

MINUTES OF PILTON PARISH COUNCIL

FULL COUNCIL MEETING

held at Pilton Village Hall

Wednesday 8 January 2025

Present: Cllrs: K Sumner, N Hall, R Woodhouse, R Noble, O Powell, C Connock, T Moulder. T Hollings, L Roberts.

In Attendance: members of the public, Cllr Sully (Somerset Council) (part), Gill Pettitt (virtually) (Parish Clerk).

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

- Request for grit bin at Pylle Road. What3words identification requested. More grit will be asked for.

136. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TO CONSIDER THE REASONS GIVEN

All councillors present.

137. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Sumner declared an interest in item 142 application 2024/2235/HSE

138. DISPENSATIONS

- a. No dispensations were requested

139. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

- a. **RESOLVED:** To confirm and sign minutes of the Pilton Parish Council meeting of 4 December 2024. Proposed Cllr Moulder, 2nd Cllr Roberts. Approved.

140. EXTERNAL REPORTS

- a. Avon and Somerset Police - No report
- b. Somerset Council - Cllr Sully arrived later in the meeting. She reported on her work on Whitstone Hill and her help to individuals affected by flood water from the A361. She is concerned about the amount of water on the road that turns to ice. Works are expected this financial year. Parish Council will publicise information on who to report road defects to. Tessa Munt MP will be contacted. Cllr Noble will pass information to the Clerk for Cllr Sully to make enquiries re Bird Hill signage (No HGV) at the top of Neat Lane which need to be replaced after removal for festival access.

The government Social Care review is deferred for 3 years, which has contributed to a budget problem of £50m deficit for the next financial year.

- #### 141. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS - Cllr Sully of Somerset Council has been working with Highways to pull forward the work on Whitstone Hill to deal with water flow. Community Fridge - it is disappointing that produce is being strewn in the road. Roundabout - is to produced by a new team. John Broxup told the meeting that the first edition would be published in February and called for articles, Croscombe and North Wootton may contribute. It will include church news but have more of a community focus. By March advertisers will be included.

Code of Conduct complaint - The Deputy Monitoring Officer (DMO) has made a decision on two complaints received from members of the public regarding whether Cllr Hall's representation at the Somerset Council Scrutiny Committee may be misleading in terms of whether he was representing himself or the Parish Council.

- His report to the committee is in the public domain and no reference was made to the Parish Council or its decisions.
- Cllr Hall is not responsible for media reports arising from the Committee meeting.

07779 228299

- The use of ‘we’ rather than ‘I’ is not sufficient evidence that Cllr Hall was acting in his official capacity and therefore the Code of Conduct is not engaged.
- Cllr Hall should ensure that he is very clear in future in which capacity he is speaking to avoid confusion. Just saying that one is acting in a personal capacity is not always sufficient and one must always consider terminology as well as being mindful of public perceptions.

Decision: No further action.

Recommendation: Whether a councillor is acting in their official capacity or not can at times be a difficult one to navigate. The Deputy Monitoring Officer recommends that Pilton Parish Council considers arranging training for its members on the Code of Conduct to cover this area.

142. PLANNING

- a. To consider the following Planning Applications and any that arise before the meeting.

[2024/1253/FUL Retrospective application for the erection of new general purpose agricultural building including storage of ancillary items \(additional info rec'd 22 Nov and 04 & 23 Dec 2024\)](#)

Land At 360080 139131 Cockmill Lane East Pennard

RESOLVED: That the Planning Authority is referred to the Pilton Parish Council response of 12 August 2024 which remains unchanged after Council reviewed, at its 8 January 2025 Full Council, the additional documents submitted by the applicant. Proposed Cllr Hall; 2nd Cllr Noble. Approved with one abstention - Cllr Powell.

[2024/2299/TCA T1 - Macrocarpa - Reduce to fork of two stems at 6m.](#) Beales House John Beales Hill Pilton. Noted.

[2024/2290/TCA - T1 - Cherry. Reduce height by one third.](#)

[T2 - Laburnum. Reduce height by one third.](#)

[T3 - Yew hedging. Reduce height by one third.](#)

[T4 - Cedrus deodara. Reduce height by one quarter.](#) Mulberry Cottage Bread Street Pilton. Noted

[2024/2235/HSE - Proposed single storey replacement side extension, Two-Storey rear extension with single storey link extension to Garage conversion](#) East Town Lodge East Town Lane Pilton

[Cllr Sumner did not take part in the debate or vote]

Cllr Hollings took the Chair for this item.

RESOLVED: Pilton Parish Council supports application 2024/2235/HSE. Material Consideration 3 - the extension will have low impact with no change of roof height and improvements to the patio area. Proposed Cllr Powell; 2nd Cllr Moulder. Approved.

Cllr Sumner resumed the Chair.

[2024/2192/TCA - T1 - Weeping Willow - Reduce to previous pruning points. T2 - Silver Birch - Fell.](#) Orchard Cottage Weir Lane Pilton. Noted.

- b. To note appeal decision and Costs Appeal Ref: APP/E3335/C/23/3333243 Building on land west of Winters Hill Lane, West Compton. Noted that the Enforcement Officer's notice was nullified, and it is understood that Somerset Council is considering issuing a new notice.

143. CODE OF CONDUCT

- a. To review the Code of Conduct. Deferred to Annual Meeting. Recent issues have applied to the Press coverage rather than Code of Conduct.
- b. To consider Code of Conduct training - upcoming sessions 11 February 6pm (remote) and 14 March 2pm (Glastonbury Town Hall) - Cllrs to inform the Clerk of which sessions they wish to attend.

144. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS AND RESOLVE ANY ACTIONS ARISING

- a. **Burial Ground Working Group** - Stone has been removed from the ditch that has caused blockage and flooded the north side. Hedges have been cut. Some discussion

07779 228299

on whether to use a skip for an upcoming double burial plot. The new grave diggers will be asked to remove the excess spoil. Plugs will be purchased for planting in the burial area

Cllr Moulder requested that Cllrs do not intimidate other Cllrs.

b. Parish Community Review Steering Group

- i. To note the Executive Summary. Noted.

c. Traffic Planning Working Group - The TPWG had not meet. Cllr Hollings reported:

- i. The cost of temporary traffic lights at Conduit Square would be very expensive @ £20,000 if approved and £100,000+ if it became permanent. Highways do not recommend this. The Traffic Plan Working Group will discuss.
- ii. When the A361 is closed, traffic passes through Top Street. Request that signage be put up to slow traffic down. Noted that 20mph repeaters are already in place. Cllrs were advised to report to Somerset Council.
- iii. Glastonbury Town Council has written to the MP requesting the declassification of freight route for a small section through Glastonbury.

d. Flooding Triad

- i. To consider disbanding the Flooding Triad and to approve a Flooding Working Group. The Flooding Triad will be retained.
- ii. To appoint members to the Flooding Triad / Working Group (dependent upon outcome of item 143d.i.).

RESOLVED: To appoint Cllr Sumner, Cllr Moulder and Liz Mayhew to the Flooding Triad. Proposed Cllr Sumner; 2nd Cllr Moulder. Approved.

e. Footpaths Working Group - To approve (or not) submission to Bridleway hearing.

RESOLVED: To approve the letter draft supplied by Cllr Hall be sent to the Bridleways authority. Proposed Cllr Hall, 2nd Cllr Sumner. Approved.

RESOLVED: To suspend Standing Orders to extend the meeting to 9:25pm. Approved.

145. WAR MEMORIAL - note costings will be reviewed within the budget at item 148. Noted.

146. BUS ROUTE - GLASTONBURY TO CASTLE CARY - To receive report on progress of discussions to implement a bus route between Glastonbury and Castle Cary and to approve any actions arising. Cllr Hall reported that a few grant applications are in process. The working group is very active. Between half a million and one million visitors go to Glastonbury annually for which there is no direct rail route. Great Western Railways are involved. A small vehicle with up to 2 drivers 7 days per week from 7am-7:30pm on weekdays. Routes are still to be decided, however the preferred route is through Pilton. Looking for about £20,000 from councils shared proportionately. A pilot service will be trialled before commitment. Pilton Parish Council may consider including this in the 26/27 budget.

147. PARISH COMMUNICATIONS - Noting that a new magazine is in development by parishioners, to discuss Council communications with the parish and approve any actions arising. Noted in item 141 - Chair's Announcements above.

148. FINANCE

- a. To approve (or not) Grant application from The Rubbish Art Project. Whilst Council supports the project, information has not been fully supplied. Deferred to next month.
- b. To approve (or not) Budget 25/26. Cllr Woodhouse reported that broadly 5% inflation was used. 8.5% applied to salaries on SALC advice and would cover the normal spinal point increase and increase for completion of training, and an increase to the groundsman costs to cover anticipated services. Precept recommendation to increase to £32,488 which is a 25p per week increase per Band D household from £52.98 to £63.58 per annum. The Council needs to build up reserves and may need to cover for the loss of discretionary services from Somerset

07779 228299

Council. A higher interest deposit account will be sought for reserves thus interest income will be higher. Training may be amended to £450 to cover additional Code of Conduct training. Ear marked reserves include the ring fenced GFEL donation for community initiatives. NI employer contributions have increased due to the Government budget increase. £5,000 has been included for the Community Contingency that could be used to offer bridge funding loans to community groups, and the budget for the ASBOs has increased from £150 to £500. The skip budget is provisional at this stage.

- i. To approve (or not) subscription to Scribe finance management system.
Approved.

RESOLVED: To approve the budget as presented with amendments of Training to rise to £450 and the Skip breakdown to be provisional. Proposed Cllr Woodhouse, 2nd Cllr Sumner. Approved.

RESOLVED: To approve the precept for 25/26 of £32,488. Proposed Cllr Sumner, 2nd Cllr Woodhouse. Approved.

- c. To note payments - SLCC subscription £150; Salaries and HMRC tax £1,012.34; Working from Home Allowance £26.00.
Noted.
- d. To approve transfer - £48,000 from Current a/c to Business Interest a/c.
RESOLVED: To approve transfer of £48,000 from Current a/c to Business Interest a/c. Proposed Cllr Woodhouse, 2nd Cllr Sumner. Approved.
- e. To note Bank Reconciliation to December 2024. Deferred.

149. MATTERS OF REPORT An article will be submitted to the Roundabout team for the February edition.

150. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: To Exclude Press and Public from item 151. Proposed Cllr Hollings, 2nd Cllr Sumner.

151. CLOSED SESSION

- a. Staffing Committee
 - i. **RESOLVED:** To approve 3hrs over time from November and 6hrs overtime for December - as recommended by the Staffing Triad. Proposed Cllr Woodhouse, 2nd Cllr Sumner. Approved with one abstention, Cllr Roberts.

NEXT MEETING: Full Council - 5 February 2025