

Minutes of the Pitton & Farley Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 12th August 2015 at 7.30pm in Pitton Village Hall

Present

Cllr Tony Ashworth
Cllr Rod Coppock (Vice Chairman)
Cllr Chris Hewitt
Cllr Nigel Lilley
Cllr Geoff Lowndes
Cllr Stuart Mariner
Cllr Mrs Sarah Strong
Cllr Steve Williams

In attendance

Mrs Catherine Purves (Clerk)

Also present

Wiltshire Councillor Chris Devine and sixteen members of the public.

Public Session

Concerns were raised by several members of the public concerning the proposed sites put forward under Wiltshire Council's review of its Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment. The main ones were that if these sites were ever developed, the additional housing would have an unacceptable impact on the amount of traffic passing within and through the village. It is difficult enough at school opening and closing time, and there is a possibility that the existing bus service might be cut further, which would add to the existing car movements. The present infrastructure would struggle to cope, particularly the sewerage system, which in turn would have an impact on the effects of flooding.

However, some felt that low cost affordable housing was needed, although this should be proportionate, with the quantity and type determined by a Housing Needs Survey.

There was some discussion as to whether the plot of land (known to be owned by Wiltshire Council) at the immediate end of Above Hedges was included in the consultation.

Wilts Cllr Chris Devine stated that three of the sites were owned by Wiltshire Council, and were prime agricultural, greenfield land, and that it was not Wilts Council policy to sell this type of land for private development. Wiltshire Council would look to use its own land for small scale development for community benefit only. Any development would have to be referred to the Parish Council, and if the Parish Council did not support it, he would call any proposal into the Planning Committee for determination, where he had a good track record of defeating such proposals.

Concerns were also raised about the parking facilities proposed for the new build at Journeys End.

AGENDA

Cllr Coppock in the chair

74.15 Apologies

Apologies were received from the Chairman, Cllr Jamie Latham, as he was away on holiday.

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Resolved: To accept these apologies and the reasons for them.

75.15 Minutes

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 8th July 2015

Resolved: to approve and sign the minutes as a correct record without amendment.

76.15 Declarations of Interest

a. To receive any **Declarations of Interest** in respect of matters contained in this agenda in accordance with the provisions of the Localism Act 2011 in respect of councillors, and in accordance with the Local Government act 1972 in respect of officers.

Resolved: to note none declared

b. To consider any **Dispensation Requests** received by the Parish Clerk and not previously considered.

Resolved: to note none requested

77.15 To consider any urgent matters raised in the public session, and any other urgent matters or items of information from councillors.

The matters raised were considered at the appropriate agenda item

78.15 To receive reports from:-

a. The Wiltshire Council representative for Winterslow, Cllr. Chris Devine

i. Road repairs – he has asked for the contractors to return and complete the side filling and topping work on the Pitton/Farley road.

ii. Churchfields Recycling Centre – the altered hours were plainly having unintended consequences for the businesses on Churchfields, and would need to be reviewed.

iii. Joint Fire Authority – the shadow board had met, and preparations were on course for the new joint authority to come into existence on 1st April 2016. Residents should see no change to the service provided.

iv. Area Board – applications for grant funding were welcome.

v. Fibre optic broadband – Wiltshire Council was not happy with the patchy inconsistent results, and Cllr John Thompson, the Deputy Leader was involved in trying to resolve the situation

vi. Nightwood Farm application – he was aware of the concerns about this application regarding location and access, and was pressing the ward councillor. Cllr Richard Britton, to call in the application to the Southern Planning Committee for determination.

vii. Bus subsidy – because of the ongoing reductions in the amount of the support grant received from central Government, Wilts Council was now looking at reducing the bus subsidy. Cllr Devine felt the existing bus service was vital for rural communities, and he would be opposing any proposed reduction vigorously. Revenue from the car parking fees was used to subsidise the bus services, so if the subsidy was cut, then car parking charges should be cut too. There was no further news on the outcome of the recent car parking review and consultation.

b. The Council's representative on the Pitton Village Hall Management Committee – Mrs Purves advised nothing to report at present. The next management committee meeting will

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be held on 26th August.

c. The Council's representative on the Farley Village Hall Management Committee – no report

d. Parish Website representative – Mr Bossom had advised there was nothing to report.

e. Chairman's report – nothing to report

f. Parish Clerk's report

i. As a result of the deep cuts to be implemented in the central government funding of local government, parish councils may be expected to contribute upto 25% to any small highways projects implemented via the Community Area Transport group.

ii. The Clerk has booked her attendance at the SLCC National Conference this year in Leicestershire.

iii. The play area in The Close will undergo its annual inspection in September.

iv. Wiltshire Council is reviewing its contract with Balfour Beatty Living Places, the unacceptably long time it takes for anything to be done being given as one of the reasons. It is likely that a new contractor will be appointed, but there is no indication when this will happen.

g. The Council's representative to the Southern Wiltshire Area Board – at the last meeting, topics covered included the usual grant awarding item, updates from the fire service (it is suggested that the Head Office for the joint Wilts/Dorset joint service should be based at Bourne Hill), the police (new custody suite will be located at Warminster) and youth services co-ordinator, and updates concerning the mini campuses scheme and facilities/services for elderly people. Tom Bray has returned as the Community Engagement Manager, replacing Karen Linaker. The next meeting will be held on Thursday 1st October in Downton Memorial Hall.

h. Cllr Ashworth concerning the consultation workshop regarding the review of the bus service subsidy – Cllr Ashworth advised that this had been more of a workshop, and the proper consultation exercise would be carried out in the autumn.

Resolved: to note these updates

79.15 Enhanced Flood Amelioration scheme in Pitton

Cllr Mariner advised that there was nothing further to report at present, but he hoped to learn of progress at the next Wilts Council Flood Ops group meeting which will take place on Tuesday 1st September at 10.00am in the Diocesan Educational Centre, Wilton

80.15 Planning

a. To determine a response to planning applications received:

15/06130/FUL – demolition of existing bungalow and erection of a replacement 4 bed chalet bungalow, hard and soft landscaping and associated works at Journeys End, White Way, Pitton

Comments were made about the design, as it was not felt to be entirely appropriate for a village setting, although it was noted that concerns about the height issue had been

addressed. Concerns were raised about sufficient parking space required for a four bedroomed property.

Resolved: to support, but a traffic management plan must be produced in respect of the demolition and building works

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15/06729/FUL – change of use of three agricultural storage units to class B8 storage at Nightwood Farm, Lucewood Lane, West Grimstead

It was noted that part of the site was already given over to storage, but the location and access roads were totally unsuitable for the size and weight of vehicle likely to serve the expanded facility.

Resolved: to oppose strongly on the grounds that the location and access roads are inadequate to serve such a facility of the proposed size and use, and to support Wilts Cllr Chris Devine in his efforts to persuade the ward member to call in this application for determination by the Southern Planning Committee.

b. To note planning decisions made by Wiltshire Council since the last meeting:

Resolved: to note none notified

c. To determine a response to the potential development sites in Pitton put forward by Wiltshire Council

Cllr Mariner advised that during the recent efforts to identify suitable land for a school car park, Wiltshire Council's Estates Department had confirmed that the land immediately at the end of Above Hedges could not be considered for parking, as it was being retained for affordable housing. However, it was noted that a large majority of those present were opposed to the idea of affordable housing in the village, which reflected the views recorded in the 2007 Parish Plan. Councillors saw no reason for the Parish Council to change its view on the proposed sites.

Resolved: to maintain opposition to potential development on the suggested sites S177 (land to the west of Above Hedges), S179 (land to the north of Above Hedges), S188 (land to the north of Townsend), S32 (land at The Orchard, Pitton) on the basis that it would have a negative impact on the infrastructure and traffic movements within and through the village, and would exacerbate the effects of flooding. **Action:** The Clerk

81.15 Finance.

a. To agree to refund the Clerk half the CiLCA registration fee of £125.00

Resolved: to approve. The Clerk, Mrs Purves, thanked the Council

b. To note the bank balance as at 31st July 2015

Resolved: to note a bank balance of £16571.11

c. To approve for payment a schedule of accounts in the sum of £747.92

Resolved: to approve payment

d. To note the 2015/2016 Budget Monitoring form

Resolved: to note

e. To note the quarterly bank account reconciliation

Resolved: to note this had been completed by the Clerk and checked by Cllr Coppock.

f. To consider quotes for bark chippings and additional gate at The Close Pitton – yet to be actioned. Cllr Hewitt recommended that play chippings were more robust and therefore more appropriate.

82.15 Highway/Footpath matters

a. Update on Area Board/Highways issues

- i. 3057 (Silted ditches along Pitton/Winterslow Road) 21/07/15 – ditches have been cleared, issue closed
- ii. 3429 (Flooding/culvert required at Church Road in Farley) – no further news. This remains

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on the list of works to be done, no indication when this might be.

- iii. 3906 (Black ice and hazardous conditions at Lucewood Lane, Farley) – it was noted that Lucewood Lane is now a secondary gritting route. Contractors have inspected the area, and have confirmed that a drain is already in place to prevent water run-off from the neighbouring field running across the road. However, it is tilted the wrong way, and needs to be formally raised with Highways so that the necessary correction work can be done. The next meeting of the CATG is Wednesday 2nd September at 600pm in Bourne Hill
- iv. 4024 (Missing road name sign, The Street, Farley). No further news. It is in the system to be replaced, but no indication when this will be.

Resolved: to note these updates

b. To consider adding suggested walking routes to the map lecterns

The Pitton Footpath Co-Ordinator has asked if a leaflet display containing laminated A4 sheets showing suggested walks around Pitton village could be attached to the map lectern in Pitton. The idea is for walkers to take the leaflets and return them at the end of their walk.

Resolved: to agree in principle, provided the leaflet display holder was of wood, and provided and installed at his own expense.

c. To consider the issue of fencing outside the fishery entrance on Green Lane which appears to have been installed beyond the boundary line

It was noted this issue was located in the neighbouring civil parish of Grimstead.

Resolved: to refer this to the Grimstead Parish Clerk. **Action:** The Clerk

83.15 To review and note other ongoing matters

a. Noticeboards and lecterns

These have been delivered and installed. Concerns were raised about the pooling of rain water at the bottom of the map area which might eventually rot the wood, but Cllr Lilley advised this had already been referred to the manufacturer, which had claimed that there was nothing to worry about. He was reluctant to do anything to alleviate the problem, as this would invalidate any warranty.

Resolved: to monitor the problem over the winter, taking photos for evidence as necessary.

b. Development of an Emergency Incident/Snow Plan

The Clerk confirmed that any appointed Snow wardens would be covered by the Parish Council insurance, and Cllr Hewitt advised that a farmer's tractor insurance always covers emergency work.

Resolved: to form a working group to progress matters. **Action:** The Clerk and Cllrs Hewitt, Williams and Latham

c. Bird swing for The Close

The Clerk confirmed this had been ordered.

d. Review of Clerk's contract

Cllr Coppock advised he had reviewed the Clerk's contract with the latest model one available from the SLCC, and had found that there was little difference between them. However, the Parish Council did need to adopt a sickness, expenses, grievance & disciplinary procedure, and it did need to look at possible pension obligations, and to undertake annual appraisals of the Clerk. He had also looked at the Clerk's salary, noting that guidelines were available to link the salary paid to the size and activity of the parish Council.

Resolved: to form a Remuneration working group to review the Clerk's salary in relation to

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the size and activity of the Council, and to consider whether there should be an additional payment to reflect any experience and qualifications achieved. **Action:** The Clerk and Cllrs Mariner, Latham, Lilley and Coppock.

e. Registering title – yet to be actioned.

f. Frequency of gully emptying

The Clerk advised that she had raised this, and had been told very firmly that the spec will not change, ie they will only be emptied once a year unless a blocked gully is causing flooding to neighbouring properties, or a safety risk to road users.

g. Blocked drain in Lucewood Lane

See Item 82.15aiii above

84.15 To note the dates of the next two ordinary meetings.

- a. Wednesday 30th September at 7.30pm in Farley Village Hall
- b. Wednesday 4th November at 7.30pm in Pitton Village Hall

85.15 To close the meeting.

The meeting finished at 9.35pm

Members of the Council considered the foregoing matters in consideration of their duties: Equal Opportunities (race, gender, sexual orientation, marital status and any disability); Crime and Disorder; Health and Safety, and Human Rights.

