

PEWSEY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 3rd APRIL 2019
IN THE PARISH OFFICE, BOUVERIE HALL, PEWSEY

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Alison Kent (Clerk).

The Chairman mentioned the sad passing of former Cllr Glynn Evans who had been a member of the council from May 1995 to March 2005.

1. APOLOGIES: Cllr Ann Hogg, Cllrs Haskell, Stephens and Stevens. Apologies were also received from Mr Jeffery (Youth Football Club) and Mr Asbury (Heritage Centre).

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST: None.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING: All being in agreement the minutes of the meeting held on 6th February 2019 were signed as a true record by the Chairman.

4. TENANT CLUB REPORTS:

- a) Bowls Club: There was no representative present to report.
- b) Football Club: Cllr Stephens had sent a brief report stating the club had reached the cup semi-finals. Youths continued to hang around the clubhouse and there was evidence of drug use which had been reported to the police.
- c) Tennis Club: Cllr Deck had nothing to report.
- d) Rugby Club: There was no representative to report.
- e) Youth Football Club: Mr Jeffery had sent a report which had been circulated to all members.
- f) Heritage Centre: A report had not been received for circulation.

5. OTHER REPORTS:

- a) **Cemetery and Chapel:** Cllr Ford advised the repairs to the guttering still required completion.
- b) **Footpaths:** Although absent, Cllr Haskell had stated that there were no known issues with footpaths. The Planning Inspectorate inquiry had been postponed.
- c) **Street Lights:** Cllr Deck reported a light was obscured by ivy at the top end of Hollybush Lane.
- d) **Seats:** Cllr Stephens was not present to report. The Way's Way seat and plaque had been installed with members satisfied that the seat was very robust. Cllr Eyles would press forward to consider a refurbishment plan now that the better weather had arrived.
- e) **Allotments:**
 - i) **Allotment Inspection:** Bert's Meadow: The clerk advised that the owner of the plot with the willow stumps wished for them to remain. Cllr Morris hoped that the plot with the collapsed shed could be recovered by a new tenant. More brick rubble was yet to be removed by the seat.
 - ii) **Allotment Inspection:** Broadfields: Cllr Stephens was not present to report. JF one is empty
 - iii) **Allotment Waiting List Progress Report:** The clerk advised there had been movement with new tenants taking on plots, although it was slow work as some people had been on the waiting list for some time and no longer wished to have one or move away.
- f) **Trees (Including Way's Way):** Cllr Deck had nothing to report. The tree work at the church had been completed.

g) **Scotchel:** Cllr Ford reported the reserve seemed fine with the works to the path taking place. There was a new fence at the railway bridge which he assumed had been installed by Network Rail. It had been brought to the attention of the council that a horse was being ridden regularly the Scotchel, although a lot of the reports had come from what was believed to be a vexatious resident. Cllr Ford asked members not to approach the person but to inform the clerk if the horse and rider were seen.

h) **River Avon/Kennet & Avon Canal:** Cllr Kerry Pycroft advised that there had been quite a lot of rubbish in the river as a household bin had fallen in. This would be cleared at the next Saturday litter pick as a group called Surfers against Sewerage were attending. There was nothing to report on the Kennet & Avon canal.

i) **Recreation Ground and Rectory Grove:** Cllr Mrs Hunt reported both areas were generally OK apart from noticing several of the small silver cannisters. The chain-link next to the small gate at the former dirt jumps had been damaged and people had been seen climbing into the area. Some of the edging boards in the Grove had been broken.

j) **Play Areas:**

Broadfields: Cllr Stephens was not present to report.

Aston Close: Cllr Mrs Carmichael-Owen reported the gate had still not been repaired and further surfacing under the swings was needed. A young person had been witnessed clambering across the roof of the garages which had been reported to the police. Cllr Smith advised that Sgt. Foster hoped to be in attendance at the next Full Council however, dedicated patrols would be taking place.

Easterton Lane: Cllr Haskell was not present to report but had checked the site on a weekly basis. Cllr Mrs Hunt would take this role back on. The Clerk advised that approval had been received from Wiltshire Council for the release of S.106 monies for the activity trail.

Broomcroft Road: Cllr Kerry Pycroft reported there had been a lovely display of crocuses this year and bank was being left wild throughout the summer period. There was a slight tear on the surface of the take-off mound for the zip wire. The Village Ranger would be asked to clean the play equipment at Colin's Corner. Cllr Eyles has the wood for repairing the tree seat which Cllr Stephens would undertake.

k) **Angela Yeates Memorial Ground and Youth Football ground:** Cllr Ford had nothing to report.

l) **Litter:** Cllr Smith advised that the Village Ranger had written a risk assessment for the litter picker volunteers who were performing an excellent job. An audit would be undertaken at the next litter pick.

m) **Toilets:** Cllr Mrs Carmichael-Owen reported that some anti-social behaviour had taken place with mess being left. Discussion had taken place on the legal position to install CCTV which was permitted as long as the cameras did not point on cubicles or urinals. It was agreed to get costs for two dummy cameras and signs.

n) **Car Parks:** Cllr Mrs Hunt had nothing to report at present, but the council would need to consider maintenance in due course. Cllr Hagan reported a vehicle which appeared to be abandoned at the top Co-Op car park. Additionally, he reported the pathway from the bridge from Avon Place to the Co-op car park was particularly hazardous due to the accumulation of leaves. Although the leaves had been cleared from the private parking spaces, they had been pushed into a pile just by the pathway. The leaves were now rotting but had made it very slippery when it rained. Obviously, this was an ongoing problem. It was suggested that Cllr Ann Hogg was asked to investigate the responsibilities of the leaseholders of these parking spaces.

o) **White Horse:** Cllr Giles had visited the White Horse and had completed the repair to the wire fence which the contractor had not done. The ongoing problem with the vegetation growth on the chalk continued and has to be regularly sprayed, although there now seemed to be a generation of contractors that are adverse to spraying. He would look to source another contractor and had already made contact with a local person who may be interested. The core requirements were to keep up regular maintenance, especially of the weeds. The new information sign by Wiltshire Council had been erected.

Cllr Giles mentioned that he had a long cane with a hook that could be stored in the toilets store which could be used to safely retrieve things put on King Alfred.

6. PARISH STEWARD: Cllr Eyles had attended a meeting with other parish councils, Ringway and Wiltshire Council and following discussions, it was decided that the service would be reviewed in June to see if there had been improvements. The Clerk stated that there had already been an improvement in communication.

7. EMERGENCY/FLOOD PLAN REVIEW: Cllrs Ford, McGarry and Morris had put together a draft plan some time ago but it required more details such as which place was designated as emergency accommodation. Also contact details for local contractors who could offer help in the event of an emergency were needed. All possible emergencies needed to be considered; weather, civil, criminal and terrorism so that the plan could be completed.

8. CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Cllr Haskell had sent a written request for the Council to consider a donation for £200 towards the tree works at St. John's Church. Cllr Giles agreed that the tree works would help with the protection of the war memorial. Cllr Eyles proposed a donation of £200, seconded Cllr McGarry, all in favour.

2. CPRE – Best Kept Village Competition. Pewsey had entered the competition many years ago and had found it to be a lot of hard work with some places in the village not keeping their areas tidy on the day of judging. Members were not in favour of entering the competition at this time.

9. ITEMS FOR THE MESSENGER: Items should be sent to Cllr Mrs Stevens before 10th April and would include an allotment being available at the Broadfields site and details of the dog fouling campaign.

10. ANY FULL COUNCIL INFORMATION AND ACTION: Cllr Smith advised the police would be at the next Full Council meeting and that the bid to GWR towards the pedestrian path lighting project had been successful with no requirement for match funding.

11. ITEMS VIA THE CLERK: None.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.00pm.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____