

PEWSEY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 5th OCTOBER 2022
IN THE PARISH OFFICE, BOUVERIE HALL, PEWSEY

PRESENT: Cllr Ford (Chair), Cllr Judy Kunkler (Vice-Chair), Cllrs Mrs Brindley, Mrs Cobbing, Ellis, Mrs Hunt, Kerry Pycroft, Mrs Pullen, Mrs Stevens and Cllr Giles.

IN ATTENDANCE: In the absence of the Clerk, due to illness, Cllr Mrs Stevens agreed to record the minutes.

1. APOLOGIES: Cllrs Mrs Humfress, Suzanne McGarry, Mrs Mundy and Cllr McGarry. Apologies were also received from Mr Hewens (Pewsey 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 3rd August 2022 were signed as a true record.

4. TENANT CLUB REPORTS:

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

b) Football Club: Mr Stephens had sent a report which had been circulated to all members.

c) Tennis Club: Although Mr Hewens was not present, he had expressed his thanks to the volunteers who had helped clear the ivy between the top of the Co-Op car park and the tennis courts, on the recently 'topped' trees. It would surely help the yew hedge grow and looked forward to finishing the job with volunteers on 30th October. There was no club news.

d) Rugby Club: A report from the club had been circulated to all members.

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

f) Heritage Centre: Cllr Giles reported that bookings at the education centre were good, but visitor numbers had not increased. They were holding their first musical event on 16th October and would have an end of season Pub Sing song on 29th October with Kevin Byrne. A licenced bar had been applied for.

5. REPORTS:

a) **Cemetery and Chapel:** Cllr Ford advised the chapel had been cleaned recently. The grass had been cut well but may need additional cuts next year to keep it tidy. Cllr Judy Kunkler had contacted Marlborough College reference the gravestone for their past Matron which had been broken by a falling tree.

b) **Footpaths:** Cllr Judy Kunkler and Susie Brew had been finding out what land belongs to whom where there are footpaths. Cllr Mrs Brindley had been told that a footpath had been made from the new house on the old Lloyds bank site to the surgery. This land belongs to Dr Ring so not a council problem.

c) **Street Lights:** Cllr Ellis reported that lights in the Bouverie Hall car park and at Olympian Rd both have trees obscuring the light.

d) **Seats/bus shelters:** Cllr Judy Kunkler reported there were two seats by the river walk. The one by the Heritage Centre is fine but the other one needs some repairs.

She would be obtaining a price for a round, backless seat to go round the Jubilee oak made from recycled plastic. There were still only two quotes for the new bus shelter.

e) **Allotments:** Cllr Morris, although not present, had circulated his report.

i) **Bert's Meadow Inspection:** There will still be some untended plots with the tenants written to. Two plots had become available and would be reallocated as soon as possible.

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

iii) **Allotment Waiting List Progress Report:** There was still a lengthy waiting list for Easterton Lane with 21 on waiting list.

iv) **Allotment Shed:** Cllr Judy Kunkler would contact The Coopers Arms to see if they would like the rest of the old shed for bonfire night. Progress was slow on the installing the new shed.

f) **Trees:** Cllr Mrs Stevens advised that the tree inspection report was still awaited but was proceeding now, with the contractor obtaining the mapping.

g) **Scotchel/Way's Way:** Cllr Judy Kunkler reported a leaning tree in the Scotchel which Cllr Ford would action as well as the fence by the entrance and gate which was loose. Way's Way was OK.

h) **River Avon/Kennet & Avon Canal:** Cllr Kerry Pycroft advised the towpath was not being as well maintained as usual. Cllr Giles was concerned that PARR had reported the carnival lighting gang for cleaning the river for the fairy lights. It was a general opinion that community groups should be working together, not in opposition. Cllr Giles had been in touch with the Environment Agency who advised him that a licence would be required.

i) **Recreation Ground and Rectory Grove:** Cllr Mrs Hunt reported the amount of litter around the Recreation ground had reduced lately. Grass growing over footpaths had still not been attended to which had been first raised some time ago. The hedge between the Recreation Ground and the tennis club had never been cut. The hedge between the Recreation Ground and Kings Corner had still not been cut and was well overdue as it overhangs and impedes vehicles.

The Grove - Grass growing over footpaths had still not been attended to, first raised some time ago. Timber edgings had been badly damaged on the footpath by the sit on mower and needed replacing. A Silver Birch sapling planted by a member of public had been pulled up, Cllr Mrs Hunt and Cllr Kerry Pycroft to action replacement planting.

Cllr Ford to liaise with IdVerde on the outstanding works.

j) **Play Areas:** A few minor faults had been identified on the weekly report and would be repaired as necessary. Cllr Ellis reported some of the surfacing at Aston Close still needed repair. The play bench in Colin's Corner was outside the area.

k) **Litter:** Cllr Lisa Brindley was of the opinion that a further litter bin was needed in the High Street. Additional costs would be incurred for emptying and the bin itself. The new bin was proposed by Cllr Mrs Brindley, seconded Cllr Giles, 4 for, 2 against, 1 abstention. Cllr Mrs Brindley would find a suitable location.

Cllr Ellis reported the monthly litter pick had taken place. Usually, the pickers chose which area they wished to pick but would welcome other suggested areas such as the rear of the Co-Op.

Cllr Mrs Pullen stated that more wheelie bins were needed during the main carnival events.

l) **Toilets/Noticeboards:** Cllr Mrs Hunt advised the Ladies were OK except for the damaged door; the Gentleman's toilets had not been inspected. Cllr Ford was investigating changing the lighting to be more energy efficient. The noticeboards were fine.

m) **Car Parks:** Cllr Ford report the black car left in the corner of North Street car park had gone. Vehicle registration plates stolen from a vehicle had been used in a 'drive off' from the petrol station and several catalytic convertors had recently been stolen again. Cllr Mrs Cobbing asked if bike racks could be installed and would research a suitable location and cost.

n) **White Horse:** Cllr Giles advised that he had not be able to visited it this time but had inspected it with 'field glasses' and it looked normal for the time of year.

o) **Century Cross:** Cllr Ellis suggested that Cllr Mrs Stevens take this on as she and her husband looked after it, which was agreed.

p) **Entrance signs/horse trough:** Cllr Ford said he would arrange to get the signs teak oiled. The horse trough was OK but the railing was loose. Cllr Mrs Brindley said a lot of signs were not legible and the street name at The Crescent was missing. Cllr Giles suggested the Parish Council repair six signs a year, Cllr Ford was not in favour of spending parish funds on Wiltshire Council responsibilities. Cllr Mrs Hunt suggested help could be sought from the Area Board. Cllr Mrs Cobbing remarked on the poor state of some of the double yellow lines, but this was already being dealt with via Highways.

q) **Defibrillators:** Cllr Suzanne McGarry was not present to report.

6. GROUNDS MAINTENANCE CONTRACT RENEWAL: Cllr Ford explained that the council needed to decide whether to continue with the IdVerde grounds maintenance contract or seek alternative tenders. IdVerde would be increasing its contract in line with CPI again. Questions were asked whether other contractors would be able to take on extra requirements such as the "Man with a Van". IdVerde seemed to be struggling with completing some of the works and supplying quotations.

7. PARISH STEWARD/HIGHWAYS: The Parish Steward had cleared most of the jobs list given to him in September. A site meeting had taken place with Highways at Kepnal with the drain unblocked the following day.

8. ANY FULL COUNCIL INFORMATION AND ACTION: None.

9. ITEMS VIA THE CLERK: None.

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

Signed: _____ Dated: _____