

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

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Alison Kent (Clerk).

1. APOLOGIES: Cllr Ms Durnford, Mrs Humfress, Marilyn Hunt, Mrs Kilminster, Cllrs Marshall, Purcell, Ryder, Sharpe and Smithers. Apologies were also received from the Youth Football 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 25th September 2024 were signed as a true record.

4. TENANT REPORTS:

Bowls Club	A report had been received and circulated to all members. The season had now ended with the professional removal of existing turf and subsequent re-seeding. The club's AGM had been held on 25 th October and the social co-ordinator was planning a series of out of season events to enable members to continue socialising and raising funds. Cllr Mrs Mundy advised there would be a coffee morning held on 14 th December to raise funds for the Christmas Day Lunch.	
Football Club	There was no representative present or report received.	
Tennis Club	Mr Hewens had sent a brief report asking whether the Parish Council had decided to install a light on the footpath between the bowling green and the tennis courts as he had previously mentioned how dark it was, and two people had now tripped over. Cllr Stevens had intended to install a solar light but each time he had made a visit the path was lit. The Clerk would check ownership of the path. She had also reported a light which had the cover missing and wires exposed. Two lights were not working, so it was felt that these should be repaired by the Co-Op before deciding whether further lights were required.	AK
Rugby Club	There was no representative present or report received.	
Youth Football	The new Chair had not been able to attend, but advised that the club was at capacity within the younger age groups, with waiting lists and older groups attracting players late into the season. The club was seeking more coaches. With the growing number of teams, the car park continued to be a priority. The rugby club had kindly offered additional parking on busy match days. The Clerk would check whether planning permission would be required for a better surface to be laid at the existing parking area nearest Wilcot Road.	AK
Heritage Centre	Cllr Giles advised the centre had closed for the winter season. There had been more visitors this year, the only drawback being that the little office floor had rotted, so new flooring had been installed. Next year's exhibition would be Pewsey Vale at War.	

5. REPORTS:

Cemetery and Chapel	Cllr Ford advised that he would be going to topple test the memorials. The grass cutting should be finished by the end of the week. The Clerk would print off signs for the new compost bins. The tree maintenance list would be formalised and quotations sought in due course. Minor changes to the Cemetery Regulations were proposed by Cllr Mrs Sharpe, seconded Cllr Ford, all in favour.	HD JF RG KM AK
Footpaths	Cllr Judy Kunkler advised the bridge over Hollybush Lane remained closed until after the New Year. She would ask the Rights of Way Officer to request an update from Network Rail. She had also asked him for an update about FP29.	JK
Seats/Bus Shelters	Cllr Judy Kunkler had nothing to report on seats as the family of Jon Laughrin were arrange for a replacement following the vandalism of the seat on Pewsey Hill. Cllr Stevens had made a repair to the Jon Laughrin bench at Broadfields.	JK
Allotments: Bert's Meadow	Cllr Kerry Pycroft advised that all plots at Easterton Lane had been sorted. Of the three queries, one tenant would remain, and two plots had been let out to new tenants. It was hoped the works to the entrance drive would be completed in December. She had ordered and planted some beech hedging for the top plot.	KP
Broadfields	There were three small plots available, with no interest. This would be publicised on social media in the hope to allocate them.	AK
Waiting List	The list was down to 10 and no new applications had been received.	
Trees	Cllr Mrs Stevens advised that most of the works had been completed. A group of people had approached the Council about a project to plant 25 new trees around the village. The majority were not on land owned by the Parish Council, so they had been advised to seek permission from the relevant landowners. Cllr Mrs Stevens informed members that the Clerk was applying for a pack of 25 trees from the Woodland Trust for The Grove.	LS AK
Scotchel	Cllr Judy Kunkler had closed the reserve during the recent Storm Bert and reopened on Monday afternoon. The river had been very high with mud left across the path, once the water had receded. She had gone through with Cllr Mrs Mann in her wheelchair, and Cllr Stevens had located areas that caused difficulty. A lot of kickboards had worn away and needed replacing. Cllr Stevens had sought a quote, which was substantial, so two further quotations would be obtained.	JK PS
Way's Way	All OK.	
River Avon K & A Canal	Cllr Kerry Pycroft had nothing to report on the canal. She reported the Market Place railings had been painted and would ensure they were kept clean.	KP
Recreation Ground	Cllr Marilyn Hunt was not present but had circulated a report. There had been disappointment with the postponement of the hedge cutting, which had been requested by Cllr Stevens in order to complete all the grass cutting around the village. The hedges would be started soon.	
Rectory Grove	Cllr Giles commented that the leaves should be blown off the paths in the autumn otherwise it just becomes a sticky mess. The contract would be checked to see if leaf blowing was included.	KP
Play Areas	Cllr Stevens provided an update on each play area which were generally in good order as small repairs had been made. The tree works at Cossor and Silver remained outstanding; Aster had still not made progress with the slide repair at Aston Close, despite being chased up.	PSst

	Cllr Stevens had repaired the gate that had not been closing properly at the Pump Track. He was thanked for all his hard work.	
Litter	Cllr Ms Durnford would be arranging for refreshments to be provided to the regular litter pickers at their December session.	
Toilets Noticeboards	Cllr Stevens said the toilets were due for a deep clean. Cllr Mrs Brindley would arrange for the headers to be printed.	LB
Car Parks	All the drains had been jetted clear and would be done bi-annually. Cllr Mrs Mundy felt the Council needed to publicise what was being done about flooding issues in the village.	
White Horse	Cllr Mulji had circulated a report of his concerns about the state and ongoing maintenance of the horse. Cllr Giles advised that the usual contractor had been ill in recent months, and despite his remarkable progress he was not yet fully fit and did not wish to pressure him. He explained the White Horse suffered from inbuilt defects as it faced north and was a small design which looked fine from above but looked flattened from the ground. Re-chalking every few years did not help as the build-up moves downhill and accelerated the problem. It may be better to use lime powder and spray more regularly in the future as mechanical methods moved the chalk. It had been maintained for many years by the Zixex Club. A new group of volunteers had been asked to help but had not taken up the offer. Cllr Mulji explained the conference he had attended had been very informative, noting that it would take a lot of proactive management and funding. It would be useful to obtain a survey to develop a plan. Cllr Mrs Stevens wondered whether a Friends of the White Horse group could be established.	RG
Century Cross	Cllr Mrs Stevens had nothing to report.	LS
Entrance signs Horse trough	Cllr Mrs Brindley advised the uprights still needed to be oiled and would obtain quotes.	LB
Defibrillators	Cllr Mrs Sharpe reported a defibrillator was deployed upon average three times a month, although they were rarely used. All of them were up to date and she would make contact with the Youth Football Club. Cllr Stevens proposed to purchase a bleed kit, at an approximate cost of £400, to be sited by the noticeboards, seconded Cllr Mrs Mann, all in favour.	PS
Telephone Box	This would remain on the agenda as it should be restored and moved.	JK/ KM

6. PARISH STEWARD/ HIGHWAYS:	Cllr Kerry Pycroft advised the Parish Steward had been extracted to do gritting and flood clearance duties. Please let the Clerk know of any jobs to be added to the list.	
7. GROUNDS MAINTENANCE CONTRACT:	Cllr Kerry Pycroft reported the contractor was doing a great job and thanked Cllr Stevens for keeping them on track. The contract would be reviewed in time for the tender process in a years' time.	
8. CLIMATE CHANGE/ BIODIVERSITY:	Cllr Marshall would discuss EV chargers at a future meeting. Cllr Mulji and Cllr Purcell had drafted a Biodiversity Policy for adoption which was non-contentious. Cllr Mrs Mundy had reservations as the Council was a consultee on planning applications and could not drive any changes. Wiltshire Council employed people with knowledge on biodiversity aspects. Cllr Mulji proposed to adopt the preliminary policy for review in a years' time, seconded Cllr Ford, 10 for, 1 abstention.	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 8.43pm.

Signed: _____ Dated: _____