

PEWSEY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 5th APRIL 2023
IN THE PARISH OFFICE, BOUVERIE HALL, PEWSEY

PRESENT: Cllr McGarry (Chair), Cllr Judy Kunkler (Vice-Chair), Cllrs Ms Durnford, Mrs Hunt, Suzanne McGarry, Mrs Mundy, Kerry Pycroft, Mrs Sharpe, Mrs Stevens, Cllr Giles, Morris and Stythe.

IN ATTENDANCE: Alison Kent (Clerk), Mr Kimber (Pewsey Vale Bowls Club), Caroline Le Quesne (Area Board Delivery Officer, Wiltshire Council) and a member of the public.

In the absence of Cllr Ford, Cllr McGarry had been asked to Chair the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES: Cllrs Mrs Brindley, Mrs Humfress, Cllr Ford and 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 15th February 2023.

The Chair welcomed Cllr Mrs Sharpe to her first Environmental Committee meeting. He also welcomed Caroline Le Quesne introductions who was the new Area Board Delivery Officer for Wiltshire Council, with a particular interest in the environment and Pewsey Green.

4. TENANT CLUB REPORTS:

a) Bowls Club: A report from the club had been circulated to all members. Mr Kimber advised there had been a recent working party at the club to get ready for the start of the season on 15th April. The clubhouse had been painted inside and out, the green treated and cut. Councillors were very welcome to attend. In October, the green would be cored and the earth disposed of. He had noticed the kickabout area by the tennis club was pitted with holes and offered to fill those; the committee were very pleased to accept this offer.

b) Football Club: No representative was present, or report provided.

c) Tennis Club: Mr Hewens had sent his apologies.

d) Rugby Club: No representative was present, but a report had been circulated. Successful mini rugby and walking rugby sessions had been held and would be expanded in the future.

e) Youth Football Club: No representative was present, or report provided.

f) Heritage Centre: Cllr Giles advised the centre had reopened on 1st April. This year's exhibition on local sports clubs had been excellently put together.

5. REPORTS:

a) **Cemetery and Chapel:** Cllr Ford was not present to report. The Lytchgate and wall had been damaged after a vehicle incident. It had been made safe whilst quotations were sought, and the insurers dealt with the claim.

b) **Footpaths:** Cllr Judy Kunkler had nothing to report.

c) **Street Lights:** A new representative was required and the Clerk explained that it was to assist with the reporting of defects to the Clerk and to Wiltshire Council. Cllr Judy Kunkler advised that the bottom section of Broomcroft Road and Hallgate lights were now working, possibly linked through the same network. Cllr Ms Durnford offered to help.

d) **Seats/bus shelters:** Cllr Judy Kunkler advised that three new seats had been installed; the tree seat at Broomcroft Park, one on Broomcroft Road and in Rectory Grove. The new Scotchel seat would be installed soon now the fixings had been delivered. The downpipe on the bus shelter by the Methodist Church had been fixed and the new shelter installed on A345.

e) **Allotments:** Cllr Morris had inspected the allotments and circulated his report to the relevant people. Several tenants were on “watch”.

i) **Bert’s Meadow Inspection:** Four plots were vacant and in the process of being let out. A further three were on final warning. One plot had a fallen structure and had been asked to repair or remove. A request had been received for a tenant to house a beehive. A previous council had turned down a similar request although there were no rules in place, for or against. The tenant was invited to speak and assured the committee that the hive would be kept away from any public access and that they were a member of the Wiltshire Beekeepers association.

Cllr Morris proposed that permission be given and the Allotment Rules and Regulations would be reviewed, seconded Cllr Mrs Stevens, 11 for, 1 against.

ii) **Broadfields Inspection:** All plots had been allocated.

iii) **Allotment Waiting List Progress Report:** The Clerk advised there were 19 on the waiting list.

iv) **Allotment Shed:** Cllr Judy Kunkler reported the new shed had been delivered and installed. It would be used for storage.

f) **Trees:** Cllr Mrs Stevens advised the scheduled works were overdue which was a concern, and had been chased with the contractor. She had begun work on the priority three list.

g) **Scotchel/Way’s Way:** Cllr Judy Kunkler reported a broken rail which hopefully would be fixed soon. Cllr Stythe said he picked up litter most days and had noted there were no signs at either entrance to request people to take their litter away.

h) **River Avon/Kennet & Avon Canal:** Cllr Kerry Pycroft did not have much to report. The local Beavers group had held a successful duck race.

i) **Recreation Ground and Rectory Grove:** Cllr Mrs Hunt advised there was not too much litter around either site. She reminded that the wooden edging of the path in the Grove needed some repairs, the Clerk would speak with the contractor.

j) **Play Areas:** The Clerk had nothing to report.

k) **Litter:** A new representative was required to check there were no issues around the village; that any issues with litter collection and bin defects were reported to the Clerk. Cllr Stythe would take this on.

l) **Toilets/Noticeboards:** Cllr Mrs Hunt advised the quotation for repairs was still outstanding.

m) **Car Parks:** Cllr Mrs Brindley was not present to report. Weeds needed to be cleared in both.

n) **White Horse:** Cllr Giles explained that chalk horses naturally looked grey, especially north facing ones. He had spoken with the maintenance contractor who would undertake weeding and a grass cut very soon. Weeding takes place approximately six times a year.

o) **Century Cross:** Cllr Mrs Stevens reported the dead trees had been replaced, with some spare.

p) **Entrance signs/horse trough:** Cllr Ford was not present to report.

q) **Defibrillators:** Cllr Suzanne McGarry advised there had been problems with the device at the Scout Hut, all the others were in good order. She was considering the best location for the next one.

6. PARISH STEWARD/HIGHWAYS: The Clerk had received the dates of the next visits which would not be until 1st June. Although a new contractor had only taken over on 1st April, it was felt that dates received and the reduction in number of days from three to two needed to be discussed with Highways.

7. CLIMATE CHANGE: Cllr Kerry Pycroft advised that Cllr Ms Durnford would join the group and Cllr Mrs Hunt would like to become more involved as things develop. Working on the suggested projects from the previous meeting, the Clerk would chase up the car park lighting provision and improvements to the public toilets lighting. Cllr Suzanne McGarry would investigate the potential benefits of installing solar panels on the public toilets.

The Parish Council was thanked for funding the Pewsey Green survey. Cllr Mrs Mundy raised concerns of those living on the outskirts of the parish, particularly in the farming community as it was felt the survey was very centric. Cllr Kerry Pycroft encouraged those to make comment accordingly which could then be considered along with the rest.

Caroline Le Quesne commented that it was good to hear that people were passionate about their livelihoods and the village. She suggested that an outcome of the survey could be a celebration of the farming community.

Cllr Kerry Pycroft reminded members the survey finished on 10th April with the results to be issued on a new website shortly.

Cllr Giles left the meeting at 8.10pm.

8. ANY FULL COUNCIL INFORMATION AND ACTION: Cllr McGarry advised he would be writing to Wadworth Brewery to express his concerns about The Royal Oak and to ensure it did not become delapidated whilst a new tenant was found.

9. ITEMS VIA THE CLERK: None.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.18pm.

Signed: _____ Dated: _____