

PEWSEY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY & CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 24th JANUARY 2018
IN THE BOUVERIE HALL, PEWSEY

PRESENT: Cllr Kerry Pycroft (Chair), Cllr Morris, Cllrs Mrs Carmichael-Owen, Mrs Dalrymple, Mrs Hughes, Mrs Hunt, Mrs Stevens, Cllrs Carder, Deck, Eyles, Ford, Giles, Haskell, McGarry and Stevens.

IN ATTENDANCE: Alison Kent (Clerk).

The Chair welcomed everyone to this inaugural meeting of the Community & Conservation Committee.

1. APOLOGIES: Cllr Ann Hogg, Cllrs Hagan, Smith and Stephens.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST: None.

3. VILLAGE APPEARANCE: A list of project ideas had been circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr Kerry Pycroft had met with Cllr Eyles to agree which jobs could be undertaken by the Parish Steward and private landowners. The idea was to keep an active list of jobs after removing those which Cllr Eyles had agreed to take on. Some jobs would not be easy to achieve.

Cllr Morris said occasionally there were parishioners who wished to help out but did not necessarily want to be on the Parish Council. These people should be encouraged to take ownership and adopt tasks should they wish to do so. Cllr Giles agreed that volunteers were more likely to achieve tasks, Cllr Ford advised that the Young Farmers were keen to help with larger tasks.

Cllr Deck commented that the litter bin requirement was at Ball Road more so than Kings Corner. Cllr Eyles advised that Wiltshire Council had assured him that the Market Place railings would be painted in due course by the Parish Steward. It was felt that the state of all the railings let the village down. There were other ideas for multi-coloured railings, especially at the play areas. Banners were only accepted for charitable events and should be placed for no longer than a fortnight before an event and taken down straight down after.

Cllr Kerry Pycroft asked if council had moved forward with taking on a village steward. Cllr Haskell replied there was nothing to report at this stage, Cllr Mrs Hughes reminded members that this was to be in place by 1st April, so the process must move forward.

4. CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENT: The list of ideas was discussed. Cllr Mrs Carmichael-Owen spoke about the Bee Road project and working together with Transition Marlborough as some works could get done. Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, Greatwood Trust and St. Francis School were local supporters of the project.

Garden and Green Space survey – idea was to gather some information together to establish the biodiversity within the village. Encourage people who are interested.

Leaflet of green spaces and play parks – there was an old leaflet of village walks written by Pat Beresford. Cllr Morris would look into updating that leaflet and include other areas in the parish. The old leaflet used to be circulated in the Tea Rooms and this could be widened to include the Heritage Centre and phone box. Cllr Haskell felt the sign at Rectory Grove should be larger and include some history and information, although it was noted that Ms Beresford had been a very private person.

Hanging Baskets – Cllr Haskell knew that this idea had been discussed many times. Historically very few local businesses had wanted to be involved. He suggested oblong planters could be sited on the bridge railings. Cllr Morris said this was a good idea if they were looked after, otherwise they would detract from the village scene. Cllr Giles made a strong case against these as it would put more pressure onto the Carnival Volunteers when placing the candle lamps across the river. The Market Place was already scenic and did not require any enhancement. There were two flower borders upstream of the bridge and the brickwork borders in front of Old Ford Court which could be planted.

Cllr Haskell agreed that no extra work should be placed on the Carnival volunteers but felt there was a case for brightening up the area to create something visual as people entered the centre of the village. Cllr Kerry Pycroft already looked after the John Cooke Memorial garden by the river seat. Cllr Deck informed members that the Gardening Club was experiencing difficulties in recruiting new committee members which could see the club ceasing to exist.

5. LITTER AND DOG FOULING: Cllr Mrs Hunt commented that over the years various litter and dog fouling signs and stickers had been put up around the parish, could new ones be considered. Cllr Kerry Pycroft explained that she had been in contact with Wiltshire Council since last July and been promised that new signs would be made available. Nothing had been forthcoming. In the meantime, she had discovered that PCSOs had additional powers to issue Fixed Penalty Notices in relation to littering and dog fouling. The clerk would establish from the local police team whether this was a possibility. She also advised that the last council had previously investigated new Public Space Protection Orders which would discharge various anti-social behaviour orders and Dog Control Orders. The parish council had not pursued this option with Wiltshire Council. It was suggested that good signage would encourage good behaviour with problem areas in the village.

Cllr Eyles would look to replace damaged litter bins and bin liners. The need for other locations for bins should be considered.

The Litter Ambassadors scheme and monthly litter pick organised by Mr Ellis was praised, with the equipment being supplied by the Parish Council.

6. COMMUNITY SPIRIT: Cllr Kerry Pycroft and Cllr Morris would shortly be sending out a speculative letter to establish the need for an Allotment Association. It would not be responsible for rent collection, inspections or waiting list management. Cllr Mrs Stevens suggested this could cross over with the Gardening Club to gain support.

Community Groups and how can the Parish Council help – there were lots of organisations in the parish and the website needed to be kept up to date. Members were asked to check the list to see if any known groups were missing.

Establish a Friends of Pewsey green spaces and play parks – some residents had expressed an interest in being able to look after certain areas. This could lead to extra volunteers for future projects.

Support for Business community – Cllr Kerry Pycroft would contact Susie Brew about the initiatives that had recently taken place. Cllr Deck advised that there was not an active Chamber of Commerce in the parish at the present time. The clerk advised that a survey of local businesses was undertaken as part of the economic survey which Cllr Kerry Pycroft would look at. Cllr Stevens said it had been hard to generate interest when the Christmas Fayres had taken place in the past. Cllr Haskell felt there was not much that the Parish Council could do other than promote free parking. A good time to generate interest was at Carnival time.

Use of Messenger – could the Parish Council ask for a full page, especially as it was the main financier of the scheme. The look was considered a bit old fashioned but the content was very informative. Cllr Mrs Stevens was happy to continue collating the articles for print.

Closer liaison with Carnival – to be raised at Full Council.

Volunteer register – a list of volunteers would be kept for insurance purposes.

Noticeboard – Cllr Kerry Pycroft would refurbish the existing one, which would be kept locked as it contained statutory information.

Cllr Morris spoke about three signs that would be made available for Pewsey through the Tourism Partnership; Heritage Centre, the White Horse and a new one in the centre of the village which would give a short history. These were being funded by the Co-Op.

A bi-fold leaflet would be considered to promote local groups and activities.

7. SCHOOLS AND YOUTH ACTIVITIES: Cllr Mrs Dalrymple would make contact with the parent teacher associations and ask how the Parish Council could help. Public arts projects could be encouraged and displayed around the village.

Youth Council and Youth club – Pewsey Vale School were hoping to resurrect their school council and would be working with the Local Youth Facilitator, Jan Bowra.

Holly Hillier would be continuing the Friday night youth club with enough funds to keep it running for another year. The LYN would only fund activities, however the Parish Council had now reserved funds for youth services. Cllr Carder suggested it would be good to resurrect the Youth Council in addition to the school councils. Cllr Stevens advised that a youth day had been run in the past and that it might be an idea of a way to pull things together, tying in with the Health and Wellbeing Centre.

8. SAFETY AND SECURITY: Cllr Eyles hoped that the zebra crossing at River Street would be repainted soon. Any further provision of CCTV would be discussed at Full Council. Signage through Way's Way to and from the Wharf for pedestrians and to the train station would be taken to CATG. Information on the Bobby Van, Dorset and Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Services would be publicised.

9. CORRESPONDENCE: None.

Authorisation of cheques as listed were proposed for approval by Cllr Morris, seconded Cllr Ford, all in favour.

There were no quotations for acceptance.

10. FULL COUNCIL INFORMATION AND ACTION: Cllr Haskell thanked those members who had attended the lease signing at the rugby clubhouse which was progressing remarkably well and were to be congratulated on their work. It had been interesting to note that Devizes Town Council had taken on two part-time street sweepers. He reminded members that the Police and Crime Commissioner would be in attendance at the country market on 6th February. Cllr Morris advised that PCSO Whiteside had attended a recent U3A meeting and provided an informative talk about internet security.

11. ITEMS VIA THE CLERK: The clerk reminded members there were no meetings until 7th February.

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 8.05pm after thanking everyone for attending.

Signed..... Date.....