

PEWSEY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 1st DECEMBER 2021
IN PEWSEY BOWLS CLUB, PEWSEY

PRESENT: Cllr Ford (Chairman), Cllr McGarry, Cllrs Ellis, Ann Hogg, Mrs Humfress, Mrs Hunt, Judy Kunkler, Mrs Pullen, Kerry Pycroft, Mrs Stevens, Cllrs Giles and Morris.

IN ATTENDANCE: Alison Kent (Clerk), Mr Curle (Rugby Club) and a member of the public.

1. APOLOGIES: Cllrs Mrs Brindley, Mrs Dalrymple, Mrs Mundy, Cllrs Garrett, Haskell and King. Apologies were also received from Mr Hewens (Tennis 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 8th September 2021 were signed as a true record.

4. TENANT CLUB REPORTS:

a) Bowls Club: The report had been circulated to all members. Two trees required some attention.

b) Football Club: Cllr Garrett was not present to report. Cllr Mrs Hunt reported the roof had blown off the little shed during the recent storm but had been repaired as much as possible.

c) Tennis Club: Mr Hewens had sent his apologies. He had asked when the works to the Yew trees would go ahead, which the clerk would confirm from the contractor.

d) Rugby Club: Mr Curle advised that the club continued its unbeaten run this season and had been awarded Team of the Month by a large brewery. The club were pleased with the hedge cutting.

e) Youth Football Club: There was no representative present to report.

f) Heritage Centre: Cllr Giles reported the centre had only been open for half the year but had seen more than the normal amount of visitors in the same period. Works to the education building had been completed and it was being used by lots of local groups, particularly U3A. This seasons' exhibition celebrating the 100 years of PVADS had been a success. Over 1000 additional items had now been catalogued. The trustees were extremely grateful for the Parish Council's ongoing financial support.

5. REPORTS:

a) **Cemetery and Chapel:** Cllr Ford reported it all appeared fine with the exception of a Yew tree branch to be cleared away.

b) **Footpaths:** Cllr Judy Kunkler advised that a meeting had been held with Cllr Haskell, Mrs Brew, Mrs Wilson and representatives from the Bedwyn footpath group. It was hoped to set up something similar in Pewsey which would be a separate entity from the Parish Council, for the maintenance of footpaths. Volunteer walkers would be required.

c) **Street Lights:** Cllr Ellis had nothing specific as most issues had been reported on MyWilts app.

d) **Seats/bus shelters:** A regular inspection and report was required. The monthly contractor would replace the grilles and fix part of the guttering. Some of the seats were untidy but functional.

e) **Allotments:** Cllr Morris had sent the monthly report to the clerk for action.

i) **Bert's Meadow Inspection:** 4 plots were in bad condition and were in the process of being reclaimed and let out.

ii) **Broadfields Inspection:** 1 plot was in the process of being let out.

iii) **Allotment Waiting List Progress Report:** The clerk reported 2 plots had been given up at Bert's Meadow in the last week and in the process of being reallocated. The waiting list was lengthy and it took time to offer plots and wait for the response before moving onto the next applicant. Cllr Morris agreed that a lot of people took on allotments without realising how much work was involved.

f) **Trees:** Cllr Mrs Stevens had taken on this role and would commence the process of the tree inspection report and subsequent action which would include all new areas of land transferred from Wiltshire Council. She had helped tidy up Century Cross and would look to replacing the dead trees in early spring.

g) **Scotchel/Way's Way:** Cllr Judy Kunkler advised that a branch had been cleared off the path. Pewsey Beavers sought support for a project to install another information board at the Broomcroft Road end of the reserve. The quote for replacement boards had been chased, some of the railings were also in need of replacement. The bench in the middle was starting to rot, Cllr Ford asked members to consider whether it should be replaced or removed. It was felt it could be removed and a better seat installed at the railway end.

h) **River Avon/Kennet & Avon Canal:** Cllr Kerry Pycroft had nothing to report on the canal. PARR would be undertaking a light tidy and clearance of the culverts in the Scotchel over winter. Planting on the bankside near the benches would take place in the spring. The Parish Council held the grant monies awarded to PARR and would be paying for river monitoring kits as well as river fly monitoring. Good collaborations were being established with Jones' Mill and Wiltshire Wildlife Trust.

i) **Recreation Ground and Rectory Grove:** Cllr Mrs Hunt reported the 10 new trees in the Grove were all doing very well. One older tree had been lost in the recent storm, with the main trunk being cleared away but a large branch left across the path. This had subsequently been moved.

j) **Play Areas:** Aston Close, Broadfields, Broomcroft, Easterton Lane, Silver, Cossor, Netherleaze. The clerk reported the planned repairs would commence in the New Year. She had also sought a quotation to pressure wash the play equipment and weed kill each area which was £267.17 per area. This would be done in the spring and built in annually as part of the maintenance plan.

k) **Angela Yeates Memorial Ground and Youth Football ground:** Cllr Ford would inspect both grounds in due course.

l) **Litter:** Cllr Ellis reported that levels of litter remained high. The volunteer group would meet this weekend and she would speak with the organiser and bring back and requests. She asked whether it would be beneficial to erect signage saying CCTV was present. Cllr Ford felt this would not cure the problem, the issue was educating people not to litter. He felt publicising it made people do it more. Many villagers litter picked and he gave his thanks.

m) **Toilets/Noticeboards:** No issues had been noted at the toilets.

n) **Car Parks:** Cllr Mrs Pullen would take on this role. The signage needed removing and the wording amended accordingly.

o) **White Horse:** Cllr Giles had visited the horse a few weeks back and commended the maintenance which was back under control. He was concerned at the changing contours of the horse over time as chalk became dislodged and tumbled down the hill creating a fatter lower side of the design. In the long term some redesign work would be needed, to take off some of the turf and cut the chalk away and re turf. He would liaise with the volunteer organiser in due course.

p) **Century Cross:** Cllr Mrs Brindley was not present to report. Cllr McGarry, on discussion with the clerk, had arranged for new plaques to be made for each of the trees, at no cost to the Parish Council and would be a better material for outdoors.

q) **Defibrillators:** Cllr McGarry advised that most of the devices were now suffering some form or other of the symptoms of the early software which needed updating. He had spoken at length with the software company who were struggling to provide an update. The complication arose that the device warranty would be upgraded from 7 to 10 years on the premise that the software could be upgraded. Community Heartbeat had suggested they would replace each device free of charge but this had yet to be confirmed.

The cost of a new defibrillator had been donated, he was also speaking with supermarkets and his own employer about sponsorship. He would present a full report on the situation at the next Environment Committee meeting on 2nd February. The lockers also required updating to double, not single, layers.

r) **Entrance signs/horse trough:** Cllr Ford advised they would all be oiled in the spring.

6. PARISH STEWARD/HIGHWAYS: Cllr Ford stated that after nearly 7 years as a serving councillor he had never seen a good working relationship or productivity from this scheme. The parish was supposed to receive 3 days a month, but it was quite often only 1 day a month. Cllr Haskell and the clerk were meeting the leader of Wiltshire Council on 15th December and would raise the scheme as an issue. It was unclear as to how it could be resolved.

7. ANY FULL COUNCIL INFORMATION AND ACTION: Cllr Ann Hogg reminded members to bring nibbles and drink for after the December Full Council meeting.

8. ITEMS VIA THE CLERK: None.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.08pm.

Signed: _____ Dated: _____