

PEWSEY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 5th FEBRUARY 2020
IN THE PARISH OFFICE, BOUVERIE HALL, PEWSEY

PRESENT: Cllr McGarry (Vice-Chairman), Cllrs Mrs Dalrymple, Ann Hogg, Mrs Hunt, Kerry Pycroft, Mrs Saunders, Mrs Stevens, Cllrs Carder, Deck, Del Mar, Giles, Haskell, Smith, Stephens and Stevens.

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

1. APOLOGIES: Cllr Mrs Carmichael-Owen, Cllrs Eyles, Ford, Hagan and Morris.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST: None.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING: All being in agreement, the minutes of the meeting held on 4th December 2019 were signed as a true record by the Chairman.

4. TENANT CLUB REPORTS:

a) Bowls Club: Mr Andrews advised the green looked OK with no damage at the moment. The CCTV trial had finished and had been passed onto the Football Club. Both clubs would meet later in the month to discuss installation. Cllr Haskell advised that a grant application would be made to the Area Board in due course. Mr Andrews asked if a couple of benches could be installed at the club, to which the Parish Council agreed. Cllr Deck asked for the Tennis Club to be kept informed of progress with the CCTV as it may consider helping out.

b) Football Club: Mr Jeffery reported on the ongoing issues with young people littering and causing damage to the dugouts which had been confirmed by CCTV images. New CCTV would likely be purchased to add to the protection of the clubs' facilities. An additional camera would focus on the dugouts with the benefit of it being infrared to pick up images in the dark. Once the young people were known, their parents would be contacted, and the police would then be able to take appropriate action. Additional police patrols would also take place. Cllr Deck asked how the plans were going for the club; Mr Jeffery explained that one of the teams had taken a step back from its league with little progress on improvements to the facilities at the present time.

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

d) Rugby Club: There was no representative present to report.

e) Youth Football Club: Mr Jeffery advised that everything was going well with the youngest group of 5-6 year olds now introduced, with all teams playing fixtures. Dog fouling continued to be a massive problem. Cllr Stevens advised this had been discussed at the recent FSM Committee with himself and Cllr Haskell meeting with Mr Jeffery. A quotation would be sought, and it was hoped that funding could be made available from the Local Youth Network.

Cllr Mrs Hunt reported that she and Mrs Wilson had met with the Rugby Club, as part of the Health and Wellbeing group to encourage more use of the new facilities.

f) Heritage Centre: Cllr Giles advised the centre was still in closed season. New displays were being prepared to celebrate 90 years of PVADS and the 75th anniversary of the ending of World War 2. Improvements to the education centre would commence next month.

5. OTHER REPORTS:

a) **Cemetery and Chapel:** Cllr Ford was not present to report. The clerk advised there had been some damage to the cemetery wall although it was unclear how it had been caused. Cllr Eyles had been in the process of obtaining a quotation for repair, particularly as the wall was listed.

b) **Footpaths:** Cllr Haskell reported that the Planning Inspectorate hearing had been extremely interesting and that he had read out the Parish Councils' statement. The outcome was not yet

known. A couple of broken stiles had been reported to the Clerk but were shown as completed works on the MyWiltshire app. This would be checked.

c) **Street Lights:** Cllr Deck had nothing to report.

d) **Seats:** The clerk advised that the new seat for Ball Corner would be installed shortly.

e) **Allotments:**

i) **Allotment Inspection:** Bert's Meadow: Cllr Morris was not present to report Cllr Kerry Pycroft and Cllr Mrs Saunders had discussed the three problem allotments with Cllr Eyles. Two would be strimmed and then covered over until it was ready to be worked; the third would be taken on as the Allotment Association plot. The Clerk would be made aware of the plot numbers for the records. The Allotment Association would regularly check the site, reporting any issues to the council.

ii) **Allotment Inspection:** Broadfields: Cllr Stephens had nothing to report.

iii) **Allotment Waiting List Progress Report:** The clerk advised that 8 people remained on the waiting list, with three closed plots and three available which would be allocated.

f) **Trees (Including Way's Way):** Cllr Deck advised that a couple of members would be generously donating trees for replanting in the Grove. Cllr Stevens did previously suggest that members of the public could donate a natural tree in memory of someone but without the provision of a plaque. This would be put in The Messenger. He clarified that the Parish Council did not meet the criteria of the Woodland Trust free tree scheme as it had a tree management plan. It might be possible for individuals to apply. Cllr Kerry Pycroft if there was an ongoing maintenance plan for Century Cross; Cllr Stevens would undertake this when he was able to. The suggestion of replanting at the GP surgery had not been welcomed by them at this time.

g) **Scotchel:** Cllr Ford was not present to report.

h) **River Avon/Kennet & Avon Canal:** Cllr Kerry Pycroft reported there was some debris under the bridge on the High Street and the Grove. The Village Ranger would be tasked with this.

i) **Recreation Ground and Rectory Grove:** Cllr Mrs Hunt reported the Grove had been very muddy. The fencing had been removed from the BMX site and the Village Ranger would be tidying up the area.

j) **Play Areas:**

Broadfields: Cllr Stephens had nothing to report apart from litter.

Aston Close: Cllr Mrs Carmichael-Owen had nothing to report.

A quotation had been received from S J Aplin Playgrounds Ltd to replace the pedestrian gate; a comparison quotation would also be sought as the cost was over £1,000.

Easterton Lane: Cllr Mrs Hunt had nothing to report.

Broomcroft Road: Cllr Kerry Pycroft reported there were moles present. A couple of the tree stakes have broken in the orchard. Cllr Stevens advised the broken seat would be replaced when the weather improved.

k) **Angela Yeates Memorial Ground and Youth Football ground:** Cllr Ford was not present but had confirmed the grounds were in good order apart from dog mess.

l) **Litter:** Cllr Smith, after speaking with the litter picker, had been pleased to see a note in The Messenger about not placing household waste in Parish Council litter bins as it made them extremely difficult to empty them. There was, again, a need to have enhanced communication and publicity on the problems with dog fouling in public areas. He had looked into the provisions of

Public Space Protection Orders which had been introduced nationally in 2014. These were operated by the higher authorities and were a drawn-out process to become included and if not done correctly, could be legally challenged.

Cllr Smith would return to the traffic light scheme that had been discussed last year; red would ban dogs, orange for dogs on leads and green for dogs off leads. All of this would be very difficult to enforce with the addition that under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 owners have a duty to exercise their dogs. Displacement by moving the problem from one area to another was also an issue. More signs could be erected requesting dog owners to be responsible. Dummy CCTV cameras could also be a deterrent.

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

n) **Car Parks:** Cllr Mrs Hunt had been discussing the continuance of the car boot sales for some time. She had concluded that the council had worked hard over the last 4-5 years to promote them, but she would propose to stop them unless another member wished to take it on. Cllr Haskell agreed it had been hard to get people interested and had sometimes clashed with other events; he thanked Cllr Mrs Hunt for all her hard work. A note would be placed in The Messenger. Cllr Haskell advised that the gulleys in Hallgate House car park would be repaired by Precision Engineering, cleaned and paid for by Wiltshire Council. The issue with the River Street crossing was tree roots with Wiltshire Council planning to clear the pipe next week.

o) **White Horse:** Cllr Giles advised the weed problem could not be dealt with in the winter months and would be done in the spring. Weeding could not be done mechanically as it disturbs the chalk. Once done, the volunteers would be able to do an application of crushed chalk and lime.

6. PARISH STEWARD/HIGHWAYS: The clerk advised that the Parish Steward had been unavailable for last week's planned visits due to gritting and pothole duties.

7. EMERGENCY/FLOOD PLAN REVIEW: Cllr McGarry had nothing to report and would speak again with Cllr Ford to move forward. Cllr Del Mar raised his concern that Wiltshire Council had not undertaken the ditch maintenance at Southcott this winter.

8. CORRESPONDENCE:

None.

Payments for approval were proposed, as listed, by Cllr Mrs Stevens, seconded Cllr Haskell, all in favour.

There were no quotations for acceptance.

9. ITEMS FOR THE MESSENGER: Items to be sent to Cllr Mrs Stevens before 10th February. A separate article providing information on where the precept was being spent was suggested.

10. ANY FULL COUNCIL INFORMATION AND ACTION: Dates: 13th February Pewsey Community Land Trust AGM; 17th April Fun Day at the Campus; 17th May Open Gardens; 13th-28th June North Wessex Downs AONB walking project.

11. ITEMS VIA THE CLERK: None.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.07pm.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____