

Minutes of the Pitton & Farley Parish Council meeting held on 2nd July 2009 at 7.30pm in Farley Village Hall.

Present

Alan Shaw (Chairman)
Geoff Lowndes (Vice Chairman)
David Balfour
Mike Chant
Lyn Fredericks
David Goulden
Nigel Lilley
Steve Williams
Catherine Purves (The Clerk)

Five members of the public, Wilts Cllr. Chris Devine and Sgt Kerry Lawes of Wiltshire Constabulary.

Public questions

The Chairman read out a letter from Mr Tim Hawkes, a Pitton resident, who expressed concern that the introduction of Area Boards and Community Area Partnerships under the new Unitary Authority would only increase bureaucracy, rather than decrease it.

Mr Bergstrom raised concerns about speeding vehicles along White Way in Pitton, and the possible consequences at the school drop-off and collection times.

Mrs Wendy Everitt requested that consideration be given to placing additional play equipment in The Close, Pitton.

Mrs Sankey raised concerns about an ash tree on the corner of Church Lane and the High Street Pitton, some branches of which were growing over her hedge.

AGENDA

Apologies

None

54.09 Minutes

- i. The minutes of the meeting held on 28th May 2009 were approved as a correct record (*prop. GL, sec SW, all in favour*).
- ii. The minutes of the Special Meeting held on 15th June 2009 were approved as a correct record (*prop SW, sec NL, all in favour*).

55.09 Declarations of Interest

Mrs Fredericks declared a personal issue in the ash tree, as her son had planted it some seventeen years previously.

56.09 To receive reports from:

a. The Wiltshire Council representative for Winterslow, Cllr Chris Devine – Mr Devine reported that the Conservatives had a large majority on the new Council, and Jane Scott had been elected as Leader. There were ten major portfolios, assigned to the more experienced senior councillors of the group. The Council was going through its formative period, and the final working methods will be different to those of the former District and County Councils. Mr Devine advised that he had been appointed to the Fire Authority, the Overview & Scrutiny Committee of Resources and management, and also to the Southern Area Planning Board, as one of only eleven member councillors. He reminded the Parish Council of the date of the first Area Board meeting – Thursday July 23rd in Winterslow Village Hall at 6.30pm for a 7.00pm start. Cllr Devine also restated his aim to amend the speed limits on roads across the South Wiltshire Board Area to 20mph in the villages to 40mph on the rural roads. He was also very aware of the ongoing concerns regarding the atrocious state of the roads, and reported that the blind bend outside Houndwood on the Pitton/Farley road would be resurfaced, with the bank cut away and the edge tarmaced. “Slow” would be painted on both sides of the bends, and a “Reduce Speed” sign would be installed.

Nigel Lilley asked about voting rights on the Planning Board, and Cllr Devine advised that only the member councillors had the right to vote.

b. The Council’s representative on the Pitton Village Flood Action Group – David Goulden advised there was nothing to report, other than that the general water levels were continuing to drop.

c. The Council’s representative on the Pitton Village Management Committee - Mrs Fredericks advised there was nothing to report.

d. Parish Website representative- Mr Bossom had submitted a written report Last Saturday, 27th June, the village website celebrated exactly one year since launch. Since that time we have had 4,450 visits from 2,110 different visitors - looking at, in total over 20,000 'page views' of the site. During the year we advertised 336 village events as well as providing information about our community on 106 different pages.

On average, we get 85 visits a week, with our best week (w/c 14th June this year) peaking at 154 visits. Our best ever single day was Monday 15th June with 38 visits. The 'average' visitor looks at 4.5 pages per visit.

The overall trend is a gentle increase in usage of the site. This needs to be constantly supported by reminders to our community to supply new information about things that are going on, or things that have happened, and to include the site address on all forms of printed communication. I am pleased with the underlying growth in usage of the facility, but would welcome continued support and evangelising of the site from the Councillors.

e Chairman’s Report

Allan Jenkins has resigned from the Parish Council after six years service. I have formally acknowledged this and I am sure the Council joins me in thanking him for his contribution to the Council. As you are all aware the first

Southern Wiltshire Area Board meeting will take place on the 23 July at Winterslow. I will attend and anyone else who wishes to attend is most welcome.

f. Parish Clerk's Report

I attended a meeting at Porton Down on the 11th June, regarding the forthcoming closure of the Porton Road, the part which is the responsibility of the Crown, for resurfacing. Due to the presence of stone curlews, the work can only be carried out when the birds are not nesting, so the road will be closed for three months during the period 1st October 2009 to 28th February 2010, to allow for slippages due to bad weather. The road will be rebuilt as well as resurfaced, will remain the responsibility of the Crown, and the speed limit will be increased to 50mph. Highways are not planning to do anything to the other half of the road, which is its responsibility, leading into Porton village itself. Traffic lights will be installed at the same time at the junction of the A30, Pitton/Firsdow Road and Porton Road. Porton Down traffic will be diverted down the A30 to the Laverstock roundabout, and back to Porton via the A338 across the Broken Bridge and on through the Winterbournes. Highways and police are aware, and have made the necessary arrangements. The only effect this will have on Pitton and Farley is that Porton traffic coming from the Farley direction will naturally redirect itself to drive on down White Way and past the school upto the A30, rather than turning right down the High Street – and past the shop.

I was unsuccessful in being accepted for the VAT training course mentioned at the last meeting.

The first Area Board meeting will be held on Thursday 23rd July at 6.30pm in Winterslow Village Hall. There is also an Area Board Awareness Day. Also to be held at Winterslow Village Hall from 11.00 am to 2.00pm on Thursday 16th July.

57.09 To consider matters raised by members of the public

i. The possible increase in local government bureaucracy – Mr Shaw advised he had contacted Mr Hawkes with information, and had allayed Mr Hawkes' concerns.

ii. Speeding along White Way – councillors had read previously circulated copies of Mr & Mrs Bergstrom's letter which originally raised this matter, the danger it posed to the school children and suggested solutions, copies of the Village Working Party's report and conclusions into the subject in 2006 and copies of PC Clissold's response by e-mail to the solutions suggested by Mr Bergstrom. Mr Maguire, a Pitton school parent living in Bishopdown also distributed copies at the meeting of a risk assessment he had undertaken outside the school regarding the matter.

A wide ranging discussion then took place, during which members expressed sympathy for the parents' concerns, and wanted to press for what Wiltshire Council Highways would allow to ameliorate the problem. However, members (and other member of the public) did comment that much of the responsibility for their children's safety lay with the school parents and the need for them to

park and drive responsibly and teach their children road safety. The Parish Council resolved to request the local police to undertake a speed check exercise in the area during term time to establish the extent of the problem, to support Cllr Devine's plans to obtain a strategic reduction in the speed limit to 20mph through the South Wilts Area Board villages and to investigate the cost of placing a "School" sign, possibly a flashing one, at the 30mph sign on White Way, and request the resiting the "Road narrows" sign from the corner of Above Hedges to the 30mph sign on White Way, for a junction sign and for "SLOW" to be marked towards the bottom of Pitton Hill, before the blind bend and also for "SLOW" to be marked on White Way just before the sharp bend at Spire View, heading towards the A30.

lii Additional Play Equipment in The Close, Pitton – Mr Shaw confirmed that four letters had been received in support of Mrs Everitt's request for additional play equipment to be installed in The Close in Pitton. Another wide ranging discussion ensued, during which members made the points that there was a need to clarify what exactly is feasible to install in the space available, the age group it should be aimed at and that just one new piece of equipment was probably affordable. The impact on the neighbours to The Close should also be considered. The members resolved to form a working party, led by Steve Williams, and assisted by to Mrs Fredericks to establish exactly what was wanted by the children, and to ensure it was suitable for long term use.

Iv Trimming of the Ash Tree – Mrs Fredericks advised that the tree had been planted, along with a number of others in the village by Pitton school pupils some seventeen years ago. The Clerk had not been able to establish whether the Parish Council had been involved, but members resolved to take on the responsibility of trimming this tree on a one-off basis. Parishioners should not assume that this will set a precedence. The Clerk is to obtain quotes and Trees in Conservation Area consent, and report at the next meeting.

58.09 Matters Arising

None identified.

59.09 Finance

I a schedule of accounts in the sum of £1679.75 was approved for payment (prop DG, sec DB, all in favour).

li As an additional payment of £1147.70 to Richard Presslee for the work regarding the pump supply and kiosk was included for payment in the Schedule of Accounts, the budget monitoring form will be updated and circulated with the minutes.

60.09 Planning

i. Members noted a list of applications received and decisions notified

Applications Received

S/2009/0643/FULL

Proposal: Full Application – lean-to extension to existing farm building.

Location: Parsonage Farm, Pitton Road, Farley.

Members **support** this application

S/2009/0699/FULL

Proposal: Full Application – new detached dwelling in parking area of Springfield Cottage, demolition of existing garage and outbuildings and alterations of vehicular access to Springfield Cottage.

Location: Springfield Cottage, Church Road, Farley.

Members **object** to this application, for various design reasons unsympathetic to neighbouring listed buildings and also because it is an overdevelopment of the site, and overwhelming in such a prominent site.

S/2009/0896/TCA

Proposal: Trees in Cons. Area – fell 1 x sycamore and fell 1 x hawthorn.

Location: Newholme, Church Road, Farley

Opinion awaited.

S/2009/0902/FULL

Proposal: Full Application – alterations to front garden.

Location: Farley Hospital, The Wardenry, Church Road, Farley

Opinion awaited.

Decisions Received

None

li Consultation regarding the Local Development Framework. - members resolved that they wished the Parish Council to be consulted at all stages of consultation regarding the creation of Wiltshire Council's Local Development Framework, and asked the Clerk to write to the Planning Office to advise the Wilts Council of this.

iii. Quinetiq's proposal to extend military flying airspace to enable training in the use of unmanned military aircraft – Mr Shaw advised that Pitton village fell just within the new proposed boundary, whilst Farley village was outside it. As the aircraft were small, quiet and would be flying at 8000 ft, members had no objection to this proposal, except Mr Lilley, who objected on principle. The Clerk is to write to Quinetiq and confirm.

61.09 Highways/Parish Steward/Footpath matters

i. The dates of the next Parish Steward visits are the 29th July and 15th September. Alan Shaw is to be the Pitton village contact, whilst Geoff Lowndes is to be the Farley village contact.

li Work to be done – the verge on Grimstead Road needs cutting, and there are two potholes along The Street in Farley which need filling. Above Hedges and Black Lane in Pitton will be micro-asphalted later this month, dates to be advised.

lii Alan Shaw advised that he would like to organise a Parish Walk in the autumn in order to review and note the state of the footpaths in the parish. Date to be arranged at the next meeting, but in the meantime the Clerk will obtain up to date maps of the numbered footpath network.

lv Firsdow/Pitton & Farley boundary – The Clerk advised she had attended a meeting of Firsdow Parish Council the evening before to find out more information about this matter. It seems that two Firsdow residents are keen for the footpath to be reinstated to its original line, following the line of the original Roman Road, which has been encroached upon during the last forty

years by adjacent residents and vegetation. This has caused a great deal of angst amongst the residents affected, two archaeologists could not agree on the true original line of the Roman Road, and Wiltshire Council were relaxed about the encroachment of the footpath, although they would not like to see anything further, Firsdown Parish Council had resolved to support the status quo, and Pitton & Farley Council resolved to do the same.

62.09 To review other ongoing matters

i. Parish plan review – the Clerk has written to the Wilts & Dorset Bus Company with regard to the provision of a service between the two villages, and has yet to receive a reply.

ii. Council equipment – it was finally decided to buy CDs on which the parish records could be stored – a much cheaper and very transportable option. The Clerk will action.

iii Pitton pump – Geoff Lowndes advised that the electricity supply box had been installed and painted. A contract for supply was still needed. The parish Council may have to pay a tariff of 25p per unit, with no standing charge. Geoff Lowndes undertook to provide a rough figure for weeks worth of use, so that the Parish Council can factor this into the precept, if Wiltshire Council refuses to pay. Rick Wells, the former Salisbury District Council's Senior Environmental Health Officer had been employed by Wiltshire Council, and was anxious to arrange for a pump vendor to visit the site to ascertain the appropriate pump for the drain. David Goulden undertook to contact the Flood Warden, and update him, and to ascertain who should do what and when during a flood event.

Iv Pitton noticeboard – this is ongoing. The consultation period for planning permission ends on 23 July.

V Bench in Church Road, Farley – Nigel Lilley advised that David Parsons was carrying out the necessary repairs.

63.09 Dates of next meetings.

Thursday 3rd September 2009 at 7.30pm in Pitton Village Hall.

Thursday 5th November 2009 at 7.30pm in Farley Village Hall

Thursday 19th November 2009 at 7.30pm in Farley Village Hall – Budget & Precept Meeting

End of meeting – 9.25pm