**Meeting of the Pilton Parish Council**

**in Pilton Village Hall on**

**Wednesday 1st September 2021 at 7.30pm**

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

Audrey Brown

David Drew

Colin Elkin

Joe King

Roger Noble

Lynda Roberts

Andrew Shaw

1 **CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

i Mobile phones should be switched to silent.

2 **APOLOGIES:** Stephen Kearle

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS:** Councillor R Kearle (dispensation granted) declared an interest in the Glastonbury Festival. Councillor Drew stated that he has no interest currently in any planning application but may do so in the future.

* The Parish Council voted unanimously to reaffirm the granting of dispensation powers to the Clerk.

4. **MINUTES:** of the 4th August 2021 to be approved.

5. **MATTERS ARISING:**

i Traffic Matters:

* New Defects:

ii SIS Proposal TI004358 for the A361

* The Designer and Project Manager visited the site last month, plans and land requests have been sent to landowners. They have also asked Highways to look at the poor state of the road either side of Ridge Lane with a view to resurfacing. Michael Eavis has offered to release some land. It was unanimously agreed to approve the plans sent today.

The Clerk was asked to chase Andrew Nellist for another update.

iii Community Speedwatch; The Speed Enforcement Unit are using the data received from the Speedwatch Team to give special attention to Neat Lane/Shepton Mallet turning.

Speeding within Pilton is especially bad in Neat Lane, the bottom of Copse Hill, Top Street and Pylle Road by the Playing Fields.

iv Local Council Alliance: Suggests were requested from Councils of issues for a collective alliance.

The Clerk was asked to speak with SALC as to where we stand legally with any other Councils.

v Dog Poo Bins: Councillors Noble and King with provide the Clerk with a map of the location of the proposed poo bin in Neat Lane. The Clerk will then pass this onto Mendip District Council.

vi Broadband: Councillor R Kearle has received no update from Truspeed.

vii Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations: The Tithe Barn has been requested for the celebration day. Councillors need to seek permission to plant trees on the land suggested.

viii Village Recycling: A lady from the Co Op was going to contact Councillor R Kearle regarding recycling but Councillor Kearle has not received a call.

ix Parking at the Drew’s opposite the Chapel on Top Street: There is an issue with parking in Top Street which is affecting being able to visit the Chapel and the school bus being able to park to drop children off. The Clerk will write to Highways to advise them of this risk as to request they provide a solution.

x Strawberry Line and Active Travel: Kelly Knight is planning to attend a Parish Council meeting to discuss this. The question was asked ‘who would maintain the cycle path?’

xi Vegetation: IT was suggested that residents be approached verbally at first and a letter to follow. It was agreed that Councillors Noble and King proceed in whatever way they feel comfortable with. Councillor King will draft a letter to be sent to the Clerk.

xii Future Council Elections: It was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council would proceed with the cheapest method of holding an election. The Clerk with advise SALC.

xiii Update from Nigel Hewitt-Cooper: See Appendix A

6. **PLANNING:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Application Number | Proposal | Applicant & Location |
| 2021/0741/FUL | Change of use of the land to camping and caravan site and the formation of five pitches (Part Retrospective) | Shurmer  Spindlewood  Watery Lane  Pilton  Shepton Mallet |
| Pilton Parish Council Recommends: REFUSAL  Councillor Noble proposed Refusal, Councillor King seconded.  Four letters of objection were received  The vote was 3 in favour of refusal, 3 abstained. | | |
| 2021/1719/OTS | Outline planning permission with all matters reserved except access for the development of up to 125 dwellings/cycle access, landscaping, public open space, drainage attenuation and related infrastructure and engineering works. | Redrow Homes  Land to the South of Old Wells Road  Shepton Mallet |
| Pilton Parish Council Recommends: REFUSAL  Councillor Noble proposed refusal, Councillor Shaw seconded, the vote was 5 in favour of refusal, 1 against and 1 abstention.  The reasons for refusal were the phosphate levels on the moors for such big development.  The narrow lanes/roads are not good enough.  The layout is not sufficient for children and the ‘orchard’ only has 12 trees.  The flood risk/run off will end up in Croscombe. | | |

**ENFORCEMENT:**

i Update: Gough House Farm – Mendip District Council advised that the Parish Council did not need to be informed of the Planning. There is nothing further the Parish Council can do; this will be removed from the agenda next month.

There is a caravan in the orchard in Platterwell Lane, off A37 about ¼ mile in. The Clerk with report this.

7. **FINANCE:**

i Financial Statement:



ii Financial News/ Requests for Grants: There were no requests for grants this month.

8. **BURIAL GROUND**

i Maintenance reports: Two reports were received, both were fine.

ii Maintenance work: Councillor Drew needs to complete the work to the fence.

A working party will take place on Saturday 2nd November at 9am.

9. **FOOTPATHS**

i Weir Lane Footpath:

* Working party took place on Saturday 14th August, the ASBO’s joined Councillor’s laying the 5 tonne of scalping’s. The Parish Council are now awaiting a quote for the railings. Big thanks to the ASBO’s for their help.

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

i Roundabout report:

The next Pilton Village Litter Pick is taking place on Saturday 16th October at 9am, meeting at the Village Hall where equipment will be provided. Please come along and help keep the village looking clean and tidy.

If you spot any rubbish that has been fly tipped or you witness someone fly tipping please report it to Mendip District Council via this link:

<https://www.mendip.gov.uk/streetclean?formid=10982>

The Parish Council are aware of the problem of speeding particularly in Neat Lane, Copse Hill, Top Street and Pylle Road by the playing fields. Villagers are asked to slow down and consider others. If you see anyone speeding please take the registration number and report them to the police.

Villagers are invited to join the working party taking place to tidy the Burial Ground on Saturday 2nd November at 9am.

11. **GFEL**

**There will be no discussion relating to Festival events, including Worthy Farm Camping and the Equinox Event, this is due to a pending legal appeal.**

**NEXT MEETING:** Parish Council Meeting Wednesday 6th October 2021 at 7.30pm

**Meeting closed 8.23pm**

**Appendix A – Report from Nigel Hewitt-Cooper**

Coronavirus infection rates: As at 29th August the number of confirmed Covid cases in Somerset was 33,812 (up from 26,526 on 25th June) and the number of Covid-attributed deaths 811. The rate per 100,000 stands at 459.1 (206.9) for Somerset with Mendip at 358.2 (234.5), Sedgemoor at 673.0 (195.7), South Somerset 410.5 (214.4) and SW&T at 417.1 (187.0). The number of total deaths across the County is currently 11% below the 5-year average and the latest R-value for Somerset is between 0.9 and 1.2.

Infection rates in Somerset are now amongst the highest in England. It is therefore important even for those who have had both jabs to remember to observe Social Distancing and to Ventilate indoor areas at all times.

Somerset Coronavirus Support Helpline: A single phone number continues to be available for anyone in Somerset who needs Coronavirus-related support. 0300 790 6275, is open seven days a week from 8am to 6pm.

Vaccination programme roll-out: Somerset continues to have one of the highest vaccination rates in the country with the latest figures showing over 94.5% of the adult population having had one dose of vaccine and 84.6% having had both doses. Work continues to encourage further take up particularly amongst younger adults and a real focus on ensuring the second vaccine to this group.

Local Government Reorganisation: Following the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) decision to support the move to a single Unitary Council across Somerset work has now commenced to refine the transition and implementation programme. The four District Councils and Somerset County Council are working closely with MHCLG to implement the decision. A recent request from Government to look at a maximum of circa 85 Councillors on the new Council has also meant that a review of Divisional/Ward boundaries is now being undertaken. In addition, the impact of a May 2022 Unitary election on Town and Parish Councils who are not due to elect until 2023 is also under consideration with the views of these Councils being sought on the options available. It is expected that statutory orders will be laid before Parliament in the late Autumn and a vesting date of the new authority as April 2023.

Somerset Medal for Community Groups: Groups, teams and other volunteers will be presented with the Somerset Medal on Wednesday 15 September at Taunton Rugby Club after being recognised as some of Somerset’s many unsung coronavirus heroes. The Somerset Medal was launched by Somerset County Council to say a heartfelt thank-you to the best of the best. The first individual winners were announced on Somerset Day with a second round of nominations opened up to groups and teams.

£5,000 Rural Business Grants: Grants of up to £5,000 are now available to help businesses in rural parts of Somerset bounce back after the coronavirus pandemic. The grants (up to 80% of project costs) are available to assist service businesses in rural areas to help them move forward and become more sustainable. A business will need to provide 20% of their own match funding. The application process is open to Sole Traders providing rural services, Businesses providing rural services, Town and Parish Councils; Local Community led organisations operating on a not-for-profit basis and are legally constituted. The fund which is part of the wider £6m Somerset Recovery Fund will close at 5pm on 10 September 2021. Initial applications will be treated on a first come, first served basis but we will need time to check eligibility and respond. Details and application form can be found at [www.somerset.gov.uk/business-and-economy/somerset-recovery-fund](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/business-and-economy/somerset-recovery-fund)

Afghan refugees: Somerset County Council is committed to help a scheme to house Afghans who supported British military and to resettle interpreters and translators. People across Somerset have been stepping forward to help support Afghan refugees as the crisis being played out in the international spotlight deepens. The Council anticipates the Government will fund a number of places for refugees with strict rules on the types and locations of suitable accommodation. Anyone who would like to help in anyway should contact [resettlement@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:resettlement@somerset.gov.uk)

Carbon Reduction: Over half of street lighting in Somerset is now eco-friendly and playing an important role helping the county work towards its 2030 carbon neutral target. Somerset County Council’s Highway Lighting Team has started to reduce its carbon footprint in the past five years thanks to the installation of LED lanterns in 56 per cent of street lighting stock. The LED replacements have seen a reduction in the carbon produced per year, down from 9,522 tonnes in 2015/16 to 3,278 tonnes in 2020/21: a reduction of 6,244 tonnes of Co2 and resulting in a 31.75% energy saving equal to £950,00 per year.

Care leavers guaranteed interview scheme: As part of Somerset County Council’s commitment to support care leavers, the council has agreed to extend its Care Leaver Guaranteed Interview Scheme to anybody who was in care as a child, wherever that was, and whatever their age now. This means people who have been in the care of a Local Authority for a significant period before the age of 16 and apply for a job with Somerset County Council will be guaranteed a job interview – provided they meet the essential job criteria.

Recent Press releases:

Pop-up Covid vaccination clinics

Somerset campaign encourages residents and tourists to ‘think twice’ this summer

Notice of vacancy (following the sad death of County Councillor Alan Wedderkopp)

Covid-19 testing remains key as self-isolation rules change

£500,000 to boost re-start and recovery

Joint crackdown aims to put brakes on speeding motorists