

Minutes of the Pitton & Farley Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 7th December 2016
at 7.30pm in Pitton Village Hall

Present

Cllr Rod Coppock (Chairman)
Cllr Jamie Latham (Vice Chairman)
Cllr Tony Ashworth
Cllr Nigel Lilley
Cllr Geoff Lowndes
Cllr Stuart Mariner
Cllr Mrs Sarah Strong

In attendance

Catherine Purves (Clerk)

Also present

Wiltshire Councillor Chris Devine, and two members of the public.

Public session

Brian Cudby spoke briefly about the additional equipment required to support the Pitton Paths Group in maintaining the village's footpaths, and expressed a hope that the requirements would be included in the next financial year's budget.

Chris Sanke, the Pitton Flood warden, gave a resume of the situation at present, and expressed his views that the bridge on White Way was restricting the flow of water out of the village. He felt that there were good reasons for the proposed flood amelioration scheme to be funded, and he urged the parish Council to make the argument to Wiltshire Council, even though the funds are apparently unavailable. He also reiterated his view that a public meeting should be held.

Cllr Devine advised that the implementation of the scheme, should it ever go ahead, would be so disruptive that residents would have to be aware, and be in agreement and support beforehand, and he also recommended that a public meeting be held, although he felt that other things could be done first, and more cheaply.

Wiltshire Councillor Chris Devine gave his report:

- There is very little happening in the Council now, as it starts the run up to the elections in May 2017. Another £25m will need to be cut from the budget in 2017/18, and so it was likely that the Wiltshire Council element of the precept would increase by 1.9%, with an additional 2% ringfenced for the care of the vulnerable.
- He had spoken to officers about the need to respond to parishes' enquiries.
- Highways – he had reported the dangerous pothole at the bottom of White Hill, and he was hopeful that Lucewood Lane would be included on the capital maintenance list for 2017/18.
- *Broadband* – he is still making enquiries about the additional government funding to roll out broadband to the remote areas of the parish, eg Stockbottom. He also noted that Virgin Media was looking for residents to sign up to fibre broadband in the area.
- *Planning* – he had called in the Mayfield application to the next Southern Planning Committee on Thursday 12th January as requested.
- *Police* – he had asked officers to carry out more patrols at night. It was likely that the police precept would also increase for 2017/18.
- *Health & Wellbeing Fund* – there was £6.3k of funding available to create a Health & Wellbeing group, which could provide senior citizens lunches

- *Speed limit reduction requests* – these could be brought to CATG

AGENDA

133.16 To receive apologies

None received, as all councillors were present.

Resolved: to note

134.16 Minutes

a. To approve as a correct record the minutes of the ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 26th October. **Resolved:** to approve as a correct record without amendment.

135.16 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.

Cllr Mrs Strong declared a personal interest in application 16/09446/FUL, as she lived opposite the application site.

Resolved: to note

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

Resolved: to note none received.

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

a. *Expenditure on footpath maintenance equipment* – confirming that the equipment would a parish wide resource, and could be used by the Farley Paths Group when it becomes established, it was

Resolved: to include the estimates in the budget for 2016/17.

b. *Pitton Flood Scheme* – see agenda item 138.16 below

137.16 To receive reports from:-

a. *The Council's representative on the Pitton Village Hall Management Committee* – Mrs Purves advised that plans to install wi-fi to the hall were progressing, the charging structure has been simplified, and various minor maintenance issues have been dealt with. Finances remain strong. Mrs Purves was asked to report the Parish Council's complaints about the dirty tables and very dusty curtains to the Hall Committee. **Action:** The Clerk

b. *The Council's representative on the Farley Village Hall Management Committee* – Cllr Latham reported that the new electrical and fire alarm system had been installed, and that the hall was in a financially sound position

c. *Parish Website representative* – Sean McCarney has now taken on the editorship of the parish website. A letter of thanks is to be sent to Doric Bossom for all his hard work and contribution to this much admired community facility. **Action:** The Clerk

d. *Chairman's report* – Cllr Coppock advised that he had nothing to report.

e. *Parish Clerk's report* – Mrs Purves reported that she had attended the planning training day in Devizes, and the most recent Area Board meeting. The Salisbury Transportation Strategy review workshop has been postponed again to the New Year. Wiltshire Council has established that it needs to find £10m of savings from this financial year in order to be able to balance the books at the end of March 2017.

f. *Southern Wiltshire Area Board* – Mrs Purves reported that the anti-fly tipping camera will be in operation from w/c 5th December. There were updates on Community Policing, and a presentation

given on the new Rural Crime partnership created in October, which will provide the strategy and overview of police activity in Wiltshire, co-ordinating all the relevant agencies and providing them with

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info and intelligence. The PCSO for the parish is PCSO Tina Rylance, and she is currently patrolling beauty spots, including Bentley Wood to try and prevent thefts from cars. The parish was commended for its circular footpath, and this has provided a template for others to follow. There are toolkits and modest funding available to help create local Health & Wellbeing Groups. The meeting also heard updates from CATG, and considered just one grant application. The next meeting will be held on Thursday 26th January at Trafalgar School, Downton

138.16 Enhanced Flood Amelioration scheme in Pitton

Cllr Mariner advised that the role of the bridge in the flood amelioration scheme had been discussed at the last Wiltshire Council Operational Flood Working Group meeting in October, and it was clear that the cost of rebuilding the bridge to address the problem of the foundations was greater than the cost of the proposed enhanced scheme, and so was not a financially realistic proposition. He had contacted Danny Everett, the Drainage engineer several times to find out more information about the background calculations to the Environment Agency's and Wiltshire Council's decision, but had not received a reply. However, he noted again Danny Everett's hope that the scheme could be included in the capital expenditure budget in the next 2 to 3 years.

Cllr Lilley advised that he had a better understanding of the scheme, and noted that it involves the construction of a bund at the entrance into the village to dam the water, thus creating a rise in the water level at Townsend.

All agreed that a public meeting should be held, but the plans did not give sufficient meaningful information which could be displayed, and that further analysis was required.

It was also noted that the next Operational Flood Working Group meeting would take place on Wednesday 15th February at Coombe Bisset Village Hall, that ground water levels are currently low, and that the ditch and siphon will only be cleared if Wiltshire Council thinks they need to be.

Resolved: To invite Danny Everett and the Atkins representative to meet parish councillors to gain a better understanding of the proposed scheme in order to present it to the village. **Action:** The Clerk and Cllrs Mariner & Lilley

139.16 Planning

a. To determine a response to planning applications received:

i. **16/09446/FUL** – proposed rear extension and raise roof to provide rooms with 10 roof lights at Mayfield, White Way, Pitton – *amended plans re rear roof lights*

Resolved: to object for the same reasons as before

ii. **16/10869/FUL** – removal of existing garage and garden room and erection of side extension at West View, Parsonage Hill, Farley

Resolved: to support, but to draw attention to the possible overlooking of the neighbouring property at Orchard House

iii. **16/10909/FUL** – proposed single storey extension to create new porch at Middlewood House, The Street, Farley.

Resolved: to object, as the conditions imposed on the earlier application, ie to create shared access and sufficient parking for two cars each for Middlewood and the neighbouring property Woodside had not been carried out, and this application proposes to reduce the space for parking even further.

Action: The Clerk

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

i. **16/08546/FUL** – demolition of existing garage, construction of a double garage with lounge over, including lift from garage to lounge at Linden Lea, The Green, Pitton. **Approved 25th October 2016**

ii. **16/09763/TCA** – fell and remove stump of 1 x Blue Atlas cedar tree at Ilchester Cottage, Church Road, Farley. **Approved 21st November 2016**

Resolved: to note

c. To consider a draft Parish Council statement to be made to the Southern Planning committee in connection with the Mayfield application

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Resolved: to allow the Chairman to make representations on the Parish Council's behalf along the lines given in the draft statement.

140.16 To consider drawing up a Neighbourhood Plan

This item had been deferred from the previous meeting. Cllr Lilley advised that Pitton was not earmarked for any major development in the current Core Strategy, although there was always the possibility that the land at the end of Above Hedges, owned by Wiltshire Council, could be used for affordable housing. Farley was considered to be an unsustainable development. A Neighbourhood Plan would not stop the current trend of the conversion of small 2 bed properties into 5 bed family houses.

Resolved: not to proceed with the development of a Neighbourhood Plan.

141.16 Finance – see enclosed

a. To note the bank balance as at 30th November 2016

Resolved: to note this stood at £18803.84

b. To approve for payment a schedule of accounts in the sum of £625.94

Resolved: to approve for payment

c. To note the updated 2016/2017 Budget Monitoring form

Resolved: to note

d To consider estimates for a replacement an upgraded Parish Council laptop

Resolved: to note the matter remains ongoing.

e. To consider making a donation to the Pitton defibrillator scheme

Resolved: to make a donation of £875.00 to the Pitton scheme, retaining £875.00 for the Farley scheme in due course.

f. To consider the proposed budget and precept figure for 2017/2018

Resolved: to defer this matter to the next meeting. Action: The Clerk

142.16 To note updates on Highways matters

a. *Tasks for the parish steward and Dunstable crossroad sight lines.*

The Parish Steward will be requested to remove the leaves from the triangle of land outside Pitton church. **Action:** The Clerk

b. *Dunstable Crossroads sight lines* – although this is technically in Winterslow parish, the chairman of Firsdown Parish council is taking the lead in trying to see if something can be done to improve matters. He has requested that the Highways engineer, Julie Wharton, undertakes a site visit, and will let me know when, so that a parish rep can attend too.

Resolved: to note

143.16 To note updates on Footpath matters

a. *Strimmer training* – a Pitton resident has undertaken the strimmer training, and it was hoped that a Farley resident could be identified to do this too – it was thought that Farley ought to have its own Path Maintenance Group, and develop its own circular walks as well. There is a lot of help and support, and equipment is available.

b. *Path maintenance* - Brian Cudby's request to ask that the PC provides funding in 2017/18 to cover small matters such as signage, hard hats, hi vis vests etc. The Clerk was investigating the matter of the strimmer insurance.

c. PIGS application – The Parish Council has yet to hear the outcome of the application submitted in August. This should provide matched funding for the proposed improvements to the Pitton end of the inter village footpath.

Resolved: to note

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144.16 To consider a response to BT's consultation on the future of the Farley telephone box

After a short discussion, it was

Resolved: to request the retention of the box, as it was thought to be a potential site for a defibrillator for Farley. **Action:** The Clerk

145.16 Ongoing matters

a. Internal audit report actions – will be actioned when year-end VAT claim is submitted.

b. Registering title – this is ongoing.

c. Replacement toddler swing in The Close – installation date is advised as Wednesday 21st December.

d. Litter & grit bins – these have yet to be installed.

e. Quotes for tree work in The Close – I have contacted the tree surgeon, but have not yet received a response. Provision has been made in the 2017/18 budget for the work to be done.

f. Defib in Farley – no further news.

146.16 To note the dates of the next two ordinary meetings

a Wednesday 25th January 2017 at 7.30pm in Farley Village Hall

b. Wednesday 22nd March at 7.30pm in Pitton Village Hall – **please note change of date**

147.16 To close the meeting.

The meeting closed at 10.00pm

Members of the Council must consider 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.

