

**Minutes of the Ordinary Pitton and Farley Parish Council meeting held on
Wednesday 29th September 2021 at 8.00pm at Pitton Village Hall.**

Present:

Cllr David Ball (Chairman)
Cllr Sarah Ackrill (Vice Chairman)
Cllr James Boswell

In attendance: Nadine Fortune, Parish Clerk

Also present: Wiltshire Councillor: Cllr Richard Britton; 6 members of the public

Public session

Wiltshire Councillor Richard Britton gave his report:

- There is currently no local case work in Pitton and Farley.
- The majority of ongoing issues are related to enforcement, planning and housing.
- There is a huge hole in Council funding for 2022/2023.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

1. **To receive apologies** - None
2. **To receive any Declarations of Interest and decide upon any Requests for Dispensations** - 1 pecuniary declaration of interest was declared, relating to agenda item 13. Application 2.
3. **To consider any urgent matters raised in the public session, and any other urgent matters or items of information from councillors (For discussions only, no decision can be taken)**

4. Minutes

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 28th July 2021

Resolved: Minutes approved

5. Matters raised in correspondence

a) To note residents' concerns regarding overhanging trees in the Pitton cemetery

Resolved: This matter was passed on to a member of the St Peter's team responsible for buildings and grounds. An arboriculturalist assessed the concerns and the resident was advised that remedial work would not be required, the situation would be monitored and that any risks had been mitigated. The resident was reminded that the land is the property of the Church, not the Parish Council

b) To note residents' concerns and the latest situation regarding the possibility of restricted access to the paths across the downs to Winterslow

The Wiltshire Council notice that has been put up by the circular route between Pitton and Farley indicates plans for restricted/no access to walkers, even though the land has been used for this purpose for generations. It would appear that during the lockdown period people were walking and even driving where they liked regardless of access rights. The matter has been raised to Winterslow Parish Council and a response is expected. **Action:** Clerk to send follow up email to Winterslow Clerk if no response received by mid October

c) To discuss concern from a resident regarding the overhanging hedge between The Green and The Close

Residents have been commenting that the hedge bordering the path through 'The Close' up to 'Close House' is overhanging the path and making it difficult to pass. The resident has been contacted and had arranged for an estimate to be carried out to have the hedge cut back. At the time of this meeting the work has not yet been completed. **Action:** Clerk to contact resident again and ask for timescale for hedge works

d) To discuss any known local events scheduled for 25th December for the lonely or vulnerable

The Wiltshire Council Community Engagement Manager has asked Parish Councils to update them on any Christmas events locally for the lonely or vulnerable. It is unknown if there are any events planned.

Action: Clerk to arrange for a notice to be put up asking residents if they know of any events

e) To discuss the Parish Council's attendance at the Climate Strategy meeting There has not previously been participation from the Parish Council or residents at the strategy meetings. Action Clerk to request notices from Wiltshire Council and display them in the villages, advising residents how to join in this initiative.

f) To discuss IT poverty in the villages

It was discussed whether there is restricted access to IT systems for many residents and what can be done to help communication for those who do not have access. It was suggested that a notice is put up asking residents to advise the council if they have concerns in this area. Suggestion of a community event to discuss this was also made. It was mentioned that the improved accessibility of notice boards will be beneficial to those without IT access. It was learned that area board funds can be available for projects of this nature once information is gathered.

Action Clerk to put up notice asking residents for feedback on this matter and request information on the process from the area board.

g) To discuss possible locations for mobile van sharing information on asymptomatic testing, NHS health checks and covid and flu vaccinations.

There is a possibility that this service may commence soon. Possible sites were discussed, with the focus on accessibility for as many residents as possible. Suggestions made were Slate Way in Pitton and Church Street, opposite the hospital, or Farley Fox car park in Farley. Action: Clerk to feed back suggestions to Wiltshire Council

6. To review other ongoing matters

a) To discuss the response to the letter written to Farley Camping and future camping at the site. Following the Parish Council's contact with the campsite, positive feedback was received. The campsite was in operation for 28 days and local businesses benefitted from the venture. If the site is to be operated again in the future, this will be advertised locally and the Parish Council will be made aware.

b) To note the current situation with the cordoned off area at Stockbottom Farm and Wiltshire Council response There was a delay to enforcement looking into this matter however the vehicle owner has now been spoken to and is in discussions with the owner about how to proceed. The vehicle remains the only one and there are currently no additional concerns. Action: Clerk to check if the enforcement file remains open and if any further action required

c) Co-option of new Councillors – to discuss possible applicants and revised advert for applicants The emphasis remains on co-opted candidates from the Farley Ward. Some interest has been received and responded to. There will be attendance from the Parish Council at the Farley Village Hall AGM where a request for interested candidates will also be made. Action: Cllr Ackrill to advise of any interested candidates following AGM.

d) To note the latest situation with the noticeboards It was confirmed that 2 boards are refurbished and replaced in Farley and 1 is about to be installed at the entrance to The Close in Pitton. The 4th board is to be discussed further in item 12a)

e) To discuss any feedback regarding Pitton Village hall hire cost Consideration to reduce the hall rate has been requested but there has been no decision made as yet. It was highlighted that currently for the Parish Council to use the hall the cost is almost double that of the Farley Village Hall and therefore it is hoped some compromise can be met. The Parish Council would like to continue alternating the meetings between the 2 villages. Action: Clerk to request update on this matter from the Village Hall Committee.

f) To discuss the revisiting of the open space project at The Close, Pitton Prior to exploring enhancements to this area any further, some remedial works are required, see 10a), b) & c)

g) To note the latest situation with the public area outside Coldharbour Barn Following discussion of this matter in the public session, it was confirmed that the Parish Council is doing all that it can to preserve the public space for residents use and will continue to work with Wiltshire Council where necessary. The Parish Council has now received a response from the resident who does not consent to any installations on this land. Action: Clerk and Chairman to discuss next steps with Wiltshire Council

h) To discuss the ongoing 'tidy up' of the villages and work required to address this

The on-going project to smarten up the villages was summarised. This will commence with the cleaning/treating and painting of the bus shelters and shortly the condition of the bins and road signs will be addressed. 'The Close' project will also be revisited, see item 6f)

i) To review the situation at Dunstable Crossroads

It was identified that there had previously been several concerns with this area, associated with private and commercial vehicles on the farmland. The current Parish Council seeks clarification over whether the issues were resolved, and if the land in question is actually in the Winterslow Parish. [Action Cllr Britton will check whose division this falls into, if any issues remain, and whether enforcement team are currently involved](#)

7. Flooding and Flood Amelioration

a) To discuss the draft report from the Environment Agency including: Introductions, findings of the report and next steps

The Flood Action Group were invited to explain the findings of the report. The report shows many options but their feasibility is unclear. The Flood Action Group is awaiting a face to face meeting with Wiltshire Council/The Environment Agency to request clarification on next steps. It was emphasised that flooding is a major concern for Pitton residents and requires specific attention. It was proposed that all areas of concern are to be discussed in more detail at an extraordinary meeting with the Flood Action group in early October. Key items will be the maintenance of the culvert that was installed by Salisbury District Council, as plans for the clean out of this are vague; the work required may be restricted by budget cuts. The Flood Action Group requested the involvement of Wiltshire Council to ensure the culvert issue is addressed and escalation of the matter to cabinet level if required. [Action: Parish Council and Flood Action Group to await the outcome of the discussions within Wiltshire Council. Clerk to arrange an extraordinary meeting at which further steps and potential costs can be discussed.](#)

b) To discuss the sourcing of essential supplies from Wiltshire Council and a budget for sourcing of additional supplies [Action: All sourcing matters will be addressed at the extraordinary meeting to be arranged](#)

8. Traffic Calming

Consideration to the set up of a traffic calming group is to be explored once the traffic surveys have been completed in October. It was confirmed that 'gates' to mark the entry of a village can be part funded (up to 25%) by Wiltshire Council if these are explored following the surveys.

9. Highways/Parish Steward/CATG/Footpath Issues

a) To note the latest status regarding 'No Parking' signs on Church Road, Farley.

It was confirmed that the 'No Parking' sign on the school fence remains [Action: Clerk to chase Highways for an update to find out if this is being removed.](#)

b) To discuss the outcome following contacting Parish Steward regarding inspection of grit bins.

Contact has been made with the Parish Steward however no date has been given for the breaking up of the salt or foliage maintenance required to improve the accessibility of the bins [Action Clerk to email again for date](#)

c) To discuss contact from Wiltshire Highways regarding the ditch in Lucewood Lane, Farley

Highways had expressed concerns regarding the silt levels in the ditch, their vector jetting machine could not do its job fully as the system outfalls needed cleaning out. Contact was made with the resident who advised they would clean out the ditch. It was confirmed that up to a couple of days prior to the meeting the levels were still high. [Action: Clerk to ask resident for timescale of clean out](#)

10. Health & Safety

a) To review the report following the third party playground inspection

The report has been reviewed by the Council. It is unclear whether some of the remedial work required to the fencing and other items had been flagged in previous reports and if the work had been carried out correctly [Action Clerk to check previous reports and work done to ensure it was carried out correctly. The go ahead can then be given for further works to be completed, following the advice in the report](#)

b) To review the signage around the playground

The signage has been inspected and is out of date, the lamination ruined by water and it is inaccurate based upon current COVID related Government guidelines. The signs do not show the Parish Council's contact details should any equipment need fixing etc. [Action: Clerk to write up new signs for review at the November meeting](#)

c) To discuss The Close tree inspection and required remedial work

As advised by a local arboriculturalist, tree work is required in the area. To remove a dead elm tree and small elm, sever ivy on the mature trees on the northern boundary and raise the crown of an oak tree in the play area to provide clearance. [Action: Clerk to advise for work to proceed if costs approved](#)

d) To discuss the state of the litter bins around Pitton

The litter bins around the village are in many cases in bad condition, they are damaged and doors do not open or close properly. Wiltshire Council advise that bin replacements are reviewed on a case by case basis and replacement is only actioned if certain criteria are met.

[Action: Clerk to circulate replacement criteria to Chairman. In the event of any of the criteria being met, Clerk to send photos to Wiltshire Council to request replacement. In the meantime Clerk to request replacement costs for any that fall outside of criteria but may need replacing in future.](#)

11. Finance

To review schedule of payments and to approve any new payments required

Payments Requiring Approval

- Sarah Ackrill - ILCA Training July 2021 - £126.00 - **Approved**
- James Boswell - ILCA Training July 2021 - £126.00 - **Approved**
- Pitton Village Hall - Hall hire meeting 29/09/21 - Unknown. **Approved at current rate of 12.50 per hour**
- Farley Village Hall - Hall hire meeting 18/10/21 - £18.00 - **Approved**
- WALC annual membership Apr 21 to May 22 - £315.10 - **Approved**
- Auditing Solutions - Internal audit 2020-21 cost - £186.00 - **Approved**
- Tree remedial works - £420.00 - **Approved**
- Play Inspection Co - Annual external playground inspection for Pitton - £126.00 - **Approved**
- G Mirski Fitton - Google costs - June to Aug - £191.36 - **Approved**
- Bus shelter clean up/treatment and /initial clearing of the Close - £210.00 - **Approved**
- G Manston - Works carried out at The Close, Pitton : July - September 2021 - £400.00 - **Approved**

12. Reports

- a) To note reports from Council members with any developments since the last meeting

Cllr Ball

- Cllr Ball has received a number of noise complaints, mainly relating to dogs barking and large volumes of continuous DIY. He will be appealing to all residents to be mindful of others.
- There is a continuous issue of fly posting in the villages. Posters have been removed when in inappropriate places. Residents are urged not to place notices in unauthorised areas, particularly where the reading of them while driving leads to distraction that could be dangerous to other road users and pedestrians

Cllr Boswell

- Cllr Boswell attended the latest Village Hall Committee meeting. The expansion plans to the hall are being revisited
- Cllr Boswell raised the idea of a notice board at the hall which could be used for both Parish Council and village notices. Designs are to be explored further and discussed at the next meeting.

Cllr Ackrill

- Cllr Ackrill will be attending the Farley Village Hall AGM next week and will focus on the Councillor co-option process, to ascertain if there are any potential interested residents.

- b) **To note the report from The Parish Clerk - to include October DVN article and items for next meeting**

- The emphasis for the October DVN is very much on safety in the villages. It was suggested that from time to time Councillors can contribute an article. Next month the Chairman will write for the November entry
- During the October meeting there will be initial discussions regarding the 22/23 budget and precept.

13. Planning

a. Planning Applications

1. **Application Ref:** PL/2021/07202 **Address:** PEARTREE FARM, PITTON ROAD, PITTON, SALISBURY, SP5 1EG **Proposal:** Demolition of an existing dwelling house, associated garage, and 5 x agricultural barns (of which 3 x barns have consent for conversion into a residential use), and the erection of a replacement dwelling and 2 x dwelling houses and associated hard and soft landscaping. Please note a deadline to submit comments regarding this application was requested but declined. **Resolved:** Support
2. **Application Ref** PL/2021/06285 **Address:** BROCKWAY, THE GREEN, PITTON, SALISBURY, SP5 1DZ **Proposal:** Proposed two storey rear extension and alterations. **Resolved:** (based on amended plans) No Objection.
3. **Application Ref:** PL/2021/08620 **Address:** SOUTHERN WOOD, CHURCH ROAD, FARLEY, SALISBURY, SP5 1AH **Proposal:** New car port with garden store/bins and covered seating area following removal of concrete sectional garage. **Resolved:** Support
4. **Application Ref:** PL/2021/08650 **Address:** DOVE COTTAGE, CHURCH ROAD, FARLEY, SALISBURY, SP5 1AH **Proposal:** Proposed rear and side extensions and alterations. **Resolved:** No Comment
5. **Application Ref:** PL/2021/08661 **Address:** 7 Oak Close, Farley, Salisbury, Wilts, SP5 1AE **Proposal:** Demolish lean to conservatory and sun room, new lean to rear extension and replacement roof to side. **Resolved:** Support

b. Response to applications notified between the publication date of the agenda and the date of the meeting, if necessary. None reported

c. Planning Decisions

Appeal Ref: APP/Y3940/W/21/3273444 **Address:** Barn at Knightwood Farm, Lucewood Lane, Farley, Salisbury SP5 1AX **Proposal:** The development proposed is for one agricultural building to be converted to a residential dwelling **Resolved:** Appeal Dismissed

14. To note dates of the next ordinary meetings:

Monday 18th October 2021 at 19.30 at Farley Village Hall

Wednesday 24th November 2021 at 20.00 at Pitton Village Hall

15. To close the meeting - The meeting closed at 21.55

Members of the Council must consider the following matters in consideration of their public duties:

Equal Opportunities (race, gender, sexual orientation, marital status and any disability), Crime and Disorder, Health and Safety, Human Rights.