

Minutes of the Pitton & Farley Parish Council meeting held on 16th March 2009 at 7.30pm in Farley Village Hall

Present

Geoff Lowndes (Chairman)
Alan Shaw (Deputy Chairman)
Allan Jenkins
Nigel Lilley
Steve Williams
Catherine Purves (The Clerk)

Also in attendance – Val Powley, Area Board Project Manager for Tisbury and one member of the public.

Public question time

Val Powley gave a short presentation on Area Boards and their role and composition in the new Unitary Authority. Various pilot Boards had been set up around the county, each testing different ways and methods of holding meetings, who to invite to sit on the Board and to attend the meetings. The results were being analysed, and a handbook was being compiled for use later in the year after the elections, when the Area Boards proper would come into existence. The Boards are intended to be the executive arm of the new Wiltshire Council, bring decision making down to the local level. Only the Unitary Councillors will have the right to vote, but although parish and town council representatives will have no formal vote, there will be ways to include them in the decision making as will the representatives of the NHS, fire and police, who also will have no right to vote.

The individual pilot Boards have already identified a number of issues considered important by their local residents, and these will be passed on to the proper Boards. Budgets/grants have not yet been finalized, as the Boards will be funded by the Wiltshire Council, and the Boards will **not** have precept raising powers. Democratic Services will provide administrative/secretarial support, and technical support will also be provided for those venues lacking in such facilities, in order the Boards to travel and convene meetings around their areas. The first meetings will take place in July, and boards will meet subsequently every six/eight weeks. Planning applications, if called in, will be considered by a separate Planning Committee.

Chris Sankey raised a matter about Pitton's flood defences, ie that the District Council did not appear to have cleared out and maintained the siphon and flood ditches in the village and he also asked which body would be responsible for keeping the system clear under the new Wiltshire Council. Mr Sankey also asked who was responsible for monitoring/implementing the actions stated in the Flood plan.

AGENDA

Apologies

Apologies received from John Ellis (on holiday), David Goulden (on business) Lyn Fredericks (unwell), District Cllr Chris Devine (on holiday).

18.09 Minutes

- The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 8th January 2008 were approved as a correct record (prop GL, sec NL all in favour except SW).
- GL advised that in item 15.09, "supply of the electricity" should be altered to read "connection of the electricity". With this amendment, the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 20th February 2009 were approved as a correct record (prop GL, sec NL, all in favour except SW).

19.09 Declarations of Interest

There were none.

20.09 To consider any matters raised by the public

The Chairman thanked Mrs Powley for her comprehensive presentation, and ensured that those present had copies of the leaflet on Area Boards. Further copies are available from the Clerk. The Clerk was requested to contact Mr Wells at Salisbury District Council regarding the cleaning of the siphon. The Clerk advised that the District Council's role and responsibilities as the local Land Drainage Authority would devolve to the new Wiltshire Council, who would then become responsible for keeping the flood defence system clear. Mr Shaw opined that the Flood Warden, in informal liaison with the Parish Council, was responsible for the actions detailed in the Flood Plan.

21.09 Matters Arising

- The Clerk advised that she was still trying to establish whether Wessex or Southern Water had any responsibility for the pipe which empties into Aymers pond from the fields opposite.
- Mr Shaw asked whether any progress had been made researching the Council's IT requirements. This was topic was deferred to later in the next meeting under Item 11b on the agenda.

22.09 To receive reports from:

- a. The County Councillor for Winterslow – none received.
- b. The District Councillor for Winterslow – none received.
- c. The Council's representative on the Pitton Village Flood Action Group - David Goulden is away, but the Environment Agency has advised that at the 25th February, the ground water levels at Lopcombe Corner were well below the monthly maximum. Members noted this information.
- d. The Council's representative on the Pitton Village Hall Management Committee – Mr Shaw gave a report, in Mrs Frederick's absence. Mr Coppock had been elected as Chairman again and the trustees are considering the purchase of a commercial dishwasher and the renovation of the back patio as possible future financial expenditure. Members noted this information.
- e. The Parish Website representative – in his absence, Mr Bossom had circulated his report earlier to members via e-mail, but essentially, analysis of regular use over eight months has

shown the main interest is in the events and news sections on the home page. As a result, both of these sections have been adjusted, giving more space to accommodate associated photographs and more text. Members noted this information.

f. Chairman's report – Mr Lowndes welcomed Mr Williams to his first meeting, and hoped Mr William's would find Council work useful and interesting. Mr Lowndes also advised members of the resignation of David Cole and of John Ellis, who would be resigning on the 31st March. Mr Cole had been a member since 2003, and had been chairman for two years from 2005 to 2007. He had worked hard on a number of projects in the parish, and would be a loss to the Council. Likewise, Mr Ellis would also be a loss, as his contacts with many outside bodies brought a great deal of information to the attention of members, which was of great use in their decision making. Mr Lowndes would write to both gentlemen, thanking them for their time and contribution to the Council and the parish. Mr Lowndes also advised that Mr Balfour had expressed a keen interest to be co-opted onto the Council to fill the vacancy in the Pitton ward left by Mr Cole, and the Clerk was liaising with him regarding this.

g. Parish Clerk's report - there was very little to report, other than to advise that she was to attend an accounting training day in Devizes on the 17th March and to remind members that the last District Council/Parish Council liaison meeting would be held on 18th March at 6.30pm in City Hall and afterwards in the bar.

23.09 Finance

- a. A schedule in the sum of £1152.78 was approved for payment.
- b. The updated Budget monitoring form was noted, but there were some errors, for which the Clerk apologised, and undertook to correct and recirculate to members.
- c. Two new bank signatories – Mr Lowndes offered to be one, and a second signatory will be selected at the next meeting, when hopefully more councillors will be present.

24.09 Planning

- a. A list of planning applications received and decisions notified was noted

Applications Received

S/2008/2136

Proposal: Full Application – fenced in storage area and rose catenary in front garden.

Location: Fox's Hospital, Church Road, Farley.

Members **support** this application and recommend that the hedge should be allowed to grow around the end return, so screening the bins from the view from the road.

Decisions Notified.

S/2008/2085

Proposal: Full Application – new dwelling, detached garage with garden store and new road entrance.

Location: Land adjacent to Newholme, Church road, Farley.

Permission granted.

- b. To consider Planning Application S/2009/0326/FULL – the proposed erection of a garden room/store at Beecroft, Parsonage Hill, Farley

25.09 Highway/Parish Steward matters

- a. The Parish steward will next visit the Parish on April 8th and June 11th. There is no visit in May, as the Stewards are occupied with verge cutting.
- b. Work that needs doing includes the unblocking of the drain outside the School House/Parsonage Farm, Pitton, clearing the grips and gullies in the parish, the filling of various potholes and reiterating the request for verge markers at the bottom of Parsonage Hill in Farley.
- c. To consider supporting District Councillor Chris Devine's campaign for a reduction in the speed limit along the Pitton to Farley Road – members resolved to support Councillor Devine, and agreed to e-mail the Clerk with details of all accidents that have occurred in the last twelve months, after which the Clerk will write to Mr Devine advising him of the Parish Council's support.

26.09 To adopt the revised Standing Orders

- a. Copies had been circulated earlier, and Mr Shaw briefly reiterated the background to the project, and highlighted the main changes, which were to increase the quorum for each Council meeting to five members, whilst those for ward meeting remained at three members, the need to always obtain the quotes for work to be done was amended to try to obtain three quotes, and the Clerk was to be given a discretionary spending limit of upto £100.00 without prior reference to the Parish Council. Every subsequent change would be properly debated and recorded. Mr Shaw advised that he, the Clerk and Mr Bossom, the Parish Website editor had worked on the document, and that thanks to Mr Bossom should be recorded, as they had relied heavily on his technical skills to scan the original document, update it into an easily alterable format and then input all the changes necessary. There were no comments, and so Mr Shaw proposed that the Standing Orders as presented be adopted, which was seconded by Mr Lowndes. All were in favour.
- b. To consider changing to monthly meetings – Mr Lowndes expressed concern that the Clerk would have double the workload to do if meetings were held more often. The general consensus of opinion was that members were content to keep meetings at two monthly intervals.

27.09 To review other ongoing matters:

- a. Parish Plan review – A working party consisting of Mr Shaw, Mr Williams, Mr Jenkins and the Clerk was formed to review the actions required of the Parish Council.
- b. Council equipment, particularly projector and screen – members felt that a projector and screen was not necessary, and would be expensive to buy, even with the help of a grant. However members felt a parish Council laptop would be a good investment, together with a fireproof cabinet, and the Clerk was instructed to obtain further advice regarding the laptop, and to purchase a fireproof cabinet at £119.99.
- c. Pitton Pump – the lowest tender for the installation of the electricity supply box has been accepted, the connection has been paid for, the colour of the box has been approved (forest green) and planning permission to relocate the site of the box into the hedge has been applied for
- d. Public noticeboard – planning permission will be applied for as soon as possible.

28.09 Dates of next meetings

Thursday 7th May at 7.00pm in Pitton Village Hall – Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.
Thursday 7th May at 7.30pm in Pitton Village Hall – Parish Council meeting.

Thursday 2nd July at 7.30pm in Farley Village Hall – Parish Council meeting.

End of meeting 9.40pm