

**Minutes of the Pitton & Farley Parish Council meeting held on 1st April 2010 at
7.30pm in Pitton Village Hall**

Present

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

4 members of the public

Public questions

Mr Coppock gave his support to the proposed new play equipment in The Close, providing it was intended for younger children only. He also raised concerns about the untidiness and scruffy appearance of the whole area, about safety issues at the High Street exit with poor visibility and a lack of anything to stop children running out and about the maintenance of the trees, with particular reference to the horse chestnut suffering from bleeding canker. Mr Coppock also commented that the bus stop area was a disgrace, full of leaves and very muddy in wet weather.

Mr McGuire thanked the Council for its ongoing efforts to address the speeding issues in the village, particularly past the village primary school.

AGENDA

Apologies

Apologies were received from Geoff Lowndes (Vice Chairman) and David Goulden.

22/10 Minutes

- a. The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 18th February 2010 were approved and signed as a correct record, without amendment (prop SW, sec LF, all in favour).
- b. The minutes of the Farley Ward Planning Committee meeting held on 15th February were approved and signed as a correct record, without amendment (prop MC, sec NL, all in favour).

23/10 Declarations of Interest

Lyn Fredericks declared a personal interest in matters relating to The Close, being the owner of a neighbouring property.

1.

24/10 To receive reports from:

- a. *The Wiltshire Councillor Chris Devine* – none received.
- b. *The Pitton Flood Action Group* – the Flood Warden had advised that the water levels are beginning their seasonal decline, and the siphon still hasn't been cleaned out.
- c. *Pitton Village Hall Management Committee* – nothing to report.
- d. *Parish Website* – Mr Bossom advised that the website had had its most successful month yet in March, and the number of visits in the last 12 months had increased by 42% compared to the previous 12 months. As always, please keep sending in items and updated information, and also photos.
- e. *Chairman's Report* – Mr Shaw had attended the Core Strategy hearings by the Planning Inspector on 2nd and 5th March, and a meeting regarding the preliminary draft of the Community Plan on 4th March. He had also attended an informal meeting of the trustees of Farley Ward Hospital regarding the arrangements for selecting a new Warden.
- f. *Parish Clerk's Report* - next Area Board meeting is on Thursday 15th April at 6.30pm for 7.00pm at Winterslow Village Hall. Planning Department is having another seminar on Friday 14th May from 9.15am to 1.00pm in the Alamein Suite, City Hall, Salisbury. Wiltshire Council's Emergency Planning Unit is arranging a Flood Fair at the Olympiad Leisure Centre Chippenham from 9.30am to 1.30pm.
- g. *The working party on play equipment in The Close* – Mr Shaw advised members of the outcome of the ward meeting that had taken place on the 30th March 2010, and there was agreement that the Parish Council should proceed with the purchase of the monkey bars and climbing frame (Prop AS, sec MC, all in favour). **Action: The Clerk**

25/10 To consider matters raised by the public

The trees in The Close and its general maintenance are discussed elsewhere on the agenda. The Councillors noted with pleasure and thanks Mr McGuire's kind remarks.

26/10 Matters Arising

- The Clerk confirmed she had written to Victim Support declining its request for a grant.
- The Clerk had completed a survey of grit bins in the parish for Wiltshire Council, who may well be providing additional bins later in the year.
- Due to the change of landlord, the Clerk had yet to write to the landlord of the Hook & Glove regarding the Wiltshire Ambulance's request to site a clothing bank somewhere in the parish. **Action: the Clerk**

2.

27/10 Finance

- a. *Members decided not to authorise the annual subscription* to the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, so a schedule of accounts in the reduced sum of £290.35 was approved.
- b. *The updated 2010/2011 budget monitoring form* was noted.
- c. *Moving the Parish Councils accounts to LloydsTSB* – the Parish Council resolved to do this, to avoid paying an annual fee of £120.00 for funds to be transferred automatically between the deposit and current accounts. LloydsTSB does not charge. **Action: the Clerk.**
- d. *Reappointment of Mandy Kerley as the Parish Council's Internal Auditor* – the Parish Council resolved that Ms Kerley be reappointed.
- e. *Members noted that additional information* needs to be supplied to the external auditor, Mazars, as part of its random 5% sampling.
- f. *Farley Coronation Playing Field play area project* - Mr Lilley advised that the officers of the managing committee had just changed, and a final public consultation about the plans had recently taken place. He also requested that Farley's R2 funds now be allocated to this project. The members agreed, and resolved to allocate £6500.00 of Farley's funds to this project.

28/10 Highway/Parish Steward/Footpath matters

The next visits will be 19th April and 17th June (no visit in May due to verge cutting). A list of tasks was considered and will be forwarded onto Highways. **Action: the Clerk.**

29/10 To consider giving the Close "Village Green" status

The Parish Council would have to demonstrate that the Close has been used for at least 20 years by local people without secrecy, force or permission for lawful sports and pastimes. Quality of evidence is more important than quantity. The Village Green status will then protect The Close from the possibility of any future development for evermore. The members resolved to invite an officer from Wiltshire Council to the Annual Parish Meeting to give a talk on Village Greens. **Action: The Clerk**

30/10 To review other ongoing matters:

- a. *Joining the Wiltshire Council pilot scheme for maintaining footpaths* – The Clerk has spoken to Bob Chequer, the Wilts Officer in charge of the project to devolve services and assets to the Town and Parish councils, and he advises that it is likely that this service will be devolved to perhaps a group or cluster of parishes to take on, or it may be a task given to the parish stewards, whose role is being reviewed. Members thought this matter should be raised as an issue to be discussed by the Area Board. **Action: The Clerk.**

- b. *Telephone boxes* – the Clerk advised she had still to place notices consulting residents about taking on the ownership and maintenance of the boxes.

Action: the Clerk

3.

- c. *Common land in the parish* – Community Service has been requested to dig out Aymers Pond in Pitton. Nigel Lilley will visit Parsonage Hill pond to see if that needs doing. Members resolved to leave Ben Lane pond alone. **Action: The Clerk and Nigel Lilley.**
- d. *Wheelie bin stickers* – the purchase of these 30mph stickers was on hold, as the police and Wiltshire Council were in discussion as to the enforceability of the stickers.
- e. *Affordable rural housing* – nothing to report.
- f. *Tree maintenance in The Close* – Greg gent had inspected the trees, and would provide a written report, but urgent items are the trees on the left hand side of the footpath looking up The Close from the High Street which need crown lifting to 2 metres by law, and a diseased horse chestnut needs removing. Two sycamores opposite, near the play area also need cutting back. Members resolved to await the report, and action the work as and when funds become available. Members also thought it a good idea to form a working party to undertake maintenance perhaps twice a year to keep the Close looking tidy.

31/10 Dates of Next meetings

Monday 10th May at 7.30pm in Farley Village Hall – the Annual Parish Meeting ie the annual meeting of all parish electors.

Thursday 13th May at 7.00pm in Farley Village Hall – the annual meeting of the Parish Council ie the "AGM".

Thursday 13th May at 7.30pm in Farley Village Hall – ordinary meeting.

Thursday 24th June at 7.30pm in Pitton Village hall – ordinary meeting.

End of meeting 9.10pm

4.