

**PEWSEY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 27th MARCH 2024
IN THE PARISH OFFICE, BOUVERIE HALL, PEWSEY**

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Alison Kent (Clerk).

1. APOLOGIES: Cllr Marshall and Sharpe.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST: None.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING: All being in agreement, the minutes of the meeting held on 31st January 2024.

4. TENANT REPORTS:

Bowls Club	A report had been received and circulated to all members. The new playing season would commence on 13 th April, weather permitting and would be combined with the first of this season's recruitment days. The aim being to encourage people of all ages from the community to come and have a go at bowls. The clubhouse would open throughout the day. The second recruitment event would be held on 25 th May as part of the national initiative, the Bowls Big Weekend. The Clubhouse was being used well by the local community for private events, particularly outside of the bowling season.	
Football Club	Subsequent to the meeting it was noted that the club was tidying up and a skip was currently located on site. They would be asked how long it would remain.	AK
Tennis Club	Mr Hewens was not present but had circulated a report. The Club membership had reduced a little following the high point after the pandemic, but still remained healthier than pre-Covid levels. The club also continued to enjoy remarkable success within the Swindon & District League for a 'village' club, once again retaining the League title in the Winter doubles League. They had now been able to take on a third full-time tennis coach. The club asked that a streetlight could be considered, and funded, by the council along the public footpath that runs between the bowling green and two of the tennis courts, which was regularly used but very dark at night. There had been a recent incident whereby someone had tripped; and there were no nearby dwellings that may object. The committee did not feel it was required but asked the Clerk to seek advice from the insurance company.	AK
Rugby Club	There were no representatives present or report received (subsequently received and circulated).	
Youth Football	There were no representatives present or report received.	
Heritage Centre	Cllr Giles reported the centre had reopened on 23 rd March with its new exhibition about agriculture in the Vale of Pewsey.	

5. REPORTS:

Cemetery and Chapel	Cllr Ford was happy to continue with checking this area. Cllr Stevens reported an electrical inspection had taken place with remedial repairs completed. A quotation for upgraded lighting had been approved. The chapel storage had been removed and the chapel needed a thorough clean. The big branches would be removed from sight.	AK
Footpaths	Cllr Judy Kunkler reported the paths were very muddy, especially to walk. She was discussing with the landowner to install a new stile on FP47, which was on part of the White Horse Way.	JK
Seats/Bus Shelters	Cllr Judy Kunkler reported the seats and bus shelters were OK. The plank seat in the Scotchel needed to be removed and the Laughrin seat at Broadfields needed some repair.	AK
Allotments: Bert's Meadow Broadfields	Cllr Kerry Pycroft advised that all invoices had been sent out and most had been paid. Those who were yet to pay would be reminded. She had not completed a proper inspection and would leave this until the end of April, but a couple of plots had not yet been cultivated.	AK KP
Waiting List	The Clerk advised that the waiting list remained long, but there was slow progress.	AK
Trees	Cllr Mrs Stevens advised the majority of priority 2 works had been completed, and tree notifications were being made to Wiltshire Council for priority 3 and 4 works. She had asked for the wood to be left on site where possible.	
Scotchel Way's Way	Cllr Judy Kunkler reported a big tree had fallen but cleared straight away. A couple of the railings had been damaged, and Cllr Sharpe would be asked to repair. Way's Way was fine.	PSh
River Avon K & A Canal	Cllr Kerry Pycroft advised that PARR had undertaken its first river fly monitoring at the Grove and was pleased to report that the results showed a normal benchmark and had not been compromised by the recent heating oil spill.	
Recreation Ground Rectory Grove	Cllr Mrs Hunt was pleased to report the gate had been replaced. Building works were taking place at 52 Ball Road with some of the spoil placed on the football club grounds, with their agreement. Rectory Grove was in a state, although it was accepted that tree works were being completed. Consideration should be given to maintenance of the path.	
Play Areas	Cllr Stevens was pleased to say the inspection problem seemed to be resolved with the play areas in a good state. Four trees had been planted at the Pump Track site.	
Litter	Cllr Ms Durnford had recently attended the cemetery and noted that 7 litter bins were in place, mostly with little waste and old containers. She suggested that the number could be reduced to one litter bin and a compost heap built for green waste, somewhere near the gate. This was agreed in principle.	
Toilets Noticeboards	Cllr Mrs Hunt reported the toilets were in good condition following the recent deep clean. Cllr Mrs Hunt advised the new village signs would be erected soon.	
Car Parks	Cllr Mrs Brindley reported that the verge up by the library had been crossed and damaged by a vehicle and felt it could encourage others to do the same. It was agreed to put in a bollard, although a sarsen stone was available. The new car park signs had been agreed and would be installed soon.	

	The quotation for upgraded lighting was proposed by Cllr Stevens, seconded Cllr Kerry Pycroft, all in favour. Cllr Mrs Mundy advised the lights by at the Bowls Club car park were out completely and considered it a safety hazard at night. This would be reported to the Co-Op and Wiltshire Council. Cllr Kerry Pycroft had added that area to the maintenance contract.	AK AK
White Horse	Cllr Giles confirmed it had recently been weeded and had reminded the contractor that a grass cut was now due.	
Century Cross	Cllr Mrs Stevens advised it had been too cold and wet to plant the replacement trees. She thanked Cllr Mrs Mundy for the donation of the tree guards and stakes.	LS
Entrance signs Horse trough	Cllr Mrs Brindley stated the signs looked clean, but the posts should still be oiled. Cllr Ford reported all the horses had been stolen. IdVerde would tidy a couple of times a year.	LB
Defibrillators	Cllr Mrs Sharpe had nothing to report and thanked Cllr Stevens for checking them whilst she was away.	
Telephone Box	Cllr Judy Kunkler wished members to consider use for the old telephone box at Swan Corner. It had been used to hold information leaflets in the past. To be discussed further at the next meeting.	JK

6. PARISH STEWARD/ HIGHWAYS:	Cllr Kerry Pycroft reported he had only been available for one out of the three days in March. She had given him jobs in the centre of the village to do so that the work could be monitored. Unfortunately, he had cleared the wrong footpath by the Co-Op and not FP56 which would be kept on the list for next time.	
7. GROUNDS MAINTENANCE CONTRACT:	Cllr Kerry Pycroft thanked Cllr Stevens for helping to keep the contract on track, with regular meetings with the contract supervisor. The Council was doing all it could to keep the contract going and had built up a good relationship. Whatley Drive – she had purchased grass seed for the area by the tree/river where a new section of path had been laid.	
8. CLIMATE CHANGE:	The LED lighting upgrade for the car parks was in progress. The infrared heat loss camera had been purchased.	

9. ANY FULL COUNCIL INFORMATION AND ACTION: None.

10. ITEMS VIA THE CLERK: None.

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 8.27pm.

Signed: _____ Dated: _____