

PEWSEY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 2nd FEBRUARY 2022
IN THE PARISH OFFICE, BOUVERIE HALL, PEWSEY

PRESENT: Cllrs Mrs Brindley, Mrs Cobbing, Mrs Dalrymple, Ellis, Mrs Hunt, Judy Kunkler, Mrs Mundy, Mrs Pullen, Kerry Pycroft, Mrs Stevens and Cllr Haskell.

IN ATTENDANCE: Alison Kent (Clerk), Mr Curle (Rugby Club) Mr Hewens (Tennis Club).

In the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Environment Committee, Cllr Haskell was elected to the position of Chairman in order for the meeting to proceed, proposed Cllr Mrs Hunt, seconded Cllr Kerry Pycroft, all in favour.

1. APOLOGIES: Cllrs Mrs Humfress, Cllrs Ford, Giles, McGarry and Morris.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST: None.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING: With the exception of Cllr Mrs Cobbing who was not a member at the time, the minutes of the meeting held on 1st December 2021 were signed as a true record, proposed Cllr Mrs Stevens, seconded Cllr Mrs Dalrymple.

4. TENANT CLUB REPORTS:

a) Bowls Club: A report from the club had been circulated to all members.

b) Football Club: A report from the club had been circulated to all members.

c) Tennis Club: Mr Hewens introduced himself as the replacement for former Cllr Deck to provide regular updates on the club. He informed members that the club continued to thrive with the men's team winning the Swindon and District league again. Pre-covid membership was in the region of 300-350, now membership was around 400. The club was in the process of changing its constitution to stretch capacity to 450 which could be managed with the six courts. At peak demand the club had negotiated the use of facilities at Burbage tennis club and with a local school when they weren't being used.

Yew trees – the notification application had been submitted and would hopefully be completed before nesting season.

Cllr Mrs Dalrymple asked whether the students from Pewsey Vale School had been encouraged to join. Mr Hewens explained the club had tried really hard engage with the school to get them engaged, but with little success.

d) Rugby Club: Mr Curle reported the club was doing very well continuing their winning run and close to league promotion. He reminded the meeting of the previous request to consider cutting back oak branches which overhang the old changing room, this would be investigated.

Cllr Mrs Brindley passed on her thanks for the donation of the club's old pool table towards the youth project.

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

f) Heritage Centre: Cllr Giles was not present or a report to circulate.

5. REPORTS:

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

b) **Footpaths:** Cllr Judy Kunkler reported the inaugural meeting of the Pewsey footpath group had taken place on 1st February at which 12 people attended. Stemming from the Walkers are Welcome initiative, the group would primarily work looking after and maintaining the footpaths around the parish. Cllr Mrs Mundy commended the article that had been written by Mrs Brew which had been very heartening to read and reached out to the community. As a result of social media posts new volunteers had come forward.

c) **Street Lights:** Cllr Ellis had nothing to report. There were several long outstanding issues which could be shared so that more reports could be made to hopefully progress them quicker.

d) **Seats/bus shelters:** Cllr Judy Kunkler would take this on and the seat audit report sent to her. There had been a request from a member of the public to install a seat at the entrance to Astley Close which would be considered by checking whether the site was suitable and speaking to local residents. Cllr Ellis suggested another request may be made shortly. Cllr Kerry Pycroft asked for the new Market Place benches to be chased up and reminded that a new black bin had been agreed for installation in that area.

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 remained unlet.

iii) **Allotment Waiting List Progress Report:** The clerk reported 3 plots had been let and 3 were being finalised. The waiting list was lengthy, and it took time to offer plots and wait for the response before moving onto the next applicant.

The annual rent invoices would be issued shortly and should have a deadline for payment.

f) **Trees:** Cllr Mrs Stevens reported that the tree inspection tender was in the process of being prepared and sent out to five known contractors. Also new Beech trees would be ordered to replace those lost at Century Cross.

g) **Scotchel/Way's Way:** Cllr Judy Kunkler reported it was fine, with a heron spotted and the culverts cleared. The tree remained across the river as suggested by PARR, although opinions differed on this.

h) **River Avon/Kennet & Avon Canal:** Cllr Kerry Pycroft reported the river ditches had been cleared sympathetically, with a litter pick taking place soon. There was nothing to report on the canal.

i) **Recreation Ground and Rectory Grove:** Cllr Mrs Hunt commented the snowdrops were lovely in Rectory Grove and it wouldn't be long before the wild garlic was up. At the Recreation Ground the grass was overgrowing the path by the dugouts and overgrowing the borders in the Grove, the clerk would ask the contractors to undertake.

j) **Play Areas:** Aston Close, Broadfields, Broomcroft, Easterton Lane, Silver, Cossor, Netherleaze. The clerk reported the majority of the repairs had taken place but a site walkround was required in order to sign off the works. A new post mounted bin would be installed at Aston Close in the coming week and the pressure wash and weed kill of each play area would take place before April.

A local resident has requested that the old Little Island play areas be astro turfed and goals installed. Upon discussion with the contractors, it was suggested that the old safety surfacing be removed and grassed and two sides of the fence removed. A quotation would be forthcoming for consideration.

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

l) **Litter:** Cllr Ellis advised a litter pick would take place this coming weekend and that new equipment was needed. She would inform the clerk how many sets were required. Cllr Mrs Dalrymple commented on the weeds in the centre of the village and suggested a letter be sent to the businesses asking them to keep their frontages tidy and weed free.

Cllr Kerry Pycroft reminded members of the tidy up that takes place on the 3rd Sunday of every month which targets a difference area. Cllr Ellis had been approached by a member of the public asking for the new bin on Swan Meadow to be moved as it was felt to be in the wrong place. Another member of the public had been delighted to see it there so it was agreed to check its location.

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

n) **Car Parks:** Cllr Mrs Pullen reported that all was fine in the Hallgate House car park with some building work going on but not causing any obstruction. The North Street car park needed a bit of a tidy up with a bit of litter by the toilets. Cllr Kerry Pycroft asked whether there had been any progress with the signs removal as feedback had been given. New signs could go on the toilet wall where there was lots of space.

o) **White Horse:** Cllr Giles was not present to report.

p) **Century Cross:** Cllr Mrs Brindley would fetch one of the old signs and pass to Cllr McGarry for him to arrange the new ones to be made.

q) **Entrance signs/horse trough:** It had previously been suggested that they would all be oiled in the spring.

r) **Defibrillators:** Cllr McGarry was not present to report but had confirmed all were working following the replacement of pads and batteries in some of them.

6. PARISH STEWARD/HIGHWAYS: Cllr Haskell, Cllr Ford and the clerk had met with the new Highways Engineer which had been very positive. Several suggestions were made on how to manage the parish steward better, with one of the outstanding tasks completed within a day of the meeting. The engineer had confirmed there was no reason why the steward could not paint the railings although it would be the only task being completed on the monthly visit.

Cllr Mrs Mundy reminded again that the hole at Sunnyhill Lane was getting bigger and had not been part of the resurfacing. The situation had been ongoing for far too long.

7. ANY FULL COUNCIL INFORMATION AND ACTION: Cllr Haskell had nothing to report.

8. ITEMS VIA THE CLERK: None.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.55pm.

Signed: _____ Dated: _____