This new application explains that the applicant's circumstances have now changed – the farm is being sold & land being retained

Councillors resolved to support the application as it was not viewed to cause an impact on local residents

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

The chairman reported that he had attended a fingerpost training course at Somerton on 25th July.

9. Roads and Footpaths.

a) Fly tipping on Pawlett Hams

Cllr Clark reported that two fridges and one fridge freezer had been dumped on Pawlett Hams in August (complete with PAT testing stickers (which should enable the owner to be traced) and reported this to SDC. SDC declined to clear the items as they believe that the land belongs to Wessex Water. The items have been cleared (don't know by whom) and Wessex Water have been contacted and been sent the location details and photographs to enable an investigation to be carried out.

Now a pile of copper cable has been reported as dumped on the Hams – the police are aware

b) Any other matters relating to roads and footpaths in the Parish.

i) Paint on the road, Monmouth Farm Close

This was reported to the Somerset Waste Partnership -they reported that contractors attended and laid granules to soak up as much as possible. The further advice was to contact Highways to request cleaning. This has been done but no response received as yet.

ii) Crossways, before turning into Pawlett, A large BT drain cover was broken.RW reported to Highways and a new cover has now been installed

iii) HS reported that a pedestrian gate on the footpath by the river bank has been locked, preventing access.

iv) Footpath on riverbank - there are some animal feed troughs on the path causing an obstacle

v) CC reported that he had been told that no parking was allowed at the bottom of River Road but had no supporting evidence to this effect. WB says his family owns this area of land and it is private land and technically there is no right of way by the public over this, but not much attention has been paid to enforcing this.

All 3 members of the public left at this point

10. Playground Repairs

HS reported that the handyman for Village Hall is happy to take on the repairs required a the playground, at the rate of £15 per hour. This was approved by Councillors, who also agreed that the handyman should report to MN who would co-ordinate a schedule of works required.

It was noted that the gate at the playground at Pavillion is the responsibility of the Pavilion. HS reported that she discussed this with Ron Winter and he agreed to speak to J Thorne again.

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11. Outdoor Gym Equipment

MN had previously circulated quotes from Sutcliffe Play South West to Members.

His informed Councillors that his preferred option is option 1 (£21,324 ex VAT) with a large rubber mulch pad surrounding all the pieces of equipment as opposed to option 3 (£18,574 ex VAT) which quoted for smaller matting areas around each piece of equipment as this would prevent users getting muddy when moving between pieces of equipment. Site preparation and turfing costs were £2,230 (ex VAT)

The quotes were prepared on 2nd August and are stated to be valid for 90 days.

The clerk reminded Members out that the PCs receipt of the RLT2 money has to be assured by SDC before it can commit to purchase.

Member resolved to proceed with option 1. The clerk will approach the planning department at SDC to assess if planning permission is needed for the project and then proceed with the application for RLT2 funding. MN to advise the company that the quote to be accepted has

been agreed and the process is underway, but the PC won't be able to proceed within the 90 day period due to the requirement to secure the funding before proceeding

12. School Competition regarding the switching on of the Christmas Tree lights

WB reported that the competition is in school calendar to happen. Members noted that the winning poster was needed by the start of November as the lights switch on is 2nd December.

- AB again offered to organise the purchase of the Christmas Tree and it

was agreed that the ideal would be to aim to organise for collection the week prior to the lights switch on.

- WB agreed to purchase an extra set of lights for the tree

13. Consider External Auditors report in respect of the 2016/17 audit

The clerk reported that the External Auditors, Grant Thornton, had completed the 2016/17 audit and have confirmed that the information in the annual return is in accordance with proper practices and that no other matters have come to their attention giving cause for concern that the relevant legislative and regulatory requirements have not been met.
It was noted, under 'other matters not affecting our opinion which we wish to draw to the attention of the authority' that the advertised period for the exercise of public rights exceeded the required 30 working days and the authority should ensure in future the dates for the exercise of public rights are calculated to cover a period of 30 working days only.

14. Financial Matters.

a) Approve payment of creditors.

i)	Clerks Salary, September 2017	£376.61
ii)	HMRC	£0.20
iii)	Clerk's expenses & reimbursements	£72.00
iv)	Green energy	£5.86
v)	Grant Thornton, external auditors	£120.00
vii)	SDC, dog bin empting (deducted from precept)	£585.31

b) Receipts received

20.7.17	HMRC, VAT refund	£546.23

c) Any other financial matters notified to the Clerk in advance of the Meeting.

None

15. Correspondence

1) Sedgemoor DC: press releases

i. Your say on how your council tax is spent – budget consultation
ii. New grant scheme for small businesses
iii. Easier way to pay – automated telephone payment system

2) Avon & Somerset Police:

i. Newsletter 8.9.17
ii. Chief Constable answers your questions live on 27th September

3) Somerset Waste Partnership

i. August newsletter
ii. All re-cycling sites go cash-free
iii. New MD appointed at SWP

4) Somerset Partnership NHS press releases:

i. HRH Countess of Wessex, new royal patron of 'Love Musgrove'
ii. Patients praise Musgrove's food and care environment

5) Defibrillators for Communities Awareness Campaign
6) Somerset Prepared – places of safety
7) Correspondence from Stonewater Ltd
8) Correspondence from P&SRA
9) Correspondence regarding Hinkley Point

Signed and Dated .....Chairman

10) CPRE

i. Invitation to AGM, 12th October 2017
ii. What's Special to you – landscape issues in your Neighbourhood Plan
iii. Countryside Voice – summer 2017

16. Topics for Future Meetings.

ID cards: RW will progress this for the November meeting

17. Date and time of the next meeting –16th October 2017 at 7.00 pm in the Village Hall, Old Main Road, Pawlett.

Apologies in advance from RW as he will be absent

Due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, item 18 conducted in confidential session with the public and press excluded.

18. Employment Matters

The Clerk is currently paid in accordance with the NALC scales of pay, SCP 21
Members resolved to move the Clerk up one point on the scale to SCP 22, backdated to 1st April 2017, in recognition of her continued high level of work and support.
HS requested that this annual review issue be put on April's agendas yearly so that the matter was resolved early in the financial year thereby avoiding any potential build-up of arrears.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.25pm

Signed and Dated .....Chairman