

PILL & EASTON-IN-GORDANO PARISH COUNCIL
VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL & COMMITTEES
Tuesday 14th July 2020 at 7.00pm

MINUTES

Present: Cllrs Kent, Langton, Adamson, Davies, Harrison, King, O'Reilly, Ovel, Rawlings, Stanley, Stone, Wraith & J Smart (Clerk)

Apologies: Cllr Dawson

1. Public Participation

Kelly Challis and Rachel Harvey were present to observe the meeting. PK welcomed all to the meeting.

2. Minutes of the last Parish Council Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 16th June 2020 (previously circulated) were signed as a true record. PK to provide Clerk with signed minutes when appropriate. **Action PK/Clerk.**

3. Declaration of Interests

None.

4. Crime & Disorder

Crime figures for May - Violent and sexual offences = 9, Anti-social behaviour = 4, Bicycle theft = 1, Other = 1. For further details go to <https://www.police.uk/your-area/avon-somerset-constabulary/redwood>. DD had spoken to Chief Police for North Somerset – higher crime figures had returned to pre-pandemic levels.

5. Action Log & Clerk's Report

The Clerk had circulated the Action Log.

Online Climate Action Planning Day – 30th July 9.30am for 10.00am to 4.15pm. BL asked if it had to be a Councillor. Clerk to check with ALCA.

Bridge Road Group - The Group had done a brilliant job of clearing the overgrowth at the cycle path. Clerk to ask Giles Morris (Allotment) regarding ordering wildflower seeds ask Giles regarding ordering for the allotments. PK would write a letter to thank the Group and TR would post on FB.

BO – three ash trees were dead in The Washing Pound. The Clerk had contacted James Monks to inspect.

Mr Harris's final car had been removed from St George's Hill.

6. Maintenance & Highways Issues

Nothing to report.

7. Neighbourhood Plan

MS had not joined the meeting. BL reported that the key thing was that consultation period had been extended until mid-September. MS was extremely keen that people do respond. In September there might be the possibility of one or two occasions when the plan can be on display again. Community Market at the end of September – MS had arranged to have a table. This stage of the consultation will end on 12th September, comments that come in after could still be taken in. Final documents will go to a steering group meeting in October, and submission to NSC in October. Following that, NSC had a consultation period of 6 weeks,

followed by a period with the Inspector. Then there would be a referendum. DD – the first time there could be a referendum would be May next year. MS had written to Liam Fox to request his support. TO had also been engaging with MS regarding online responses.

BL – could Councillors encourage their friends and neighbours to comment. **Action ALL.**

MS had joined the meeting at 20:00. MS would liaise with Jo Smith about an insert in the Village Voice and would arrange a drop-in at the Resource Centre in September.

8. M5 Junction 19 Update

DD reported on this. Going ahead as planned, road closure notice had been put on FB today. The issue would be that HE was doing it in association with the gas board to move the gas pipe, so a little bit in their hands as to how quickly or not the work is completed. Had a conversation with HE a couple of weeks ago, although this work was being done on J19, they were thinking of how J19 could be improved in years to come. This change could be the last for at least five years, and no funding had been earmarked for any further changes.

9. MetroWest Update

No response had been received to the PC letter from MetroWest. Statement of Common Ground – invited to put forward comments on the DCO relating to the new passenger line, which the PC did, but not in great detail. Register an intention to make comments on various areas. Waiting for details of when the inspectors would start their review of all of these, and no date had been forthcoming. Subsequently received an email that asked the PC to sign up to Statement of Common Ground, was not aware that we were at that stage in the proceedings. After the last PC meeting, PK wrote an email asking for more details of where they thought we had common ground. Until a response to this was received, we could not move forward. Either wait or send a reminder. The Clerk had met with James Wilcox of MetroWest – still working from home, but aware a response was needed.

10. A369 Footbridge

TO – during lockdown, the main road had been noticeably quiet, which had encouraged people to take walks in the fields at EIG and Failand. Now traffic was building back up, and this was a very unsafe place to cross. How do you go about getting something like a footbridge to open this area up? DD this would start with NSC and would be based on the level of risk (accidents or reports of accidents), demonstrate the number of people crossing. Looking at a cost of about £250k. Would have to be DDA and very high to accommodate lorries. Also, a problem as it was in the Green Belt. BO – what about a pedestrian crossing. DD – issue then is that it is such a fast road, which would involve extra cost. BO – reduce speed limit from 50mph to 40mph. Write to the Executive Member – think it is dangerous with amount of pedestrian traffic that cross the road. Tie it in with the problem with the Flower Bank, as they currently cannot work there as it is a 50mph road. TO would contact DD about this. Bring a motion to the next PC meeting. BL suggested TO contacted Bob Buck (St George's Flower Bank). **Action TO.**

11. Recruiting New Councillors

TO did not know whether there was a process in place, and if not try to build it out a bit more. If Councillors leave, have a chat with them, when people join give them a little more mentoring. People are prepared to give up their time it would be good to help them along. PK – there was nothing formalised at present. Would be good to find out what could make it easier for new Councillors. TO would write something up and circulate it. KS – one of the issues is that people do not fully understand how things work. Zoom makes it more flexible and people could build it around their jobs. How it is packaged and explained is essential. **Action TO.**

12. The Village Voice

There was a deadline of 31st July for the next paper, which would come out in mid-August, to cover up to the end of September. Monthly issues would pick up in October. PK would be good idea to put this on the PC website and in the Resource Centre (check with Jo first). **Action Clerk.**

13. Meeting with Crockerne Primary School

PK, BL, TO & CO had a Zoom meeting with Lara Furmidge of Crockerne Primary School (minutes had been circulated). CO try to identify areas of what help might be. CO issues in September would be support from the community with volunteers for marshalling at start and close of the day, support with reading activities, and one or two other things. Put together a basic Survey Monkey that can send out through social media, asking the local community to fill in times they could do, and what they would be able to do. Take this information and help the school plan the activities. Would now run it by the school to make sure they were happy with it, then get it out to local residents.

PK – contingency fund could be used for Portalooos at the school. BL – had already allocated this funding for Covid-19, some of which would be used to support the Foodbank, but this had not been needed. Make that money available to the school. The school had been asked to cost up Portalooos and get back to the PC. Most items of our budget were underspending at the moment, so contingency was not particularly threatened. PK wondered what people thought of this initiative. Kelly Challis – would volunteering not add bodies into overcrowded space. Would funding E-Reading be preferable to taking extra people into schools. Perhaps provide E-Readers to pupils. CO – the school was already using these, and they had been really useful. Kindles would be a good idea. CH asked why portalooos, as thought they were very unhygienic. KC advised they had them at St Mary’s and they were really good. CH thought that come September distancing would be less than 1m. Need to keep school bubble. The School was currently planning for the near future and the PC was just providing a database of people who could help. PK – asked if CO had PC support to go ahead with the scheme. All agreed. **Action CO.**

14. School Streets

DD reported there were two ‘School Streets’ in Bristol, where no cars were permitted (apart from residents) between school start and finishing times. Suggested between Anchor Way and Cross Lanes for Crockerne Primary. SA asked how this could be enforced. DD advised there would be a legal restriction on vehicles going in and out. BL thought it would be a good idea to approach the school first. PK asked would a way forward be to see if Crockerne School would support the PC’s idea. If that were the case, then the PC would put this forward to NSC. PK would draft a letter to the school for approval. **Action PK.**

15. Fairtrade

BL had circulated an email. Nestle had used Fairtrade chocolate in KitKats for many years. Now saying that they are going to stop the Fairtrade association. The company had been quite shocked about the volume of negative comments they had received due to this decision. Glastonbury TC had written to Nestle, and BL suggested that we as a Fairtrade village should send a similar letter on behalf of the PC. The other scheme Nestle would use the Rainforest Alliance. BL would use some of the content of the Glastonbury TC and together with SA would produce a letter. All in favour. **Action BL/SA.**

16. Environment – Climate Change Group

- i. Brookside - BL adopted Hannah Price’s plan Biodiversity and Carbon Capture Group a few months ago. Now needed to consult with local residents, then asking people more widely in the village. A questionnaire had been put together. BL would ensure the group talked to the fire service about the plans and would adapt to any concerns that they may have. CH – most of the houses were on Crockerne Drive and Davin Crescent. TO – appreciated everybody’s involvement and really exciting to see it moving forward. All agreed to circulate the letters to the immediate residents.
- ii. Tree planting and rewilding - BL had sent round an outline set of ideas for how we might use some of the areas in the village for tree planting and wildflower coverage. A lot of the land concerned is NSC land and at Eden Park managed by Hartnell Taylor Cook. Would like to work with Sam Phillips of NSC. Hope to be able to work with a greater level of ambition from a local perspective. Asking that the PC write a letter to NSC to promote the ideas and to commit to work with NSC, and to commit funding for tree planting etc. There would be a need for consultation with local residents. Write to Sam Phillips, John Flanagan. All agreed. BL would work with Hannah to produce a letter. **Action BL.**

17. Reports of meetings with outside bodies and other organisations

Finance & Personnel Committee meeting minutes had been circulated to all.

18. Accounts for Payment

The Clerk would leave until later in the month. **Action Clerk.**

19. Ward Councillor Reports (including Coronavirus update)

DD reported that the main problem currently was local government funding issues. Inability of people to pay their Council Tax, so NSC would not have the income. NSC had been working to try to reduce the £20m gap. NSC would be making in year cuts unless central government comes up with more money. NSC's position was worse than others. In September they would need to produce another budget, and more cuts would follow next year.

BL asked if there was any way that we could get any indication of how this would affect the Parish Council budget. DD suggested the PC should ask NALC or ALCA for what their view was on how it would affect Parish Councils. **Action Clerk.**

20. Issues for future meetings

DD suggested we do hold an August meeting. Monday 17th August 2020.

21. Planning Committee Meeting

17 St George's Hill application – (Rock Cottages) involve closing up the entrance to the adjacent property and building an extension at the back. No parking on street. No vehicle access from the front. Trackway comes off Rectory Road to a garage, so this could be a way in. If not, this will cause a big problem. Anna Hayes was the NSC Planning Officer, and the PC should contact her to relay its concerns. **Action Clerk.**

DD – Clerk to request a to see a copy of the Construction Management Scheme. Anna – please ensure this is not a cut and paste version that you can get off the internet. Needs to be relevant to this property and its surroundings. Bus route could be impacted by construction that could go on for months. Copy Nigel Ashton into this – say the PC is extremely concerned and please could he get back with his own views. **Action Clerk.**