

PEWSEY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 5th JUNE 2019
IN THE PARISH OFFICE, BOUVERIE HALL, PEWSEY

PRESENT: Cllr Eyles (Chairman), Cllr McGarry, Cllrs Mrs Carmichael-Owen, Mrs Dalrymple, Mrs Hunt, Kerry Pycroft, Mrs Saunders, Mrs Stevens, Cllrs Carder, Deck, Del Mar, Ford, Giles, Haskell, Smith, Stephens and Stevens.

IN ATTENDANCE: Alison Kent (Clerk) and Ewa Prokop of North Wessex Downs AONB.

1. APOLOGIES: Cllr Ann Hogg, Cllr Hagan and Morris. Apologies were also received from Mr Andrews (Bowls Club), Mr Asbury (Heritage Centre), Mr Jeffery (Youth Football Club) and Mr Park (Rugby Club).

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST: None.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING: All being in agreement the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd April 2019 were signed as a true record by the Chairman.

4. WHITE HORSES PROJECT: Ms Prokop, Senior Project Development and Funding Officer for North Wessex Downs AONB gave her presentation on the White Horses project. There were 8 in Wiltshire and 1 at Uffington. The proposal was to submit an application for £1.5m of Heritage Lottery funding which was a 4-stage process, starting in August. A decision would be made by spring 2020 with a subsequent 18-month implementation and 3-year delivery stage between 2022-2025. The evolving sub-projects and particular ways in which the Parish Council could support were highlighted and included wildlife surveys, tourism support, health and wellbeing activities, educational activities, music, archaeological investigations, history and photography and public events relating to the white horse landscape. Projects could be supported by staff, volunteers and even the idea of apprenticeships could be considered. The idea was to celebrate the white horses in the community.

Cllr Giles reminded members that he had been responsible for the maintenance of the Pewsey White Horse for 40 years. He would need to digest the proposal and was cautious of wildlife surveys. The biggest issue was their maintenance as understanding of the site mechanics was required. It was hoped that people could learn from each other.

Cllr Del Mar asked on what basis was it the responsibility of the Parish Council to maintain the site, Cllr Giles explained that the landowner provided his permission to maintain and had always been helpful. Volunteers had always looked after the White Horse, but once subsided it had fallen to the Parish Council to continue. Cllr Mrs Saunders asked whether there was plans to digitise all this information under one banner such as a website. Ms Prokop said this would be looked into although the long-term responsibility would be a concern. It would be helpful if the Parish Council could offer a letter of support.

5. TENANT CLUB REPORTS:

a) Bowls Club: Mr Andrews had informed the Clerk that there had been some changes to the executive committee of the club, but no problems reported at the grounds.

b) Football Club: Cllr Stephens reported the pitches were up together, there had been no damage although the youths still gathered.

c) Tennis Club: Cllr Deck had nothing to report.

d) Rugby Club: Cllr Haskell advised that members had been invited to meet at the clubhouse the previous evening. He was immensely impressed with the amount of work that had been undertaken so far. Local companies and volunteers had been very supportive. The clubhouse was very close to becoming fully functional and would then generate an income. A grant offer of £50,000 had been received by the club from Sport England with criteria attached. The club had one month from the date of the offer letter, 30th May, to confirm that the remaining funds required could be funded. If

the funds could not be sourced then the club would stand to lose the £50,000 offer which would be a tragedy after all the hard work. He had asked Cllr Deck to look closely at the current S.106 situation ahead of the next Full Council meeting as there was some unallocated monies that could be utilised. There may even be a way for the Parish Council to provide an interest-free loan as long as a formal legal arrangement was made.

- e) Youth Football Club: Mr Jeffery had sent a report which had been circulated to all members.
- f) Heritage Centre: Mr Asbury had sent a report which had been circulated.

6. OTHER REPORTS:

a) **Cemetery and Chapel:** Cllr Ford reported the grounds looked fine although there had been a complaint that the path by the chapel needed weeds clearing, the contractor would be chased.

b) **Footpaths:** Cllr Haskell advised the usual complaint had been received about FP4 from Sunnyhill Lane to Prospect not being cut. The landowner would be contacted.

c) **Street Lights:** Cllr Deck had reported light no. 38 on Broomcroft Rd being on. Also, the light at the end of Hollybush Lane had been cleared of ivy.

d) **Seats:** Cllr Stephens would aim to fix the tree seat at Broomcroft Park. Cllr Stevens felt the problem had been caused by the contractors being careless when strimming and not protecting the bottom of the seat legs. This would be mentioned to the contractor.

e) Allotments:

i) **Allotment Inspection:** Bert's Meadow: The clerk had received a report from Cllr Morris and confirmed that empty plots had been offered out, however, all of them are covered in long grass and weeds. Cllr Eyles would arrange a contractor to cut back and dig over.

ii) **Allotment Inspection:** Broadfields: Cllr Stephens all tidy apart from the one full size plot.

iii) **Allotment Waiting List Progress Report:** The clerk advised that 6 plots had been offered which left 4 people on the waiting list.

f) **Trees (Including Way's Way):** Cllr Deck had nothing to report.

g) **Scotchel:** Cllr Ford advised there had been damage to the fence by the memorial seat with posts being thrown across the river. This would be cleared but there seemed to be a lot of damage being caused at the moment which had been reported to the police. Cllr Eyles had obtained a quotation for the resurfacing of the path in the same manner as had taken place in Rectory Grove. It was expensive and although this would be met from the bequest fund, further quotations would be sought. It was noted that the handling would add to the expense due to the length of the path. Cllr Stevens suggested advice be sought on the best type of material to use.

h) **River Avon/Kennet & Avon Canal:** Cllr Kerry Pycroft reported all was fine apart from a problem with logs being thrown into the river by the listed bridge. The Village Ranger had cleared all the rubbish out of the river from the Scotchel to the petrol station. The Canals & Rivers Trust would be meeting on 6th June and had been asked to discuss the uneven footpath by Pains Bridge.

i) **Recreation Ground and Rectory Grove:** Cllr Mrs Hunt reported all was fine although the seat in Rectory Grove needed cleaning. The edging boards on the path had been damaged by the tree surgeons and would be sorted out. Cllr Stevens had reported an amount of the small nitrous oxide canisters by the Arboretum to the police.

j) Play Areas:

Broadfields: Cllr Stephens reported the area was fine and getting lots of use. A new "No Ball Games" sign had been ordered.

Aston Close: Cllr Mrs Carmichael-Owen advised the gate had been fixed but was only temporary for the time being. She asked for a similar sign to be ordered as Broadfields.

Easterton Lane: Cllr Mrs Hunt reported that the litter picker had found a piece off the climbing wall, Cllr Stevens would find out where it had come from.

Broomcroft Road: Cllr Kerry Pycroft reported there had been a lot of vandalism with the picnic bench damaged and strung up to the basket hoop as well as a substantial burn mark on the activity table. Cllr Stevens also stated a piece had been cut off at the end of adventure trail, showing knife marks which was a concern. The police had been informed.

Cllr Stevens advised the bi-annual insurance inspection had taken place and apart from known issues, all had been OK. The inspector had commented that the standard had been set very high.

k) **Angela Yeates Memorial Ground and Youth Football ground:** Cllr Ford said all was fine with both grounds looking very smart.

l) **Litter:** Cllr Smith said the parish looked good and commended to volunteers who were doing an excellent job.

m) **Toilets:** Cllr Mrs Carmichael-Owen advised the disabled toilet was temporarily closed due to a repair to the tiles being needed.

n) **Car Parks:** Cllr Mrs Hunt reminded members the next car boot sale would take place on Sunday. Cllr Eyles and the Clerk had managed to get Wiltshire Council to undertake the white lining for free in the car park directly outside the Bouverie Hall. Cllr Eyles had sought quotations for the remainder of the lining that was required.

o) **White Horse:** Cllr Giles advised that a working party had weeded, strimmed and raked the chalk over. He may consider an experiment to dust the chalk with lime in due course. He had hoped to engage another contractor but unfortunately this had been unsuccessful. He would continue to look for someone to take on the regular maintenance.

7. PARISH STEWARD: The planned meeting to review the Parish Steward did not take place as a reminder had not been sent. However, it was noted that there had been an improvement to the service since the last meeting. Please inform the Clerk if there are works that can be added to the monthly task list.

8. EMERGENCY/FLOOD PLAN REVIEW: Cllrs Ford had received details of one person who could be added to the emergency list and asked for more to be supplied, such as local farmers, those with access to 4 x 4 vehicles etc.

9. BEST KEPT GARDEN/ALLOTMENT COMPETITIONS: Cllr Kerry Pycroft explained that she had run the competition for the last three years, changing the criteria, adding new categories and making it easier for people to enter. Last years' competition had been cancelled, mainly due to the hot weather but also only two people had entered. As it was lot of time and effort it was decided not to run the competition again this year. The Commercial and Allotment competitions were much easier to run. She would speak with Cllr Mrs Saunders to consider whether it could be reinvented in the future.

10. CORRESPONDENCE:

None.

11. ITEMS FOR THE MESSENGER: Items should be sent to Cllr Mrs Stevens before 10th June. Cllr Mrs Hunt would submit a piece about car park regulations as some were extending their stay.

12. ANY FULL COUNCIL INFORMATION AND ACTION: Cllr Haskell asked the Clerk if a letter of thanks could be written to Dr Ring upon his retirement on 29th June. A letter should also be sent to the landowner of the new dental practice for reopening the permissive footpath by his own generosity.

13. ITEMS VIA THE CLERK: None.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.12pm.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____