

**PEWSEY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 25th SEPTEMBER 2024
IN THE PARISH OFFICE, BOUVERIE HALL, PEWSEY**

PRESENT: Cllr Kerry Pycroft (Chair), Cllr Judy Kunkler, Cllrs Mrs Brindley, Marilyn Hunt, Mrs Mann, Mrs Mundy, Mrs Sharpe and Mrs Stevens, Cllr Ford, Giles, Mulji, Purcell and Stevens.

IN ATTENDANCE: Alison Kent (Clerk) and Mr Hewens (Pewsey Tennis Club)

1. APOLOGIES: Cllr Ms Durnford, Mrs Humfress, Cllrs Marshall, Sharpe and Smithers.

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 July 2024 were signed as a true record.

4. TENANT REPORTS:

Bowls Club	A report had been received and circulated to all members. They had held the first bowls match with 20 members of the tennis in club in several years and it was hoped to make it an annual event. A raffle had raised £172 which was donated to the Prospect Hospice. The club hosted its annual Carnival Bowls competition, with 12 teams entered from across Wiltshire and neighbouring counties. £500 was raised for the Carnival. A coffee morning would be held in the clubhouse on 19 th October in aid of local cancer charities, all are welcome to attend. The club would hold its AGM on 25 th October.	
Football Club	There was no representative present or report received. Cllr Marilyn Hunt asked for the removed gate to be put back as soon as possible.	AK
Tennis Club	Mr Hewens expressed his thanks for minuting that mowings should not be left down the side of the court, he would continue to check. The club continued to do very well, winning the mixed trophy for the third time running for the whole of Wiltshire and second in the men's league. The winter league was about to commence. The remaining court lighting would be converted to LED in the coming week which was quite an investment for the club. They had invested in benches inside the courts that have been popular and shared the expenditure of the CCTV with the Bowls club. He had asked before about lighting on the path by the courts which would be considered. Cllr Mrs Mundy advised the light at the Bowls Club car park still had wired showing which was the responsibility of the Co-Op. Cllr Mrs Sharpe confirmed to Mr Hewens that she regularly checked the tennis club defibrillator and reported its status on the system.	
Rugby Club	A report had been received and circulated to all members. The senior team had made a successful start to the season. The number of children attending training sessions had increased significantly compared to the same period last year. 24 children had signed up to the after-school course at Woodborough School. The clubhouse continued to be used for other events, including a successful outdoor cinema night.	
Youth Football	There was no representative present or report received.	
Heritage Centre	Cllr Giles advised that the season progressed steadily. People had visited from all over. Next season's exhibition would be the World War Two in the Vale of Pewsey.	

5. REPORTS:

<p>Cemetery and Chapel</p>	<p>Cllr Ford advised the priority tree works were completed. Cllr Stevens reported the contractor was currently behind with grass cutting but the grounds looked good. Only had 7 cuts out of the contracted 14. The chapel had been fully cleaned and the storage area removed.</p> <p>Cllr Mulji had reviewed the cemetery regulations, proposed minor changes, which would be circulated for approval at the next meeting. The clerk was asked to make some notices for the new compost bin and publicise on social media.</p> <p>Cllr Giles advised the working group had met at the cemetery on 20th August to consider further works to trees/shrubs. It was recommended to obtain quotations from local tree surgeons to substantially cut back and re-shape the avenue of Yew trees and remove the two nearest to the chapel as they were causing damage. A rambling Laurel should be cut right back and kept in order. There were further trees and ornamental shrubs overlapping the path and in other areas of the cemetery that required crown raising and maintenance. The list was presented to Cllr Mrs Stevens to progress.</p>	<p>HD JF RG KM</p> <p>AK</p> <p>LS</p>
<p>Footpaths</p>	<p>Cllr Judy Kunkler advised the waymarkers at FP29 had been removed from a diverted route used by many, the map showed an original route. It could be diverted officially by the landowners. The bridge across Hollybush Lane had been closed while Network Rail replaced it. Cllr Stevens advised the path would be finished once the weather improved.</p>	<p>JK</p>
<p>Seats/Bus Shelters</p>	<p>Cllr Judy Kunkler advised the Jon Laughrin seat at Broadfields was in need of repair, Cllr Stevens confirmed he had already repaired the slat. She also suggested the replacement of the seat at Gas House Brow.</p>	<p>JK</p>
<p>Allotments: Bert's Meadow</p> <p>Broadfields Waiting List</p>	<p>Cllr Kerry Pycroft advised that three tenants had been issued with notice to quit letters; one tenant would remain, one plot had been reallocated and one was in the process of being reallocated. A quotation had been obtained for the levelling of the driveway entrance. Two of the smaller plots had been given up.</p> <p>The list was reducing as no new applications had been received.</p>	<p>KP</p> <p>AK</p>
<p>Trees</p>	<p>Cllr Mrs Stevens advised the priority works in the Grove had not yet been finished.</p>	<p>LS</p>
<p>Scotchel</p> <p>Way's Way</p>	<p>Cllr Judy Kunkler reported that she and the Clerk had made the decision to close the Scotchel during the bad weather on Monday but had reopened it since. Works were needed on the path and edging boards and Cllr Sharpe had replaced a couple of the rails. Cllr Mrs Mann was concerned the entrance path was too high to access when using a wheelchair or mobility scooter. Cllr Stevens would investigate.</p> <p>All OK.</p>	<p>JK</p> <p>PSt</p>
<p>River Avon K & A Canal</p>	<p>Cllr Kerry Pycroft advised the painting of the Market Place railings had been delayed due to it being too close to carnival events. Cllr Stevens advised he had received the full specification of the materials so the works could now proceed. He mentioned the state of the canal towpath, a letter would be sent to the Canal & Rivers Trust.</p> <p>Cllr Giles mentioned the state of the river in the centre of the village as it used to be cleaned and tidied each September. The weed would return but at present it collected litter, adding to the flood risk. Cllr Mulji advised the flood working group had plans to remove the weeds, Cllr Kerry Pycroft affirmed it would be cleared once the figures had gone and the levels reduced. The blocked arch had been reported.</p>	<p>KP</p> <p>AK</p> <p>AK</p>

Recreation Ground Rectory Grove	Cllr Mrs Hunt stated that a lot of people had been very complimentary about how the village had been cleaned up after carnival events. The path refurbishment would be considered in the near future. An ash tree had been left in clumps, it was expected to be removed upon the contractors return. The BMX area still being used occasionally.	
Play Areas	Cllr Stevens reported the new safety surface had been completed at Aston Close and looked very smart. There were minor issues at some of the other areas but in the main they were OK, which had been corroborated by the insurance inspection reports. He had met with the contractor and regular inspector to review the entire provision. Cllr Judy Kunkler advised the litter bin at the empty Little Island area had been full, it was agreed to remove the bin. Cllr Ford suggested the area be given to Aster to manage.	PSt
Litter	Cllr Ms Durnford was not present to report.	
Toilets	The Clerk advised there had been a blockage which had been cleared at the same time the bi-annual service was done.	
Noticeboards	Cllr Kerry Pycroft had tidied up the noticeboards; Cllr Mrs Brindley had not yet measured for the headers.	LB
Car Parks	There was nothing to report. The Clerk was seeking a quotation for the drains to be cleared and for regular maintenance to be put in place.	AK
White Horse	Cllr Giles advised it looked good, although the legs were a bit skinny and required widening out.	RG
Century Cross	Cllr Mrs Stevens had not had chance to visit.	LS
Entrance signs	Cllr Mrs Brindley advised the posts needed to be treated. Most people had noticed blue paint along the railway bridge and would ask the Parish Steward to remove.	LB
Horse trough		JF
Defibrillators	Cllr Mrs Sharpe had nothing to report. All devices had been regularly checked and reported on the website. Cllr Marilyn Hunt had been approached to ask whether the Parish Council could organise another training session, Cllr Ford would arrange it.	JF
Telephone Box	Cllr Judy Kunkler said this project was no further forward, but it was agreed that something should still be done to enhance the box.	JK/ KM

6. PARISH STEWARD/ HIGHWAYS:	Cllr Kerry Pycroft advised the Parish Steward had been provided with a priority task list but he had been asked to clear the drains known to flood.	
7. GROUNDS MAINTENANCE CONTRACT:	Cllr Kerry Pycroft explained the contractor was still grass cutting but the winter programme of hedges, paths and shrubbery was now in place. A member of the public had cut back a hedge on Vale Road but not removed the cuttings.	
8. CLIMATE CHANGE/ BIODIVERSITY:	Cllr Marshall would discuss EV chargers at a future meeting. Cllr Mulji had researched and found that it was a legal requirement for Parish Council's to adopt a Biodiversity Policy. A model template was available through SLCC which could be made relevant and adopted, along with setting objectives to tie in with the strategic review and possibly the NDP. He would prepare a draft for adoption.	RM KM

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 8.30pm.

Signed: _____ Dated: _____