

**PEWSEY PARISH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> AUGUST 2022  
IN THE PARISH OFFICE, BOUVERIE HALL, PEWSEY**

**PRESENT:** Cllr Mrs Brindley, Mrs Cobbing, Ellis, Mrs Hunt, Kerry Pycroft, Mrs Stevens, Cllrs Giles and Morris.

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

**1. ELECTION OF CHAIR:** In the absence of both Cllr Ford (Chair) and Cllr Judy Kunkler (Vice-Chair) Cllr Morris was proposed to reside as Chair for this meeting by Cllr Mrs Hunt, seconded Cllr Mrs Stevens, all in favour.

**2. APOLOGIES:** Cllrs Mrs Humfress, Judy Kunkler, Suzanne McGarry, Mrs Mundy, Mrs Pullen, Cllrs Ford, McGarry and Smithers.

**3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:** None.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:** All being in agreement, the minutes of the meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2022 were signed as a true record.

**5. TENANT CLUB REPORTS:**

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

b) Football Club: Mr Stephens was welcomed to the meeting as the new Chairman of the football club. He reported that the pre-season preparations were going well with lots of young players progressing through the youth development programme into the senior team. There were lots of youths gathering at the club again, giving verbal abuse when asked to move on. The number of dogs being exercised on the pitches was increasing and the Parish Council was asked if it could help in any way, maybe with extra signage and another bin. The Clerk provided some of the metal 'No Dog Fouling' signs which had been designed by the primary school. Cllr Mrs Brindley proposed a bin be installed at the entrance to the football club field and added to the routine collection, seconded Cllr Giles, all in favour. Mr Stephens also requested the contact number for the local PCSO which the Clerk would provide.

c) Tennis Club: Mr Hewens had been unable to attend the last meeting but was pleased with the levelling of the yew trees and would help the working group with the clearance of the ivy at the end of the nesting season. He would be taking an idea stage proposal to Full Council to see if there was interest in trying to restore the three tennis courts at Pewsey Vale School which were in a state of decay. No tennis was being played at the school and the club was now at full capacity. The headteacher appeared to be particularly keen to reinstate them and also permit sharing with the community, outside of school hours, as a pay and play facility. If proof of need and use was realised, the Lawn Tennis Association may get involved with the project. Costs were likely to be in the region of £60,000-£70,000.

d) Rugby Club: Pete Curle reported that every league and cup game had been won with the team promoted. Wedding receptions had been held in the clubhouse and dogs on leads were now welcome during match times.

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

f) **Heritage Centre:** Cllr Giles reported that visitor numbers continued to remain at an encouraging level along with the number of bookings being taken for use of the refurbished education centre.

## 6. REPORTS:

a) **Cemetery and Chapel:** Cllr Ford was not present to report. The contractor had cleaned the chapel and suggested it should be done more frequently to make it easier to remove bat debris.

b) **Footpaths:** Cllr Judy Kunkler was not present but had circulated a report advising that she and Mrs Brew had met with a local landowner to introduce the Footpath Group and to establish the boundaries of his land.

c) **Street Lights:** Cllr Ellis reported there had been no progress made with the repair to the light in Hallgate House car park or the Ball Road base and lamp, the Clerk would chase up Atkins.

d) **Seats/bus shelters:** Cllr Judy Kunkler was not present to report. The tree seat would be removed with a view to replace it when the area is redesigned. Quotations would be sought. The new seat at the Scotchel had been ordered but would be delayed up to 18 weeks from the supplier. The electronic signs were not working in the Goddard Road bus shelter and the Clerk would chase highways for the A345 bus shelter quotation.

e) **Allotments:** Cllr Morris had circulated his report.

i) **Bert's Meadow Inspection:** 1 had been let out and six untended plots strimmed. A further plot had become available and would be reallocated.

ii) **Broadfields Inspection:** All plots had been allocated and were in good condition.

iii) **Allotment Waiting List Progress Report:** The clerk reported there was still a lengthy waiting list for Easterton Lane. 15 on waiting list.

iv) **Allotment Shed:** Cllr Judy Kunkler was not present to report but advised that it had been cleared with some wood still in a pile. The base had been examined by Cllr King who felt it was in good enough order to take a new shed. Quotes would be sought and brought to Full Council.

f) **Trees:** Cllr Mrs Stevens advised that the tree inspection report was still awaited. The Clerk would chase up the contractor. The trees at Century Cross were being watered regularly during the current spell of dry weather. Cllr Ellis asked that the maintenance of the area be put into a regular contract as at times it looks a mess. Cllr Giles suggested the situation be reviewed in the spring.

g) **Scotchel/Way's Way:** Cllr Judy Kunkler was not present to report but had advised it was due for a trim. Cllr Kerry Pycroft asked whether the Scotchel was a nature reserve, Cllr Giles confirmed that had been the original intention when the land was transferred but it was not designated as such. The Clerk confirmed that the conveyance stated it as an open space. Cllr Mrs Hunt said people needed to understand what it was to be used for. Cllr Giles asked, in terms of regular maintenance, that autumn leaf blowing be included in the contract.

h) **River Avon/Kennet & Avon Canal:** Cllr Kerry Pycroft reported the towpaths had been very overgrown, the Canal and Rivers Trust had recently changed contractors who were catching up on outstanding works.

The informed members that PARR had been awarded a grant of £1,240 from the Wessex Water Environment Fund towards planting in the river. Cllr Giles wished to speak vehemently against this, specifically two areas in the Market Place which were cleared and where the lighting of the river took place during the carnival period and had been organised by him for over 60 years. Cllr Kerry Pycroft asked with whose permission was the river clearance undertaken as it was considered to be unlawful irrespective of whether it was tradition or not. Cllr Giles said this had been a

tradition for at least a hundred years and should be continued. Cllr Mrs Stevens agreed that the river should be kept clear in the centre of the village.

Cllr Kerry Pycroft stated that no one was against the lighting but wished to be proactive in doing something better for the river and its biodiversity.

The Chairman suggested that further discussion should take place at Full Council as there were valid opinions on both sides.

**Post meeting note:** a meeting would take place between representatives of PARR and the Parish Council before bringing to Full Council.

i) **Recreation Ground and Rectory Grove:** Cllr Mrs Hunt reported the Grove looked very bald and dry, she was regularly watering one of the saplings. Litter had increased since the start of the school holidays and a bag of clippings had been left by the contractor which the Clerk would arrange to be removed.

j) **Play Areas:** The clerk reported there were a couple of outstanding items; the gate closure at Colin's Corner and some of the matting lifting up at Aston Close. The contractor had not visited for a fortnight due to illness.

k) **Litter:** Cllr Ellis had little to report. The volunteer co-ordinator was keeping hold of the litter pickers following the access gained at the PEAS store by youths.

l) **Toilets/Noticeboards:** Cllr Mrs Hunt had nothing to report although some minor damage had been noted on the doors. The noticeboard by the old police station had been removed.

m) **Car Parks:** Cllr Mrs Pullen was not present to report. Some areas looked scruffy and the contractor would be asked to clear the weeds.

n) **White Horse:** Cllr Giles reported that some attention was required and would get in touch with the contractor.

o) **Century Cross:** Previously discussed at agenda item 6(f).

p) **Entrance signs/horse trough:** Cllr Ford was not present to report but it had been cleared by the Parish Steward.

q) **Defibrillators:** Cllr Suzanne McGarry was not present to report. Cllr Ellis advised that the old defibrillators had been safely delivered to those in need in Ukraine.

**7. PARISH STEWARD/HIGHWAYS:** The Parish Steward had cleared most of the jobs list given to him in June and July and had been communicating more proactively. Cllr Mrs Stevens asked for the tree blocking the drain on Dursden Lane to be removed and the Market Place railings remained on the list.

**8. ANY FULL COUNCIL INFORMATION AND ACTION:** Cllr Ellis reminded members of the Youth Engagement day on 6<sup>th</sup> August.

**9. ITEMS VIA THE CLERK:** None.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.12pm.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Dated: \_\_\_\_\_