

Background Report for Parish Council meeting October 2018

119.18 Reports

a. Pitton Village Hall – a Strategic Development Group has been formed and has met to discuss the future use of the Village Hall. The next meeting is on Wednesday 28th November, when the hall hire charges and the possibility of accepting the play equipment currently situated in The Close will be on the agenda.

d. Parish Clerk's report

i. I have attended the Society of Local Council Clerks National Conference, where I attended workshops on cemeteries, dealing with councillor misconduct, how to use verbal and non-verbal communication, and the implications of The Ledbury Case. I was also awarded the prize for Best Magazine Article in 2018.

ii. *Hazel Hill* – I have been advised of two non-material changes required for technical reasons to the recent planning application – thicker walls to comply with insulation standards, and the roof tiles used require the roof pitch to be at 15 degrees, not 8 degrees.

iii. *The next Wiltshire Council Operational Flood Working Group* - meeting is on Wednesday 17th October at Dinton Village Hall starting at the earlier time of 9.30am.

iv. *Council tax 2019/2020* – Wiltshire Council will issue the draft tax base figures on 5th November. It is holding a Budget Consultation meeting on Thursday 29th November at 5.30pm to 7.00pm in the Guildhall, Salisbury. The parish council will consider its budget/precept figures for 2019/20 at its next meeting in December.

v. *Police report* – the most recent report was circulated to all councillors on 3rd October.

vi. *Wiltshire Association of Local Councils* will be holding its AGM on Monday 22nd October at 6.30pm at its office in Devizes.

e. Southern Area Board – the next meeting is on Thursday 29th November at 7.00pm in the Trafalgar School, Downton. Requests have been submitted to defer the start to 7.30pm, as this meeting clashes with the Budget Consultation meeting in Salisbury.

120.18 Finance

a. Bank balance - this stood at £38,363.74 as at 30th September 2018, including the second half of the precept in the sum of £7250.00

e. Replacement bus shelter - I have been researching the cost of a timber framed bus shelter, to include a clear side panel to enable passengers to see the approaching bus, and for the bus driver to see new passengers. Costs are between £5k to £9k! I am making enquiries to see if I can find a more local supplier.

f. Dog bag dispensers - Wilton TC has recently installed 6 dog bag dispensers in its parks at a cost of £79.00 plus VAT each, plus the cost of buying a square pole. The environmentally friendly bags are also available, 1000 cost £18.72 plus VAT. Councillors may wish to consider buying and installing one of these at the Farley Coronation Playing Field. Go here: <https://jrbenterprises.com/> for further information.

121.18 Planning

Please note that WC enforcement has advised that it will be inviting the owner of Fairwinds, Townsend to apply for a Certificate of Lawfulness in respect of the incorporation of agricultural land into the domestic garden

c. Consultation on the Strategic Land & Economic Availability Assessment – information was circulated to all councillors on 27th September, and Cllrs Coppock & Lilley will report on the consultation evening they attended in Salisbury.

122.18 Highways

a. Dates of the next Parish Steward meetings – 8th & 12th November, 5th & 6th December.

b. Speeding – formation of a working group. The Parish Council already has one working group - the Flood Action Group. Working groups are useful, in that they can be used to research or monitor specific matters/issues, can meet informally, not necessarily in public, and are not bound by the regulatory framework surrounding formal committees or the Council. However, as a result, they have no delegated powers, they cannot make decisions on behalf of the parish Council, nor can they spend Parish Council (ie taxpayers) money. They can only make recommendation to the Parish Council, which are not binding on the PC to accept. It is recommended that one be formed to look at the issue of speeding in the parish, and feasible solutions.

123.18 Broadband

a. See 122.18b above in respect of forming a working group to look at the provision of broadband in the parish. Cllrs Mirski-Fitton and Lilley are taking up the offer of Wiltshire Council on a meeting about the matter.

124.18 WC consultation on its ward boundaries

Trowbridge Town Council has submitted its suggestions for the whole county, which puts P&F PC in a ward jointly with Laverstock, Clarendon Park and Firsdown PCs. See attached, page 7

126.18 Flood amelioration scheme

a. Such Salinger report - Cllr Mariner will update members regarding the draft Such Salinger report

b. Meeting with the EA engineer in Romsey – Dr Vicky Farwig has resigned her position with the EA, and is now working for Wessex Water. However, she has contacted the new engineer at the Romsey office with a request that she liaise with the Pitton Flood Group, and visits the parish to see the situation for herself.

c. Flood Plan – nearly finished, I am waiting for Renate Milton to check it

d. Blocked culvert/Aymers Pond – I am enquiring about a licence from the EA to undertake this, probably on behalf of the riparian owners, whose responsibility it is to clear the watercourse. The pond was previously excavated by Bruce using a digger hired by the PC.

127.18 Ongoing matters

a. 2018 RoSPA report – this was circulated to all councillors on 7th September. Woodford Forest & Landscape have been commissioned to repair the fence and install the gate.

b. Internet banking and additional signatories – the Variation of Mandate will be available to sign at the meeting

c. Replacement Parish Council noticeboard in Pitton – having investigated the history of the original proposal to locate a noticeboard on the piece of land opposite the Post Office, I can advise the following:

The owner of Coldhabour Barn also owns the adjacent piece of land – it is incorporated within the curtilage. The public has the right of access onto the land. The responsibility and cost of insuring this piece of land remains with the landowner.

The Parish Council could reimburse the landowner for the insurance costs.

The fundamental requirement to the arrangement is the landowner's agreement and written permission to proceed, and it is clear from the Chairman's remarks at the last meeting that this will not be forthcoming.

It is recommended that the noticeboard remains located outside the shop, but at two thirds its current size with both halves having doors to protect the notices from the elements. The public side could be unlocked, whilst the Parish council side should remain locked.