

Minutes of the Pitton & Farley Parish Council meeting held on 25th September 2008 in Pitton Village Hall at 7.30pm

Present

Geoff Lowndes (Chairman)
John Ellis
Allan Jenkins
Nigel Lilley
David Goulden
Lyn Fredericks
Alan Shaw (Vice Chairman)
Catherine Purves (Clerk)

County Cllr. Bill Moss

Two members of the public

Apologies

David Cole – absent on holiday.

AGENDA

49.08 Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 10th July 2008 were approved as a correct record. (prop. GL, sec AS, all in favour).

50.08 Declarations of Interest

There were none.

51.08 To advise of a vacancy in the Pitton ward.

Mike Hart had resigned due to pressure of work commitments, and so the vacancy was currently being advertised. If there is no written request by ten electors for an election by 2nd October 2008, the Parish Council will be free to co-opt a member.

52.08 To consider any matters raised by the public.

None raised.

53.08 Matters arising

a. Area Boards and R2 funding – the Clerk had been unable to find out any further information regarding this proposal, ie that Area Boards should be able to spend some of the R2 money contributed by developers. However, parish councils were known to be very opposed to the idea, and wanted the expenditure of R2 money to remain with them.

b. Provision of skips – these had been ordered for the weekend of 11th October, one outside Pitton Village Hall and one at the bottom of Oak Close in Farley. Residents had been notified in the Parish Council's summer newsletter.

c. Date of Pitton ward meeting – this should have been held during the summer, but had been difficult to arrange, with a ward resignation and holiday commitments. Alan Shaw undertook to arrange such a meeting as soon as possible.

54.08 To receive reports from:

a. The County Councillor for Winterslow.

- Unitary Authority – elections for the new Unitary Council would take place in the spring of 2009.
- Planning – he advised that the County/Unitary officers were only looking at village sites for possible development beyond the next five years in general terms only at this stage.

b. The District Councillor for Winterslow – none received from Cllr. Chris Devine, but in his capacity as a District Councillor, Cllr Bill Moss advised:

- R2 funding – where an individual parish council's allocation was too small to spend meaningfully, the Parish Council could approach neighbouring Parish Councils to use their funds – or offer their own to other Parish Councils.
- Bourne Hill – progress is being made, and the listed building will be brought upto standard, but the budget has increased, and will continue to do so.
- A discussion ensued regarding the various merits of the District Council offices for future use by Wiltshire Council and Salisbury City Council staff.
- Salisbury District Council is the only council out of the four District Councils to have retained its council housing. All others are managed by Housing Associations.

c. Pitton Flood Action Group representative – nothing to report other than the well water level at Lopcombe Corner was below danger level.

d. Pitton Village Hall Management Committee representative – none received, due to Mike Hart's resignation. Lyn Fredericks was nominated as representative, and she was happy to accept the nomination. (prop GL, sec NL, all in favour)

e. Parish Website representative – (*standing orders suspended*). Mr Bossom advised that since the launch of the website at the end of June, there had been 1180 visits by 637 people. There an average of 10-20 visits per day, with 4.5 minutes spent on each visit, and 5 different pages read. 95% were visitors from this country, but 5% were from abroad, including China, Ghana, The Falkland Islands, Malaysia and Brazil. However, there was a danger of complacency creeping in, and there was a clear relation between the number of people using the site, and the volume and frequency of updates. Residents were not volunteering the information, and needed chasing. Did the Parish Council have any ideas for new content? What about a monthly question, to stimulate public response? (*standing orders resumed*)

f. Chairman's Report

- Geoff Lowndes confirmed Mike Hart's resignation, due to pressure of work, but that Mike Hart hoped to return in the future.
- Milford Park School - he and David Cole had undertaken a visit to the school, and both had been made very welcome. Both were very impressed with the conversion, which was to a high standard, and as much as possible of the original features had been retained. The rest of the Parish Councillors were warmly invited to visit. The children were very friendly, and Mr Lowndes was aware that arrangements had been made for the children to use the play facilities of Pitton School twice a week. He was also aware that the National Curriculum was being followed.
- Potholes in Farley – those at the crossroads had been filled during the summer, but were already beginning to reappear.
- Resignation of the Clerk – the Clerk had tendered her resignation for personal reasons, which the Parish Council accepted (prop GL, sec JE, all in favour). The Clerk will work her notice to 31st October, and the various responsibilities were shared between councillors, pending the appointment of a replacement. The post will be advertised within the parish, but councillors accepted that it may need to advertise more widely in the local press, if no-one comes forward.

g. Parish Clerks Report

- **HMRC** – letter received confirming that the parish Council does not need to operate a PAYE scheme, as the Clerk presently earns less than the PAYE threshold, currently £5435 for 2008/2009.
- **Democratic Services SDC** – letter from Salisbury District Council's Monitoring Officer outlining developments regarding the way in which complaints about councillors are handled, and offering a briefing session on the new ethical framework.
- **Community First – a training day for councillors to be held on Saturday 8th November at 9.00am at the village hall, Bishops' Cannings. Cost £30 = VAT for 2= delegates.**
- **Wiltshire County Council** – a reminder about the invitation to attend the next "Meet & Greet" evening at 6.30pm on Monday 13 October in The Pembroke Arms, Salisbury to update parish councillors on progress towards the creation of the Unitary Authority.
- **Devon County Council** – an invitation for councillors to attend a free South West Regional Forum on road maintenance - "Making Roads Work" - to be held on Friday 17th October in the Devon County Council chamber in Exeter from 9.30am to 1.00pm.
- List of Correspondence Received

Wiltshire Association of Local Councils – September newsletter.

Wiltshire County Council – "Wiltshire Wayfarer" - Rights of Way newsletter summer 2008.

Wiltshire County Council – Draft submissions of Minerals Development Control and Waste Development Control policies, July 2008.

Wiltshire County Council – Rights of Way Improvement Plan.

Salisbury District Council – "Citizen magazine" summer 2008.

Wiltshire College – part time course directory 2008/2009.

Community First – "First News" magazine, summer 2008.

55.08 Finance

a. A schedule of accounts in the sum of £476.00 was authorised for payment (prop AJ, sec AS, all in favour).

b. The updated Budget Monitoring Form was noted.

c. Authorisation of the 2007/2008 accounts was deferred to a Special Meeting, as a query was raised, which required investigation by the Clerk.

56.08 Planning

A list of applications received and decisions notified was confirmed.

Applications Received

S/2008/1239

Proposal: Full Application – ground floor extensions to existing dwelling and re-structuring of roof to provide first floor accommodation.

Location: Manor Farm, Pitton Road, Pitton.

Members **support** this application.

S/2008/1324

Proposal: Extension to rear elevation and re-thatching.

Location: Rose Tree Cottage, The Street, Farley.

Members **support** this application.

S/2008/1392

Proposal: Change of Use – change of use of area of agricultural land to domestic garden plus associated works.

Location: Wisteria, Lucewood Lane, Farley.

Members **support** this application.

S/2008/1452

Proposal: Full Application – construct conservatory at rear of house.

Location: Stockbottom House, Stockbottom, Pitton.

Members **support** this application.

S/2008/1542

Proposal: Full Application – new dwelling and access.

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

Opinion awaited.

Decisions Notified

S/2008/0696

Proposal: Full Application – extension to front elevation to include new double garage and living room.

Location: Linden Lea, The Green, Pitton.

Permission granted.

S/2008/0763

Proposal: Full Application – replace conservatory with single storey extension at rear of property.

Location: Rames House, The Green, Pitton.

Permission granted.

1.

S/2008/0915

Proposal: Full Application – storage barn replacing existing silage clamp.

Location: Stockbottom Farm Cottage, Pitton.

Permission granted.

S/2008/0993

Proposal: Trees in Cons. Area – fell 1 x willow tree.

Location: Taylors Farm House, High Street, Pitton.

No objection raised.

S/2008/0998

Proposal: Full Application – insert roof windows, reduce side ground level by 700mm by extending retaining wall. Form single layby to frontage and adapt building for private primary school use.

Location: Methodist Chapel, White Hill, Pitton.

Permission granted.

S/2008/1032

Proposal: Full Application – replacement garage.

Location: Taylors Farm House, High Street, Pitton.

Permission granted.

S/2008/1040

Proposal: Trees in Cons. Area – fell hawthorn.

Location: Parsonage Farm House, White Way, Pitton.

No objection raised.

S/2008/1172

Proposal: Trees in Cons. Area – fell 2 x Lawson cypress.

Location: Church Farm, Townsend, Pitton.

No objection raised.

S/2008/1239

Proposal: Full Application – ground floor extensions to existing dwelling and re-structuring of roof to provide first floor accommodation.

Location: Manor Farm, Pitton Road, Pitton.

Permission granted.

57.08 Highway/Parish Steward matters.

a. The date of the next Parish Steward visit was noted as 13th and 14th October.

b. Work to be done – culvert outside Houndwood needs attention, drains in Lucewood Lane Farley near the 30mph sign and nearly opposite the entrance to Lucewood House need unblocking, bollards need replacing opposite The Old School House, Pitton.

58.08 Informal Alliance

The Parish Council has received an invitation from Firsdawn Parish Council to enter into an informal alliance with surrounding parish councils, to act as a mutual support group.

Members expressed interested, and were agreeable in principle – it was thought to be a good idea. Common area of interest should be established at an informal meeting, and Councils should keep in touch on a regular basis – but it was felt it would be better to set up a “ghost” organisation, which would meet as and when necessary, rather than on a regular basis. The Clerk will contact the Firsdawn clerk to progress matters.

59.08 To review other ongoing matters

a. Internal Audit and Risk Assessments – Alan Shaw had circulated two paper regarding these issues, which were derived from a training day attended by himself and the Clerk in

May. The Clerk was requested to obtain a copy of the National Association of Local Council's guide to Risk Assessments and Allan Jenkins volunteered to be the Farley ward representative on the sub-committee, which will meet on Thursday 16th October in Pitton Village hall at 7.30pm.

b. Progress towards the Implementation of the Unitary Authority – John Ellis advised he had obtained information under the Freedom of Information Act, and had established the following:-

The boundaries for the Area Boards will depend on the findings of the Boundary Commission. There will be 17 or 18 of them, roughly, but not exactly co-terminous with the twenty current County Council community areas. Each Board will have four unitary councillors sitting on it, including one portfolio holder. There will also be representatives from the Primary Care Trusts, the local police, fire service, Parish Councils etc, and at the moment, although the other representatives will have the right to speak, they will not have the right to vote. Parish Council boundaries and roles will stay the same – indeed, Parish Council's may take on more responsibilities for the delivery of services if they wish, with funding from the Unitary Council available to cover the cost.

There will be a separate Planning Board for Salisbury. The Clerk was requested invite Richard Munro, the project manager of the devolution of services to a Parish Council meeting to discuss this further.

60.08 Dates of next Parish Council meetings

Thursday 6th November 2008 at 7.30pm in Farley Village Hall

Thursday 8th January 2009 at 7.30pm in Pitton Village Hall

David Goulden gave advanced apologies for both meetings, due to work commitments.

61.08 To close the meeting

The meeting closed at 9.10pm