**Minutes of the meeting of the Pilton Parish Council**

 **via Zoom on Wednesday 4th November 2020 at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Councillors Robert Kearle (Chairman)

Audrey Brown

 David Drew

Stephen Kearle

Joe King

Roger Noble

Lynda Roberts

Andrew Shaw

 Karen Buckley (Clerk/RFO)

3 Members of the public were present.

1. **CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

 i Mobile phones should be switched to silent.

2. **APOLOGIES:** Colin Elkin

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS:** None

4. **MINUTES:** of the 7th October 2020 were approved.

5. **MATTERS ARISING:**

 i Traffic Matters:

* New Defects

The Clerk was asked to speak to Nigel Hewitt-Cooper to see if there are any further developments regarding the poor state of the drains.

Councillor Noble advised that the ditch at John Burns onto Stricklands Lane has been cleared around the pipe but now believe that the pipe is blocked. Councillors felt this dangerous and would investigate clearing the pipe themselves.

Top Street Drain – the ditch under the road to Grey Gables needs to be cleared out.

Councillors R Kearle and R Noble will meet to review the situation regarding the drains.

No change to the potholes in East Town Lane.

The road where Burford House is situated is in very bad state also as you travel through West Compton up to Stumps Cross.

The poor condition of the roads have been reported to Highways for over 4 years. Councillors voted unanimously in favour for the Clerk to write to MP James Heappey and include the list of outstanding defects. The defects receive a reference number but no further action is taken. The white lines at Stoodley to Bowermead Lane have faded. There was a near miss there between vans. The Parish Council will ask for the white lines to be replaced.

There is no update regarding the Lamberts Hill Crossroads.

* Grit Bins – the Clerk was asked to chase Nigel Hewitt-Cooper regarding where to collect the grit for the village.

ii Community Speedwatch;

The Speedwatch Team as currently ‘furloughed’ due to Lockdown. Admin teams are not allowed in the office so even if the Speedwatch Team collected the data nothing would be done with it.

iii Police Report: October Police Report

Councillors report that there was a convoy of 6 caravans travelling through the village and one jack knifed.

iv Draft Cycling and Walking Manifesto:

v Autumn Litter Pick: The Parish Council Litter Pick has been cancelled due to the Lockdown.

vi Data Protection: The Clerk asked for the Councillors mobile phone numbers and dates of birth in order to create their new email addresses

vii Vegetation: Large vehicles are finding it difficult to travel around Pilton due to the overgrown vegetation especially in Neat Lane to Cockmill.

 A local resident has photographed the worst offending areas. Highways have worked on the overhanging hazel coppice in Ford Lane that were touching the electrical wires.

 Councillor King will identify who owns the vegetation and speak with the landowners where possible. Councillor Noble has spoken with a homeowner regarding the Main Road to Top Street.

viii Remembrance Sunday: The Remembrance Service at the War Memorial has had to be cancelled. The Parish Council have not received permission for the necessary road closures and in future a road closure request must be submitted 10 weeks in advance. A great deal of work has taken place by Councillor R Kearle and Steve Russell-Yarde but there were too many obstacles in the way.

 Councillor King will be ringing the bells between 10.50 and 10.59am. Councillor Noble will remove the old wreaths and lay the new wreath on behalf of the Parish Council.

ix Additional Defibrillator: There are currently 2 defibrillators within Pilton but nothing at the Eastern End of the village. It would need electricity and has been proposed to be situated near Maggie’s Farm. The Clerk was asked to write to Mr Eavis to ask if it could be situated on the new phase of housing. Councillors voted unanimously in favour.

x Somerset Initiatives for Travel: Councillor Shaw brought this to the Councillors attention. The plan is to develop cycling and walking routes putting pedestrians before vehicles. Councillor Shaw asked if this is something the Parish Council would support.

 A lot of discussion took place and Councillors felt they needed a lot more information on the proposal. Have landowners been informed? Are Grants available? Who will fund, maintain and fence the routes? Although the Parish Council is not against the idea of cycling and walking routes they felt that they needed to know what impact it would have on local residents and be fully clear on the proposal. Councillors voted 2 in favour of supporting the proposal, 4 in favour of waiting until more information is available and 1 abstention.

xi Weir Lane to Ford Footpath improvements: Councillor R Kearle and Noble have visited the site and confirmed that a digger will be required to clear the mud. A handrail needs to be erected, scalping’s laid and vegetation cleared. Three quotes will be obtained to carry out the work.

 On the footpath to West Compton at the bottom of Winters Hill, as you go left from Beech House to Burford House an electric fence has been erected to keep pigs in. It is believed that this is to conceal the construction work taking place at the top of Winters Hill. Councillors advised that footpaths should not be obstructed by electric fencing. The Clerk was asked to report this to the Footpaths Officer at Mendip District Council.

6. **PLANNING:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Application Number | Proposal | Applicant & Location |
|  |  |  |

 **ENFORCEMENT:**

* Winters Hill: Enforcement Officer, Simon Snartt, has visited the building and is taking action. He could not get close enough to the site to take photographs due to the electric fences that have been erected.

A resident raised the issue of the gully below Mill Lane and three corner orchard in West Compton which is blocked despite reporting it repeatedly to SCC. There is mud on West Compton Lane left behind by tractors after ploughing. The mud has blocked the gully and the road is flooding. The resident has contacted the farmer but they have not taken any action. Hedges also are not cut back until February which means hedges remain overgrown throughout winter months. Councillor S Kearle agreed to contact the farmer regarding the gully, hedges and mud on the road.

* Cock and Bull Drove and Friar’s Oven:

Cock and Bull Drove: Councillors advised that the caravan is still on the site and people are living in it. Nigel Hewitt- Cooper has previously advised that this in the hands of Mendip District Councils lawyers.

Friars Oven: The Clerk has identified the original Planning Application and will contact Enforcement Officer, Simon Snartt to make him aware that the site is being developed differently that the planning permission granted.

7. **FINANCE:**

i Financial Statement:

 

ii Financial News/ Requests for Grants:

The Clerk explained that her payment was so high this month due to a backdated NALC pay increase from April 2020.

8. **BURIAL GROUND:**

i Maintenance reports: A report has been received that a neighbouring grave next to one that was freshly dug has been left in a totally unacceptable state. The Clerk was asked to investigate who the undertaker was and keep the Burial Secretary in the loop.

ii Ash Tree: Discussion took place regarding action needed to the Ash Trees and Ash Dieback. There are six in total and as the trees die they will become unsteady and dangerous. Noble proposed that the Parish Council obtain quotes and take action sooner rather than later, Councillor Drew seconded the proposal. One quote has already been received, two further quotes will be obtained from Councillors Noble and King.

 After Lockdown Councillors will organise tidying the hedges.

Councillors paid tribute to Sandra Howe, who has passed away and who will be interred in the Burial Ground. Sandra served eight years as Chair of the Parish Council. A flowering tree will be planted at the burial ground in her memory. All Councillors were in favour and Councillor King will pass on the Parish Council’s condolences.

9. **ITEMS FOR COUNCIL’S INFORMATION:**

i Roundabout report

Rubbish is being fly tipped at garages and over the wall at Culverwell Cottages. This is a criminal offence and has been reported to the police.

The Parish Council have identified the worst areas within Pilton for overgrown vegetation and will be contacting the landowners to request that action is taken. Please ensure that vegetation does not overhang pavements and is kept cut back and tidy.

There is still a lot of inconsiderate parking within the village. Please consider whether emergency vehicles would be able to pass before you leave your parked cars. You could be putting lives at risk!

Lastly the Parish Council wishes to apologise for the cancellation of the War Memorial Remembrance Service and Village Litter Pick. Due to Covid regulations these events could not take place, despite the Parish Councils best efforts.

The Clerk was asked to put the Local Council Alliance on the Agenda for the next meeting.

Councillor Shaw suggested that the Parish Council may be interested in Parish Online which for £86 per annum provides you with access to interactive Ordinance Survey mapping. This may be a consideration for the future.

Footpath 40, Copse Hill to Riverdale, is not a bridleway, horse prints have been seen and it is illegal for a horse rider to use a footpath.

**NEXT MEETING:** Parish Council Meeting Wednesday 2nd December 2020 at 7.30pm

APPENDIX A

Update from Nigel Hewitt-Cooper

Somerset County Council Report November 2020.

Corona Virus Update: Revised Government regulations mean that Somerset will now enter a period of enhanced lockdown measures aimed at stopping the spread of the Corona virus. The measures will be reviewed on or before the 2nd December. Whilst numbers in the County remain relatively low there has been a marked increase in the number of positive tests. As at 1st November, the number of confirmed Covid cases in Somerset was 2,738 and the number of Covid-attributed deaths 208. The rate per 100,000 currently stands at 65.5 for Somerset with Sedgemoor at 94.8 and SW&T at 70.6. The current number of total deaths across the County is currently 17% below the 5-year average and the latest R-value for Somerset is between 1.3 and 1.6.

It is vitally important to remember at all times the Hands-Face-Space message.

Covid-19 survey: The purpose of the Somerset Covid-19 Survey is to understand the barriers people are facing adhering to the government guidance to stop the spread of the virus. Somerset Public Health team and the Somerset Covid-19 Engagement Board want to hear from as many people as possible across the county so that they can use the feedback to further shape the local response to the pandemic. The survey will cover a includes Covid-19 testing, whether people have become more isolated as a result of the pandemic, how the guidance around local alert levels and the Hands, Face, Space campaign has been understood, as well as views on how others are adhering to the guidance. The survey will close on Friday 13 November. To take part go to: http://www.somerset.gov.uk/covidsurvey

2021 Primary School Places: Applications for Primary School places in 2021 need to be made through Somerset County Council’s website: www.somerset.gov.uk/admissions The deadline for submissions is Friday, 15 January 2021.

Winter Gritting: SCC’s fleet of 23 Gritters will be maintaining the extended gritting service of last year, with approximately 900 miles of road up for treatment in 2020/21. SCC treat over a fifth of Somerset’s roads and the main priority is to keep the busiest routes clear whenever ice or snow is expected. For more information about Somerset County Council’s winter service programme, including a searchable map showing all the roads treated, please visit www.travelsomerset.co.uk/gritting and follow @TravelSomerset on Twitter.

Climate Emergency Strategy: The Somerset Climate Emergency Strategy which identifies key priorities to reduce the carbon footprint across the County and achieve Carbon neutrality by 2030 has been written with the assistance of over 5,000 residents who took part in the survey and drop in events. The strategy will now be presented to the SCC Full Council meeting on 18th November for endorsement.

One Somerset: The Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, Robert Jenrick, has written to all council leaders in Somerset inviting them to submit their business cases for Local Government Reform by 9 November 2020 with final supporting submissions to MHCLG by 9th December. It is then expected that the Secretary of State will make a decision in early summer 2021.

Somerset Youth Parliament: Somerset Youth Parliament and Somerset County Council are encouraging schools, colleges and youth projects across the county to have their say, make a difference and ensure young people’s voices are heard on key issues. The online British Youth Council survey encourages all young people aged 11 to 18 years to vote on issues which are most important to them. These top issues will then be debated and voted on by elected Members of Youth Parliament, helping create the next UK Youth Parliament (UKYP) manifesto. Individuals, schools, clubs and youth projects are able to register and find out more online at www.byc.org.uk

Family Safeguarding: A new way to support children and families in Somerset has been launched with the aim of strengthening families to overcome their issues and thereby reducing the number of children needing to come into care. Somerset County Council, in partnership with The YOU Trust and the Somerset Drug and Alcohol Service (SDAS), has created the ‘Family Safeguarding Team’ – a new way of working that will transform how support is given to children and families in the county. A really helpful YouTube video has been created to explain the approach, which can be viewed here: https://youtu.be/u2WMlCx8KTY

Stepping Stone Placements: More homes are urgently needed in Somerset to provide vital support to young people as they move from care into adulthood. With more than 300 young care leavers in Somerset currently the demand for placements far outweighs availability. ‘Stepping Stones’ providers receive a weekly fee, starting at £185 per week, plus a little extra for food and utilities (up to £27.50) paid weekly by the young person from their allowance. Providers are also eligible for the same tax exemptions and relief as foster carers, but have much more flexibility to work full or part-time alongside their care role. If you have a spare room and would like to help, please visit www.fosteringinsomerset.org.uk or call 0800 5879900

**Outstanding Pilton Parish Defects – November 2020**

**Blocked Drains/ Gullies:**

1. Water going from Lower Street towards Beales House next to Gable House, either the drain is blocked or spring. Under investigation.
2. The drain outside John Burns Cottages is running past the Stricklands property are particularly bad and will become very dangerous. Ref: 602869
3. The drain as you head towards Culverwell House is still blocked as the water is running along the road towards Councillor Noble’s house. Ref: 602870.
4. There is standing water opposite and adjacent to The Manor. Residents state that they have never seen the water so deep. There are no channels for the water to run away. Action needs to be taken before winter. Need more information.
5. The drains at Top Street, at the eastern end of Culverwell Cottages are full with silt.
6. Lower Street by Thornton House and Chanters House and Neat Lane, the drains are blocked solid.
7. At Springfield House into Lower Street water is running down the road.
8. Blocked drains 100m south of the old railway bridge on the B136.
9. There is a blocked drain in Totterdown Lane/ Parsons Batch, Glastonbury side of the road, south of Lays Lane.

**Potholes**

1. There is a large Pothole at the top of Mount Pleasant. Inspection arranged ref 531013
2. A parishioner has highlighted potholes in Compton Lane, at the end where it turns left (East) and runs along the side of Manor Barn. There are several holes and at least 3 large ones appear to fall within Somerset CC’s criteria for repair. Ref:600918
3. On the Pilton to Shepton Mallet turn off the sign was knocked down and is now missing. Ref: 538335. This has been referred to the Traffic Team in Taunton.TrafficManagement@somerset.gov.uk
4. A361 breaking up outside the School House and the Forge House. Ref 601470
5. Potholes from Burford to West Compton Ref 601471
6. John Beales Hill and Chapel Hill the road surface is bad Ref 601472
7. Potholes between Westholme Road and Top Street. Ref 601473
8. Potholes outside Burford House
9. Potholes in Perridge Hill
10. Potholes on the West Compton road.
11. Serious potholes outside Perridge House, on Perridge Hill in Pilton and on the West Compton road. Ref 601901.
12. Pothole in Pylle Road opposite Mary’s Lane, on the corner when turning left into Copse Lane.
13. Deep pothole in Compton Lane, North from East Compton House to Ridge Road. Ref: 602866
14. Pothole in Top Street. Ref: 602867 Westholme going towards North Wootten the potholes are getting much bigger
15. The potholes in East Town Lane have not yet been dealt with. Ref: 602868

**General**

1. Road Markings on Stoodley Lane and Bowermead Lane: These have been inspected and passed to traffic for inclusion in their works programme. These have been added to our parking review programme.
2. Visibility down Lamberts Hill: This has been referred to the ‘Traffic Section’Traffic section dealing (SIS submission) In light of accident history Traffic Management will look at what improvements can be made and they will advise Nigel Hewitt-Cooper of updates. No timescales can be given.
3. Yellow Lines at the bottom of Totterdown Lane: This has been added to the next Mendip Traffic Regulation Order with the support of Nigel Hewitt-Cooper. This is now only done once a year and likely to be done later in the year with all other Mendip sites. Traffic section dealing (SIS submission)
4. The wall belonging to Orchard House in Pylle Road seems to be unstable, it is along the road that leads to the playing fields and there is concern that children could be walking along side it. Item passed to building control MDC.
5. The Bridge has now been hit for a third time and the Parish Council think it’s in a dangerous state. This has been reported twice previously.SCC advised that this has been passed to the Structures Team in Taunton bridges@somerset.gov.uk. The bridge at Stoodley has been hit for the fourth time. Urgent action is required. The Clerk has chased March 19. Update (March 19) there is now a large section, approx. half a metre wide, which has fallen off completely, exposing the risk of falling through into the stream.

The Bridge at Stoodley has been repaired after it was driven into on numerous occasions. The Clerk has asked Highways for the availability of a ‘narrow bridge’, ‘weak bridge’ or ‘weight restriction’ sign.

The Clerk was asked to contact SCC regarding a request for ‘Stop’ signs at Burford. SCC advised that this has been forwarded to the traffic team for consideration. Not aware of this request, however if you are requesting a stop sign in place of a Give Way, DfT guidance states that new approvals for stop signs are only in exceptional circumstances. It is widely considered that all existing junctions requiring a stop sign would already have one approved. The guidance also states that a stop should only be used where visibility is so restricted that it is essential to stop, and that it cannot be used where visibility can be improved by cutting back a hedge etc. An update can be obtained from the traffic team Traffic Management TrafficManagement@somerset.gov.uk

1. The pavement at the bottom of Shop Lane has been damaged since the Water Board was working there. An inspection of the location has been arranged and safety defects identified will be actioned as necessary. Ref 530986.
2. The weight limit sign at Barrows Hill needs putting back up. We are not aware of a weight limit.
3. Fingerposts - A temporary repair on the one at the top of Copse Lane hill. ASBOs are looking into replacing the other listed damaged ones. With Traffic Department TrafficManagement@somerset.gov.uk
4. The plastic chevron road sign on the verge outside the Manor House has been knocked over and people are driving on the verge. Further location details required.
5. The reflectors need replacing by the Manor House. Ref:533841 TrafficManagement@somerset.gov.uk
6. The sign and wall at the War Memorial have been damaged due to a car crash, the sign needs re-erecting please. The post has been erected and the repeater speed plate will be fixed as soon as possible.
7. Outside Walnut House the manholes have sunk and are very noisy when vehicles go over them. Just in case no-one else has noticed it, the “temporarily repaired” sunken manhole at the bottom of Lamberts Hill is now as bad, if not worse, than ever. Moreover, drivers are either more aware of it now or can see it better with its new red border and are swerving onto the wrong side of the road to avoid it. Surely even Highways would consider this a safety issue. The covers in question are the responsibility of Bristol Water to maintain and have been reported to them via the Street Works Team for action as they deem necessary. Previously notified to the PC.
8. The verge under the Manor wall is a pile of mud and becoming deeper every day. The reflector posts, originally four of them, are all missing. I remember making the same complaint last year but nothing has been done. If the highways refuse to reinstate this verge is it not possible for the Parish Council to be responsible for getting the work done which would improve the approach to the church? The verge over run is not classed as a safety defect as such we do not currently have the necessary resources to undertake what is essentially works for aesthetic reasons. If the parish wish to reinstate the verge we would have no objections subject to the works being licenced under section 17 permit.
9. The corner on the left hand side of the above same road, just below the hearse house, is also unkept and there is a manhole cover standing out above the mud which could cause damage to any vehicle forced to drive off the road on to this area. Ref: 600924
10. Winding Lake Farm.This item has been inspected and the details passed to the Structures Team who maintain the culvert and headwall for action as they deem necessary. Bridges@somerset.gov.uk
11. Stoodley Hill HGV signage. I have no objection in principal to additional signage, please could you provide a plan/map showing where you would like signage to be placed for me to consider? Would these be the advisory white on blue ‘not suitable for HGV’s’ signs? TrafficManagement@somerset.gov.uk
12. Lamberts Hill crossroads. This junction has been highlighted as an area for improvement and I am aware of the accident history therefore I will be looking at what minor improvements can be made to the signing and lining at this location. With regard to timescales, these improvements will be implemented in the next financial year (After April 2020). Unfortunately I am unable to be more specific at this time however will update you once I have more information. TrafficManagement@somerset.gov.uk
13. Springfield crossroads, I will have a look at the accident record and see if we have any speed data. As discussed I will then look to see what improvements could be made based on the evidence available. As advised I am only able look at minor improvements to the signing and lining. My initial thought was that it is possible that the 30mph speed limit could be made more conspicuous in this area with an aim to reducing the speed of vehicles approaching the junction. I will have a look at this in the next few months and any works and update you. TrafficManagement@somerset.gov.uk
14. A361 - Protruding kerb - We also discussed the pinch points along A361 Whitstone Hill at the hedge and the kerb. I am aware of the issues and as discussed we will look at the option of introducing ‘dragons teeth’ road markings in this area to highlight to narrowness of the highway. I will draw up some proposals in the next few months and share the with the parish for your support. Again, with regard to timescales, these improvements will be implemented in the next financial year (After April 2020). Unfortunately I am unable to be more specific at this time however will update you once I have more information. TrafficManagement@somerset.gov.uk
15. The road edges in Neat Lane are getting worse. Ref: 6009526
16. There is 8-10 bags rubbish at the Burford Crossroads at the top of Stoodley, going west. There is more rubbish going towards East Compton on the right hand side and a huge amount of litter on both sides of the road on the A3136 at Lamberts Hill. Details have been forwarded to MDC
17. On the Copse Lane footpath the sign had snapped off. Forwarded to Rights of Way Team. RightsofWay@somerset.gov.uk
18. The footpath by the Ford, there is tarmac on the bridge and on one side, however the other side is mud. It was agree this was a safety hazard and needs tarmacking by Highways. Ref: 538295 This does not meet the safety defect criteria, therefore any works at this location will have to be put forward for consideration for inclusion in the future works programme. Unfortunately , the number of works requested far outweigh the available resources in any given period therefore all works have to be prioritised on an area wide basis with only the most deserving being successful in any given year. Therefore, we are unable to say if any bid will be successful or not.
19. Signs need repairing at the Top of Beard Hill which point to Bowermead Lane and Burford. Ref: 600122 Forwarded to TrafficManagement@somerset.gov.uk
20. Sign at the Whitstone Hill is not facing the correct direction. Ref 601474
21. There is a sunken drainhole cover on the A361 near Threlfalls, the noise that is made when cars go over it is causing a nuisance.
22. The road is eroding opposite Parsons Batch, the edge by the curb the road has sunken.
23. There is rubbish at the top of Lamberts Hill that is blowing into the road. Please forward to the relevant depart within MDC.
24. Perridge Hill going into Watery Lane, the road in breaking up.
25. The road is breaking up on John Beales Hill.
26. The road is subsiding at Parsons Batch.