

PEWSEY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 7th AUGUST 2019
IN THE PARISH OFFICE, BOUVERIE HALL, PEWSEY

PRESENT: Cllr Eyles (Chairman), Cllrs Mrs Carmichael-Owen, Mrs Dalrymple, Mrs Stevens, Cllrs Carder, Deck, Del Mar, Ford, Giles, Hagan, Morris, Smith and Stevens.

IN ATTENDANCE: Alison Kent (Clerk), Mr Andrews (Bowls Club), Mr Haynes (Rugby Club) and Mr Jeffery (Youth and Senior Football Clubs).

1. APOLOGIES: Cllrs Ann Hogg, Mrs Hunt, Kerry Pycroft, Mrs Saunders, Cllrs Haskell, McGarry, Smithers and Stephens. Apologies were also received from 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 June 2019 were signed as a true record by the Chairman.

4. TENANT CLUB REPORTS:

a) Bowls Club: Mr Andrews advised that the new committee had settled in well. There had been no further problems with vandalism or anti-social behaviour and the green was looking good.

b) Football Club: Mr Jeffery said the season had started for the Wessex League. The ground had been graded and he was waiting for the final report. The pitches were looking nice again and there had not been many signs of damage at the moment. Mindless acts had taken place with the police informed each time.

c) Tennis Club: Cllr Deck advised that the club was hosting the Wiltshire Junior County Championship between 26th and 31st August. The club were looking into the possibility of installing photovoltaic cells on the pavilion roof. Cllr Stevens commented that he had been surprised by the language used by some older members, which he felt was inappropriate by the play area. Cllr Deck would pass this back.

d) Rugby Club: Mr Haynes advised that the groundsman had been poorly but someone else had stepped in. The new season would start on 14th September and their first cup match would take place in November. A significant amount of self-help work in the clubhouse was taking place every weekend, with the function area, toilet block and kitchen to be open by the start of season. The club was very grateful to the Parish Council for the help and support that had been given. Cllr Eyles asked for the entrance gate lock number to be able to take a look at the enclosure area for storage.

e) Youth Football Club: Mr Jeffery reported the club was just going through the registration period, with eight teams going into leagues next season, which would commence on 8th September. The U16s team had folded but there were new links with the U18s senior team. The annual Pewsey vs. Marlborough tournament would be taking place. The U9 team had received an award and so had Mr Jeffery for his volunteer work. He advised that the club was struggling to recruit coaches, especially with changes to safeguarding rules. Volunteers needed to have more qualifications nowadays. Cllr Ford reported the litter bin was overflowing, Mr Jeffery would empty it.

f) Heritage Centre: Mr Asbury had sent a report which had been circulated.

5. OTHER REPORTS:

a) **Cemetery and Chapel:** Cllr Ford advised that the guttering had been repaired and the overgrown holly had been cut back. Cllr Eyles explained that the consecration of the former allotment land as burial land would be taking place on 4th September at 2pm by the Bishop of Ramsbury. This would be a small event. It was resolved to formally consecrate the land at Wilcot Road Cemetery, Pewsey, proposed by Cllr Deck, seconded Cllr Mrs Dalrymple, all in favour.

b) **Footpaths:** Cllr Haskell was not present to report. Cllr Stevens reported that part of the footpath between Dursden Lane to Milkhouse Water was blocked. The Clerk would make a report to Rights of Way.

c) **Street Lights:** Cllr Deck had nothing to report. Cllr Eyles had noticed that a few lights had been replaced with the new LED lighting.

d) **Seats:** Cllr Stephens was not present to report. The maintenance programme had been agreed with the Village Ranger.

e) **Allotments:**

i) **Allotment Inspection:** Bert's Meadow: Cllr Eyles reported he had arranged for the six unkempt plots to be strimmed and cleared of rubbish. Skips had been ordered as there was a large amount of rubbish to get rid of before any of them could be let out to new tenants. A lot of the grass had also not been cut so he would arrange a meeting with the Allotment Association to agree what they were responsible for. Cllr Morris stated the mess had been caused by those holders who had abandoned their plots rather than current ones. Cllr Deck wondered whether there was a need for a permanent skip or a monthly one so that tenants could get rid of any accumulated rubbish. Cllr Morris felt that once the current mess was cleared then it should be easy to maintain going forwards. The principle of the Council had been to ensure that allotment rent would only be spent on the sites when needed. Cllr Morris also suggested that when one of the plots near the entrance becomes available that it could be considered in the future for parking provision.

Cllr Deck advised that the plots had been viewed for the allotment competition and winners decided.

ii) **Allotment Inspection:** Broadfields: Cllr Stephens although not present, had reported the site was OK and the spare plot could be offered out as the person previously interested no longer was.

iii) **Allotment Waiting List Progress Report:** The clerk advised that 6 plots had been offered, which left 5 people on the waiting list.

f) **Trees (Including Way's Way):** Cllr Deck had received a request to look at a rather tall conifer near to 42/44 High Street. It was not really a matter for the Parish Council and the resident should discuss their concerns with the owner and consider a future planning application. He would meet with Cllr Eyles and agree a replanting plan for the Grove. Cllr Eyles would also obtain a quotation for pollarding the Willow in the Market Place. Cllr Del Mar mentioned the Woodland Trust's initiative for free tree planting.

g) **Scotchel:** Cllr Ford reported the reserve was looking good with its new fencing, Cllr Eyles confirmed the new scalplings was being put in.

h) **River Avon/Kennet & Avon Canal:** Cllr Kerry Pycroft was not present but had advised that all was in order. Cllr Giles invited members to meet on 18th August at 10am to clear weed from parts of the river in the centre of the village which he had agreed with the Environment Agency.

i) **Recreation Ground and Rectory Grove:** Cllr Mrs Hunt had provided a written update. Both areas were fine apart from litter by the dugouts after recent matches/practise sessions.

j) **Play Areas:**

Broadfields: Cllr Stephens had reported all was OK and had been collecting up any litter.

Aston Close: Cllr Mrs Carmichael-Owen advised the equipment was fine but some holes had been dug in the ground which she had filled but they had been dug out again.

Easterton Lane: Cllr Mrs Hunt had reported the site was fine.

Broomcroft Road: Cllr Kerry Pycroft was not present to report. Cllr Stevens said the area was OK.

Cllr Stevens advised that all sites had seen some minor vandalism but not too bad. The new equipment at Easterton Lane was being used well with favourable comments received, although the new contractor used had not been very good and there had been lots of issues to rectify. Wiltshire Council had made £6,000 available for capital expenditure only on the Old Hospital sites. He had spoken to a couple of suppliers and was waiting for their quotations. The money would be spent on the Netherleaze site. He noted that Bailey Close had not yet been chained up.

k) **Angela Yeates Memorial Ground and Youth Football ground:** Cllr Ford said the grounds were looking fine apart from the litter on the youth ground.

l) **Litter:** Cllr Smith advised the sweeper had been round with litter levels not too bad. Cllr Morris asked when the new bins were being installed, Cllr Smith said the large bin needs to go at the Broomcroft Road end of Riverside Walk and the other at the end of the Grove. Cllr Eyles was concerned that the large bin was too big for the employee to empty. Cllr Smith said the employee contract would have to be discussed in due course as part of the service devolution as all litter bins will come under the ownership of the Parish Council. It was noted that Riverside Walk was still owned by the developer. Cllr Stevens suggested that the large bin could be placed outside the public toilets which the cleaners could empty. This would replace the one that used to be inside the ladies. Cllr Smith felt the bin could be difficult to fix securely.

m) **Toilets:** Cllr Mrs Carmichael-Owen reported there had been a bit of vandalism with the air freshener from the ladies still requiring replacement by the supplier.

n) **Car Parks:** Cllr Mrs Hunt was not present to report. Cllr Eyles advised that all the lining had been finished. He continued to enquire about the interceptor in Hallgate House car park but Wiltshire Council did not appear to know anything about it.

o) **White Horse:** Cllr Giles had met on site with a possible contractor about undertaking the contract which he had agreed to do. The grass was very overgrown and the chalk surface very weedy, so this would be a priority. He had looked into a possible safer pedestrian access from the car park to the site which he hoped would be included as part of the North Wessex Downs AONB lottery grant application. He had met with the landowner who was agreeable to putting the project forward as it included the removal of fences to enable access for the works to be done. He would be meeting with Highways on 13th August to discuss further. Should the application be unsuccessful he would come back to the Parish Council for it to be considered as a future project.

6. PARISH STEWARD/HIGHWAYS: Cllr Eyles and the Clerk had met with the Highways Engineer that day to discuss several outstanding issues. The flooding issue at Dursden Lane was with the drainage team. Cllr Stevens reminded members that this had first been reported four years ago in September and was concerned how it affected the elderly resident. Different jobs were dealt with by different teams which caused difficulties with communication. Permission had been given to replace the seat and plinth at Ball Corner. There was a suggestion to install railings around King Alfred to stop people putting things on him, the Clerk would contact the Conservation Officer for ideas and then bring back to Full Council for further discussion. The Parish Steward had been unable to complete all the tasks on the last visit as he had been called away to an emergency, unfortunately any lost hours were never given back.

7. EMERGENCY/FLOOD PLAN REVIEW: Cllr Ford advised that no further action had been taken. The skeleton plan was drafted but it needed populating with the details of contacts who were willing to volunteer in an emergency. The Clerk would recirculate the document.

8. CLIMATE EMERGENCY: Cllr Stevens stated that the time had come where the Parish Council should discuss this issue. The Council should consider formulating a policy based on what

it already did, in particular with the upcoming NDP review. Cllr Del Mar said that was a lot of detail to consider, the Parish should be asked what it thinks is important to bring the general public onside, particularly the children. Cllr Eyles asked for a sub-committee be formed and would take forward to Full Council. Additionally, the Good Verge Guide had been circulated to all members for consideration. The Pewsey Community Area Partnership were seeking Parish Councils to formerly adopt a policy. Cllr Deck said it was a good document which everyone should read. The Parish Council would agree to adopt this plan and tie it in with the Parish's land maps once the Service Devolution and Asset Transfer process too place. Cllr Giles was concerned that road safety could be compromised by these policies.

9. CIGARETTE DISPOSAL UNITS AND WELFARE BOX: Cllr Eyles had received a request from a resident about the provision of cigarette disposal units around the centre of the village after a Scout Challenge had collected 1650 cigarette ends in half an hour. The suggested installation sites were the two bus shelters and the public conveniences at a total cost of £200. It was generally felt that this was more of a public education project. Cllr Del Mar proposed that further information be sought as to the areas the litter was found and to discuss further at Full Council, seconded Cllr Eyles, 12 for, 1 against.

In addition, recently there had been several incidences of rough sleeping around the village. It was suggested that a waterproof storage box be purchased which could store a tent, sleeping bags, blankets, clothing and non-perishable food. Some items had already been donated. Members felt that this was an increasing problem that should be discussed. Cllr Morris advised that a lot of people went to the churches for help and the council should support this, Cllr Stevens said it could be widened into a partnership. Cllr Ford said it could be considered as part of the emergency plan with merit in discussing a policy idea with other organisations.

10. CORRESPONDENCE:

None.

11. ITEMS FOR THE MESSENGER: Items should be sent to Cllr Mrs Stevens before 10th August.

12. ANY FULL COUNCIL INFORMATION AND ACTION: None.

13. ITEMS VIA THE CLERK: Although there was no car boot sale in the Bouverie Hall car park this month, one was being held on 25th August at the Coopers Field, in aid of Carnival.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.20pm.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____