

PILLERTON HERSEY PARISH COUNCIL  
Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting

7:30 pm, Thursday 9 September 2021

**Present**

Cllr. Richard Scott, Chair (RS)  
Cllr. William Forsyth (WF)  
Cllr. Alec Hitchman (AH)

**In attendance**

Alana Collis, Clerk to the Council (AC)

**Absent**

None

**Apologies**

Cllr. Isobel Seccombe, WCC

**Public**

Two members

Cllr. Penny-Anne O'Donnell, SDC (from 20:00)

*The meeting commenced at 7:52 pm*

1. Apologies

Cllr. Izzi Seccombe sent her apologies.

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr. Hitchman declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 8a-l

3. Dispensations

None

4. Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting of the ordinary meeting of the parish council held on 22/06/2021 as an accurate record of the meeting.

5. Matters Arising

Oxhill Bridle Road land sale and new field entrance.

The Clerk had been in conversation with Warwickshire County Council with regards a letter approving the new site entrance (obtained from agent). Conditions were mentioned but no detail was provided. The query has been forwarded to the Locality officer, but no response received as yet. The Clerk will follow up with Highways to get the relevant information. It was agreed to write to the agent to highlight concerns of flooding and ask that the correspondence is passed to the buyer. The Clerk will also update Mr Simon Emery.

Water pressure and water quality

There have been occasional concerns about water pressure and water quality. To be able to demonstrate the issue, it was agreed that evidence of frequency and issues needs to be collected and shared with Severn Trent Water. The Clerk will share information with residents asking them to inform the Parish Council of issues when they arise. Information will be collated and monitored.

Footpath between Pillerton Hersey and Pillerton Priors

The Clerk had been in contact with Pillerton Priors parish council regarding the footpath and a combined effort to reinstate the surface. This will be discussed at their next meeting.

6. Public Forum

Footpath:

A question was raised whether the Parish Council could mow the path alongside the road. It was noted that Cllr. Seccombe had previously mentioned that she would ask that it was added to the Warwickshire mowing schedule. The parish council does not own the land.

#### Website

It was noted that some documents were not on the website. The Chair, Cllr. Scott noted that the hosting company ceased trading, and this had been passed to another company who had transferred the site to a new host with no notice to the council. When this happened, all online documents had been lost. Cllr Scott is trying to recover these documents and the Clerk will work to repopulate the site with content.

#### Road safety

My Ian Brooks raised concern with regards the current road safety consultation. There is a lack of coordinated action. Company/business traffic accounts for the majority of road use and there is an opportunity for Warwickshire County Council (WCC) to advocate good practice and encourage wider safety practice. For example, WCC could contact companies and ask companies (e.g. hauliers) to adopt the Fleet Operator Recognition Scheme (FORS). This is "a voluntary accreditation scheme for fleet operators which aims to raise the level of quality within fleet operations, and to demonstrate which operators are achieving exemplary levels of best practice in safety, efficiency, and environmental protection." WCC could lead by example and ask all their contractors to sign up to this.

Road safety is not just about excessive and inappropriate speed but also poor awareness. For example, in the village, large vehicles have been seen stopped in places where they are blocking access and/or visibility (for example on a blind bend).

*Cllr. Penny-Anne O'Donnell arrived at 8:20 pm. It was agreed to address item 12 on the agenda at this stage.*

## 12. County, District and Parish Liaison

Cllr O'Donnell informed the meeting that there is still a lot of discussion ongoing with regards the proposed merger of SDC and WDC. Residents and the Parish Council are urged to respond to the consultation.

With regards to planning enforcement, at the most recent budget approval, the budget for planning enforcement was cut. It is not a statutory service. It is therefore important to manage expectations.

With regards planning matters, it has been observed that there have been a lot of solar farm planning applications and there is concern that there is a cost in terms of the loss of agricultural land.

Other matters include that SDC and WDC are merging their legal teams. SDC has given its full support to the domestic abuse act and there is work to provide autism friendly sessions at local leisure centres.

Cllr. Hitchman reflected that at the last meeting, the parish council was asked to look at planning enforcement and the policy was not written in a way that built confidence in the system. It was phrased as being discretionary (would be more appropriate to be mandatory) and it would be sensible for parish councils to be involved in the concern and enforcement issues. As an example, if an enforcement issue is raised, currently the system is that the District Councillor is informed but not the parish council. It would be beneficial if the parish council were aware too. Cllr. O'Donnell agreed this was a sensible idea.

Cllr Hitchman raised a few questions regarding the proposed SDW and WDC merger. Currently SDC has 36 wards with a proposal to increase to 41. However, WDC has 44 wards. Does this mean that the SDC area could effectively be overruled by WDC interests? Is it fair that councillors would be

reduced in number? In addition, Cllr Hitchman noted that the costs should be equal. Currently SDC is approximately £27/year cheaper (based on Band D properties) than WDC. Does this mean that the council tax for SDC residents would increase? Cllr O'Donnell responded that there should be equal democracy. In terms of managing cost, there has already been a reduction in staff and a recruitment freeze. It is agreed that the SDC social housing system would be adopted. Cllr. O'Donnell stressed that in response to consultation, attention to detail is essential, there is likely to be a more significant impact on rural communities because the housing is, on average, more expensive.

Cllr. Scott asked if the Council had a plan for retraining and reskilling staff that would be made redundant as part of the merger process.

## 7. Co-option of new Councillors

No prospective councillors were able to attend the meeting. Cllrs. agreed to continue building conversation with residents who may be interested in joining the parish council.

## 8. Planning Matters

### a. Planning applications received

- i. [21/02642/FUL](#) – 3 Bunkers Hill Pillerton Hersey Warwick CV35 0QH  
There were no immediate concerns expressed by the Councillors but it was agreed that this should be checked and confirmed by the Councillors in writing to the Clerk before the deadline.
- ii. [21/02595/TREE](#) – Nyumbani Warwick Road Pillerton Hersey CV35 0QJ  
It was noted that a delegated response of no representation had been submitted by the Clerk but a comment had been provided about the importance of promoting biodiversity.
- iii. [21/02772/TREE](#) – Appleyards Oxhill Bridle Road Pillerton Hersey CV35 0QB  
It was **RESOLVED** to make no representation on this application but to provide a comment on the importance of promoting biodiversity.

### b. Planning decisions

- i. [21/01569/FUL](#) – Easterclose Oxhill Bridle Road Pillerton Hersey Warwick CV35 0QB  
It was noted that this planning application had been granted with conditions.

## 9. Parish Council and Community activity

To discuss future business plan and community activity

### a. Community speed watch

After interest from residents at the annual assembly, there had been little to take this further due to the pandemic halting training. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact volunteers and aim to establish a task group. Volunteers would be asked if they were still interested in this. It was agreed someone would be needed to coordinate the activity and the group would need support to get going.

It was agreed that the Clerk would email the Speedwatch to find out about training and follow up with neighbouring parish councils, regarding working together.

The Clerk had not yet had chance to write to local automotive industry in the area to highlight that camouflaged vehicles are seen driving through the village and not always adhering to the speed limit or driving appropriately. This action would be carried out. It was agreed that the Clerk would also write to the owners of Forsyths Farm and Tubbs End to ask that they encourage HGVs that go to their farms to consider their road use – in terms of speed but also

to not to stop in ill-considered locations that can present a danger to others e.g. on blind bends.

b. Environment – climate action and biodiversity

QAs with the Speedwatch group, after interest from residents at the annual assembly, there had been little to take this further due to the pandemic. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact volunteers and aim to establish a task group. Volunteers would be asked if they were still interested in this. It was agreed someone would be needed to coordinate the activity and the group would need support to get going.

## 10. The village environment

a. Review of brook and ditch clearance

Cllr. Forsyth indicated that he would look at the brook by the footbridge to assess what clearance may be needed and also the ditch along the road leading into the village.

b. Request to access village green

A request had been received to use the village green to temporarily store some trees after they had been felled in some tree management works. Due to the size of the trees, they would be difficult to chip. Cllr. Forsyth had offered the use of his field, but the tree surgeons had indicated that the proximity to the road was unsafe. The suggestion offered was that the trees would be cut into lengths suitable to store on the village green and then a few days later, a chipper would be brought to remove them.

There was some concern about the precedent this could set and also whether the culvert under the village green may be strong enough to withstand any heavy machinery and trees. One option proposed was that the trees could be removed by Garth House and then taken through the fields of Home Farm. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact WCC Highways with regards the culvert under the village green and Cllr. Scott would provide feedback to the residents carrying out the tree work around their property.

## 11. Consultations

- i. Gambling Act 2005 – Review of Statement of Gambling Policy, Stratford District Council  
Councillors agreed they had no issues with the policy, and it was RESOLVED to make no response.
- ii. Public Consultation on a new Warwickshire Road Safety 'Strategy to 2030'  
It was agreed that a strategy should take an evidence-based approach however, the strategy document omitted consideration of responsibility. Cycle safety is a significant issue, with the crucial element being whether people perceive it is safe to use the roads e.g. to cycle to school. There was a missed opportunity to consider good practice and company initiatives. It was agreed that work needs to be done to survey residents and whether they feel safe on the road.
- iii. Warwickshire Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP)  
All Councillors agreed they would review and responds to the survey questions.

## 13. Finance

- i. To receive monthly financial report  
The monthly financial report was received and accepted
- ii. To receive bank reconciliation report  
The bank reconciliation report was received and accepted.

- iii. To approve accounts for payment  
It was RESOLVED to pay the invoice to T Gill for his services as internal auditor
- iv. Internal Audit Report 2020/21  
Receipt and acceptance of the internal auditor's report was noted.

#### 14. Council documents, policies and procedures

- i. Emergency Plan  
It was agreed that an edited version of the emergency plan would be useful to promote awareness to the community. This would have confidential information removed. Cllr. were asked to review the draft document and complete it where there were gaps.

#### 15. Reports and Questions

It was agreed that an extraordinary meeting would be held in October to include co-option of new councillors. The agenda would also include discussion on the proposed SDC and WDC merger and the consultation draft recommendations for ward boundaries in Stratford-on-Avon.

It was briefly discussed that the parish council had been contacted by Butlers Marston PC regarding concerns over sewage treatment. They had proposed a working group with a councillor from BMPC, PHPC and PPPC. It was agreed that Cllr Scott would be part of this group to start and then would hand over to Cllr. Hitchman.

#### 16. Exclusion of Public & Press

Confidential matters, including those identified during the meeting, to be discussed here following a resolution to exclude the public under Sec 100A of the Local Government Act 1972.

#### 17. Confirmation of future meetings

An extraordinary meeting of the parish council would be held at 7:00 pm on Thursday 21 October.

The next ordinary meeting of the parish council will take place at 7:30 pm on Thursday, 18 November at the Church.

*The meeting closed at 21:54.*

Signed:

Date:

Chair