

Minutes of the Pitton & Farley Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 3rd August 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 Mrs Sarah Strong

In attendance: Catherine Purves (Clerk)

Also present: Wiltshire Councillors Chris Devine and Mike Hewitt, plus 15 members of the public.

Public questions

Enhanced flood amelioration scheme - Wiltshire Councillor Mike Hewitt, as chairman of Wiltshire Council's Flood Operation Working Group, took questions from residents about the proposed plans for the enhanced flood amelioration scheme. His short presentation, and the subsequent question and answer session are recorded in the appendix, which should be read in conjunction with these minutes.

Village Design Statement – Debbie McIsaac asked whether the Parish Council had considered compiling a Village Design Statement, and if not, if it could be considered at a future meeting.

AGENDA

84.16 To receive apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Mariner, who was away on holiday.

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

85.16 Minutes

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 22nd June 2016

Resolved: to approve without amendment

86.16 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.

Resolved: to note that Cllr Lilley declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 91.16b

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

Resolved: to note none received

87.16 To consider a candidate for co-option to fill the Pitton vacancy

Mrs Trudy Womersley Smith had asked to be considered to fill the Pitton ward vacancy, and her credentials had been previously circulated to all members. She fulfilled the criteria, and there were no other candidates.

Resolved: To co-opt Mrs Womersley Smith to the Parish Council. She duly took her seat at the table, following the signing of her Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

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

a. Flood amelioration scheme – it was agreed to request that the plans be made available by the 17th August, and to ask the Flood Action Group to ensure the existing system is ready and prepared for the autumn/winter rains. **Action:** The Clerk

b. Preparation of a Village Design Statement – following a short discussion, during which it was noted that a VDS carries no weight or influence in planning terms, it was agreed that the possibility of compiling a Neighbourhood Plan should be considered at a future meeting, as this has statutory support in the planning system ie planning officers must take account of its views. **Action:** The Clerk

89.16 To receive reports from:-

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

- i. Flood amelioration scheme – he will make every effort to ensure the scheme attracts the necessary capital expenditure.
- ii. Wiltshire Council – voted against Salisbury City Council's proposed absorption of the adjacent parish of Laverstock & Ford, which remains independent.
- iii. Changes to the Code of Conduct standards as applicable to Wiltshire Councillors means that unless any complaint against a councillor would result in a criminal prosecution, the Monitoring Officer will not become involved.
- iv. The Chief Fire Officer has given notice that he will leave the post in December. The recruitment process to identify his successor is already under way.
- v. Broadband – there is no further news about broadband provision, and no more complaints have been received.
- vi. Roads -The roads are slowly being repaired. He is still trying to find out when Lucewood Lane in Farley will be attended to, as it will need to be closed so that it can be properly resurfaced.

Q: Would community organisations now be required to approach their parish council for support and a financial contribution prior to applying to the area Board for grant funding/

A: Yes, they would.

b. The Council's representative on the Pitton Village Hall Management Committee – The Clerk advised that the trustees continue to explore the provision of wi-fi to the village hall, and have agreed that the two gas cookers should be replaced. A long term development/maintenance plan has been drawn up, and the first project will be to review and upgrade all access points, as considered necessary. The next meeting will be held on August 24th. The Clerk was asked to pass on concerns about the marked tables and occasionally unswept floor. **Action:** The Clerk

c. The Council's representative on the Farley Village Hall Management Committee – Cllr Latham advised that the grant funding for the rewiring had been received, and the project

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could now proceed.

d. Parish Website representative – see item 94.16d below

e. Chairman's report – Cllr Coppock advised he had nothing to report

f. Parish Clerk's report – the Clerk advised the following:

i. She had attended the SLCC regional conference, where topics covered included the latest updates in employment law, law as it applies to town and parish councils, and pension provision, devolution of assets and services, the preservation of the local historic environment, and managing risk.

ii. She has also attended the most recent Area Board meeting in Whiteparish.

iii. West Tytherley PC has been in negotiation with Virgin Media to bring fibre optic cabling to residents' dwellings, and there is a possibility that if sufficient interest is registered from other villages in the area, Virgin Media may consider extending their network to them. She had circulated this information to Pitton and Farley residents, and had also advised the Grimstead clerk.

iv. Wiltshire Council will be holding a workshop style consultation about transport strategy in Salisbury on Wednesday 7th September.

g. The Council's representative to the Southern Wiltshire Area Board - the Clerk advised the following:

i. She had attended the most recent meeting, where the topics covered included the usual updates from the fire & rescue service, the police, CATG, a presentation on Wiltshire Council's efforts to prevent and also identify child sexual exploitation, a presentation on the work of the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust in the Board area (Blackmore Copse and Bentley Wood were mentioned), fly-tipping and two grants were determined.

ii. The new community policing system will be rolled out in the Salisbury and Southern areas in October, and all were urged to sign up to Community Messaging. There is a new sector Inspector in post – Pete Sparrow, and a written report will be made available to each PC meeting, as they do not have the resources for a PCSO/PC to attend each PC's meeting every time. PC Clissold is now an acting Sergeant, and is based in Salisbury. It may be possible in the future to use skype at meetings to question local PCSOs/PCs.

iii. The next meeting is on 29th September at Coombe Bissett Village Hall.

Resolved: to note these reports

90.16 Enhanced Flood Amelioration scheme in Pitton

It was felt the matter had been fully discussed, however it was

Resolved: to note that the next Wiltshire Flood Ops working Group meeting will take place on Wednesday 17th August at 10.00am in Winterslow Village Hall.

91.16 Planning

a. To determine a response to planning applications received:

i. **16/06144/FUL** – proposed two and upper storey extension and alterations plus associated works at Green Hills Cottage, The Green, Pitton

It was noted with dismay that this was the fourth application to come before the Parish Council which proposed to change a small dwelling into a much larger house. Because of the subsequent detrimental effects these previous applications, also located on The Green had had on the visual aspects of the village, particularly when approaching the village from

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the north, it was

Resolved: to object to the application on these grounds.

Cllr Lilley left the hall

ii. **16/06840/FUL** – remove existing stables, change of use of land and erection of log style cabin to form new holiday let at 4 Forestry Cottages, Farley

Resolved: to support, subject to a maximum letting of 28 days, and that this conversion should not set a precedent

Cllr Lilley returned to the hall

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

None notified

92.16 Update on Highway matters

The latest Highways newsletter was discussed, with particular reference to the Parish Steward scheme, which will be fully operational in October. At present, the scheme is working on a find and fix basis. It was:

Resolved: to request a list of the tasks that can be undertaken, and to compile the issues sheet. **Action:** The Clerk

93.16 Finance

a. *To note the bank balance as at 30 June 2016*

Resolved: to note this stood at £15,318.85.

b. *To approve for payment a schedule of accounts in the sum of £366.46*

Resolved: to approve for payment, plus additional chq no 238 for £38.93 for reimbursement to the Clerk for the purchase of the invoice stamp, as required by the Internal Auditor

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

Resolved: to note

d. *To note the quarterly bank reconciliation to end June 2016*

Resolved: to note that this had been undertaken, and that the reconciled balance stood at £14,343.11.

e. *To consider a request for grant funding towards a second defibrillator for Pitton*

After a short discussion, during which it was noted that Farley village had not yet taken steps to start fund raising for a defibrillator in the village, it was:

Resolved: to be minded to grant such funding for a second defibrillator for Pitton, but to defer its allocation until such time as Farley village proceeds with its project.

Action: The Clerk, Cllr Coppock and Farley ward members.

f. *To consider applying to the Transparency Fund for an upgraded Parish Council laptop*

Resolved: to research a suitable laptop, and apply to the fund.

Action: The Clerk and Cllr Coppock

g. To consider replacing the litter bins in the parish

Following a request by a Pitton resident for the Parish Council to replace/upgrade all the litter bins in the parish, councillors noted Wiltshire Council's advice that if the Parish Council did this, Wiltshire Council would expect the parish council to arrange and pay for their emptying. However, it was further noted that if the Parish Council replaced the broken bin on

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Church Road in Farley, by the play area, then Wiltshire Council would continue to empty this.

Resolved: to research designs and costings, including supply, delivery and installation for the next meeting.

Action: The Clerk

h. To consider replacing the stolen grit bin located on Parsonage Hill, Farley

Noting that this much needed facility had been removed a second time, and that Highways would not replace it, it was:

Resolved: to research designs and costings, including supply, delivery and installation of the bin and its contents for the next meeting.

Action: The Clerk

i. To consider offering a contribution towards the purchase of a camera to be deployed to combat fly tipping.

Resolved: to monitor the situation, and revisit the matter once further information was available from this Area Board initiative.

94.16 To review and note other ongoing matters

a. Actions required from the Internal Audit report – VAT on the eon payments has yet to be reclaimed, an invoice stamp has been bought and is in use.

b. Registering title – no further news

c. Replacement toddler swing – the original application has apparently been mislaid since it was submitted in the winter, and so a second has been submitted.

d. Replacement website editor – a Pitton resident has indicated his interest in this post.

e. Footpath maintenance – the Parish Council has been asked by Brian Cudby, the Pitton footpath co-ordinator to find out if Wiltshire Council will provide the use of a strimmer and also strimmer training. The Community Engagement Manager has been approached, and his response is awaited. Nick Cowen, the Rights of Way officer will be in Pitton village on Wednesday 10th August to discuss how PIFA 16 and PIFA 27 may be made safer where they approach The Green down the steep escarpment.

f. Possible weight restriction on Lucewood Lane/Pitton-Farley road – the Highways engineer has advised that “Freight restrictions are generally introduced to help alleviate actual problems rather than anticipated. This is a rural environment, and so there will be a certain amount of large vehicles using this road, i.e. for deliveries and agriculture. Enforcement is very sparse on weight limits; it has to be carried out by the police and it's probably not a high priority for them at present.

Quite often if the problem is caused by a specific company, the best form of control is complaint by the local residents/Parish Council directly to the Managing Director of that company, this has had a certain amount of success in some other parishes.”

g. Change in priority at Dunstable crossroads – Cllr Edgeley, Chairman of Firsdown Parish Council has advised that he has spoken to the new owner of the house on the corner, who sympathises with the sight line issue, and has promised to keep his hedge cut back as far as possible.

Resolved: to note these updates.

95.16 To note the dates of the next ordinary meetings

- a. Wednesday 7th September at 7.30pm in Pitton Village Hall. Please note change of date
- b. Wednesday 26th October at 7.30pm in Farley Village Hall

96.16 To close the meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.50pm