

DRAFT Minutes of the Pitton & Farley Parish Council meeting held at 7.30pm on 3rd
September 2009 in Pitton Village Hall

Present

Geoff Lowndes (Vice Chairman)
David Balfour
Mike Chant
David Goulden
Nigel Lilley
Steve Williams
Catherine Purves (The Clerk)

Carol Southall, the Wilts & Swindon Rural Housing Enabler from Community First, and two members of the public were also in attendance.

Public Questions/information

Mrs Southall advised members that Wiltshire Council was at the very early stages of possibly building probably five or six 2/3 bed houses on land at the end of Above Hedges in Pitton, which was originally intended as an alternative site for Pitton primary school, and remains outside the present Housing Policy boundary. The houses would be council owned, but managed on its behalf by the Green Square Housing association, and would be for rent only. There would be no shared ownership and no “right to buy”, so it would not enable people to get onto the housing ladder, but it would allow local people/families to live/remain in the locality and the houses would always remain in the public sector. Prospective tenants would have to demonstrate a substantial connection to the parish – born/brought up/work/want to return to the parish/housing need – and above all, they would have to be on the existing Council Housing Register. No time scale was given for this project – a village survey would have to be undertaken, followed by wide consultation.

Mr Sankey asked when the siphon and drainage ditches in Pitton would be cleaned out.

Mr Bossom asked when the next newsletter was to be issued.

AGENDA

Apologies

Alan Shaw (Chairman), Lyn Fredericks, Wilts Cllr Chris Devine.

64.09 Minutes

- i. The minutes of the meeting held on 2nd July 2009 were approved as a correct record (*prop GL, sec NL, all in favour*).
- ii The minutes of the Farley ward planning committee meetings of 2nd and 30th July 2009 were adopted into the Council records (*prop GL, sec MC, all in favour*)

65.09 Declarations of Interest

None

66.09 To receive reports from:

- a. *The Wiltshire Councillor for Winterslow* – none received.

b. The Council representative on the Pitton Village Flood Action Group – David Goulden advised that the water levels were continuing to drop, but autumn rainfall will be critical.

c. The Council's representative on the Pitton Village Hall Management Committee – nothing to report.

d. Parish Website representative – Doric Bossom advised that new sections had been added covering the Wiltshire Council Area Board, Community Area Partnership, Community Grants and the Local Development Framework, plus links to local traffic and weather conditions. The number of events' details advised was dropping, and he urged councillors to continue promoting the website as much as possible.

e. Chairman's report – a written report had been circulated earlier.

Southern Wiltshire Area Board Alan Shaw advised that the Board covers an area from Coombe Bisset in the west to Whiteparish in the east and Winterslow in the north to Landford and Redlynch in the south. The Area Manager is Tom Bray who is based in 47 Endless Street with the Democratic Services Officer Ms Lisa Moore. The Councillors are R. Britton (Chairman) L. Randall, I. McLennan, J. Johnson and C. Devine. He had attended the Area Board road show at Winterslow on the 16th July, which was a display held in an ex Mobile Library vehicle. It was a useful source of leaflets and general information, but being one of the first to arrive, he did not know how well the event was supported.

The first Area Board meeting was held on the 23rd July at Winterslow. The Board Chairman said that he had four aims: Involvement of Parish Councils, identifying important issues, identifying projects and asked for feedback (via a questionnaire) on the value of the meeting. Being the first meeting it was inevitably somewhat disjointed. The attendees were invited to outline those matters considered to be important and worthy of the Board's consideration. These ranged from the state of the roads, traffic, bus services, housing and other development of the area, youth facilities and drain clearance. There was discussion about the importance of the Community Plan, which he had not seen. But it was the establishment of a Community Area Partnership that Councillor Britton seemed to be pushing despite a lack of enthusiasm from the floor. On reflection Mr Shaw wondered if we are in for 'one size fits all' regime from Trowbridge and felt the need to be alert to the Parish Councils being sidelined. This was the first meeting and he felt that we need to see how the Board develops, but at least initially it is a committee looking for a purpose.

Farley Hospital

An appointment that comes with chairmanship is to be on the Farley Hospital committee. Mr Shaw attended the AGM and committee meeting on the 14 July. Matters relevant to the PC that were discussed were the repairs to the Millennium seat (in hand) and provision of a bus shelter.

f. Town Clerk's report

Area Board – Catherine Purves advised that she had attended the first Area Board meeting, and had circulated the minutes. The next meeting, to deal specifically with the latest round of consultation on the Core Strategy, will be held on Tuesday 15th September at 6.30pm for 7.00pm at Trafalgar School, Downton, and then in October on Thursday 15th, venue to be confirmed. Two Area handbooks are available for members to read and a newsletter for each councillor was distributed at the meeting.

Code of Conduct – Mrs Purves distributed leaflets from Wiltshire Council for councillors. The Standards Committee has been appointed, and now comprises 22 members in total. The Committee not only investigates and determines complaint made against councillors under

the Code of Conduct, but will also provide help, support, guidance and training to clerks and councillors alike. A DVD has been produced and there are also plans to dedicate part of the Wiltshire Council website to City, Town and Parish Councils. Ideas for content are welcomed.
VAT course – Mrs Purves will be attending VAT course in Bristol on 16th September, run by HMRC at no cost to the Council.

Alderbury Clerk – Mrs Purves advised that she will be covering the Alderbury Clerk's maternity leave for six months until March 2010 – but just preparing the agenda, attending the monthly meetings and writing the minutes. All other matters will be dealt with by an Alderbury resident.

Community First – a copy of the quarterly newsletter, together with an invitation to the AGM, to be held at 5.00pm on Wednesday 7th October at Devizes Corn Exchange has been received.

Core Strategy – Wiltshire Council is currently consulting on the “soundness” of the Core Strategy for the former District Council area. The Clerk has a copy of the document, which can also be viewed at any of the public libraries in Wiltshire, on the Wiltshire Council website and also at the Michael Herbert hall in Wilton on 7th September and the Memorial Hall in Downton on 10th September. The consultation runs until 30th September.

g. The working party on additional play equipment – Mr Williams advised he had done some research, and needed to know how the Council wished to proceed. Members agreed the existing area needed to be extended within the fence boundaries, as the required “safe drop” area had been increased over the years. Mr Williams agreed to research the matter further, obtaining quotes for monkey bars that would be appropriate. It was agreed that Pitton ward members should meet before the next scheduled meeting to make the final decisions.

67.09 Matters raised by the public

a. Rural Housing – Members expressed surprise that the presentation was so detailed, as they were expecting something more generalised rather than specific. It was noted that the area proposed was outside the present Housing Boundary. The matter will be discussed further at the next meeting.

b. Cleaning of ditches and siphon – Mr Lowndes advised that he had been contacted by Rick Wells, who assured him that he, Mr Wells, would do everything he could to ensure that the siphon would be cleared this autumn, prior to his retirement in December.

c. Newsletter – Mrs Purves advised that the next newsletter would be distributed with the October edition of the Dun Valley News.

68.09 Finance

a. A schedule of accounts in the sum of £580.46 was approved for payment (prop GL, sec DB, all in favour)

b. The updated Budget monitoring form was noted.

c. R2 funding – Mike Chant requested that consideration be given to R2 money being spent on goal posts, nets and possibly marking equipment for a new U17 football team that was being raised in Farley. Members agreed in principle, and Mr Chant undertook to have three quotes available for consideration at the next meeting.

69.09 Semi feral cats in Farley

Farley ward members were aware that the population of feral cats in Farley was increasing due to the activities of one or two tom cats in the village. The ward members undertook to find out if ownership could be established.

70.09 Winterslow LINK system

The Clerk has been contacted by the co-ordinator of this charitable scheme, who advises that Winterslow LINK would be happy to include Pitton and Farley villages within their scheme, providing that a minimum of two drivers join the pool of volunteer drivers and at least one of those drivers is willing to be co-opted onto the Winterslow LINK scheme committee to properly represent the two villages. There is also an invitation to attend the AGM to be held on the 5th November. Councillors agreed with the Clerk's recommendation that notices be put up on both the public and parish council boards in both villages, and a notice/small article be put in the October edition of the Dun Valley News and on the website, with the contact details of the Winterslow LINK scheme included for further information.

71.09 Highway/Parish Steward/Footpath matters.

- a. Date of next visit – 12th September. Geoff Lowndes is the contact in Farley, Alan Shaw is the contact in Pitton.
- b. Work that needs doing – the main problem is potholes in Lucewood Lane, and at the Parsonage Hill crossroads plus Grimstead Road, all in Farley.
- c. Review of footpaths – Councillors agreed to Alan Shaw's written suggestion that a notice be placed on the website and in the Dun Valley News asking for volunteers to help, and who should contact Mr Shaw in the first instance. Paths can then be allocated, and the walks completed by late October/early November.

72.09 – To review other ongoing matters

Bus services – The Clerk has received a response from Wilts & Dorset re the provision of a bus service between Pitton & Farley, which advised that Wiltshire Council should be contacted, as it subsidises rural services. The Clerk has done this, but has yet to receive a reply.

Pitton/Farley cycle way – The Clerk will invite Alistair Millington of Sustrans to the next meeting in November so that the Parish Council can explore the feasibility of progressing the idea of a cycle way between the two villages. It suggested that the relevant landowners be invited to attend as well.

Pitton Pump – Geoff Lowndes advised that he has still not received any response to his request to Southern Electric for an electricity account re the pump. The pump supplier is aware of the specifics of the pump required. Wiltshire Council will pay for the pump hire.

Public noticeboard – this is still being made, and will be installed on Friday 11th September.

Bench in Farley – this has been mended and reinstalled by David Parsons.

Core Strategy – see Parish Clerk's report.

Ash tree, Pitton – Three local tree surgeons have been contacted, and one quote has been received. The power to progress this was delegated to the Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman. Approval from Wiltshire Council will be needed, because the tree is in a conservation area, and this will delay the start of the work required.

Speeding in Pitton village –The Clerk has written to Wiltshire Council re the various items requested in the minutes – flashing road sign, white road markings etc, and members agreed to defer this matter to the next meeting, when the results of the police speed check should be known.

73.09 Dates of next meetings

Thursday 5th November at 7.30pm in Farley Village Hall

Thursday 19th November at 7.30pm in Farley Village Hall – Budget & Precept meeting.