

PEWSEY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 6th FEBRUARY 2019
IN THE PARISH OFFICE, BOUVERIE HALL, PEWSEY

PRESENT: Cllr Eyles, Cllrs Mrs Dalrymple, Mrs Hunt, Mrs Stevens, Cllrs Carder, Deck, Giles, Hagan, Haskell, Smith and Stevens.

IN ATTENDANCE: Alison Kent (Clerk).

1. APOLOGIES: Cllrs Mrs Carmichael-Owen, Ann Hogg, Kerry Pycroft, Cllrs Ford, McGarry, Morris, Smithers and Stephens. Apologies were also received from Mr Park (Rugby Club) and Mr Asbury (Heritage Centre).

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST: None.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING: All being in agreement the minutes of the meeting held on 5th December 2018 were signed as a true record by the Chairman.

4. TENANT CLUB REPORTS:

a) Bowls Club: There was no representative present to report.

b) Football Club: Cllr Stephens was not present to report but had advised there had been no vandalism in recent weeks.

c) Tennis Club: Cllr Deck suggested that the rough path between the tennis courts and the grass hill could benefit from some paving stones which members agreed.

d) Rugby Club: Mr Park was not present to report but had advised of a forthcoming meeting on 21st February at 6.30pm in the Royal Oak which members were invited to attend.

e) Youth Football Club: A letter would be sent as the committee were disappointed that no representatives of the club had attended, although a report had been sent for the previous meeting.

f) Heritage Centre: A report from Mr Asbury had been circulated to all members.

5. OTHER REPORTS:

a) **Cemetery and Chapel:** Cllr Ford was not present to report. Cllr Smithers would be arranging a building inspection in due course. Repairs to the guttering had not yet been completed.

b) **Footpaths:** Cllr Haskell suggested that walkers could be asked via social media to inform the council of any problems. Wiltshire Council had sent the modification order for FP41 at Milton Hill Farm, any comments to be made by 1st March 2019. There were no objections to the proposal.

c) **Street Lights:** Cllr Deck had received a report of a light out at Brunkards Lane and the Village Ranger had cleared the vegetation around the obscured Broomcroft Road lights. Cllr Mrs Hunt mentioned the repair to light 92 had still not been completed by Atkins. Cllr Eyles had asked the Highways Engineer to chase this up.

d) **Seats:** Cllr Stephens was not present but had reported that decisions would be made in the spring as to which seats would be repaired or replaced.

e) Allotments:

i) **Allotment Inspection:** Bert's Meadow: Cllr Morris was not present but had not inspected the allotments recently. The clerk needed to speak with the holder of Plot 2D about the future of the willows, as although they had been cut right back, the stumps could do with grinding out.

ii) **Allotment Inspection:** Broadfields: Cllr Stephens was not present. Cllr Eyles reported the new noticeboard had been installed although the fencing repair needed further work.

iii) **Allotment Waiting List Progress Report:** The clerk advised plots were slowly becoming available at Easterton Lane with one full size plot available at Broadfields.

f) **Trees (Including Way's Way):** Cllr Deck reported the works being undertaken at Rectory Grove looked good although he had not closely inspected it yet. He was aware that only one of the three Limes had been done and would speak with the contractor. He asked Cllr Mrs Stevens to put the availability of the logs for the public into the Messenger.

DEFRA Protecting and enhancing England's trees and Woodlands consultation – both Cllr Deck and Cllr Eyles had read the report with comments to be made by 15th February. The first section discussed whether consultations on tree felling should take place. This was answered 'Yes' with an additional comment for clarification on who is the Local Authority. The second section was about record keeping of trees on LA land. Again, the question on who was regarded as the LA arose and who would be responsible for keeping and circulating annual tree records, to include those felled and replanted. Cllr Deck advised that the Parish Council already kept a record of works to trees on Parish Council owned land. The last section related to senior authorities preparing a comprehensive Tree and Woodland strategy which should be in close collaboration with Town and Parish Councils. The comments would be submitted online by the closing date of 28th February.

Cllr Eyles reported that a complaint from a resident of Greyhound Mews had been received about the Silver Birch trees. He had met with a contractor and would submit a quotation for maintenance works in due course.

g) **Scotchel:** Cllr Ford was not present to report. Cllr Eyles would meet with Idverde and request a bridge inspection and to quote for improvements to the path.

h) **River Avon/Kennet & Avon Canal:** Cllr Kerry Pycroft was not present. Lots of rubbish had been noticed in the river at the Market Place, the Village Ranger would be asked to remove it.

i) **Recreation Ground and Rectory Grove:** Cllr Mrs Hunt advised the Recreation Ground and Rectory Grove appeared fine with the first flowers coming up. Cllr Smith asked what was to happen to the former BMX site, Cllr Eyles stated that Cllr Stevens had been asked to consider a project and that the fence would be kept in place.

j) **Play Areas:**

Broadfields: Cllr Stephens had reported the site was fine.

Aston Close: Cllr Mrs Carmichael-Owen was not present, however, Cllr Stevens reported the area continued to be the subject of vandalism with the loosening of bolts and end caps removed which he had replaced. The Village Ranger had cleaned off most of the graffiti but needed some stronger remover for the play house, he also needed to fill in the surface dip under the swing. Cllr Hagan stated that the noise was particularly bad during Friday nights and not from younger children.

Easterton Lane: Cllr Haskell remarked that the replacement disabled swing had not yet been installed and the rope walk had been removed, otherwise the site was fine. One litter bin appeared to be used for household waste. Cllr Mrs Hunt thanked Cllr Deck and Cllr Haskell for undertaking the checks whilst she was recuperating.

Broomcroft Road: Cllr Kerry Pycroft was not present but had asked that the contractors do not cut the grass bank during the early growing season.

The Action Plan for Pewsey Play Areas had been prepared by Cllr Deck, Cllr Eyles and Cllr Stevens and had been circulated to all members. The aim was to set out how the play areas would be managed over the next 10 years, to give consideration to the use of S.106 funds and consider prospective proposals from Wiltshire Council for asset transfer. Each play area currently owned or managed by the Parish Council was listed with proposed actions and estimated costs. Three options were also presented for the five Wiltshire Council owned play areas on the west side of the village that would likely be offered as an asset transfer. Details of S.106 funds which may become available were provided as well as possible alternative schemes for that expenditure.

Cllr Haskell advised that general maintenance was approximately £500 per area per annum, although the Parish Council has been fortunate enough to be able to improve most of them through S.106 funds but that is now coming to an end and has to be for capital expenditure only. Costs had not yet been added for additional insurance and grounds maintenance. Cllr Stevens explained that each area was checked weekly by a councillor, if a further 5 areas were taken on that would be a greater commitment and maybe in the future should be undertaken by a contractor which would be in addition to the bi-annual check by the insurance company. He felt it was important to focus on demand coupled together with long term cost. The hospital site survey had only returned 31 questionnaires out of 300, with 10 responses asking for closure of the sites. The clean-up day did not produce a great turnout and there was little feedback. If the Parish Council did not take over the Wiltshire Council play areas, they would be padlocked and left unused.

Cllr Eyles said he was reluctant to close the Broadfields site even though many appeared to walk further onto the Broomcroft Road site.

Aster had offered 21-year leases for both sites (Aston Close and Broadfields) which would give the Parish Council more control, but there was no suggestion that Aster would be closing the sites should the arrangement remain under licence.

It was agreed that the plan would be better discussed at the March Full Council once further information was gathered from the upcoming meeting with Wiltshire Council.

Cllr Stevens had suggested young persons' exercise equipment at Easterton Lane which he was obtaining quotations for, Cllr Mrs Hunt suggested that adult exercise equipment could also be installed so that parents could exercise with their children. Cllr Deck mentioned that the outcome of the wheeled sports planning application was needed so that the extent of available S.106 funding was known.

Cllr Stevens has sought quotations for replacing the activity trail at Easterton Lane with approximately £9,000 of S.106 to be spent before the middle of the year which he proposed, seconded Cllr Haskell, all in favour.

k) **Angela Yeates Memorial Ground and Youth Football ground:** Cllr Ford was not present to report.

l) **Litter:** Cllr Smith reiterated his comments from the FSM meeting about dog fouling with the launch of a campaign at the community morning on 23rd March. The campaign would centre on "Please...Because...Or Else". Sponsorship for a children's poster competition would be sought. Cllr Haskell said he was fed up of the attitude of having to cow done to the failures of the minority and should reward the majority.

m) **Toilets:** Cllr Mrs Carmichael-Owen was not present to report.

n) **Car Parks:** Cllr Mrs Hunt said the leases had been completed, even though Wiltshire Council had not met their obligations to finish the outstanding works. New grit bins had been installed and were the property of the Parish Council.

o) **White Horse:** Cllr Giles advised that he had met with the contractor on 8th January who had not undertaken any work since the previous meeting. The chalk had washed away and the weeds were growing worse than ever. A plan had been agreed to shave off the weeds from the surface and then spray. It was hoped that would work although the weather had not been conducive. This would be the last opportunity for the contractor to meet the council's requirements.

6. PARISH STEWARD: Cllr Eyles had met with the Highways Engineer that morning. The Clerk would be monitoring the list of works provided to the steward and report back to the Highways Engineer any reasons that may be given for uncompleted tasks. Cllr Deck commended the Village Ranger who had cleared a tree from Hollybush Lane following the snow. Cllr Eyles had been informed that Wiltshire Council do not permit the Village Ranger to work on the highway. Cllr Mrs Hunt asked what constituted the highway as he had cleared snow from the pavements. Cllr

Stevens asked whether he was permitted to put up the flood signs? Cllr Eyles said the exact definition of highway was not known and the Clerk would seek clarification. After some discussion Cllr Eyles was told that he was right to raise important points, but wrong not to listen to other people's opinions.

Lots of grit salt had been used over recent days with Wiltshire Council bins expected to be refilled by the Parish Steward.

The Parish Steward was permitted to paint bridge railings but not repair them as this was the responsibility of the bridges gang.

The ongoing flooding problem at Dursden Lane would be passed over to the drainage gang as all private works had now been completed. For some reason the water was not flowing into the ditch and it was anticipated that a new soakaway would be needed.

7. EMERGENCY/FLOOD PLAN REVIEW: Cllrs Ford, McGarry and Morris were not present to provide an update. The draft plan had been circulated and feedback provided. The Clerk said that with the recent snow, more contact details should be collated from people with suitable skills and equipment. Cllr Eyles had spoken with the Co-Op Manager who had confirmed they had an Emergency Plan.

8. CORRESPONDENCE:

1. WC Licence application for an extension to permitted hours at the garage, Swan Road, Pewsey. Comments were required by 12th February. Cllr Deck had consulted with the local police who had responded stating that no problems had occurred due to the sale of alcohol. Conditions would be put in place and CCTV cameras were already installed.

Cllr Giles proposed no objection, seconded Cllr Stevens, 5 for, 4 against, 2 abstentions.

9. ITEMS FOR THE MESSENGER: Items should be sent to Cllr Mrs Stevens before 10th February and had already included the commencement of monthly car boot sales, the cost of vandalism at the play areas and details of the Community Morning.

10. ANY FULL COUNCIL INFORMATION AND ACTION: None.

11. ITEMS VIA THE CLERK: The Clerk had circulated information on a scheme called Terracycle which a resident had suggested. Members should give the scheme some thought as to whether there were any suitable sites around the parish that small recycling schemes could take place.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.29pm.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____