

Background report for the Parish Council meeting 21st January 2015

04.15 Reports

b. Pitton Village Hall Management Committee – the committee last met on 15th December 2014. It was noted that the bank balance remains very healthy, and that the trustees continue to carry out a programme of routine and one-off maintenance projects. A review of the Trust deed and management rules of the hall and playing field is currently being undertaken, with the Management Committee now meeting about six times per year. The AGM and next Management Committee meeting will take place on Wednesday 25th February.

f. Parish Clerk's report

- I attended the Wiltshire Council's Flood Ops Group meeting at Warminster on 17th December 2014. I finally have a key which hopefully fits the siphon lock, so the purchase of a padlock has been deferred. The next meeting is to be held in February, time, place and venue to be confirmed.
- Cllr Devine is pressing hard for the grit bin to be replaced on Parsonage Hill, Farley. I have requested that the grit bin on White Way by the 30mph sign should be relocated to the verge at the junction of Davids Garden and Black Lane. The Highway's engineer has raised works tickets for both these items, but it is not known when the contractors will carry out the tasks.
- I have been advised that the blocked gully outside Stockbottom House will be cleared on 27th January.
- I have received a letter from a Farley resident alleging that a local private plane has been flying low over the village. Please see enclosed letter and my reply.
- Wiltshire Council is holding a Budget consultation meeting on Thursday 5th February at 5.00pm for 5.30pm in the Guildhall.
- The WALC AGM will be held on Tuesday 27th January in Devizes Town Hall at 6.00pm for 6.30pm.
- The criteria for the three levels of the Local Council Award scheme and the fees have been published, and will be an agenda item for consideration at the next meeting.
- The Local Government Transparency Code, which will be mandatory for all councils with a maximum turnover of £25k from 1st April 2015 (Pitton & Farley PC falls into this category) has been published. It will be an agenda item for the next meeting, but in the meantime, go here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-government-transparency-code-2014> for more information.
- The first Local Youth Network cluster meeting will, take place on Thursday 22nd January at 5.00pm to 6.30pm at Barry's Field, Winterslow.

g. Area Board The next Area Board meeting will take place on Thursday 29th January at Morgans Vale Village Hall.

06.15 Finance

- a. Clerk's salary* - I have provided separate copies of the joint SLCC/NALC announcement regarding the recent pay settlement. If Council approves this, the Clerk's pay will be £9.26 per hour, in between scale points 18 & 19.
- e. The draft budget and precept* – is just that, a draft as a basis for councillors to debate, discuss and amend, if felt necessary. I will bring my laptop and calculator to reflect any adjustments made at the meeting.
- f. Two public noticeboards in Farley and two map lecterns* – quotes previously circulated with the December meeting papers. This item was deferred.

07.15 Highway/Parish Steward/Footpath matters

- a. Area Board issues* – no change, except for 3363, signage at Glebe Close, where Cllr Devine is now involved as nothing seems to have happened since last July. It should also be noted that Highways has written to the owner of the house at the corner of Dunstable Crossroads, requesting that the hedge be cut back and maintained, so as to maintain the sight lines.
- b. Footpath maintenance* – Alex Howsen of WC's Rights of Way has been in touch to suggest a meeting to discuss this, yet to be arranged.

08.15 Ongoing matters

- a. Installation of parish map/lectern* – see 06.15.f above.
- b. Broadband provision* – residents are now reporting that they are able to order superfast broadband. Could the Council please confirm it is in order for me to distribute Wilts Council's information on this? I have not so up to now, to avoid confusion and further irritation.
- c. Purchase of public notice boards in Farley* – see 06.15f above.
- d. Purchase of a new swing* – the old swing, and also dilapidated bench, have been removed from The Close. I have confirmed the new site with Wicksteed, and am awaiting the final quote. I have also formally applied for the R2 funding for this, which has been ringfenced.
- e. Emergency Incident/Snow plan* – nothing further to report.