

PEWSEY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 8th SEPTEMBER 2021
IN THE BOUVERIE HALL, PEWSEY

PRESENT: Cllr Ford (Chairman), Cllrs Mrs Brindley, Mrs Dalrymple, Ellis, Ann Hogg, Mrs Hunt, Judith Kunkler, Mrs Mundy, Mrs Pullen, Kerry Pycroft, Mrs Stevens, Cllrs Garrett, Giles, Haskell and Morris.

IN ATTENDANCE: Alison Kent (Clerk) and Mr Curle (Rugby Club).

1. APOLOGIES: Cllr Mrs Humfress, Mrs Turner and Cllr McGarry. Apologies were also received from Mr Jeffrey of the Youth Football 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 5th February 2020 were signed as a true record, proposed by Cllr Mrs Stevens, seconded Cllr Ann Hogg, 7 in favour (those in attendance at that meeting).

4. TENANT CLUB REPORTS:

a) Bowls Club: The report would be circulated to all members once received.

b) Football Club: Cllr Garrett reported there had been no further problems since the last episode of anti-social behaviour and noted the police had provided assistance.

c) Tennis Club: A new representative would be appointed in time for them to attend the next Environment Committee meeting. The row of Yew trees would now be cut to a 2m height rather than removed completely which would make the shared cost less expensive.

d) Rugby Club: Mr Curle stated that it had been a challenging season, but the club had survived. There were 25 senior players with fitness training taking place on Sundays but only for the over 11s at the moment. 3 youth players had been picked for Bath academy, so had moved to Marlborough Rugby Club with good wishes. He had reported rotten branches on one of the oak trees and had requested the hedge cutting to be hastened. The family fun day had been a brilliant event for everyone, lots of enquiries for use of the clubhouse had been received.

e) Youth Football Club: Mr Jeffrey had sent his apologies and would send a report in due course.

f) Heritage Centre: Cllr Giles reported the centre had reopened and the season had gone well with a steady flow of visitors. Work on the new education centre had continued and it was fully equipped to be let out. Bookings were being taken which would help with the finances. They had been grateful for the grants received over the last 18 months.

5. REPORTS:

Cllr Ford explained that he expected all members to help with checking the areas of the parish which were the direct responsibility of the council and report any defects to either himself or the clerk.

a) **Cemetery and Chapel:** Cllr Ford reported the bench which had been put back to its original site had been moved to the shed site again and damaged. He would remove the plaque and inform the owners. The police would be informed on the original crime reference number.

b) **Footpaths:** Cllr Judith Kunkler reported there were no serious problems. Some of the footpaths at the edge of the parish boundary were walked less. The fence at Fairfield path had been reported to Rights of Way and would be chased up for a response. An online meeting had been held with Mrs Brew following the Walkers Are Welcome accreditation. A further meeting with Cotswold Walkers would take place to get more ideas. Volunteers were needed to help walk the paths and

with ongoing maintenance. Easton Royal were looking at the idea of getting people to adopt a path to look after.

c) **Street Lights:** Cllr Ellis would undertake this role. A lot had been upgraded to LED.

d) **Seats/bus shelters:** This role was currently vacant. Cllr Ford reported there were broken slats on seats in the Grove, and the two in the John Cooke Memorial Garden and North Street bus shelter were damaged. Idverde had been asked to quote for replacement of the bus shelter slats. With the recent passing of Cllr Carder, Cllr Ford had given thought (and spoken with the family) on replacing one of the Market Place benches with one similar to the WW1 memorial bench but representing the RAF. This would be in honour of two past Parish Council Chairmen, Cllr Carder and Mr Woodward. The other bench could also be from the same manufacturer but to thank the NHS and Keyworkers during the pandemic period. Discussion took place and Cllr Ford proposed that both benches be replaced, up to £3,000, one representing the RAF and one to be agreed upon to represent the community during the pandemic, seconded Cllr Ann Hogg, all in favour. Cllr Ann Hogg also wished for a smarter litter bin to be purchased to complement the new benches.

e) **Allotments:** Cllr Morris would continue to inspect all the allotments. Generally, the majority were kept in good condition and were a credit to the village.

i) **Bert's Meadow Inspection:** Two had recently been reallocated and two were in the process of being reclaimed as they were not being cultivated. The car parking area was in progress although it was proving difficult to find a delivery vehicle small enough to drop off materials. He would contact a company in Burbage who should be able to assist. There were problems with dog fouling on the paths and plots, despite signs informing owners that dogs were not allowed on site. A reminder would be put on social media as well as putting up some of the litter bin stickers.

ii) **Broadfields Inspection:** One vacant plot had been recently allocated. The posts would be fixed in due course and a bramble cut back. One holder had added an access gate at their own expense. A secure cage for the water butts had been made but needed to be fitted next to the downpipes.

iii) **Allotment Waiting List Progress Report:** The clerk advised that 2 people remained on the waiting list for Broadfields and 13 for Bert's Meadow, with two potential plots becoming available at Bert's Meadow.

f) **Trees:** This role was currently vacant and required only trees on parish council owned land to be monitored. Scans of land maps would be available. A formal inspection report would need to be done within the next year and the results factored into the budget going forward.

g) **Scotchel/Way's Way:** Cllr Ford advised the gravel boards were starting to break up and would need replacing. There was a spare information board in the office, Cllr Garrett offered to help install it.

h) **River Avon/Kennet & Avon Canal:** Cllr Kerry Pycroft had spoken with Pewsey Wharf Boat Club, people are now allowed to start moving about more. Cllr Morris asked what was happening with the reinstatement of the towpath this side of Pains Bridge as some improvements had been made but not a full refurbishment. The Pewsey Avon River Restoration group had been successfully awarded a grant from Wessex Water towards freshwater testing, thanks for the support provided by the Parish Council. As such, PARR had requested permission to use the Scotchel and Rectory Grove for river sample testing and monitoring, which was granted by the Parish Council. They had also organised a litter pick for the coming weekend.

i) **Recreation Ground and Rectory Grove:** Cllr Mrs Hunt and Haskell would continue to monitor. There had been a lot of litter at the end of the Grove, left next to the bin.

j) **Play Areas:** Aston Close, Broadfields, Broomcroft, Easterton Lane, Silver, Cossor, Netherleaze. A long discussion took place on what was felt to be the requirement of members monitoring the play areas, particularly now that weekly inspections took place with reports provided by IdVerde. The clerk would continue to work through the repairs required as per those reports.

k) **Angela Yeates Memorial Ground and Youth Football ground:** Cllr Ford would ask the club to provide an update on the grounds as part of the regular report, particularly as access to the land was now fully secured. He would also look into whether there was a need to reform the Management Committee which Cllr Carder used to attend. Cllr Haskell would be happy to attend if required.

l) **Litter:** Cllr Ellis would take on this role. The parish was lucky to have a good number of volunteers. The issue of volunteer insurance had been raised and discussed with the council's insurance company. If the Parish Council wished for any volunteers to be covered by insurance, risk assessments and relevant training would need to be in place for all activities. Cllr Haskell said that the council would do its utmost to find an appropriate resolution.

m) **Toilets:** Cllr Mrs Hunt and Cllr Haskell would take on this role.

n) **Car Parks:** Cllr Ford advised that discussion on new signage had taken place and quotes were being obtained.

o) **White Horse:** Cllr Giles had inspected the horse and reported the chalk was in good condition, the weeds had been removed and some of the grass cut.

Cllr Ford advised that a quote for tidying up the area at Century Cross had been requested. Cllr Mrs Brindley offered to keep an eye on the area.

Cllr Morris reminded members that he's suggested the centre of the village be tidied up, especially repainting the white railings. It would help the parish visually see where the precept was being spent.

The request for a bus shelter on A345 had been raised at the Community Area Transport Group but would take some time. The number of users needed to be identified.

6. PARISH STEWARD/HIGHWAYS: Cllr Ford asked for issues to keep being reported through to be added on to the monthly list. It was not clear how many of the jobs get completed. Cllr Ford had completed the salt bin audit which he would send to the clerk.

7. ANY FULL COUNCIL INFORMATION AND ACTION: Cllr Haskell thanked those who had attended Cllr Carder's funeral. The superb wreath from that family had been laid at the War Memorial.

8. ITEMS VIA THE CLERK: None.

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

Signed: _____ Dated: _____