

Minutes of the Pitton & Farley Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday September 30th at 7.30pm in Farley Village Hall

Present

Cllr Jamie Latham (Chairman)
Cllr Tony Ashworth
Cllr Chris Hewitt
Cllr Nigel Lilley
Cllr Stuart Mariner
Cllr Mrs Sarah Strong
Cllr Steve Williams

In attendance

Mrs Catherine Purves (Clerk)

Also present

Three members of the public.

Public Session

Chris Sankey, Pitton Flood Warden, asked whether Farley residents were aware of the impact of the effects of flooding in Pitton.

Sara Bossom and Sarah Davis, both Pitton residents, advised that they were working with the Community Heartbeat Trust in raising awareness of, and fundraising for, the installation of a defibrillator in Pitton village, and for further training in CPR. £2000 was needed, and a number of fund raising activities were being arranged, although they hoped that the Parish Council would be able to make a donation as well. Mrs Bossom and Mrs Davis also asked if they could adopt the BT telephone box in Slate Way, where the defibrillator would be located. The CHT would provide, own, manage and maintain the defibrillator, whilst residents would just need to undertake weekly checks on a rota system. BT was fully supportive of the scheme, providing the electricity for seven years, and retaining the emergency telephone line in the box. BT would provide the paint for painting the box.

AGENDA

84.15 To receive apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Lowndes, who had a previous engagement, and Cllr Coppock, who was on holiday.

Resolved: To accept these apologies and the reasons for them

85.15 Minutes

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 12th August 2015

Resolved: to approve and sign the minutes as a correct record without amendment

86.15 Declarations of Interest

a. To receive any **Declarations of Interest** in respect of matters contained in this agenda in accordance with the provisions of the Localism Act 2011 in respect of councillors, and in accordance with the Local Government act 1972 in respect of officers.

Cllr Mariner declared an interest in matters relating to Pitton flooding.

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The Clerk, Mrs Purves, declared an interest in item 95.15.

Resolved: to note

b. To consider any **Dispensation Requests** received by the Parish Clerk and not previously considered.

Resolved: to note none requested

87.15 Exclusion of the press and public – to agree any items to be dealt with after the public, including the press, have been excluded under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 and Local Government Act 1972 ss100

Resolved: to exclude the press and public for the discussion about and resolution of item 95.15

88.15 To consider any urgent matters raised in the public session, and any other urgent matters or items of information from councillors.

a. *Farley residents' awareness of the impact of flooding in Pitton* - Farley councillors reassured Mr Sankey him that Farley residents were indeed aware, and shared the inconvenience and financial commitments with Pitton on this, and other issues affecting the whole parish.

b. *Installation of a defibrillator in Pitton* – all councillors thought this an excellent idea, were fully supportive of the initiative, Farley councillors thought that Farley should also have a defibrillator as well, to be located in the telephone box in Oak Close. It was hoped that CPR training would be arranged for both villages. Cllrs Latham and Lilley volunteered to be the contacts for organising this community project in Farley.

89.15 To receive reports from:

a. *Wiltshire Councillor Chris Devine* – not present, and no report received.

b. *Pitton Village Hall Management Committee report* – Mrs Purves advised there was nothing of any moment to note. Routine maintenance is being carried out, and the finances remain healthy. The next meeting is on Wednesday 28th October.

c. *Farley Village Hall Management Committee report* – Cllr Latham advised that there were no problems to report, and that bookings remained regular.

d. *Parish Website representative* – Mr Bossom had advised there was nothing to report.

e. *Chairman's report* – Cllr Latham advised that he had attended the most recent Wiltshire Operational Flood Group meeting at the beginning of September.

f. *Parish Clerk's report* – Mrs Purves advised the following

i. the parish Clerk has achieved her CiLCA (Certificate in Local Council Administration) qualification, and should like to record her grateful thanks to councillors and the Parish Council for all its support.

ii. Community First will be holding its AGM on Wednesday 7th October at 5.30pm in Devizes Town Hall.

iii. It has been confirmed that unless a Town or Parish Council possesses the General Power of Competence, it is unlawful for a Town or Parish Council to make a contribution to commercial bus services. They can, however, make a donation or grant to community services such as the Link scheme.

iv. The Parish Clerk has held another Clerk's coffee morning, and Richard Britton, the Area Board chairman attended. His main theme was to advise of the fundamental changes that Wilts Council is undergoing in its aim to achieve a more strategic role in the county,

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delivering only its statutory responsibilities. As much as possible will be devolved to the town and parish councils, without any corresponding funding, and he did ask that Councils be proactive in thinking about what discretionary responsibilities they could take on. Pitton & Farley Parish is relatively lucky in that there is nothing that Wilts Council can devolve to the Parish Council, but it still may be asked by residents to pay for enhancements to a basic Wilts Council service eg extra verge cutting.

g. South West Wilts Area Board – the next meeting is on Thursday 1st October at 6.30pm for a 7.00pm start at the Downton Memorial Hall.

Resolved: to note these reports.

90.15 Enhanced Flood Amelioration scheme in Pitton

Cllr Mariner advised he had attended the most recent Wiltshire Flood Ops Group meeting as well, and reminded those present of the proposed scheme. The financial costings were still awaited from Balfour Beatty, and when they are available, Wiltshire Council will need to establish sources of funding in addition to its own budget. It was indicated that it would be helpful to Wiltshire Council in its negotiations with outside funders if the parish could be seen to make a contribution as well. Various questions were raised.

Q: Would the scheme be presented to Pitton residents and councillors?

A: Yes, most certainly, with all the practical details. However, there is no point in doing this until it is certain that the project will happen. If it is to go ahead, it will not happen for at least 12/24 months.

Q: Would the Parish Council contribution sway the decision to proceed, and if so, how much was needed?

A: No specific amount had been stipulated or requested, just a suggestion that a Parish Council contribution would be welcome.

The next Wiltshire Flood Ops group meeting will be held on Wednesday 21st October in Salisbury.

Resolved: to note this report

91.15 Planning

a. To determine a response to planning applications received:

None received

Resolved: to note

b. To note planning decisions made by Wiltshire Council since the last meeting:

15/06729/FUL – change of use of three agricultural storage units to class B8 storage at Nightwood Farm, Lucewood Lane, West Grimstead

Planning permission refused 8th September 2015 due to unacceptable intensification of the use of the surrounding rural highway network

Resolved: to note

c. To consider whether to draw up a Village Design Statement for each of the two villages - after discussion it was

Resolved: to take informal professional advice about the value of compiling such a document.

Action: The Clerk and Cllr Lilley

d. To consider whether to undertake a Housing Needs Survey – after discussion it was

Resolved: to take informal professional advice about the value of undertaking such a survey.

Action: The Clerk and Cllr Lilley **Page 3 of 5**

92.15 Finance.

a. To note the completion of the external audit with no issues raised **Resolved:** to note

b. To note the bank balance as at 31st August 2015 **Resolved:** to note this stood at £16039.75

c. To approve for payment a schedule of accounts in the sum of £976.08 **Resolved:** to approve for payment

d. To note the updated 2015/2016 Budget Monitoring form. **Resolved:** to note

e. To consider quotes for bark chippings and additional gate at The Close Pitton

Cllr Hewitt advised he would be happy to provide these for free as a contribution to the community.

Resolved: to accept Cllr Hewitt's kind offer

Action: The Clerk and Cllr Hewitt

f. To consider a request for a grant towards the purchase and installation of the proposed defibrillator to be located in Pitton – following a discussion, during which councillors strongly supported the initiative in principle, it was

Resolved: to discuss the matter again at the next meeting following discussions in Farley, with the idea of making a contribution towards joint provision and training.

Action: The Clerk and Cllrs Latham and Lilley

g. To agree in principle to contributing financially towards the enhanced flood amelioration scheme, the amount to be agreed once the final costs are known - after a lengthy discussion, it was

Resolved: not to make a decision at the moment, but to defer this to a future meeting when the Parish Council were better informed about the plans for the flood amelioration scheme and the costs involved.

93.15 Highway/Footpath matters – see enclosed

a. Update on Area Board/Highways issues:

2259 (Road subsidence on narrow bend of Church Road in Farley) Patching is still outstanding, which is on the priority surfacing list for 2016/17

3429 (Flooding/culvert required at Church Road in Farley) Cllr Lilley and village residents have dug out the ditches, but the pipe under Farley Farm road is still blocked and needs jetting, which is now possible. This has been reported directly and via the My Wilts app

3906 (Black ice and hazardous conditions at Lucewood Lane, Farley) Lucewood Lane is now on the secondary gritting route. It is due to be resurfaced, but will possibly be patched during this financial year, and is on the priority surfacing list for 2016/17.

4024 (Missing road name sign, The Street, Farley) – no further news

b. To note the recent Highways Update newsletter - it was noted that this includes information about the Parish Steward scheme, gritting, grass cutting, and the general highways contract.

c. To note a letter from a Pitton resident regarding the junction of footpath 16 with The Green adjacent to Hillside – the letter advised of intended improvements to this junction, which the Parish Council thought were an excellent idea, noting that they had already been approved by Wiltshire Council's Rights of Way officer.

Resolved: to note these updates

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94.15 To review and note other ongoing matters – see enclosed report:

a. Development of an Emergency Incident/Snow Plan

It was noted that the working group needs to meet. Pitton Village hall is a designated emergency centre, and is looking at what equipment it might need to supply. It is aware of grant funding available for this. **Action:** The Clerk, Cllrs Latham, Hewitt and Williams

b. Bird swing for The Close – it was noted that an update re the delivery date has been requested, as it was understood this was to be delivered and installed at the end of August. The annual inspection by Play Safety has taken place as well.

c. Registering title – yet to be actioned.

d. Blocked drain in Lucewood Lane - this is located near the area where black ice forms (see issue 3906 above). This has been raised through the My Wilts app, as clearing it will help direct the water running off from the neighbouring field under rather than across the road.

e. Parish walking routes - a Pitton resident has researched and identified a circular route in Pitton ward, and is arranging for laminated leaflets to be available. There is a grand opening on Sunday 11th October at 12 noon. It is hoped that a similar pro-active Farley resident will be able to organise something similar for the footpaths around Farley.

f. Fencing on Green Lane, Grimstead – this has been reported to the Grimstead Clerk.

Resolved: to note these updates.

95.15 In view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is the press and public were excluded during the consideration of this item (Item 87.15 above refers) – Staff in confidence. The Clerk, Mrs Purves, left the room during the consideration of this item.

Resolved: to accept and implement the recommendation of the Remuneration Group.

96.15 To note the dates of the next two ordinary meetings.

a. Wednesday 4th November at 7.30pm in Pitton Village Hall

b. Wednesday 9th December at 7.30pm in Farley Village Hall

97.15 To close the meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm

Members of the Council must consider the foregoing matters in consideration of their duties:
Equal Opportunities (race, gender, sexual orientation, marital status and any disability);
Crime and Disorder; Health and Safety, and Human Rights.