

PEWSEY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ONLINE
ON 12th JANUARY 2021 at 7.00pm

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Cllr Haskell (Chairman), Cllr Smith, Cllrs Mrs Carmichael-Owen, Mrs Dalrymple, Ann Hogg, Mrs Hunt, Kerry Pycroft, Mrs Saunders, Mrs Stevens, Cllrs Deck, Ford, McGarry, Morris, Smithers and Stevens.
<u>IN ATTENDANCE:</u>	Alison Kent (Clerk) and Cllr Kunkler.
<u>1/1 APOLOGIES:</u>	Cllrs Carder, Del Mar and Giles.
<u>1/2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST:</u>	Cllrs Mrs Stevens and Haskell on item 9 (b). Cllrs Mrs Carmichael-Owen, Kerry Pycroft, Cllrs Haskell, Morris and Smith on item 14.
<u>1/3 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:</u>	<p>Cllr Haskell thanked everyone for their support during 2020 and felt the council had continued its work well under the circumstances. He had not heard any further news regarding Cllr Carder. Earlier that afternoon, Cllr Hagan had tendered his resignation which he had accepted. Cllr Hagan thanked everyone for their kindness and help that had been given over the years. Cllr Haskell had hoped that 2021 would be better and now with the vaccine beginning to be rolled out he felt there was light at the end of the tunnel, as long as the rules continued to be followed. He was extremely grateful that all Chairs and Vice-Chairs agreed to continue in their respective positions for a further year when last years' annual elections were cancelled. It was his understanding that Wiltshire Council would continue to hold elections on 6th May and those members that wish to stand for election would need to register by 8th April. The nomination forms would be made available by the Clerk as required. He had held individual discussions back in the autumn and was aware of the possibility of at least 6-8 vacancies. Subject to re-election and internal nominations he would be prepared to stand as Chair, Cllr Smith as Vice-Chair of Council, Cllr Mrs Hunt as Chair of the Planning Committee, Cllr Mrs Stevens as Chair of the Finance Committee and Cllr Ford as Chair of the Environment Committee respectively. Cllr McGarry had been invited to stand on external groups that would impact his position as Vice-Chair of the Environment Committee. Cllr Haskell had been reminded by some members, who were prepared to stand for re-election, of their work and annual holiday commitments as well as three members who were still in full time employment. When reviewing Councillors roles going forward, the Council must be considerate in offering positions that can be done outside of a normal working day. Cllr Ford did not wish to continue as Vice-Chair of the Finance Committee or as Community Speedwatch Co-Ordinator. Cllr Ann Hogg did not wish to continue as the Council's representative with the Patient Participation Group or Community Land Trust but would continue to assist the Environment Committee. Cllr Smithers would be prepared to stand as Vice-Chair of the Planning Committee, subject to his re-election. Additionally, there were numerous roles that needed to be filled; PCAP, CATG, LYN. The library was able to operate a click and collect service and bookable computer service. The future use of the library was still under discussion. Mrs Ross had thanked Cllr Haskell's for his letter. Currently, PCCA had stopped its market and friendship café but would continue its shopping deliveries, hot meals and phone buddy system during this new period of national lockdown. Volunteer drivers were being sought to assist, especially with LINK.</p>

<u>1/4 PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT:</u>	Cllr Deck advised that another application had been received from Spire and would be circulated shortly. The Planning Officer had already commented that this application was outside the limit of development and was therefore unlikely to get support.	
<u>1/5 ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT:</u>	<p>Cllr Ford reported that little had happened in the last month. The main item that impacted on the budget was the tree in the cemetery that was in a worse state than originally realised, with 2 days' work required to remove it and an additional day to chip on site. He was still waiting for the quotation for the repair to the lead on the chapel roof which had also had its first internal clean. The sweeper had been back in the village and an amount of mud cleared from Wilcot Road. A relative of the persons buried nearby had made contact to discuss a possible replanting which would be considered by Cllrs Deck and Ford as there could be a ground preparation cost. The new lockdown would probably stop the volunteer litter pickers but he had personally delivered a letter of thanks to a member of the public who had recently collected 3 bags of litter from the school field and surrounding area.</p> <p>Cllr Ford had previously suggested an inspection of the Scotchel Bridge, with a quotation received of £375.00. Cllr Morris is a retired Royal Engineer and a Chartered Engineer. He would undertake an inspection on this occasion, provide a written opinion with the agreement that the bridge be inspected every 2 years.</p> <p>Cllr Stevens had checked the outdoor gym for resistance and advised that it should not be compared with indoor equipment. He could understand some concerns if people had not used this before.</p>	
<u>1/6 UNITARY COUNCILLOR:</u>	Cllr Kunkler had little to report. Campus had closed following the national lockdown regulations. The budget would be set in February but the finances appeared to be in a reasonable position. The Area Board would take place on 18 th January via Teams. Cllr Mrs Hunt asked about the two recent planning applications, Cllr Kunkler advised that the planning officer was currently against them so they would not be called in.	
<u>1/7 POLICE MATTERS:</u>	There was nothing to report and Community Speedwatch had ceased due to national lockdown.	
<u>1/8 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:</u>	All being in agreement, the minutes of the meeting held on 8 th December were signed as a true record, by the Chairman.	
<u>1/9 FINANCE:</u>	<p>a) Balance in Current account £27,628.12 Instant Reserve account £311,736.53 and Lloyds Business Account £60,818.50.00.</p> <p>b) Payments, as listed, were proposed for approval by Cllr Mrs Hunt, seconded Cllr Ann Hogg, all in favour.</p> <p>c) Ratification of the purchase of outdoor gym equipment at Easterton Lane to be set against S.106 capital funds was proposed by Cllr Stevens, seconded Cllr Ann Hogg, all in favour.</p> <p>The notification of additional tree works at the cemetery at a cost of £450 was proposed by Cllr Ford, seconded Cllr Morris, all in favour.</p> <p>d) Petty Cash - opening balance £111.46, postage £7.92, leaving cash in hand £103.54.</p> <p>e) Precept 2021/22 - The Clerk had circulated the precept proposal and current budget figures to all members prior to the meeting. A long discussion took place. Cllr Smith felt the precept should not be increased as the financial burdens placed upon the public would be quite considerable and the councils' reserves had not been used as previously anticipated. Others felt it should be made clear why any increase had been made and what savings could be made in the long term. Cllr Haskell agreed that changes would be needed. Cllr Deck felt the proposal by Wiltshire Police to increase their precept was</p>	

	<p>unacceptable and the council was only entering its second year of service devolution so clear costs were not yet fully known. Cllr Morris said the council should clearly identify which reserves would be used to make up the difference if the precept was not increased. Cllr Stevens reminded members that not increasing the precept had been a previous mistake. Cllr Ford said there was financial help for those finding themselves in hardship. Cllr Smith said there was a public perception that the council had lots of funds, Cllr Mrs Hunt said this would be need to be clearly explained as the council had done the previous year.</p> <p>Cllr Smith proposed the precept remain at £127,312, seconded Cllr Mrs Saunders, 4 for, 11 against, motion failed.</p> <p>Cllr Mrs Stevens proposed the precept increase by 10% to £140,043, seconded Cllr Morris, 13 for, 2 against.</p>	
<u>1/10 COMMUNITY AREA TRANSPORT GROUP:</u>	Cllr Deck reported from a meeting attended on 9 th December at which a new process for traffic survey requests had been introduced and would be made available to the Clerk. The next meeting would take place in February.	
<u>1/11 PATIENTS PARTICIPATION GROUP:</u>	Cllr Ann Hogg confirmed the COVID vaccine clinics would take place on the coming weekend at Pewsey surgery. Cllr Deck reported a very efficient and friendly clinic had taken place at Ramsbury surgery.	
<u>1/12 COMMUNITY LAND TRUST:</u>	Cllr Ann Hogg had nothing to report, which would more likely be the case until a suitable site had been found.	
<u>1/13 YOUTH FACILITIES:</u>	<p>There had been quite a bit of activity on social media about the provision of youth activities in the community area and a lack of facilities. Cllr Haskell asked members to consider becoming the representative on the Local Youth Network (LYN). Monies that had not been used this financial year would be transferred to PCAP for use next year.</p> <p>Cllr Mrs Hunt reported that she was revisiting the wheeled sports project and had contacted the acoustician used by Marlborough Town Council for their skatepark. Three sites would be reviewed, with the existing acoustic report able to be used. An “In Principle” agreement as proposed by Cllr Mrs Hunt, seconded Cllr Ann Hogg, all in favour to proceed with obtaining an estimate</p>	
<u>1/14 TO SET ALLOTMENT FEES:</u>	The Clerk explained that the fees were split into £3.50 membership fee and £5 per lug, with different size plots available. Income continued to exceed expenditure during this financial year and it was proposed by Cllr Mrs Stevens to maintain the fees at the same rate for 2021, seconded Cllr McGarry, 8 for, 2 against.	
<u>1/15 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:</u>	There were no members of the public present at the meeting.	
<u>1/16 ITEMS VIA THE CLERK:</u>	None.	

There being no further business the Chairman moved the meeting into Confidential session.