

**PILL & EASTON-IN-GORDANO PARISH COUNCIL**  
**VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL & COMMITTEES**  
**Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021 at 7.00pm**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Cllrs Kent, Langton, Adamson, C Davies, D Davies, Harvey, Hopkins, King, Ovel, Stanley, Wraith, Cllr Stewart (ALPC) & J Smart (Clerk)

**Apologies:** Cllrs Challis, Dawson, O'Reilly & Rawlings

1. Public Participation

Mr Stuart Tarr was present.

2. Minutes of the last Parish Council Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021, previously circulated, were signed as a true copy. Proposed acceptance by PS and seconded by SA. PK to provide Clerk with signed copy as soon as convenient. **Action PK.**

3. Declaration of Interests

None.

4. Neighbourhood Plan Update (Cllr Stewart - ALPC)

There was little to report. The consultation period was now over, and the documents would be combined into a single document and go on to the Examiner. The appointed External Examiner had to withdraw for personal reasons. NSC had now suggested an alternative, and MS had forwarded his information to members. MS asked for confirmation so he could instruct NSC to go ahead. The new Examiner could start promptly and finish in six weeks. Likely to end in late May. NSC was responsible for the cost of the NP. Recommendation to proceed with new Examiner. ALL AGREED. ALPC had also agreed to move forward in the same way. **Action MS.**

5. NSC Local Plan 2038 (Cllr Stewart - ALPC)

MS had circulated a note on this and attended an NSC meeting on it. He had set out a range of issues in his circulated note. Nothing surprising, but interesting that quite a lot of the issues the PCs had wanted to see addressed on the NP are also amongst the things for consideration in the NSC Local Plan.

PK thanked MS for attending.

6. Approval of Budget 2021-2022 Update (Cllr Langton)

The Clerk had circulated a revised budget to all members. There had been an increase in the Community Forum grant from £1,000 to £2,000. There was also now a separate budget line for the remaining period of the portaloos at Crockerne School. The contingency had now reduced to approx. £6.5k. The Clerk was resolving a paid VAT problem with the school. BL

recommended approval of the budget for 2021-2022, proposed TW, seconded DD. Agreed. PK thanked BL for his work on this.

BL requested an item to discuss kerbside weeds was put on the agenda for the April meeting. He asked that in the next Village Voice, the PC thank residents who had been weeding along the sea defence wall Underbanks and Marine Parade. **Action PK.**

7. Metro West Update (Cllr Ovel)

SA wanted to thank BO for sitting through all the hearings, and for the summary. BO was disappointed that MetroWest were not able to give any information on the HGV traffic through the village at this point. He advised that the contract had not yet been let, and the traffic management plan was in the hands of the contractor. The contract would not be put out to tender for some time. The contract would be awarded to successful contractor in January 2022, this was when the traffic management plan would be looked at. PK thanked BO.

BL asked BO if there would be a final consultation stage following the design. BO did not know. Metro West would be able to tell us if we would have another opportunity to comment.

8. 20mph Restrictions and 20's Plenty Scheme (Cllrs Langton & Adamson)

BL and SA had attended this zoom meeting, and BL had circulated his notes to members. The critical points were that National Policy and NSC Policy were not the same, and the PC may want to raise this with NSC. 20mph limits were proving to be effective. They do change behaviour, and compliance increases with time. Education of the public was paramount prior to the implementation of any scheme. Doing it on a village wide basis, would make it more cost effective than doing it street by street. There were no necessary design and installation costs for traffic calming. TW had also attended, and added their approach was to set the default limit at 20mph rather than 30mph, and the group was trying to push NSC Policy to the same. It was not necessarily a good idea to follow the 20's Plenty Scheme approach. PS – this was an important initiative for the village. A highways group needed to focus on this and the communication side. DD – NSC was already part of the scheme, and if the policy were relaunched, the current plans for Pill & EIG would have to be stopped and would take another five years. He suggested that the PC continues to support current NSC Policy and get the work done, as planned. SA – was the concern the requirement for traffic calming measures, which would come with a cost? BL concurred with the view that the PC works with NSC and push through with what the current plan. All agreed to continue with the NSC Policy.

9. Hinkley Connection Project & Mud Dredging

PK had written a letter regarding the plans for mud dredging to Alexander Gray of National Grid, who had offered to attend a meeting. DD had also been pursuing this through NSC. Devon & Somerset Inshore Fishing had become involved, and the proposals would have to come to a public inquiry. All thought a meeting would be useful, but BL was concerned that the PC would not have the expertise to challenge them. Someone with the relevant expertise would be required, which would probably be at considerable costs. GH reported on an organisation in Wales who were opposing similar proposals in Cardiff Bay ([geigerbay.com](http://geigerbay.com)). There was a high level of information on their website. GH agreed to make contact. RH suggested approaching Bristol University who would be interested parties. She would talk to Rob Harvey, who had connections with the University. SA reported that around 2017 mud was dumped in Cardiff Bay, which was analysed by Bristol University. TW suggested that the

consultation cut-off date was 26<sup>th</sup> March. PK would write a response to attempt to hold the consultation date. **Action PK.**

BL suggested this was an extremely limited consultation period for such a serious environmental issue. Given the likely complexity of submissions, the PC would need to gather the relevant expertise to understand what was involved. PK would contact Alexander Gray, stating that given its current state of knowledge the PC opposed the plan. **Action PK.**

10. SevernNet Skills Connect (Cllr Davies)

DD had been involved with SevernNet for a while. SevernNet was trying to generate funding to look at skills and jobs in the area, on both sides of the river and would like the support of the PC. All agreed.

11. Website Development (Cllr Hopkins)

GH reported there had been a successful FB boosting to promote the website for instructions to explain how to submit comments on the NP, which had generated a large number of visitors (400 clicks through to the website). Photo competition went well (250 votes). Instagram and Twitter account had been set up for the Parish Council. PK thanked GH for his work on the website.

12. Crime & Disorder (All)

The Clerk reported that the police.uk website crime figures had still not been updated since January 2021.

13. Maintenance & Highways Issues (All)

The Clerk reported that the NSC spray patcher was due to repair the road surface at St George's Hill, Priory Road and Lodway this week, but this would depend on the weather.

DD reported that Happerton Lane due to be repaired.

Zig zag lines on Ham Green Hill - DD was trying to get these repainted.

Water seepage onto road at Cross Lanes (large pond on other side of the hedge), causing damage to road (could also collapse bank).

14. Action Log & Clerk's Report

Prior to the start of the meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> April, the National Grid would be presenting its plans for the Hinkley Point C Connection Project that will take place in the Parish. This would take about 20 minutes, followed by a Q&A session.

Complaints had been received from residents of Orchard Lea, who were concerned about overgrown hedges from the rear of the Pond Head Court properties. This had been previously researched, and there was no management committee set up when the properties were sold. DD suggested contacting NSC before the PC agreed to do anything else.

The Clerk had asked NSC what its weeding policy was for the forthcoming year. Waiting for a response from Ian Price.

Had again requested BPC cut back the overgrown brambles on Bridge Road. Anne Hayes agreed to get the maintenance team to follow up.

Permission for Councils to hold virtual Meetings was due end on 6<sup>th</sup> May, although many Councils had complained to the Government, requesting the permission be extended indefinitely.

NSC would be installing additional wooden posts and drop down bollards on the Green at Macrae Road, as the open space was not secure.

Football training and matches would be starting again over the Easter weekend. The Clerk had received a complaint about parking on Macrae Road whilst matches were taking place, as it caused the road to turn into a single lane, with a blind bend. The complainant had asked if more parking space could be made available in the field. Clerk to contact Jason Parkhouse.

Upper Myrtle Hill (Old Post Office lane) would be closed from 26<sup>th</sup> April for 3 days, due to Bristol Water lead replacement works.

15. Working Group Reports/Updates

i. Highways (Cllr Stanley)

Following the siting of the new traffic calming signs and planters in Westward Drive, there had been quite a bit of interesting discussion regarding access.

Recent cycle path meetings were being progressed, and there would be a firm proposal at the next full meeting. PS had drafted a letter to Portishead Town Council of an outline proposal.

RH had circulated the minutes. Suggested linking up with the Highways Group, so not overlapping. Certain things may overlap with footpath group, so would liaise. The Clerk advised that historically there had always been one Highways & Transport Group, not separate groups.

There had been discussion about the barriers on shared path on Watchhouse Hill and Bridge Road, and whether they could be changed to bollards, as they were preventing wheelchair users, buggies etc, from accessing the areas. There had been a few near misses with cyclists coming down the hill too fast, and PK asked if there could be better signage, and perhaps a public awareness campaign.

ii. Environment & Climate Change (Cllr Langton)

Food Group – Needed to agree a name for the Community Fridge – The Pill Community Fridge had been suggested. PK suggested ‘Village’ fridge may be better. BL would talk to Louise Osborne about this. The recent free food table in the precinct had been a great success.

iii. Footpaths & Rights of Way (Cllr C Davies) - A few things were still progressing. The trailer on the footpath adjacent to the river had now been cleared so there was access all around. BPC had been unable to move the trailer. There were a couple of paths in the village that were not on the definitive map and would have to be applied for. If anyone had an old OS map this would be really useful. Hardwick Road to Oak Grove. Path on bank behind houses on Avon Road. **Action CH.** Feel free to email CD with any issues on footpaths.

16. Reports of meetings with outside bodies and other organisations (All)

None.

17. Accounts for Payment – Authorisation of March Payments (Clerk)

<u>PAYEE</u>	<u>DETAILS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
E-on	Public Lighting Electricity Supply DD 01/02/21 - 28/02/21	194.11
EDF Energy	Football Club Changing Rooms Electricity - March DD	1.00
EDF Energy	Spout & Steps Electricity - Feb/March Direct Debit	8.00
EDF Energy	Spout & Steps Electricity - March Direct Debit	8.00
Onecom	Phone Bill - March Direct Debit	18.92
Graham Hopkins	Website/Facebook Boost Expenses	67.34
King Tree Services	Removal of dead trees at the Washing Pound	320.00
Kaleidoscope Trust	Portaloos 29/01/21 - 26/02/21 & 27/02/21 - 31/03/21	2,000.00
GB Sport & Leisure	Play Equipment Inspections - Dec/Jan/Feb/March	456.00
K&E Property Maintenance	Dog & Litter Bin Emptying - February & Clear Brookside	770.00
Konica Minolta	Photocopier Copies 16/12/20 - 15/03/21	12.40
JRB Enterprise	Dog Bags	157.20
Bristol Port Company	Annual Rent of 20 acres at Longshore	1.20
AMS Electrical	Electrical Remedial Works at Ham Green Changing Rooms	2,102.88
Graham Hopkins	Facebook Neighbourhood Plan Consultation Expenses	40.00
Debra Cave	Brookside Rewilding Expenses	67.84
J Smart	Expenses	159.49
J Smart	Salary	1,601.18
HMRC	Tax & NIC Contributions	517.82
Bath & NE Somerset Council	Pension Contributions - March 2021	572.70

**TOTAL**

**£9,076.08**

CD proposed acceptance of the Accounts for Payment for March, BL seconded. Agreed.  
**Action Clerk.**

18. Ward Councillor Reports

Included above.

19. Issues for future meetings (All)

Nothing further than included above.

20. Planning Committee Meeting (Trevor Wraith)

See attached.

Signed: .....

Date: .....

DRAFT