

PEWSEY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 5th DECEMBER 2018
IN THE PARISH OFFICE, BOUVERIE HALL, PEWSEY

PRESENT: Cllr Eyles, Cllr Ford, Cllrs Mrs Carmichael-Owen, Kerry Pycroft, Cllrs Carder, Deck, Giles, Haskell, McGarry, Morris, Smith, Stephens and Stevens.

IN ATTENDANCE: Alison Kent (Clerk), Mr Andrews, Mr and Mrs Head (Bowls Club) and Mr Curle (Rugby Club).

1. APOLOGIES: Cllr Mrs Dalrymple, Ann Hogg, Mrs Hunt and Mrs Stevens, Cllrs Hagan and Smithers. Apologies were also received from Mr Jeffery (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 3rd October 2018 were signed as a true record by the Chairman.

4. TENANT CLUB REPORTS:

a) Bowls Club: Prior to the report Cllr Haskell presented the Commercial Hanging Basket Cup to the club as they had won the competition this year. Mr Andrews had nothing to report, the grass had started growing and was looking great.

b) Football Club: Cllr Stephens reported the club were struggling with vandalism, broken glass everywhere and the rubbish bags being opened. The gate situation had been sorted. Each incident had been reported to the police.

c) Tennis Club: Cllr Deck was pleased to report that it had been awarded Tennis Club of the year for Wiltshire which was an honour. One member had been awarded Volunteer of the year for the county.

d) Rugby Club: Mr Curle reported the three benches had been refurbished and may possibly be moved to the main pitch. Ladies rugby and fitness training now took place on a Saturday and Mens over 35 fitness training on a Thursday evening. The youth group was growing well. The club was actively fundraising with the Army and RFU for the clubhouse. The Angela Yeates Memorial Ground Management Committee would recommence its meetings on 17th January which Cllr Carder would attend. Mr Curle was advised that dog waste could be put in any bin as general waste. Cllr Eyles agreed that there was an increase around the village due to irresponsible owners.

e) Youth Football Club: The clerk had received an email report which was circulated to members.

f) Heritage Centre: A report had been circulated to all members.

5. OTHER REPORTS:

a) **Cemetery and Chapel:** Cllr Ford had noted a new memorial plinth had been erected, although it was within the size of the grave space.

b) **Footpaths:** Cllr Haskell reported all was OK.

c) **Street Lights:** Cllr Deck had nothing to report. The clerk advised that several reports were outstanding with Wiltshire Council who contracted these works to Atkins. Cllr Eyles would speak with Aster as the light in the play area was now shining half onto a resident's garden.

d) **Seats:** Cllr Stephens advised the seat maintenance was ongoing, with some urgent repairs already done but would now wait for the better weather in the New Year.

e) **Allotments:** Cllr Stevens reminded the clerk to check with Zurich about permitting bonfires on the allotments. Cllr Eyles reminded members that the Allotment Association could only make a request which would still require approval by the Council.

i) **Allotment Inspection:** Bert's Meadow: Cllr Morris had inspected the site and asked for five holders to receive a letter as their plots were overgrown. The noticeboard had been installed.

ii) **Allotment Inspection:** Broadfields: Cllr Stephens would inspect the site in due course. Cllr Eyles would meet with the contractor to agree the fence repair and sign cleaning.

iii) **Allotment Waiting List Progress Report:** The clerk advised that two plots had been let at Bert's Meadow with two more becoming available shortly. At the Broadfields site there was one full size plot available.

f) **Trees (Including Way's Way):** Cllr Deck advised that Wiltshire Council had felled quite a number of diseased trees up Hollybush Lane. The contract for works to the lime trees near the football field had been awarded and the quotations for the Grove works would be considered later.

g) **Scotchel:** Cllr Ford reported the path was muddy and horrible but generally the area was OK. Wessex Water were undertaking tree management on their land and installing a new fence and proper footpath down to the balancing pond which would be cleaned out.

h) **River Avon/Kennet & Avon Canal:** Cllr Kerry Pycroft reported the Canal & Rivers Trust had supplied the dimensions for the post and the Parish Council had approved the sign being put up at the Wharf. There was debris stuck in the river which the Village Ranger would be asked to clear.

i) **Recreation Ground and Rectory Grove:** Cllr Haskell had walked through and looked OK.

j) Play Areas:

Broadfields: Cllr Stephens reported the area was OK.

Aston Close: Cllr Mrs Carmichael-Owen reported there had been some vandalism and littering. Knife marks had been made and a piece removed in the rubber surround of a piece of play equipment and some big cap screws had been pulled off as well as some screws being undone. A dummy CCTV notice had been put up to try and deter people from doing this.

Easterton Lane: Cllr Haskell reported the area was OK. The repair of the big seesaw surround looked nearly complete. The disabled swing had been purchased and would be installed soon.

Broomcroft Road: Cllr Kerry Pycroft reported the area looked fine.

Cllr Stevens had accompanied the Zurich inspector on his bi-annual check of the play areas.

Broomcroft Road was fine, with the replacement of a screw which had been deliberately removed. Easterton Lane the Burma rope bridge had been removed as it was rotten. The wood surrounding the see-saw was in the process of being repaired. The disabled swing had been damaged with a knife and cost approximately £600 to replace. Generally, the area was good.

Aston Close and Broadfields belong to Aster with the Parish Council providing the play equipment under Licence. Aster had suggested that leases be offered for a period of 21 years at a cost of £2,000 each. A meeting had been requested although questions needed to be submitted in advance. The vandalism at Aston Close is dangerous. Bolts had been loosened, chunks cut out of mountings, bolts removed from the roof of the climbing unit and loosened bolts on the panels. It was the most vandalism that had been seen with older youths frequently there late at night. At Broadfields there was an ongoing issue as Aster undertook their own inspections which had raised the seesaw bearing that had been replaced none months ago. The Zurich inspector reported the bearing was fine, Aster's inspector reported it as dangerous, so there were conflicting reports.

Cllr Stevens also felt that the Parish Council could be letting itself in for major expenditure if it decided to take on the five play areas from Wiltshire Council. Cllr Morris said it would be worth asking the headteacher of Pewsey Vale School to explain to pupils the seriousness of these actions which could cause serious injury. Cllr Smith said there was no guarantee that the youths causing problems were all from Pewsey.

Cllr Haskell felt that Aster could not tell the Parish Council what to do about equipment that it does not own and should follow the advice of Zurich. Cllr Stevens felt the council may have to consider closing Aston Close due to the level of anti-social behaviour and it was extremely muddy. Cllr Haskell felt the council should strongly think about the future of play areas, rather than delay and that the strategy report previously requested by him should be presented so that firm decisions could be made. Cllr Deck agreed that at the S.106 meeting earlier in the year, it had been agreed that a plan for the play areas would be drawn up for 2019. Cllr Giles asked whether any of the hotspots could consider having CCTV installed. Cllr Deck would enquire but confirmed that the local police had been asked to undertake extra patrols.

k) **Angela Yeates Memorial Ground and Youth Football ground:** Cllr Ford reported the grounds were OK although there was a bit of mole damage on the Youth football pitch.

l) **Litter:** Cllr Smith advised that the small sweeper had been. The bins appeared to be OK but there had been litter in the river and dog waste was also a problem.

m) **Toilets:** Cllr Mrs Carmichael-Owen reported that all snags had been completed. Cllr Stevens had spoken with the cleaners and there was an issue with a user of the gents.

n) **Car Parks:** The clerk advised the leases had been signed on behalf of the Parish Council and the final completion was awaited. Cllr Eyles had approved the works to the surface indentation.

o) **White Horse:** Cllr Giles was not pleased with the contractor as no work had been undertaken since the last meeting. The clerk had made contact and would be given until the end of the week to contact Cllr Giles.

6. PARISH STEWARD: Cllr Eyles had met with the Highways Engineer that morning. The Parish Steward was due next week with prioritised jobs given by the clerk. It was still proving difficult to find out what works had been completed following the monthly visit. Some tasks had been passed to other teams such as drainage or bridges and it was difficult to keep updated. Cllr Deck felt the council should consider making a complaint. The clerk would circulate the priority list for next week with Councillors keeping an eye on what work is done.

7. EMERGENCY/FLOOD PLAN REVIEW: Cllrs Ford, McGarry and Morris had completed a first draft and would circulate to all councillors for comment. Once approved it would be put on the website, following GDPR. An Emergency Management Committee would be needed, and key players identified, especially those with specific skills and access to items such as tractors or 4x4 vehicles. A request would be put in the Messenger and website asking for volunteers. The Clerk advised that two grit bins would be purchased for North Street and Hallgate House car parks.

8. CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Mrs Jordan – request for name to be added to War Memorial. The gentleman had been born in Pewsey then moved to Newbury. He had fought in WW1 but not returned. Unfortunately, his name was not on either War Memorial. Cllr Ford had looked and there was space for an additional name but it would not be in alphabetical order which some may consider odd. Alternatively, a whole new piece of stone could be carved which would be expensive. Cllr Giles was happy to look at the historical paperwork and report back for the council's approval.

Quotations for Acceptance/Notification: three quotations had been sought for the priority two works in the Rectory Grove and Arboretum. One had not been submitted. Cllr Eyles proposed to accept the quotation from Steven Parker for £2,750, seconded Cllr Morris, all in favour. Replanting would be considered once the works were completed.

Brennans – notification for Hallgate House car park works £560.00

9. ITEMS FOR THE MESSENGER: Items should be sent to Cllr Mrs Stevens before 10th January.

10. ANY FULL COUNCIL INFORMATION AND ACTION: Cllr Haskell reminded members that the Primary School Council would be attending Full Council at 6.30pm. Cllr Stevens confirmed that Rev'd Totney would be blessing the Memorial Seat at 6pm on 8th December as part of the Christmas lights switch on event.

11. ITEMS VIA THE CLERK: Cllr Kerry Pycroft informed members that clubs that do not use the Campus are not permitted to put up notices. Cllr Haskell would make enquiries.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.23pm.

Signed: _____ Dated: _____