

**Minutes of the Pitton & Farley Parish Council meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2010 at 7.30 pm in Pitton Village Hall**

**Present**

Alan Shaw (Chairman)  
David Balfour  
Lyn Fredericks  
David Goulden  
Steve Williams  
Catherine Purves (The Clerk)  
Two members of the public

**Public Question time**

Mr Sankey raised concerns that the siphon had still not been cleaned out, and he was concerned about the possibility of flooding in the village once the snow melt entered the water table.

**AGENDA**

**Apologies**

Geoff Lowndes, Nigel Lilley, Mike Chant (due to snowy and icy weather), Wilts Cllr Chris Devine

**1/10 Minutes**

- a. The minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 5<sup>th</sup> November 2009 were approved and agreed as a correct record with one amendment to item 79.09 Finance, adding the decision to spend £835 of R2 money and upto £350.00 of Parish Council funds to the play equipment project (*prop LF, sec DG all in favour*)
- b. The minutes of the Farley Ward Planning Committee meeting of 10<sup>th</sup> November 2009 were approved and agreed as a correct record without amendment (*prop DG, sec AS, all in favour*).
- c. The minutes of the Pitton Ward meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2009 were approved and agreed as correct record without amendment (*prop DB, sec SW all in favour*).
- d. The minutes of the Parish Council Budget & Precept meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2009 were approved and agreed as a correct record without amendment (*prop SW, sec AS, all in favour*).

**2/10 Declarations of Interest**

None.

**3/10 To receive reports from:-**

- a. *The Wiltshire Councillor* – none received.
- b. *The Parish Council's representative on the Pitton Flood Action group* – DG advised that the Flood Plan is presently under review and an updated one will be available in due course. Water table levels are just above the long term average for the time of year, and are no cause for concern.

- c. *The Parish Council's representative on the Pitton Village Hall Management Committee* - LF advised that the stage wiring and lighting is being renewed, and a dishwasher will be installed shortly.
- d. *Parish website representative* – Mr Bossom advised the website was averaging 100 visits per week, and reiterated the need to send up-to-date information about local events, clubs and societies to keep the website fresh. Photos for the website were also welcome.
- e. *Chairman's report* - I attended the inaugural Community Plan meeting on the 16 November. I expressed my view that a revised Community Plan was not the best way to highlight parish councils' problems as Area Boards fill that role. My view was rejected and so a working group has been formed under the chairmanship of Mr Tony Reynolds and vice chairman Mr Mick Brown (Winterslow). The next meeting of the working group is 18 Jan 2010. I attended the Area Board meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> December in Whiteparish. Topics included progress with the Community Plan, the disposal of Wiltshire Council assets, (proposals for which must come before the Area Boards, so we will be aware of any move concerning the land at Above Hedges) and a presentation by Chief Inspector D McMullin on crime levels – South West Wiltshire appears to have relatively low levels of crime. I also asked about Neighbour Watch schemes. *[a later agenda item]*. Wiltshire Council will fund the cost of elections, hence a saving on parish council budgets. I also attended the Farley Hospital Christmas Dinner.
- f. *Parish Clerk's report - Training* –Another Councillor Training Day is to be arranged for a Saturday in either February or March, delivered by Sarah Todhunter, the Town Clerk of Devizes Town Council. Lunch will be provided, so please let me know if you are interested in attending. This will be especially useful for any new councillors.

#### *Planning*

- Polytunnel at Ware Farm in Farley – this application will be decided at the Southern Area Planning Committee which is meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> January *[subsequently postponed to 28<sup>th</sup> January 2010]*.
- I attended a seminar on Enforcement at the City Hall Salisbury on 2<sup>nd</sup> December, and I have hard copies of the presentation available. A further seminar has been arranged for Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January in Chippenham.
- The review of Development Control has been extended to the end of January – if anyone has any thoughts on how Planning Control has functioned since April 1<sup>st</sup> 2009, please let me know, and I will compile a response.

*Play area inspection* – nothing has been done due to the bad weather but it is hoped to action the medium risk items as soon as possible.

#### *Correspondence Received*

- Copy of the submission document of the South Wilts Core Strategy Development Plan document
- Agenda for the Southern Area Planning Committee meeting to be held at the City Hall, Salisbury at 6.00pm.
- Southern Wiltshire Area Board newsletter for November 2009.
- WALC newsletters for November 2009 and December 2009.
- Clerks & Councils Direct November 2009.

- g. *Play Equipment Working party* - applications for R2 funding and a Community Area grant have been submitted. The application for lottery funding has not yet been submitted, as it depends on the outcome of the two other bids. Neighbouring residents have been consulted, and the Chairman will respond to any concerns raised.

#### **4/10 Matters raised by the public**

Need for the siphon to be cleaned – the Clerk was instructed to chase this again. The matter has been raised as a Community Issue. Action: The Clerk

#### **5/10 Matters arising**

- a. AS confirmed that Standing Orders had been amended to reflect the change in frequency of the Parish Council meetings. Mr Bossom had been thanked for his work and had declined the offer of the reimbursement of his out of pocket expenses.
- b. Affordable Housing had been raised with the Area Board.

#### **6/10 Finance**

- a. A schedule of accounts in the sum of £307.65 was approved for payment (*prop LF, sec SW, all in favour*)
- b. The updated Budget Monitoring form was noted.

#### **7/10 Common land in the parish**

The Clerk advised that three pieces of land in the parish were registered as unowned Common Land – Aymer's Pond in Pitton, Parsonage Pond in Farley and Ben lane Pond, also in Farley. The Clerk was instructed to obtain two quotes to dredge Aymer's Pond and haul away the waste, and the two Farley ponds will also be inspected to see if anything is needed to be done. Action: The Clerk

#### **8/10 Neighbourhood Watch**

AS advised that this scheme was being revived, and that the Parish Council should wait to be contacted by the local police, after which a notice asking for volunteers will be put in the Dun Valley News and on the website.

#### **9/10 Highway/Parish Steward/Footpath matters**

- a. Dates for next visits – 14<sup>th</sup> January, 11<sup>th</sup> February. The Clerk was asked to investigate who from Wiltshire Council checks the work done. Action: the Clerk
- b. For the next visit – potholes previously advised, plus new ones at Pitton Cross Roads and along The Green in Pitton.

#### **10/10 To Review other ongoing matters**

- a. Footpaths – a gentle reminder will be sent asking volunteers to complete their inspections. Action: AS
- b. Pitton pump - the Clerk had obtained four quotes from different electrical suppliers, and DB undertook to calculate the cheapest, comparing any standing charges against the cost of electricity used. A pragmatic approach should be taken, and DB

and the Clerk were given authority to take the matter forward. Action: DB and the Clerk.

- c. Telephone boxes – the Clerk advised that should the Parish Council wish to take on the responsibility of the boxes, it would be a lengthy and bureaucratic process, and they would be expensive to maintain with the telephony service retained. There was no obvious alternative use, but councillors did feel the community should be consulted. If the Council were to subsequently sell the boxes, they would have to be offered back to BT at the original purchase price of £1.00. Notices to be placed on the noticeboard, in the Dun Valley News, website and newsletter.
- d. Feral cats in Farley - a notice has been placed in the Dun Valley news and on the website.
- e. Speeding in Pitton – The Clerk advised councillors of the results for the speed survey outside Pitton school, but was still awaiting those surveys outside The Silver Plough and Stockbottom House.
  - A total of 7544 vehicles were checked outside the school. The 85 percentile was 34mph (the 85percentile is the speed at which 85% of the traffic is travelling at or below). The average speed of the vehicles checked was 27mph.
  - Of the 7544 vehicles checked, 35.55% were travelling in excess of the speed limit – but this figure does include those vehicles travelling just 1mph over the limit.
  - Although the information has been requested, the statistics giving the breakdown of the time of day when the speed limit was exceeded, even by 1mph, was not available.

After some discussion, Councillors resolved that the Parish Council should investigate the cost and feasibility of:

- placing a “School” sign, possibly a flashing one, at the 30mph sign on White Way.
- requesting the resiting of the “Road Narrows” sign from the corner of Above Hedges to the 30mph sign on White Way.
- requesting a “junction” sign be sited towards the bottom of Pitton Hill,
- Requesting that “SLOW” be marked on the road towards the bottom of Pitton Hill before the blind bend, also to be marked on White Way just before the sharp bend at Spire View, heading towards the A30, and also to be marked on both sides of the road leading down towards Stockbottom Dip.

The Parish Council will also ask for a speed survey to be conducted along the High Street, outside the entrance to The Close.

- f. Wheelie Bin stickers – this item was deferred to the next meeting, to allow Farley ward members to contribute to the discussion.
- g. Affordable Housing – no further news to report, but this will remain an agenda item.

### **11/10 Dates of next meetings**

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2010 at 7.30pm in Farley Village Hall

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010 at 7.30pm in Pitton Village Hall