

Background Report for Parish Council meeting July 2013

75.13 Co-option

Stuart Mariner of The Old Bakery, Pitton, has indicated he is willing to be co-opted onto the Parish Council to fill one of the three remaining vacancies in the Pitton ward.

77.13 Reports

b. Flood Action Group – Steve Williams will give a verbal report to the meeting.

c. Pitton Village Hall – no representative.

d. Farley Village Hall – Jamie Latham will give a verbal report to the meeting.

e. Parish website – a verbal report will be given to the meeting.

f. Chairman's report – Jamie Latham will give a verbal report to the meeting

g. Parish Clerk's report –

- The new Wilts Council Highways/Streetscene contract with Balfour Beatty seems to be setting down, and all grass cutting is upto date. I have been advised of the parish's contact at Wilts Council – Bob Creen and his contact details. I have also had a meeting with Tim Woolford, the Streetscene manager for the South, and have raised the resurfacing problems at the Church Road/Pitton Road/Parsonage Hill junction with him.
- The next Area Board meeting will take place on Thursday 1st August at 6.30pm for a 7.00pm start in Alderbury Village Hall.

79.13 Finance

c. The current account balance as at 30th June is £12057.86, whilst the reconciled balance is £11975.86.

d. I have tried to obtain 3 quotes for the renewal of the council's insurance on the same basis as existing:

- Existing insurers are Zurich via a block policy through Community First in the sum of £203.52.
- Aon declined to quote because of the flood risk.
- Came & Co quoted £280.33

It is recommended that the Council renews with the existing insurers.

80.13 Parking around Pitton School

- This issue has been rumbling on for years, causing obstruction to neighbours, and to other road users alike. Wilts Council's view is that the presence of the school generates the problem, so the school should provide the solution. The school has produced a travel plan in the past, but I'm not sure whether it is still current, or if it has been reviewed/updated since Wilts Council came into being. There is a Wilts Council schools adviser and funding available to the school to help and support Schools to develop such plans.

- The School is aware of the problem, and reminds parents regularly of the least problematic areas to park by way of a map, patrolling outside with Hi Viz vests, and intermittently inviting the police to attend (which has a marked effect!). Bollards are also deployed at junctions to maintain the sight lines. The present yellow lines marked outside The Old School are not backed by legal traffic orders, and so enforcement action cannot be taken.
- Double yellow lines are not considered suitable for a rural environment.
- The obstruction problem could be resolved by narrowing the verge outside Hollybanks in Pitton to the line presently marked by the white posts (originally installed to stop the verge eroding by being driven over).
- However, this may well result in speeding, as the parked cars will no longer be able to act as a natural restraint, and thus increase the danger to children and other pedestrians both during and outside school hours.
- The Parish Council has, in the past, explored the possibility of the provision of a car park, either on land behind the school, owned by Clarendon Estate, and accessed off Slate Way, or on a piece of land owned by Wilts Council at the end of Above Hedges.
- The land on Clarendon Estate is likely to be considered unsuitable, as the access off Slate Way is liable to flooding.

At the time of writing, I don't know what point of view Mr Holyoake's presentation will present, or what solution(s) he might suggest, but as it stands, it is recommended that the Parish Council pursues the creation of a car park by Wilts Council at the end of Above Hedges, with the support of the school.

81.13 Highway matters etc.

a. Potholes are being patched on a find and fix basis, but the Parish Steward itself is being revised and expanded. I have requested a list of tasks the Stewards will be able to do, once matters have been finalised.

b. Highways issues raised with the Area Board – the only outstanding item is the resurfacing at Farley (see earlier).

82.13 Clerk's attendance at the SLCC National Conference

I am requesting the Council's agreement to attend the National Conference again, which this year is being held at Hinckley in Leicestershire. As I will be sharing a room with a colleague, the cost for 2 nights full board will be £295.00 split 50:50 with Wilton Town Council. As the Parish Council will be eligible for a £100.00 bursary, the **cost will be £47.50 plus mileage**, which will be spread across ten parish councils in total. It is an excellent opportunity to learn of the most recent updates and latest information about matters affecting the sector from national government representatives, and to speak to suppliers face to face about possible parish council requirements. Workshops that I think will be of use to the Parish Council include Local Council tax support (ie the impact of the bedroom tax), Community

Infrastructure Levy, Neighbourhood Plans, Data Protection, Quality Parish Scheme, Threats to common land and village greens, Securing public access rights across private land, and VAT.

83.13 Parish Map

To help walkers and other visitors to the parish, it has been suggested that the Parish Council installs two information maps, one in each village. It is recommended that the Council agrees to this – I am researching the same for Wilton, so I can easily find out about artwork, costs, etc.

84.13 Gritting policy

It is very clear that Wilts Council does not grit throughout the whole parish, and the last few severe winters have demonstrated that there is a need for the side roads to be done in both villages, plus the road between the villages. Councillors may want to think about purchasing a small spreader which could be attached to the back of a land rover, and which could be deployed as needed. It is recommended that research is undertaken into costs, including the supply of grit, plus a suitable storage location in both villages, and that a formal policy is subsequently drawn up if the project proceeds.

85.13 Ongoing matters.

a. Pitton bus stop area – tarmac quotes are yet to be obtained.

b. Ditches along Pitton/Dunstable Road – I have now requested that these be cleared.

c. Speed review of C321 (possible 30mph from junction with A30 through to Knightwood Kennels junction) - I understand that the results of the review will be available in mid – August.