

**PEWSEY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 22nd NOVEMBER 2023
IN THE PARISH OFFICE, BOUVERIE HALL, PEWSEY**

PRESENT: Cllr Kerry Pycroft (Chair), Cllr Judy Kunkler (Vice-Chair), Cllrs Mrs Brindley, Ms Durnford, Mrs Hunt, Mrs Mundy, Cllr Giles, Smithers and Stevens.

IN ATTENDANCE: Alison Kent (Clerk), Mr Street (Pewsey Vale Youth Football Club).

1. APOLOGIES: Cllrs Mrs Humfress, Mrs Sharpe, Mrs Stevens, Cllrs Ford and Sharpe.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST: Cllr Smithers on item 4(i).

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING: All being in agreement, the minutes of the meeting held on 20th September 2023.

4. TENANT REPORTS:

Bowls Club	A report had been received and circulated to all members. Cllr Mrs Mundy reminded members that the club had an open licence.	
Football Club	There was no representative present, but a report was circulated subsequent to the meeting. The first team was currently 3 rd in the division. The floodlights were currently not in use due to high running costs and repairs needed, with the club sourcing funding. It was the club's 75 th anniversary on 25 th November of being situated at the Recreation Ground, all were welcome to attend the celebrations. There had also been an advertising drive to gain more sponsorship and income for the club, with a further 20 boards to be erected. The new committee were developing a 3-year plan and would be presented in due course.	
Tennis Club	There was no representative present, but Mr Hewens had asked for confirmation as to when the Holly tree would be cut back, which would be very soon.	
Rugby Club	There was no representative present or report provided.	
Youth Football	Mr Street introduced himself as the newly appointed Chairman. The club was in a great position with 130 children spread across 12 different teams. The club was focussing on the parking situation and an extension of the toilet facilities, especially now that 25% of the attendees were female. The Rugby club had helped with parking in recent weeks and there was concern about the road junction being dangerous. Local children who wished to attend were being turned away as space was limited. Cllr Stevens suggested to make use of the large area of scrub land within the club's boundary that could be cleared. He would visit the site and assess what could be done.	
Heritage Centre	Cllr Giles reported the centre was closed for the season. The windows would be replaced on the ground floor of the education centre.	

5. REPORTS:

Cemetery and Chapel	The Lytchgate gates would be removed for painting shortly and the insurance company chased for reimbursement. The Clerk would arrange for the temporary storage area to be removed as no request had been received from the funeral director to retain.	Gates repaired Remove storage
Footpaths	Cllr Judy Kunkler advised the Footpath Group would review FP29 from Hollybush Lane and Dursden Lane, as it had been	

	diverted for many years, with many people getting lost as it was not shown the same on the maps. Vegetation to be removed. Cllr Mrs Hunt asked whether the Parish Steward could clear the path at FP54, to report on MyWilts. She also suggested when the Grove tree cutting too place, to place the logs on the bank to stop mud running down onto the path.	FP group
Seats/Bus Shelters	Cllr Judy Kunkler advised the bus shelter downpipe had been repaired. She had checked some of the seats, noting the new replacements in Easterton Lane play area. The majority of seats were the new recycled ones and metal seats. Cllr Stevens had refurbished the John Laughrin seat at the White Horse.	
Allotments: Bert's Meadow Broadfields Waiting List	Cllr Kerry Pycroft reported all were in reasonable order with the four vacant plots to be taken up very soon. All OK with no vacancies. The Clerk advised this was still lengthy, but no new requests had been received. The revised Rules and Regulations had been updated to include a requirement to seek the permission of the Parish Council to keep bees.	
Trees	In the absence of Cllr Mrs Stevens, Cllr Stevens advised that IdVerde had been removed from the contract and a new one sought for the urgent completion of the Priority 2 works. Cllr Giles mentioned some trees on Swan Corner that looked to require some attention, they would be checked.	Priority 3 works
Scotchel Way's Way	Cllr Judy Kunkler reported the few broken rails had been fixed by Cllr Sharpe, with thanks. The river level had been very high. Fine, thanks to Cllr Stevens who had removed some graffiti.	
River Avon K & A Canal	Cllr Kerry Pycroft had nothing to report.	
Recreation Ground Rectory Grove	The club would be asked to put the gate back as it had been removed for carnival events. The hedge between the footpath and the edge of the Recreation Ground used to have fencing which had partially collapsed so the rest would be removed, along with the chestnut fencing at the Arboretum section. The hedge between the football club and Kings Corner had been partially cut but required a vehicle on site to clear the height. Cllr Stevens would ask the contractor when this would take place and then inform the residents to move vehicles. Cllr Mrs Hunt stated the path through the Grove needed topping up, Simon Last would be asked to provide a quotation.	AK KP PS AK
Whatley Drive	Cllr Kerry Pycroft informed members that 6 contractors had been invited to quote with only 1 return. A site meeting had been held with them, measurements taken and discussion with some of the residents that will be affected by the works. The quotation was £33,834 with timber edging below metal handrails of houses, or £31,934 without edging and less chance of damaging peoples' gardens during installation. An additional short path would be installed near the entrance with Broomcroft Road, and a kerb drop to provide a ramp for mobility scooters and pushchairs. The grading would be a lot of work. Cllr Stevens proposed acceptance of the quotation, seconded Cllr Mrs Hunt, all in favour.	

Play Areas	<p>Cllr Stevens reported that another contractor had undertaken the cleaning of the play equipment at a significant reduced cost. Taking each are in turn:</p> <p>Netherleaze – trees need lowering to encourage the moss to stop growing as quick.</p> <p>Cossor – moss and debris is a problem. It was temporarily shut due to waterlogging. Trees at the far end owned by Southern Housing desperately needed to be cut back.</p> <p>Silver – moss and overhanging trees that belong to Wiltshire Council raised as a concern on the tree inspection report.</p> <p>Broomcroft – closed for Pump Track installation. He would repair the train walkway whilst the park was closed as the quote for installation had been excessive.</p> <p>Easterton – the new seats had been installed and the picnic table moved onto a solid area. Table corners had been put in place.</p> <p>Broadfields – no problems.</p> <p>Aston Close – litter was a concern.</p> <p>He felt the two areas of land at Aston Close and Broadfields need to be discussed with Aster again as the Parish Council only paid for the equipment. He would meet monthly with IdVerde as he was very unhappy with the inspections, believing them to be inaccurate and not fulfilling the contract. Litter picking should take place as well as greasing equipment where required and undertaking minor repairs.</p> <p>Cllr Ms Durnford asked whether an outdoor table tennis table could be considered as they were popular in other areas.</p>	<p>AK</p> <p>AK</p> <p>AK</p> <p>PS</p> <p>PS</p> <p>PS</p>
Litter	<p>Cllr Ms Durnford advised that gift vouchers would be given to the 10 litter volunteers to thank them.</p> <p>The Clerk would send her the list of bins to check their condition. A compost bin would be considered at the cemetery to reduce the number from 7 ordinary bins.</p>	<p>KP</p> <p>AK</p>
Toilets Noticeboards	<p>Cllr Stevens reported the electrical test was overdue, the check had identified some urgent repairs which would take place in early December. Guards would be put on the lights and sensors. Toilet seats had been replaced as well as hinges; gutters would be cleaned and repaired. A deep clean quote was required.</p> <p>Noticeboards are fine. The new sign for the train station had been given to the station master who would arrange for it to be put up in an appropriate place. Cllr Stevens had arranged for the office board to be updated and put back up.</p>	<p>Deep clean</p>
Car Parks	<p>Cllr Mrs Brindley had checked the car park next to the Bowls Club which was fine, although the two islands could do with being tidied up. Hallgate House was fine, as was North Street although there were a lot of leaves which needed collecting up.</p> <p>The new signs had been designed and needed the supplier to meet on site to understand the requirements.</p>	<p>Order signs</p>
White Horse	<p>Cllr Giles had examined the horse recently and despite the weeds it was in a good condition. Cllr Ms Durnford asked when it had last been re-chalked; Cllr Giles explained that re-chalking was not the answer, keeping it weed free was the answer. A budget had been proposed for the precept.</p>	
Century Cross	<p>Cllr Stevens advised the dead trees were to be replaced and had been strimmed. Cllr Mrs Mundy could supply tree guards.</p>	<p>Replace trees</p>

Entrance signs Horse trough	Cllr Mrs Brindley advised the horse trough needed a clean and the horses were gone. Entrance sign at Fordbrook not cleaned.	Clean signs and trough
Verges/ small green spaces	Management of the smaller spaces would need further thought now the list had been received from the contractor.	IdVerde maps
Defibrillators	Cllr Mrs Sharpe was not present to report but all were in order. Cllr Stevens advised the supplier would install the new defib.	

6. PARISH STEWARD/ HIGHWAYS:	The Clerk advised that the Parish Steward would visit next on 22 nd , 23 rd and 27 th November. FP54, potholes, Wilcot Road speedbumps would be the main priorities as well as the drainage at Angela Yeates Memorial Ground. Cllr Mrs Mundy mentioned there were empty grit bins at the canal and railway bridge, also trees of concern at Little Ann. The damaged streetlight outside Deans remained unrepaired, the Clerk would report it again.	AK
7. GROUNDS MAINTENANCE CONTRACT:	There was nothing to report.	
8. CLIMATE CHANGE:	Cllr Kerry Pycroft had nothing to report. The Clerk would revisit the lighting upgrade proposals in the car parks.	Lighting upgrade

9. ANY FULL COUNCIL INFORMATION AND ACTION: Cllr Smithers informed members that the contract had been signed with Velo for the new Pump Track, with works to start on 27th November. Removal of the existing play equipment would take place straight away and the footpath through to the railway line kept open. He thanked the Clerk for publicising the start on social media.

10. ITEMS VIA THE CLERK: None.

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 8.42pm.

Signed: _____ Dated: _____