

PAWLETT PARISH COUNCIL

**A Meeting of Pawlett Parish Council was held at the Village Hall, Old Main Road, Pawlett on Monday, 15th February 2016 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 (Vice-Chair), A Baker, W Barnard, M Ritson, T Heap, M Neale. Clerk C Morrison-Jones, Ward District Councillor John Woodman, Ward County Councillor Mark Healey.
Eleven members of the public.

Public Speaking Time: Topics raised:

As Chairman of the Standards Committee, Ward District Councillor John Woodman left the meeting for this part of public speaking time.

- Flyposting : R Winter spoke, as a member of the public, to inform those present in the interest of transparency that he had been made the subject of a complaint to the Monitoring Officer. The fact that he could speak was questioned by a member of the public as flyposting was not on the agenda. The councillors unanimously agreed a dispensation to allow him to speak and the topic be discussed as it was in the interests of transparency and openness.

R Winter continued to state that he had resigned as the entertainment manager at the Royal British Legion Club at their January meeting. He then went on to talk about recent postings made on the 'Pawlett Life' facebook page.

M Healey suggested that it was time that a line was drawn under the matter and that the village started to pull together and this was reinforced by another member of the public.

It was agreed that this topic was only to be discussed until 7.30pm in an attempt to draw it to a close.

A spokesperson for the Pavillion stated that they felt its 'back was against the wall' and that 'it was time to take a stand'. M Healey suggested that the Royal British Legion Club and the Pavilion should have a memorandum of understanding so each knows what each other is trying to achieve.

W Barnard personally thanked M Healey for taking personal risk by trying to mediate and stated that all concerned should put their trust in the system to see the reality and resolve the core issue.

Ward District Councillor John Woodman rejoined the meeting

- Chapel Road development - pot holes, especially by 16a and proposed pathway
- Guants Road sign, opposite Quantock Rise has disintegrated
- Any update on dog waste bin installation?
- Outstanding enforcement of 41/ 12/ 0015. It was originally deferred to July 2015 – update please – M Healey agreed to chase information on this request
- Punctured surface water drain in Manor Road

150. Welcome by Chairman

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R Winter (Vice-Chair) took the Chair for the start of the meeting in the absence of a Chairman (reference Standing Order 1p) and welcomed those present.

151. Resignation of the Chairman

The Clerk reported that C Freeman had resigned both as Chairman and a Parish Councillor on 22nd January. The Clerk read his resignation letter to those present.

152. To Appoint a Chairman of the Parish Council for the remainder of the Municipal Year

The clerk outlined the procedure to be followed (in particular the procedure in event of equality of votes as stated in Standing Orders 1r).

M Ritson proposed W Barnard. This was seconded by T Heap.

W Barnard stated that he was not enthusiastic or experienced but would accept the nomination if it would add clarity to the current situation.

M Neale proposed R Winter. This was seconded by A Baker.

A vote was held and each proposed candidate received 3 votes.

As per Standing Order 1 r), the Chairman R Winter exercised his casting vote in favour of R Winter.

Therefore R Winter was duly elected as Chairman for the remainder of the municipal year.

Mr Winter then signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

153. To receive any apologies for absence, disclosures of interest and requests for dispensation.

None received

154. Minutes.

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 18st January 2016 were presented.

Minute item 140 e), was altered to read 'Stonewater' not 'Stoneway'. Following this amendment, the minutes were approved by the Parish Council and signed as a true and correct record by the Chairman.

155. Casual Vacancy

In accordance with Standing Order 3 xix) a Casual Vacancy had been declared following the resignation of Cllr Freeman on 22nd January. The Returning Officer was duly notified and an official notice regarding the situation was placed on the Notice Boards. The closing date for a petition for an election to be called was 12th February.

The Clerk reported that the Returning Officer had stated that no petition to hold an election had been received by the closing date therefore the casual vacancy could now be filled by co-option. After consulting with the Parish Council, it was agreed to display posters on the two notices boards inviting anyone interested to contact the Chairman or Clerk by 6th March. To save travel expenses, the Clerk suggested she email the posters and R Winter agreed to print them out and place on the notice boards.

Due to ill-health, M Ritson had to leave the meeting at this point. Before he left he raised two points concerning items later on the agenda:

156 d) –suggested requesting a detailed traffic management plan regarding the Chapel Road Development

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174) – suggested that the clerk writes to secretary of the cluster groups to request a copy of the minutes

156. Matters Arising.

a) 91 a - Health and Wellbeing projects

No work yet done due to the bad weather.

b) 91 b - Miscellaneous Works

The painting of the blue swing has not yet commenced due to the bad weather.

c) 91 e - Uneven surfaces on Parish Council land

R Winter reported that he had been in contact with Mr Criddle and the post was due to be erected by the end of the week.

d) 121 Chapel Road Development – suggested removal of pathway

The Clerk reported that she had emailed Stonewater following the email of 6th January but as yet had received no further response. The council confirmed that it had objected at the initial stages.

The meeting was adjourned during this item to allow a member of the public to speak

The Clerk was requested to pursue the matter further and M Healey and J Woodman requested to be cc'd into further correspondence on this matter.

e) Copying of The Green's 'Deed of Gift' for framing

Minute item 140 h) ii. R Winter had consulted with framers regarding the display of copies of these documents. The suggested layout display was a real wood frame of 2" black solid wood with a cream coloured card surround. If this were to be glazed with glass the cost would be in the region of £92 (inc VAT). If a non-breakable acrylic were used this would cost an additional £32.

Councillors voted and it was unanimously agreed to proceed with the frame as described, glazed with glass.

f) Any other matters arising

None

157. Planning Matters

a) Application – Consider response to Local Planning Authority on:

Reference: 41/16/00002/DRT

Proposal: Erection of a single story extension to front (North) elevation

Location: 15 Guants Road, Pawlett, Bridgwater TA6 4SF

Applicant: Mr N Gamblin

The Chair reported that he had consulted with the immediate neighbours and they had no objections to the proposed development. All councillors agreed to support the application as the proposals were in keeping with similar developments to other properties in Guants Road. Clerk to respond.

b) Decisions notified by Local Planning Authorities to be recorded.

None

c) Any other planning related matters

M Neale requested that he be added to the planning documents circulation list.

158. District Councillor's Report

J Woodman reported that the current 'buzzword' is devolution and the implications for Somerset. It is generating plenty of paperwork but no real substance as yet. He assured councillors that he would report as soon as there was further news.

He also reminded councillors to ensure that their declarations of interest forms had been completed and returned.

159. County Councillors Report

M Healey suggested was it 'devolution' or 'revolution'? At present it was thought that if a no Mayor were appointed that it may cut the powers allocated by 50%.

SCC has been awarded £2.4 million rural settlement but still tough decisions were needed to decide what to put it against reduce the precept? Drainage Board? Adult education? Put into the reserves?

SCC budget meeting was not good news with more cuts being needed as SCC is being expected to fund more. The good news is however, that a 4 year settlement has been agreed, rather than the current annual, so plans can now be made over a longer period of time.

M Healey reported that he had managed to secure a grant for Pawlett PC from the Health and Wellbeing Fund to be used towards the cost of installing electricity on the Green to extend the hours that the Green was usable to families.

160. To Receive Reports from Members if Meetings attended.

None attended.

Ward District Councillor John Woodman, Ward County Councillor Mark Healey left the meeting at this point.

161. Financial Matters.

a) Approve/confirm payment of creditors.

The Clerk reported that NatWest had yet to action the bank mandate (**minute 131b**) adding new signatories. Consequentially only one councillor present (T Heap) had the authority to sign cheques for payment. However, due the mandate not yet being actioned, M Sims was still on the authorised signatory list and it was requested that she co-signed the cheques issued at his meeting.

The following payments were approved :-

- i. Green Energy £113.57 (inc £5.41), chq number 809
- ii. Clerks salary £265.16, chq number 810
- iii. HMRC – Clerk's PAYE £66.40, chq number 811
- iv. LGRC (Associated) Ltd – Transparency Code Training on 22.2.16 (Clerk to attend) £72.00 (inc £12.00 VAT), chq number 812
- v. Clerk's expenses & reimbursements £261.52 (inc £5.58 VAT), chq number 813
- vi. Outgoing Clerk (G Jarvis) final expenses & reimbursements £158.53 (inc £2.27 VAT), chq number 814
- vii. SALC – in Anticipation of invoice, Good Councillor Training on 18.2.16 (M Neale to attend) £25, chq number 815
- viii. Mendip Community Transport (**minute 161c**) £50, chq number 816

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b) Agree Bank Reconciliation Statement as at 31st December 2015

The Clerk presented a bank reconciliation statement as at 31st December 2015. The statement was agreed by the Parish Council and signed by the Chairman.

c) Consider Grant Request from Mendip Community Transport

The Clerk read out the request letter from Mendip Community Transport and reminded the Council that it had awarded a grant of £50 the previous year. The council unanimously agreed to again award a grant of £50. (Payment made under the provision of Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1974).

d) Any other financial matters notified to the Clerk in advance of the Meeting.
None

162. Roads and Footpaths.

a) Bus Shelter repairs, Old Main Road - Update.

Repairs had not commenced due to the bad weather.

b) Provision of extra Dog Waste Bin, Stretcholt – Update

The Clerk had informed Sedgemoor DC of the request to reset the post on Old Main Road (**minute 146 c**) before fastening the bin. Bins are still with Mr Freeman awaiting collection by Sedgemoor DC.

c) Land adjoining A38 between Old Main Road and Manor Road - Update.

Nothing to report. The Chair agreed to press for an update.

d) Consider street name for new Development off Chapel Road.

(**minute 146 e**) A Baker had been unable to determine the original name of the developed field. It was felt by the Council that if a name was chosen without connections to any villager (past or present) there would be less chance of unintentionally causing offence. The name 'Springfield Close' was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed. Clerk to communicate the Parish Council's decision to Sedgemoor DC.

e) Speed Control / Signage on A38 – update

(**minute 132 f**) v). The Clerk read an email received from County Roads, Sedgemoor on 21st January. It stated that the request to reduce the speed limit to 30mph could not be considered as the area does not meet the criteria set by the Department of Transport. However the request to improve signage was being considered and further investigations would be carried out.

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

- i. The pot holes outside the new development on Chapel Road have been temporarily filled with gravel but there is still a steep gully. The Clerk reported on the email she received on 26th January from Highways stating that the surface had been examined but was not currently considered to be a safety defect. The Clerk was requested to contact Highways again
- ii. The Chair reported that he had visited the site on Chapel Road and spoken to the foreman to request that the mud from construction traffic be cleared from Chapel Road. This has been done
- iii. Concerns were raised about speeding through the village along Old Main Road. It was felt that the 30mph limit was not adhered to and this was in effect dividing the village into two halves as it proved very difficult to cross this road safely, especially for the young or the infirm. The Clerk was requested to contact Highways for suggestions as to how traffic calming could be implemented through the village.

- iv. Damage to the footpath along A38, 3rd February. The clerk reported that this damage had already been reported to Highways but as yet no response had been received.
- v. **(minute 117 e) ii)** The sign for Guants Road has disintegrated. This was originally reported on 7th December by the Clerk. Clerk to chase up with Sedgemoor DC). T Heap to continue with the review of street signs in the parish.
- vi. **(minute 146 f) i)** This telegraph pole is still causing issues with the surface drain. Clerk to pursue with Western Power.

163. Parish Path Liason Officer

Following the resignation of C Freeman from this role a replacement is needed. It does not have to be a Parish Councillor.

The Chair asked T Heap if she would consider taking it on, however she expressed concerns that she would not have the time available to do this. Additionally M Neale expressed an interest in being involved. T Heap was given the paperwork to review and consider if she could take on the extra work that this role entailed.

164. Play Equipment Inspections

This is another duty that was formally carried out by C Freeman. The Chair asked M Neale if he would be able to carry out the regular inspections. M Neale agreed and the relevant paperwork and inspection book was handed over.

The Clerk is to book the annual playground inspection – M Neale expressed an interest in being present at the time of the inspection to assist him understand what specific checks should be made.

165. Correspondance

The following items were in the bundle for members to circulate:

- 1) Sedgemoor District Council:
 - a-Clean for the Queen
 - b-Traditional signs information
 - c-Litter Free Coast & Sea press release
 - d-Avon & Somerset Police Press Release
- 2) Somerset Waste Partnership: Monthly Briefing – 2016.
- 3) Smaller Authorities Audit Appointments Ltd – External Audit for Smaller Authorities information
- 4) Hinkley Point B – January 2016 monthly report
- 5) Coastal Cluster (17th Feb) cancellation
- 6) Hinkley Point C – tree work information

166. Topics for Future Meetings

External Audit for Smaller Authorities– correspondence included in above bundle to be discussed

There was agreement to request the press and public to leave the Meeting during consideration of the following item on the grounds that it would involve the disclosure of information defined as exempt by para 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

167. Employment Matters

It was agreed to offer the Clerk an increased salary equal to SCP 20, to commence in March. This would then rise an additional point to SCP 21 at the beginning of April. The Clerk accepted this offer and thanked the Parish Council for acknowledging the value of her work.

168. Date and time of next meeting

21st March 2016 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall, Old Main Road, Pawlett

Meeting closed at 9.04 pm