

**Minutes of the Ordinary Pitton and Farley Parish Council meeting held on Monday
18th October 2021 at 7.45pm at Farley Village Hall.**

Present:

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

In attendance: Nadine Fortune, Parish Clerk

Also present: 2 members of the public

Public session

There were no matters raised in the public session

COUNCIL BUSINESS

1. **To receive apologies** - None
2. **To receive any Declarations of Interest and decide upon any Requests for Dispensations** - None
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)** None

4. Minutes

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 29th September 2021 **Resolved:** Minutes approved

5. Matters raised in correspondence

a) Concern from residents regarding the gate from the car park to the playing field at Farley Fox

Resolved: This matter was passed on to a member of the Farley Coronation playing field. The resident was reminded that the land is not the responsibility of the Parish Council.

b) To discuss attendance at the Southern Wiltshire Area Board - Parish Council Event: 18th November, 7pm

Agenda/details of the event have been requested and will be circulated. [Action: At least one Councillor will be attending the online event](#)

c) To note the delay to local road closures The Street, Pitton and Farley; from its junction with Parsonage Hill to its junction with Ben Lane for up to five days between 03 December 2021 and 02 February 2022.

The dates of the closures were noted. It was confirmed that advanced notice had been emailed to the schools in Pitton and Farley

d) To discuss a resident's request for progress on the potential of a new footpath across land owned by Wiltshire Council to enable access from Pitton to the Monarchs Way and beyond.

The route was discussed. An email has been sent to Wiltshire Council's Right of Way department for more background on this. The resident has been kept informed. [Action: Clerk to circulate response from Wiltshire Council when received. If no response by mid November matter will be chased.](#)

6. To review other ongoing matters

a) **To note the current situation with the cordoned off area at Stockbottom Farm and Wiltshire Council response**

Resolved: Wiltshire Council have advised that the caravan at the farm is now owned by the farmer, and he will simply be using it as a shelter/tea stop for the livery owners. No overnight occupation takes place, nor is planned to. In light of that, they do not propose any action and will be closing their file

b) **Co-option of new Councillors** – to discuss any possible applicants

The emphasis remains on co-opted candidates from the Farley Ward. Some interest has been received and responded to and it is hoped application/s will be forthcoming. A Council member attended the Farley Village Hall AGM where a request for interested candidates was made. Many of those present have

already been on the Parish Council over the years and therefore no immediate interest was expressed.

[Action: All Councillors to continue raising awareness of the requirement for Councillors](#)

c) To discuss feedback received regarding Pitton Village hall hire cost and to review meeting locations.

Consideration to reduce the hall rate has been requested. As it stands the current hourly rate has not been reduced. The lower hire rate applicable to village residents is in recognition of the substantial amount of fund-raising carried out in the village which goes towards maintaining and improving the Village Hall. The Village Hall Committee recognise that the rate is lower at Farley, but that rates in Pitton are set to cover the costs of running the Hall and in no way reflect a wish to make a profit out of hirers. 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 progress on this matter from the Village Hall Committee.](#)

d) To discuss the next Pitton notice boards and timings of upcoming maintenance works in Pitton

It was confirmed that 2 boards have been refurbished and replaced in Farley and 1 has been refurbished and installed at the entrance to The Close in Pitton. Some concern was raised about the risk of the key rusting. Should this happen the Parish Council will address it. There is a possibility of a further notice board outside the village hall in Pitton, that could be used by the Parish Council and Village Hall. This is currently being discussed by the Committee. [Action: Cllr Boswell attends Committee meetings as the village hall representative and will therefore provide any progress on this once it is made](#) Another board is to be fitted inside the Pitton bus shelter once it has been cleaned up. A suggestion was raised for the books and jigsaws in the telephone box to be moved into a glass-fronted cupboard in the bus shelter, leaving room in the phone box for defibrillator access. [Action: Cllr Boswell to have a look for cupboards that would be suitable.](#)

e) To review the situation at Dunstable Crossroads - to now be referred to as 'Three Acre Farm'

Wiltshire Council's enforcement team have been contacted regarding the situation and advise that there are a number of issues relating to this land. The land is divided up into three plots that are separately owned. There are issues relating to the use of each plot which enforcement are currently working with the owners to resolve. [Action: Clerk to contact enforcement again in mid November if no update is received by then. Monthly emails to be sent to enforcement for updates on any enforcement issues relevant to Pitton and Farley](#)

f) To discuss the Parish boundaries

It is unclear where the Parish Boundaries start and end when it comes to Parish land responsibility. It was confirmed that this uncertainty does not relate to housing planning applications as the correct Parish has already been established before the application is circulated for comment.

[Action: Clerk to request a boundary map which clearly shows where land boundaries fall.](#)

g) To discuss timescales for the cutting back of the overhanging hedge between The Green and The Close

The resident of this property has been contacted and they have advised that the part of the hedge encroaching on the path was addressed in late September. Remaining work is due for completion shortly. It was discussed that the Council is grateful for the prompt response from the resident but that the hedge is still overhanging the path. It was discussed that if the resident is unable to have the works completed the Parish Council could offer to carry out the work and pass any costs and foliage back to the owner. [Action: Cllr Ball to monitor the hedge and send photos to the Clerk if no improvement evident by mid November](#)

h) IT 'poverty' - to discuss the possibility of a survey.

It was discussed that in order to ascertain if there is an issue of IT shortage in the villages, an article could go into the DVN asking residents to contact the Clerk with concerns. [Action: Clerk to include this in December DVN submission. If it is found there is a concern, Clerk to contact Wiltshire Council regarding how to approach this area and whether there is funding available.](#)

7. Flooding and Flood Amelioration

a) To receive a list of essential supplies to be acquired from Wiltshire Council

It was confirmed that the flood action group would be collecting supplies such as gel sacs and sand from Wiltshire Council, sourced through the Parish Council via the PEAS scheme, on 29th October from the Wilton depot.

b) To discuss an annual budget for the sourcing of additional supplies

It was noted that the Flood Action Group would be meeting later during the week of 18th October to discuss an annual budget, the sourcing of further supplies and the revised flood action plan. [Action: Clerk to chase Flood Action Group for plans/budget if nothing received by mid November](#)

c) To receive an up to date flood action plan and contact list

It was learned that the revised plan will be available shortly [Action: Clerk to chase Flood Action Group for plan and contacts list if nothing received by mid November](#)

d) To discuss works done by Wiltshire Council in recent days and the culvert maintenance

Following an escalation to Wiltshire Council, work has been carried out to clear gullies from 'the pond' down to the siphon and also across the field to Parsonage Farm. We are still waiting for Wiltshire Council to clear out the main 100m culvert. It is unclear if their vactor machine will be fit for purpose. [Action: Clerk to liaise with Richard Britton or Danny Everett for clarification on what equipment is being used and when](#)

8. Traffic Calming

To note any updates with regards to traffic surveys

Traffic surveys are still due in October 2021. Once these are complete the setting up of a village 'traffic team' can commence. [Action: Clerk to liaise with Wiltshire Council's traffic department for clarification on the specific locations of the surveys in both villages and the timescale.](#)

9. Highways/Parish Steward/CATG/Footpath Issues

a) To discuss timing of clear out of the ditch in Lucewood Lane, Farley

Highways had expressed concerns regarding the silt levels in the ditch, their vactor jetting machine could not do its job fully as the system outfalls needed cleaning out. The resident has confirmed that this will be done in mid October. [Action: Clerk to follow up with resident to request confirmation once work completed](#)

10. Health & Safety

a) 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. It was also noted that the bottom bar in the gate to the playground is missing [Action: Cllr Ball to remove current signs and write up new signs for review at the November meeting](#)

11. Finance

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

Payments Requiring Approval/Cheques Signing

- Farley Village Hall - Hall hire meeting 18/10/21 - **£18.00 - Approved**
- Artisan Wood Notice Board Refurbishments - **£370.00 - Approved**

12. Reports

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

Cllr Ball

- Cllr Ball has submitted an article for the DVN November issue
- Cllr Ball has applied to the Police to establish a Community Speed Watch Group for the villages
- Cllr Ball has been looking at equipment in other playgrounds locally to gain ideas of improvements for 'The Close'

Cllr Boswell

- Cllr Boswell remains in contact with the Pitton Village Hall Committee regarding the idea of a notice board at the hall which could be used for both Parish Council and village notices.

Cllr Ackrill

- Cllr Ackrill will continue to increase awareness for potential co-option candidates
- Cllr Ackrill will remain in touch with the Farley Village Hall Committee. Concerns raised at the AGM re waste disposal have been addressed. The Committee have provided the treasurer report and finance summary for the Parish Council's information

13. Planning

a. Planning Applications

To consider a response to the following planning applications received from Wiltshire Council at the time the agenda was issued: None reported since previous meeting

b. To consider a response to applications notified between the publication date of the agenda and the date of the meeting, if necessary. None reported since previous meeting

c. Planning Decisions

Planning Decisions: To note planning decisions made by Wiltshire Council since the last meeting. Council is asked to note the below decisions: None reported since previous meeting

14. To note dates of the next ordinary meetings:

Wednesday 24th November 2021 at 19.45 at Pitton Village Hall

Wednesday 26th January at 19.30 at Farley Village Hall

Wednesday 23rd February at 19.30 at Pitton Village Hall

15. To close the meeting - The meeting closed at 21.00

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.