

PEWSEY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 2nd OCTOBER 2019
IN THE PARISH OFFICE, BOUVERIE HALL, PEWSEY

PRESENT: Cllr McGarry (Vice-Chairman), Cllrs Mrs Dalrymple, Mrs Hunt, Mrs Saunders, Mrs Stevens, Cllrs Carder, Deck, Giles, Haskell, Smithers and Stevens.

IN ATTENDANCE: Alison Kent (Clerk), Mr Andrews (Bowls Club), Mr Curle (Rugby Club) and Mr Jeffery (Youth and Senior Football Clubs) and a member of the public.

1. APOLOGIES: Cllrs Mrs Carmichael-Owen, Ann Hogg, Kerry Pycroft, Cllrs Eyles, Ford, Morris, Smith 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 7th August 2019 were signed as a true record by the Chairman.

4. TENANT CLUB REPORTS:

a) Bowls Club: Mr Andrews reported the season had come to an end. The green had been very good with lots of compliments received from the opposition and regarded as one of the best in Wiltshire. Waiting for it to be put to bed for the winter.

b) Football Club: Mr Jeffery said it had not been a great start to the season. New darts teams had started in the clubhouse. Cllr Deck asked what the plans were for the netting behind goal posts, Mr Jeffery advised that the club were speaking with the adjacent resident and looking into the most cost effective way to repair it.

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

d) Rugby Club: Mr Curle reported the club had had a good start to the season. The clubhouse was on course to be finished soon. The grounds were still seeing a lot of trouble with dog mess and there appeared no way to resolve the problem. Cllr Stevens had been on site with Mr Curle and suggested that the club could fence off the path that was being used quite legitimately as there was no right of way at either club on Wilcot Road. The issue would be highlighted again in The Messenger, website and on social media. Mr Curle suggested a gate could be installed that was only open on match and training days. Cllr Haskell said he was always asking people to stay off the senior football club pitch, Cllr Mrs Hunt commented that many people were quite abusive.

e) Youth Football Club: Mr Jeffery said all six teams were going well, with the development teams for u7s and u12s also doing well. The club had previously hired a pitch at Milton Lilbourne, but this was now cancelled and all teams used the Old Hospital pitches. It was very difficult to recruit adult volunteers to take on roles due to the number of checks required. The clubhouse has been received really well. Dog fouling continues to be a problem, but with the new bin it has got better. People see the pitches as open ground, even when the children are training. The Clerk reminded members that signs and posters were available to use, although Cllr Giles felt these would still be ignored with minimal prosecutions made. Mr Jeffery felt a major example needed to be made to try and stop this. Cllr Kerry Pycroft and Cllr Smith would be asked to concentrate on those areas, particularly with the health risk to children.

f) Heritage Centre: A report would be circulated when available.

5. OTHER REPORTS:

a) **Cemetery and Chapel:** Cllr Ford was not present to report.

b) **Footpaths:** Cllr Haskell had received a report of an obstruction at Southcott but this appeared to have been sorted. PEWS33 reported for an obstruction at Little Ann and MILI71 had a damaged stile. Cllr Deck reported that the footpath from Hollybush to the Old Mill was now clear.

c) **Street Lights:** Cllr Deck had nothing to report. Cllr Mrs Hunt wished to pass on her thanks for getting the light fixed between Wilderness Row and Raffin Lane. Cllr Smithers advised that a lamp was out on the light opposite the auction room, he would obtain the number for the Clerk.

d) **Seats:** Cllr Stephens was not present to report. Most of the seats had now been refurbished.

e) **Allotments:**

i) **Allotment Inspection:** Bert's Meadow: Cllr Deck reported that the Allotment Association had asked for several trees to be checked. The Parish Council would undertake the works required and bear the cost through the allotment budget. Cllr Mrs Dalrymple suggested there was confusion between the Allotment Association and those holders who had not joined. It was felt that holders should automatically become members of the Association, but at the very least raise any concerns with them. Cllr Deck was supportive of the Association but felt that holders could not be forced to join. Cllr Mrs Saunders advised that amended rules and regulations would be brought to the next Environment Committee meeting.

ii) **Allotment Inspection:** Broadfields: Cllr Ford was not present to report.

iii) **Allotment Waiting List Progress Report:** The clerk advised that 7 people remained on the waiting list with 3 plots still waiting to be cleared for letting.

f) **Trees (Including Way's Way):** Cllr Deck reported there was a large sycamore tree in the cemetery, situated amongst old grave stones, that was multi-stemmed and split down the middle. It would have to be felled and was likely to be expensive. Two quotations had already been obtained, with a third expected. Planning permission would be sought for the pollarding of the willow in the Market Place, cutting back to previous pollard points. He would also be looking at the phase three works over the winter and replacement planting in the Grove which hoped to be done before Christmas. Cllr Mrs Dalrymple asked about the free tree offer from the Woodland Trust, Cllr Deck advised that the Parish Council did not comply with their requirements since undertaking recent tree works. He confirmed that the contract had been awarded for the remaining lime tree at the Recreation Ground which would be completed shortly. There had been no financial loss for the change of contractors.

g) **Scotchel:** Cllr Ford was not present to report. Cllr Stevens said there had been a lot of litter.

h) **River Avon/Kennet & Avon Canal:** Cllr Kerry Pycroft was not present to report but had confirmed that the river had been cleared after carnival events. Cllr Giles commented that the blocked arch, nearest to the church on the Co-Op bridge was the responsibility of Highways, according to the Environment Agency.

i) **Recreation Ground and Rectory Grove:** Cllr Mrs Hunt advised that the footpath down the side of the Grove had been cleared and the Village Ranger had fixed the bench in the Grove. The Recreation Ground in the main was fine apart from litter, especially after football matches. There had recently been some fly tipping which had been cleared by the Village Ranger and a nearby resident. There appeared to be another load tipped at Southcott, which were similar materials and would be reported to Wiltshire Council.

j) **Play Areas:**

Broadfields: Cllr Stephens was not present to report. Cllr Stevens advised that all play areas had been inspected by Idverde, with the Parish Councils' in a good condition and Wiltshire Councils' less so. He felt that the weekly inspection reports were not accurate.

Aston Close: Cllr Mrs Carmichael-Owen was not present to report.

Easterton Lane: Cllr Mrs Hunt reported it was looking excellent and being very well used.

Broomcroft Road: Cllr Kerry Pycroft was not present to report but had noted the bank had not been cut.

Cllrs Deck and Stevens had reviewed the play area action plan, with the recommendations passed to Cllr Haskell for his discussions with Wiltshire Council.

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

l) **Litter:** Cllr Smith was not present to report. Cllr Haskell reported that he had sent a letter of thanks to each of the litter ambassadors, which have been very well received.

m) **Toilets:** Cllr Mrs Carmichael-Owen was not present to report. The Clerk advised that the external casing of the Ladies bulkhead light had been removed but located and stored in the service area. The Village Ranger had been asked to repair it with new clips.

n) **Car Parks:** Cllr Mrs Hunt had nothing to report other than the car boot sales had stopped for the year. She would speak again with the organisers of the Marlborough Common boot sales to try and resurrect the arrangement with them not to clash dates. It would be nice to get more support from local people.

o) **White Horse:** Cllr Giles reported that he had met with a new contractor but was concerned that he had not yet undertaken any work. He had suggested a potential project for the North Wessex AONB grant application and had met with Highways to establish a safe footpath from the parking area to the White Horse. A quote of £5,200 had been given to provide a turf or grass seed top. Questions had subsequently been raised about insurance and land ownership which he felt was unnecessary. He did not envisage the project going ahead as it would be difficult to encourage anyone to assume responsibility.

6. PARISH STEWARD/HIGHWAYS: The Clerk reported that the scheme had improved greatly over the last few works, especially the level of communication.

7. EMERGENCY/FLOOD PLAN REVIEW: Cllr Ford was not present to report. Cllr Haskell had drafted a letter to write to local people who were known to have helped in the past, to seek permission for their details to be included in the plan.

8. CORRESPONDENCE:

None.

Payments for approval, as listed, were proposed for acceptance by Cllr Mrs Stevens, seconded Cllr Stevens.

9. ITEMS FOR THE MESSENGER: Items should be sent to Cllr Mrs Stevens before 10th October. Dog fouling problems would be highlighted again, particularly in relation to the sports pitches and children.

10. ANY FULL COUNCIL INFORMATION AND ACTION: Cllr Haskell advised that the consultation report on the removal of wardens from Meadow Court had been withdrawn for further consideration from the Cabinet meeting on 8th October. He gave a general reminder that the Primary School Council would be attending Full Council at 6.30pm on 8th October. The Clerk would be absent from 25th October due to a medical operation, he would finalise plans for her absence in due course.

11. ITEMS VIA THE CLERK: None.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.58pm.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____