

PILL & EASTON-IN-GORDANO PARISH COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Monday 27th January 2020 at 7.30pm at the Resource Centre

MINUTES

Present: Cllrs Kent, Langton, Adamson, Davey, Davies, Harrison, Hopkins, Ovel, Stanley, Wraith, Ward Cllr Ashton and Murray Stewart (ALPC)
Apologies: Cllrs Dawson, Rawlings & J Smart (Clerk)

The Chair suggested that agenda Items 8i, 10 and 11 relating to the budget, should be taken immediately after Item 4, and this was agreed.

1. Public Participation

Mr Roger Collins, Mr Martin Berry and Mr Stuart Tarr were present.

Martin Barry Re Metro West: Concerns relating to the content of the scope of works document (which were extremely difficult to navigate.) Items 1 & 1a: removal of ballast to be sited on Lodway Farm, with 3 options. How is the PC able to influence the choices: Concerns – the nature of the compound, the intention to allow access of HGVs through The Breaches with quite a high number of movements over 24 hours.

The Chair explained the PC's position in relation to MetroWest, but further discussion was deferred to Item 14. Martin Barry to send details of his concerns to Julie Smart.

2. Minutes of the last Parish Council Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 25th November 2019, previously circulated, were signed as a true record.

3. Declaration of Interests

None.

4. Ward Councillors' Reports

NA: reported on contact with the police to try to arrange more regular visits to the RC. They have agreed to attend for pre-advertised visits to the Resource Centre to hear public concerns, probably on a bi-monthly basis. On road surfaces, especially Oak Grove and The Breaches: several attempts at remediation to little effect, but Oak Grove had now been properly done; The Breaches was due to be done in stages over the next year or so.

DD had walked round with the Waste Manager today: agreement to clean out the 'bring site' and also the bins at Underbanks. There was a general sense that the collections were better. A369 Road surfacing: general mess up on the bus service; agreement to restore the cross-hatching at the junction at Markham but general sense of improvement.

5. Agenda item 8i: Report on Finance & Personnel Committee meeting

BL reported on key points from the meeting.

- a) Street light work had been mainly completed but about 10 lights remain on the current job list, and the concrete columns are still to be removed. All of this work to be funded from this year's budget.
- b) Development items were discussed but are reported on under the budget discussion below.
- c) The move of PC banking to Unity Trust Bank was proceeding.
- d) The cash book and bank reconciliation was found to be completely in order.

6. Budget

BL reported on the recommendations from F&PC, highlighting the following points:-

- The carry forward to next year was anticipated to be a good deal less than in recent years because of the expenditure on street lights; hence the budget will be more constrained than previously anticipated.
- F&PC recommended a 3.1% increase in the precept (being a £1.50 p.a. increase for a Band D property).
- The VAT refund would be higher because of the expenditure on street lights.
- A £1000 income for the Neighbourhood Plan reflects an agreement with Abbots Leigh PC to meet £1000 of the anticipated £3,000 budget to complete the plan.
- a conservative estimate of income of £6,000 from advertising in The Village Voice should be set against anticipated costs for publishing 12 x 16 page editions
- A 2.5% increase in salary costs is included.
- It was recommended that there should be increases in the grants towards the running costs of the Resource Centre (by £2,000 to £8,000), Youth Activities (by £2,000 to £18,000) and the Citizens' Advice Bureau (by £500 to £3,500)
- Costs of street lighting electricity and maintenance should be considerably reduced but firm data to base our estimates was unavailable: it was thought the figures in the budget would prove generous. £3,000 was allocated to complete the installation of LEDs in our street lights.
- £6,000 was allocated to enable the introduction of a 20mph speed limit: the new NSC policy had been approved and should be published soon. We would need to work with other local councils to share the cost of the Traffic Regulation order.
- £4,500 was allocated to much needed refurbishment of the changing rooms at The Chestnuts, and also £8,600 to the replacement of the playing field fence. This work would be undertaken in conjunction with a similar project at Lodway CC.
- The budget included an £8,000 contingency and transfers of £3,500 to each of the Reserve and Infrastructure Reserve Accounts (making these up to £8,500 and £11,500 respectively.)
- Nothing had been allocated to the provision of lights at the MUGA or the erection of road signs at Markham. In the former case, it had been determined that a solar PV/battery scheme was unfeasible and the costs of providing a cable appeared prohibitive; in the latter, it was agreed that should the Markham residents be prepared to meet a significant part of the cost, the PC would support the scheme from contingency. CH suggested that when the electrical work at the changing rooms was done, provision should be made to enable a cable connection to the MUGA should lights there be included in a future budget. This was agreed.

It was proposed by BO and seconded by SA that the budget recommendations be accepted. Passed unanimously.

7. Precept

It was proposed by PS and seconded by LD that the recommendation of a 3.1% increase in the precept be accepted. Passed unanimously.

8. Crime & Disorder

Apart from the very unhappy incident of stabbing (not involving locals to the best of our knowledge) there was little to report. It makes the importance of regular meetings with the police very evident.

9. Clerk's Report & Action Log

The Clerk's Action Log had been circulated, and nothing stood out as a concern.

10. Maintenance & Highways Issues

There was concern about Lodway Gardens potholes; DD was chasing for action on the Newsome Ave potholes; the damage to the verges at the cul-de-sac was dreadful – maybe a case for yellow lines to discourage parking (which causes e.g. the refuse lorries to go over the verges).

11. Reports from Committees & Working Groups

- i) Finance & Personnel Committee - See above.
- ii) Playing Fields & Open Spaces (including Footpaths) - No report.
- iii) Environment & Climate Change Emergency Working Group - The second report from the Group had been circulated. The recent event with fruit trees for sale and hazel whips for free was very successful with a very well attended planting event at Jenny's Meadow in the afternoon. The evening of 12th March to promote the Solar Streets scheme was going ahead.
- iv) Highways & Transport - The second meeting of the group was coming up; looking for new members but already quite a lot of interest and better representation; there was strong support for a 20mph speed limit.

12. Reports of meetings with outside bodies and other organisations

PS reported that the Friends of Watchhouse Hill Group continued to work well with a lot of enthusiasm.

13. Correspondence requiring action not covered elsewhere

Item deferred in the absence of the Clerk.

14. First Bus Consultation

DD reported that First Bus had no statutory responsibility to consult, so the fact they were taking it seriously was fortunate. The likely outcome appears to be a retained half-hourly service from Pill into Bristol, and an hourly service to Portishead. The service is unsubsidised. An express service from Portishead to Bristol was likely.

15. MetroWest Update

There was a lot of concern about the MetroWest proposals, especially for the Lodway Farm area.

All agreed to accept BO's offer to look through the documentation and create an abstract of issues that directly concern village. Also to invite Rob Harvey, who was to attend a meeting regarding environmental concerns to report to the next PC.

16. Neighbourhood Plan

MS reported that the process was coming to a climax, the process for finalising the draft plan was agreed and it should be ready to go to print and public consultation in mid-March. He pointed out the list of people/bodies that it was intended to be sent a copy and asked for comments. There would be a short executive summary circulated in the Village Voice/ The Link. The March issue of the Village Voice and Link would advertise the process from then on; there would be a simple way for people to provide comments about specific aspects of the plan in March/April; comments would be assessed and accounted for to go to NSC and then on to the Inspector, with a hope that the Inspector's report would be available in the early autumn. If all goes well we might have an accepted plan by the end of the year. Comments on the draft and/or summary were very welcome. DD pointed out that work on the new NSC Local Plan was proceeding quickly and gave cause for haste.

17. Meetings Calendar for 2020-2021

Not discussed. Agenda February 2020.

18. Accounts for Payment

<u>PAYEE</u>	<u>DETAILS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
E-on	Unmetered Electricity Supply DD 01/12/19 - 31/12/19	339.97
EDF Energy	Pavilion Electricity - January Direct Debit	24.00
EDF Energy	Spout & Steps - January Direct Debit	7.00
Onecom	Phone Bill - January Direct Debit	19.52
Survey Monkey	Online Neighbourhood Plan Survey 11/01/20 - 10/02/20 DD	99.00
Water2Business	Pavilion Water Services 05/06/19 - 04/12/19	88.95
GB Sport & Leisure	Play Equipment Inspections in December	120.00
Quay Digital	Village Voice Issue 3	787.00
Quay Digital	Village Voice Issue 4	624.00
Quay Digital	A5 Flyers - Tree Planting Event	38.00
Nigel Antolic	Village Voice distribution & volunteer Christmas gifts	255.75
K&E Property Maintenance	December Dog & Litter Bin Emptying & Brookside culvert	720.00
North Somerset Council	2 x Replacement stiles (gates) contribution	230.00
Arien Signs	Jenny's Meadow Interpretation Board & Precinct Map	1,174.80
Clerks & Councils Direct	Subscription renewal	12.00
Totol Cleaning	Pavilion Cleaning x 3 in December	108.00
Viking Direct	Stationery	64.69
J Smart	Salary	1,458.93
HMRC	PAYE	430.98
Bath & NE Somerset Council	Pension Contributions	491.22

TOTAL

£7,093.81

TW proposed approval of the accounts for payment, LD seconded. Agreed. **Action Clerk.**

19. Issues for future meetings

None.

Signed: _____

Date: _____