

**Minutes of the Pitton & Farley Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 29th
January 2020 at 7.30pm in Farley Village Hall**

Present

Cllr Rod Coppock (Chairman), Cllr Clive Gutteridge, Cllr Geoff Lowndes, Cllr Debbie McIsaac

In attendance: Catherine Purves, Parish Clerk

Also present: Pitton Flood Warden, 24 members of the public

Public Session:

Planning - information was received concerning a forthcoming planning application for Pitton village to replace two mobile homes with a permanent dwelling.

Farley Hospital - strong concerns were again expressed about the finances, lack of information, the fabric of the building and the lack of communication from the trustees which left the almshouses and village residents unsettled. The Almshouses residents were particularly concerned that they might lose their homes. Residents had offered their help, knowledge and expertise to the Trustees, and had also met John Glen MP to express their concerns. The Trustees have agreed to hold a meeting open to all Farley village residents., and this has been arranged for Thursday April 16th in Pitton Village Hall. Residents expressed their concern at the proposal that Wiltshire Councillor Chris Devine should chair the meeting, as residents were aware he had met the trustees but not the residents, and asked if the Parish Council could help find an alternative.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

1.20 Apologies

Apologies were received and noted from Cllr James Latham, Cllr Stuart, Cllr Ged Mirski-Fitton

As Cllr Fry had not attended a meeting for six consecutive months, a casual vacancy was created automatically. Wiltshire Council Elections to be notified, and the relevant notice to be displayed. **Action:** the Clerk

2.20 Minutes

- a. *Minutes of 27th November 2019* - various amendments were proposed by Cllr Mc Isaac to Item 156.19 Flooding.

Resolved: for the amendments to be made and the minutes to be brought to the next meeting for approval.

- b. *Minutes of extra ordinary meeting 18th December 2019* - resolved to approve as a correct record without amendment the minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 18th December 2019.

3.20 Declarations of Interest

- a. *Declarations of Interest* - Cllr Mclsaac in flooding matters, Cllr Coppock in Farley Almshouses.
- b. *Dispensation Requests* - none received.

Item 6.20 Farley Hospital Almshouses was brought forward at this point, and Cllr Mclsaac took the chair

4.20 Urgent matters raised by the public

Concerns expressed by Alternative chairman of proposed public meeting in April - during a short discussion, councillors again sympathised with the residents' concerns, and agreed that any delay in communicating with the residents was regrettable, although it was understood this would allow a full set of accounts to be produced and the trustees to be able to communicate fully with both the almshouses and village residents at the April meeting. It was noted that some members of the public had expressed concerns about Cllr Devine facilitating the public meeting.

6.20 Farley Almshouses

- a. *To consider what action to take regarding the residents concerns* - **Resolved:** It was clearly for the Trustees to determine matters relating to a public meeting about Farley Hospital including the chair or facilitator of that meeting, but in view of the representations made during the public session it was **Resolved:** to attempt to identify an alternative facilitator/ chair for the meeting in April to propose to the Trustees. Upto £500.00 would be allocated to defray expenses and fees, if required. **Action:** The Clerk, Cllr Coppock, Cllr Mclsaac
- b. *To consider a complaint received about one of the Almshouses Trustees* - as a matter of urgency, the Clerk was instructed to consult the Wiltshire Association of Local Councils for advice as to whether the complaint about a Trustee in their capacity as Trustee, but who was also a Parish Council member, could constitute a "complaint" under the Parish Council's Code of Conduct.

Cllr Coppock in the chair

5.20 Exclusion of the Press & Public

Resolved; that item 17.20 should be dealt with following the exclusion of the press and public. Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and Local Government Act 1972

7.20 Flooding

Cllr Mariner had submitted a written report in his absence and advised the following

- A village working party had cleared the ditches
- Cllr Mariner and the Flood Warden had attended the recent wiltshire Council Operational Flood Working Group meeting in Dinton to remind Wiltshire Council and the Environment Agency of Pitton's needs
- The watercourse had been designated as a main river by the EA office in Romsey
- The EA had taken on Wiltshire Council's maintenance responsibilities
- Groundwater is high, but the springs aren't flowing yet.
- The Clerk and Flood Warden are currently updating the Flood Plan

Quotes had been obtained from a contractor recommended by the EA to reinstate the drainage channel through Aymer's Pond in the sum of £275.00 and £350.00 across Parsonage Farm, which had been accepted, although on the recommendation of the Flood Warden it was agreed to delay the work to Aymer's Pond to the spring, following possible flooding, but to be actioned by 31st May at the latest.

8.20 Parish Plan/Neighbourhood Plan

- a. Cllr Gutteridge raised the issue as to whether the 2007 Parish Plan should be updated, as it covered a wide range of parish issues, or whether time, energy and resources should be directed towards the creation of a Neighbourhood Plan. Following a short discussion, during which it was noted that a Parish Plan is an expression of wishes for various parish concerns and issues, whereas the Neighbourhood Plan is a specific planning documents which has statutory backing and must be taken into account by planning officer, it was
Resolved: to explore the possibility of drawing up a Neighbourhood Plan at the forthcoming public meeting.
- b. *Confirmation of proposed meeting details* - a meeting has been arranged for Thursday March 5th at 7.30pm in Pitton Village Hall, open to all parish residents. Representatives from the Idmiston Parish Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group will be invited to attend to give their perspective and advice on the process. **Action:** The Clerk

9.20 Speeding Issues in the Parish

Cllr Gutteridge advised he had circulated a proposed notice for a meeting proposed to be held at the end of March, which would be open to all parish residents. He requested feedback from all councillors, following which he would proceed with arrangements.

Resolved: to note

10.20 Finance

- a. **Resolved:** to note the bank balance as at 31st December 2019 stood at £26,050.85 Balance less reserves to be noted in the future.
- b. **Resolved:** to approve a schedule of payments in the sum of £682.67, and to note that chq 471 to Geosphere Ltd for Parish Online Mapping had been approved by the Clerk under delegated powers with the Chairman's agreement.
- c. **Resolved:** to note the January 2020 Budget monitoring form
- d. **Resolved:** to agree, in principle, to purchase 16 litter pickers and 8 rubbish bag hoops for use in the parish. Action: Clerk to provide estimates for the next meeting.

11.20 Planning

- a. *To determine a response to the following planning applications received:*
20/00390/TCA - 2 x silver birch - reduce crown by 30%, 1 x silver birch - remove overhanging branch, 1 x ash pollard to 5m at Willow Cottage, Townsend, Pitton
Resolved: no objection.
- b. *To note planning decisions made by Wiltshire Council since the last meeting*

19/10942/FUL & 19/11327/LBC - refurbishment & garage extension plus new garden room at Ilchester Cottage, Farley. **Approved 13th January 2020**
19/11020/FUL - single storey rear extension, lean-to pitched roof with velux windows at 1 Forestry Cottages, Farley. **Approved 8th January 2020**

12.20 Highways/Parish Steward/CATG/Footpath issues

The gullies along White Way and White Hill need emptying. **Action:** Clerk to report to Wiltshire Council

13.20 Reports from Representatives to Outside Organisations

- a. *Pitton Village Hall* - The Clerk advised that at its recent meeting, the Management Committee noted that a profit of £4586.00 was made in 2019, and the budget was set for 2020. A new fundraising scheme has been put in place, and a new Communications and Marketing Booklet approved. The Clerk also advised she would be stepping down as the Parish Council's representative to PVH at the Annual Parish Council meeting in May.
- b. *Farley Village Hall* - no report
- c. *Chairman* - Cllr Coppock had nothing further to report.
- d. *Parish Clerk* - the Clerk advised she would be attending the Society of Local Council Clerks Practitioners Conference at the end of February. Ben Lane would be closed from 10th to 14th February for cabling works. Community Transport South Wilts is a charity which organises and provides a door to door transport service for elderly people and those with limited mobility. It was agreed to invite a representative to the next meeting to learn more.
- e. *Southern Area Board* - the next meeting will be held on Thursday 30th January in Whiteparish.

Resolved: to note these reports

14.20 Updated Actions Register

Councillors noted the updates and actions to be taken regarding these ongoing matters.

15.20 Dates of next meetings

- a. Wednesday 19th February 2020 at 7.30pm in Farley Village Hall
- b. Wednesday 25th March 2020 at 7.30pm in Farley Village Hall
- c. Wednesday 22nd April 2020 at 7.30pm in Pitton Village Hall

16.20 Item discussed under Confidential Matters

Noticeboard - **Resolved:** Subject to cost, to research further the Parish Council's legal position. **Action:** The Clerk & Cllr Mclsaac

17.20 Closure of meeting

The meeting closed at 9.55pm.

Members took in account the following matters when considering the foregoing Parish Council's business: Equal Opportunities (race, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, any disability); Crime & Disorder; Health & Safety, and Human Rights

