

Minutes of the Pitton & Farley Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 13th
January 2016 at 7.30pm in Pitton Village Hall

Present:

Cllr Jamie Latham (Chairman)
Cllr Rod Coppock (Vice Chairman)
Cllr Tony Ashworth
Cllr Nigel Lilley (from 8.00pm)
Cllr Geoff Lowndes
Cllr Stuart Mariner
Cllr Mrs Sarah Strong
Cllr Steve Williams

In attendance: Mrs Catherine Purves, Parish Clerk

Also present: one member of the public.

Public questions – no questions or issues were raised.

AGENDA

1.16 To receive apologies

None received **Resolved:** to note

2.16 Minutes

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 9th December 2015. **Resolved:** to approve as a correct record without any amendment

3.16 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 Mrs Strong declared a personal interest in planning application 15/11741/FUL
Cllr Mariner declared a personal matter in flooding issues.

Resolved: to note

b. To consider any **Dispensation Requests** received by the Parish Clerk and not previously considered. **Resolved:** to note none received

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

Cllr Latham told members he had drawn the attention of the Coronation Playing Field trustees to their responsibilities concerning the Farley Fox play area, but so far no action has been taken. The fly tipped rubbish remains on Playing Field land

Resolved: to note

5.16 To receive reports from:-

a. The Wiltshire Council representative for Winterslow, Cllr. Chris Devine – no report received

b. The Council's representative on the Pitton Village Hall Management Committee – Mrs Purves reported that routine maintenance continues, and the finances remain strong. The Working Party is currently arranging to meet to explore the possible future development of the Hall. The AGM and next Management Committee meeting take place on Wednesday 24th February in the Village Hall.

c. The Council's representative on the Farley Village Hall Management Committee – Cllr Latham advised that a new electrical wiring system was required. The re-wiring project was going ahead at cost of approx. £1500. The Hall had sufficient funds to cover this.

d. Parish Website representative. – Mr Bossom had reported a decrease in the amount of visits to the site in 2015, and councillors did wonder if there was any easily identifiable reason for this. It was noted that the website hosting fee had been split with Farley Music, and councillors noted with concern the twelve months' notice Mr Bossom had given to step down from his role as the website editor. Councillors will try to identify a successor, and report to the next meeting.

e. Chairman's report – Cllr Latham had nothing to report, other than he would be attending the Hazel Hill open event on Friday 15th January.

f. Parish Clerk's report – Mrs Purves reported:

i. Wilts Council is currently undertaking a review of the bus services subsidy, and is consulting until 4th April on this. Further information is on the website and in the Dun Valley News.

ii. Wiltshire Council is holding another information/briefing session about its 2016 Budget on Wednesday 10th February at 5.30pm in the Guildhall Salisbury.

iii. Hazel Hill are holding an Open Briefing session between 11.0am and 12.30pm on Friday 15th February.

iv. The Wilts Assoc of Local Councils is looking for nominations for one councillor plus one to attend a Royal Garden Party on Tuesday May 10th.

v. Speed Indicator Devices – I have registered the Parish Council's interest as there is no commitment at this stage, having its own SID. The Area Board is looking into

acquiring these. This will be an agenda item at the next meeting, when information re costs, insurance, and deployment will be available.

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- vi. A copy of the Community First winter newsletter has been received.
 - vii. The Police & Crime Commissioner has launched a consultation which runs until 2nd February on his proposal to raise the police precept by 1.9% for 2016/17.
 - viii. The replacement bench for The Close has been delivered, and will be installed as soon as the weather is favourable.
- g. Southern Wilts Area Board* – Mrs Purves reported that the next meeting will take place on Thursday 28th January at 7.00pm at Coombe Bissett Village Hall.

Resolved: to note these reports

6.16 Pitton Flood Amelioration Scheme

Cllr Mariner reported the following:

Danny Everett has advised that Wilts Council has an approximate costing for the Atkins scheme but it does not cover every contingency. Officers expect a far keener figure from the new Highways contractor appointed to start work on 1st April this year. Essentially there has been a delay of a year when nothing has happened. Mr Everett has confirmed that there was no Plan B to just modify the current system in place. The routine annual maintenance of the siphon will no longer take place, but will occur as and when it needs to happen. If pumps become necessary this winter, they will be supplied and maintained by Balfour Beatty as before. Mr Everett advised that Wiltshire council has only one mega pump, which needs to work in a metre of water, so it is no good to the village at all. He has promised to attend a future Parish Council meeting with the plans and Cllr Mariner has asked him to liaise with the Parish Clerk about a date. Cllr Mariner had mentioned Mrs Mc Isaac's increasing anxieties over the scheme, but Mr Everett confirmed that **all** landowners affected by the scheme will be informed and consulted at the appropriate time. It should be noted that work to protect the highway is carried out under statutory authority and will be forced through if necessary.

Cllr Mariner had raised the funding issue where Somerset CC as the Land Drainage Authority is proposing a statutory precept on all ratepayers, but it has been made clear that Wiltshire Council will not look at this means of funding. It was thought it might be useful to know the financial modelling used by Wiltshire Council to determine the cost/benefit analysis of such schemes, and of using the Freedom of Information scheme should this prove necessary. **Action:** The Clerk and Cllr Mariner. The next Wiltshire Flood Ops Working Group meeting takes place on Wednesday 16th February at 10.00am in Bishopstone Village Hall.

It was noted that the water table level is surprisingly low, despite the recent heavy rains.

Resolved: to note

7.16 Planning

a. To determine a response to planning applications received:

i. **15/11741/FUL** – extension to menage and erection of portal frame structure over part of existing and extended menage, with roof and gable cladding to eaves at Pitton Hill Farm, White Hill, Pitton. **Resolved:** to support

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ii. **15/12279/FUL** – proposed two storey side extension and creation of basement below proposed extension with associated works at Farley House, Grimstead Road, Farley.

Resolved: to support

iii. **15/12469/TPO** – 1 x beech overall reduction of 30% at 1 Slate Way, Pitton

Resolved: No objection

b. To note planning decisions made by Wiltshire Council since the last meeting. Resolved: to note none notified

c. To consider the advice given about the merits of Village Design Statements and Housing Needs Surveys – This item had been deferred from the last meeting. Cllr Lilley advised that Farley had been designated as unsustainable in the Core Strategy, so there was no need for it to have a Neighbourhood Plan. Pitton is designated as a Larger Village Settlement, but has small housing needs, which can be taken on merit at the time on any application. If a Housing Needs Survey is undertaken, it predisposes that the community is actively looking for development. Yet any inevitability towards development will need to be tempered by the prior need to implement the flood amelioration scheme, as additional housing will only worsen the existing problem otherwise. He also noted that the planners tend to ignore the recommendations of a Village design statement unless looking for support to justify a refusal to a planning application.

Resolved: not to undertake a Village Design Statement or a Housing Needs Survey at the present time.

8.16 To note updates on Highway/Footpath matters

a. Update on Area Board/Highways issues:

2259 (Road subsidence on narrow bend of Church Road in Farley) - no further news, other than this was understood to be on Wiltshire Highways' capital maintenance list in 2016/17

3429 (Flooding/culvert required at Church Road in Farley) – Cllr Lilley reported that this had been actioned. This will no longer be an agenda item.

3906 (Black ice and hazardous conditions at Lucewood Lane, Farley) - no further news, other than this was understood to be on Wiltshire Highways' capital maintenance list in 2016/17

b. Footpath maintenance – to consider a request for an upgrade to the inter village footpath at the Pitton end – a letter has been received from a Pitton resident requesting that something is done to make the inter village footpath much safer at

the Pitton end, where it drops down the steep hillside to The Green. A handrail would be very useful, and ideally, it would be helpful if more formal steps could be installed. **Resolved:** to refer this to the WC RoW officer, and also to the local Footpath Rep for further joint partnership action. **Action:** The Clerk

9.16 Finance.

a. *To note the bank balance as at 31st December 2015:* **Resolved:** to note that the

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current account stood at £11698.38, with the reconciled balance (taking account of un-represented cheques) stood at £11365.98

b. *To approve for payment a schedule of accounts in the sum of £248.39* **Resolved:** to approve. **Also resolved:** to approve two additional payments, chq 213 in the sum of £200 for the Close grounds maintenance, and chq 214 in the sum of £548.62 including VAT for the supply and delivery of the new bench for The Close.

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

e. *To note receipt of reclaimed VAT in the sum of £1797.21.* **Resolved:** to note

f. *To resolve to set a budget of £13905.92 and to request a precept of £13868.32, together with the Council Tax Support Grant of £31.68 totalling £13900.00* This would mean the Band D charge would rise by £11.39 to £37.86 per annum, ie approximately £1.40 per month. **Resolved:** to request a total precept of £13900 including £31.68 Council tax Support Grant. Cllr Lowndes abstained.

g. *To consider and compare estimates for repairing or replacing the toddler swing at The Close.* Councillors consider two quotations to replace the swings – one from Wicksteed in the sum of £1731.20 to supply, deliver and install a replacement set, and one from the Children's Playground Company for £2874.40. Councillors also considered the cost of just replacing the two seats in the sum of £212.40. Councillors noted that the inspection report had highlighted that one leg was rotted at the bottom, and that there was no way of knowing how far the rot extended. Councillors also noted that there was still R2 funding available in the sum of £986.00. In the interests of safety, it was **Resolved:** to apply for the residual R2 funding, and to accept Wicksteed's quotation. **Action:** The Clerk

10.16 To note the updates regarding recommendations contained in the Play Safety inspection report concerning The Close, Pitton

Cllr Hewitt will be asked to provide the play bark and the new gate, and it was noted that the grounds maintenance contractor had quoted £25.00 to undertake the work requested. **Resolved:** to accept the quote, work to be undertaken as soon as the weather allows. **Action:** The Clerk

11.16 To consider draft policies for sickness, grievance and disciplinary matters

Councillors considered the draft policies put before them. It was noted that an expenses policy was still required, and Cllr Mariner offered to provide the appropriate

wording. **Resolved:** to adopt the draft sickness, grievance and disciplinary matters policies. **Action:** The Clerk and Cllr Mariner

12.16 To consider becoming involved with the “Clean for the Queen” litter picking initiative over the weekend of 4th/5th/6th March – it was noted that the Area Board will provide the appropriate equipment, and that Wiltshire Council will remove the rubbish collected by volunteers. It was thought that the Men of Pitton might wish to be involved in this.

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13.16 To review and note other ongoing matters – see enclosed report

- a. Development of an Emergency Incident/Snow Plan
- b. Registering title of The Close at the Land Registry
- c. Blocked drain in Lucewood Lane

Resolved: to note nothing further to report.

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

- a. Wednesday 17th February 2016 at 7.30pm in Farley Village Hall**
- b. Wednesday 30th March 2016 at 7.30pm in Pitton Village Hall**

Resolved: to note

15.16 To close the meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.45pm

Members of the Council considered 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.

