

Minutes of the Pitton & Farley Parish Council meeting held on 18th February 2010 at 7.00pm in Farley Village Hall

Present

Alan Shaw (Chairman)
Geoff Lowndes (Vice Chairman)
David Balfour
David Goulden
Lyn Fredericks
Nigel Lilley
Steve Williams
Catherine Purves (The Clerk)

PCSO Bill Parr and two members of the public.

PCSO Parr gave the December crime figures for the area – there were no reported crimes for either Pitton or Farley villages. He confirmed that police are aware of low level anti-social behaviour in The Close, and that the Alderbury police had received the item associated with drug taking in The Close. There had also been problems behind Pitton School. It is likely that the perpetrators come from outside the village.

AGENDA

Apologies

Apologies had been received from Mike Chant

12/10 Minutes

- a. The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 7th January 2010 were approved as a correct record, without amendment (prop DB, sec SW, all in favour).
- b. The minutes of the Farley ward planning meeting of 7th January 2010 were approved as a correct record without amendment (prop SW, sec As, all in favour).

13/10 Declarations of Interest

There were none.

14/10 To receive reports from:

- a. *Wiltshire Councillor Chris Devine* – none received.
- b. *Parish Council's representative on the Pitton Flood Action Group* - the Environment Agency advises that the water table is rising quickly, but giving cause for concern only in west Hampshire and East Sussex. However, the village should remain vigilant. The siphon in Pitton still hasn't been cleaned out, and Graham Axtel of Highways has again been pressed to attend to this urgently. The Community Area Manager and Wiltshire Councillor are also aware.
- c. *Parish Council's representative on the Pitton Village Hall Management Committee* – at the recent AGM, the executive committee were re-elected for further twelve months. The dishwasher has been installed, and the re-wiring of the stage area

should be complete by the end of March. A sub-committee will also be reviewing the cost of the oil and electricity supply.

- d. *Parish website representative* – reiterated the need to keep the website up-to-date, and that photographs of village events would also be very welcome to illustrate the site.
- e. *Chairman's report – Area Board* - at the most recent Area Board meeting, a review of speed limits on A & B roads within the county was considered. There was also a briefing on Community Speed Watch and rural broadband, where members of the public were urged to complete the survey on broadband provision on the Wiltshire Council website. The Chairman thought that the Area Board was becoming a useful way of raising concerns and problems, and urged other councillors to attend future meetings. *Farley Hospital* – a meeting of the Farley Hospital trustees had learnt that the Warden, Dr Godfrey, will be standing down later this year, which is obligatory when the Warden reaches 70. *Pitton School* - the Chairman accompanied Cllr Britton (the Area Board Chairman) and Tom Bray (the Community Area Manager) on a visit to Pitton School, to learn about a project the pupils had undertaken about how pupils travel to school, and took the opportunity to discuss traffic congestion with the headmaster. The result is that Cllr Britton will look into the possibility of a school bus run which would collect children from Firsdawn, Winterslow and Farley. This would be followed by an assessment of what the take-up would be by parents. *Community Plan* - a meeting to revive the Community Plan, it was agreed that a copy of the current plan would be sent to the parishes for them to amend their parts of the plan. This has been done for Pitton & Farley. *Core Strategy Review* - the Core Strategy Review hearings by a Government Planning Inspector start on March 1st, and the Chairman will attend the reviews of the Removal of Housing policy Boundaries (2nd March) and plans for Affordable Housing (5th March). The meetings are open to the public.
- f. *Parish Clerk's report - Training* – the Councillor training day has been confirmed as Saturday 20th March at Idmiston Village Hall, and booking forms have been circulated. *Draft Waste Site Allocations* – the Parish Council has received a letter from Wiltshire Council regarding the proposed site for waste disposal in the county – the parish is not affected by any proposed sites. *Car parking charges* – Wiltshire Council will be undertaking county wide consultations on this topic in April/May. The consultation on refuse collection cycles will be deferred until after the forthcoming General election. *The Campaign to Protect Rural England* – The Parish Council has received the annual invitation for the two villages to enter separately the Best Kept Village Competition. *S.L.C.C.* – I have attended the Society's quarterly meeting. *Area Board* – I attended the most recent Board meeting in Downton. The next is scheduled for April 15th, the venue yet to be confirmed. *Other correspondence received:* Clerks & Councils Direct – January 2010 issue, Wiltshire Council – Your Wiltshire Magazine, January 2010 issue, Wiltshire Council – Wiltshire Wayfarer, rights of way newsletter, Winter 2010 issue, Wiltshire Wildlife Trust – January 2010 issue.
- g. *Working party on additional play equipment in The Close* - still to hear whether the Council will be able to draw on R2 funds. The application for a Community Area grant will be decided in March.

15/10 To consider any matters raised by the public

- a. The Parish Council had received an offer from a village resident to purchase part of The Close in Pitton. Both the Chairman and Clerk confirmed that they had received a number of representations, by e-mail, letter and verbally from other village residents, all of whom were unanimous in their objection to the proposal, on the basis that The Close was land for community use, and should remain so. During the following discussion, it was clear that the councillors were of the same opinion, and so the Council resolved to decline the offer of purchase. (DB prop, SW sec, all in favour). The Clerk was instructed to write to the Pitton resident concerned. **Action: the Clerk.**
- b. Maintenance of the trees in The Close, Pitton – councillors learnt that although a multi-stemmed sycamore had been removed in 2006 following the advice of the then Arboricultural Officer of Salisbury District Council, the trees have not been inspected by a tree surgeon with a view to maintenance, and a neighbouring resident had raised concerns. The Clerk was instructed to research the charges of a tree surgeon and contact the present Arboricultural officer with a review to commissioning a proper survey. **Action: the Clerk**

16/10 Matters arising

None identified.

17/10 Finance

- a. A schedule of accounts in the sum of £599.55 was approved for payment , with an additional £30.00 approved in favour of Mr Bossom in respect of a refund for the annual web subscription fee (*prop DB, sec NL, all in favour*).
- b. *The Budget Monitoring form- it was noted that was not correct* – earlier corrections had reappeared. The Clerk will investigate, correct and circulate the minutes. Mr Bossom's offer of help was gratefully accepted. **Action: the Clerk.**
- c. *A request for a grant/donation from Victim Support* – members felt that as this was a national charity, the Council should not use its precept for this purpose. The Clerk was instructed to write and politely decline. **Action: the Clerk.**

18/10 Highway/Parish steward/Footpath matters

- a. *Date of next visit* - the date of the next Parish Steward visit is 11th March.
- b. *Tasks/work to be done* - councillors were asked to advise the Clerk of any work which needs doing, and the Clerk was requested to find out who checks the work done.
Action: all
- c. *Pilot scheme for the delegation of footpath maintenance from Wiltshire council* – the Clerk was asked to take the matter further and register the Parish Council's interest in this. **Action: the Clerk**
- d. *Lockable grit bins* – the Clerk was research possible sites in the parish and the costs.
Action: the Clerk.

19/10 Leisure Credits scheme for young people - this is scheme run by the Wiltshire Council's Youth Development Service, whereby young people undertake work of benefit to the community, so earning leisure credits which they can then exchange for reward activities. Councillors noted the information, and wondered whether the young people

would come from the parish, or be drawn from a wider area. They felt that there might be limitations on the work they could undertake.

20/10 Wiltshire Air Ambulance request to locate a clothing bank on Parish Council land – members felt that The Close wasn't suitable, but thought the existing mini recycling centre at the Hook & Glove pub might be a possible site, or at Pitton school, next to the waste paper collection skips. The Clerk was asked to approach the pub and the school.
Action: the Clerk.

21/10 To review other ongoing matters:

- a. *Footpaths* – the Chairman advised that the reports had been sent to Wiltshire Council, and it had been confirmed that they had been forwarded to the Rights of Way officer, Nick Cowen.
- b. *Pitton pump* – David Balfour advised he had analysed the probable costs of running the pump using the specification data and costings, and had concluded that the present electricity supplier, Southern electric. Councillors therefore resolved to remain with the existing supplier, but review this each year.
- c. *Telephone boxes* – notices consulting the public have yet to be displayed. **Action: the Clerk**
- d. *Common land in the parish* – councillors felt that the Community Service workers could be employed to clear out Aymers, Parsonage Hill and Ben Lane ponds. The Clerk was asked to initiate this. **Action: the Clerk.**
- e. *Wheelie bin stickers* – David Balfour offered to count the number of households in Pitton likely to require stickers, whilst Geoff Lowndes offered to count in Farley. The Clerk was requested to establish whether Firsdown PC have any spare stickers. **Action: DB, GL, the Clerk.**
- f. *Speeding in Pitton* – The Clerk has written to Wiltshire Council with the Parish Council's requests, and has also written to the residents who originally raised their concerns and to the Headmaster at Pitton school. If the Parish Council's requests are not met quickly, they will be raised as a Community Issue.
- g. *Affordable Rural housing* – nothing to report.

22/10 Dates of next meetings

Ordinary meeting - Thursday 1st April in Pitton Village Hall at 7.30pm

Annual Meeting of the Parish council – Thursday 13th May in Farley Village hall at 7.00pm

Ordinary meeting – Thursday 13th May in Farley Village Hall at 7.30pm.

End of meeting 9.15pm