

DRAFT

Pillerton Hersey Parish Council

Parish Council Meeting

7.30pm Wednesday 15th February 2017 in Pillerton Priors Village Hall

Present:

Sian Case (SC)
Clive Fidler (CF)
Nigel Walker (NW)
Alec Hitchman (AH)
Philip Seccombe (PS)
Izzi Seccombe (IS)

1. Welcome, Apologies, Declarations of Interest

Apologies were received and accepted from Sara Cichocka and Zbig Chichoki.

Six parishioners were in attendance.

No new declarations of interest were raised.

2. Approval of minutes of last meeting

Minutes were approved, and signed by SC as Chair.

3. Questions or Representations from the Public

No items, other than those already covered in the agenda, were raised.

4. Matters arising

Crime Prevention Marking

The Crime Prevention Pack has been received from the local Crime Prevention Coordinator and the proposal to hold a public session, in the Church, for the marking of goods has been discussed and agreed with the Friends of St. Mary's. Saturday 22nd April has proposed as a suitable date, time to be confirmed. Donations to the Friends of St Mary's at the event would be welcomed.

Flooding Update

CF provided an update on the Flooding Prevention measures. There has been good progress since the last meeting and work is scheduled to commence on the 1st March 2017 to install a new 600mm culvert under the road adjacent to Watery Lane to route excess water into the stream. It is also proposed to upgrade the 100mm culvert under the track adjacent to the Village Green to 300mm to further mitigate the risk of flooding. The work is likely to take 1 week. 2 weeks' notice of the commencement of work will be served. The team effort of all involved in the numerous discussions about this issue was recognised.

The council have responded to the question raised about the silt build up under the bridge adjacent to Flaxlands by saying this was surveyed in 2016 and any new survey would require the use of divers given the confined space under the bridge. Discussions are ongoing.

Pillerton Hersey Ford

The maintenance of the Pillerton Hersey ford was discussed. There is an ongoing debate as to the merits of remaking the base of the ford however this was recognised as a Highway Agency issue and is therefore the responsibility of the County Council. No further action to lobby for the repair of the base of the ford was proposed at this time, however it was agreed that the signage approaching the ford could be much improved.

Road Signs

The discussions regarding the improvement of traffic signs in the village have not resulted in any action to date; this is not regarded as a priority spend item for the County Council and hence any investment in new illuminated signs would have to be funded by the Parish Council. IS committed to raising the issue with the Council.

Action: IS

5. Broadband Improvement

The current availability of effective broadband in the village was discussed, as were the specific problems faced over the Christmas period by some BT customers.

The potential to leverage the BT Community Fibre Partnership was discussed, however this would not be suitable given BT's commitment to enhance the availability of broadband in the village in a future phase of work scheduled to start in Jan-Mar 2018. This potentially could result in the installation of a new cabinet and fibre in the village.

Two private community broadband solutions were discussed.

AH presented information on a solution provided by Wurzel Ltd. on behalf of Mr. Simon Evans, a resident of the village who was unable to attend. Installation per household would be c. £450 with a monthly charge of £35 PCM for 10Mbps with a 1:20 contention ratio; £50 PCM for 20Mbps and £100 PCM for 50 Mbps.

A resident in the village, Mr Richard Scott, also presented a proposal for a private community solution. Mr Scott's company would fund the installation of a 1Gbps line-of-sight microwave link between the BT exchange in Kineton and a small antenna located in the village from where the signal would be radiated to households within a 5 km radius. Each house would require a small rooftop antenna.

The expected download speed from this solution would be 150 Mbps. Mr Scott's company would make the upfront investment in the shared infrastructure and look to recoup the investment through a monthly charge per household of c. £15 plus the ISP charge (discussions on wholesale rates for the broadband capacity are ongoing). This is based on approximately 30 households committing to a one year contract. Mr Scott proposed to send out a survey in the village to gauge interest. The timelines for this solution are driven predominantly by the need for planning permission to erect the mast at the Kineton exchange. This is estimated to be 13 weeks.

6. Planning Application 16/03489/FUL Land of Kineton Road

This application was incorrectly sent to Pillerton Hersey PCC for comment, it has now been passed to Pillerton Priors as the land falls into that Parish.

7. Finance Review

NW reported that there had been no movements in the Parish Council Account since the last meeting:

- Opening balance at start of period: £3109.51
- Balance as of 15th Feb 2017: £3109.51

The action from the previous meeting, to add a note in the Parish Newsletter, requesting visibility of any expected requests for donations this year, was completed. However no requests have been received to date.

The Poors Allotment Trust Draft Accounts 2016 were presented to the Parish Council. These will be presented for approval by the Trustees at their next meeting, scheduled for November or December 2017. No trustees are coming up for election in 2017, however the vacancy left by the vicar is still to be filled.

It was agreed that the £50 fee associated with attendance at the annual WALC conference would be funded by the Parish Council.

A cheque for the rental of the Pillerton Priors village hall for two evenings (£14) was passed to SC for payment to the hall committee.

Action: SC

8. Update from District Councillor

PS reminded us of the importance of reporting crimes and provided an update on the investments being made to prevent cyber-crime.

PS is resigning as a District Councillor in May 17 and he extended his thanks to the Parish Council for the support we have given him. In turn, the Parish Council thanked him for all his efforts in support of the community.

9. Update from County Councillor

IS updated us on the setting of budgets for County Councils. Despite making significant savings in 2016, there are still stretching targets to be met in 2017 and this may impact areas such as adult welfare. IS reminded us that there are County Council elections on the 4th May and we should be aware of certain boundary changes impacting constituencies.

IS also pointed out that the County have been successful in securing the Woman's International Aviva Cycle Race. This is an opportunity to see a world class sporting event on the 9th June when the cyclists make their way through Pillerton Priors.

10. Correspondence

Parish Council has received an invitation to attend an informal lunch on the 27th Feb to meet the candidates involved in the interview for the new rector. CF volunteered to represent the parish at Alderminster Village Hall.

Action: CF

WALC are holding an all-day conference on the 4th March for Parish Councils. SC to attend on behalf of Pillerton Hersey.

Action: SC

11. Arrangements for Annual Parish Meeting

It was decided that the Annual Parish Meeting would be held on Tuesday 16th May. Suggested topics for the meeting:

- Cyber-crime (PS to propose speaker)
- Community Broadband (Mr Richard Scott to provide update on his company's proposal)
- Road Safety (IS to propose speaker)

SC to coordinate meeting agenda.

Action: SC; PS; IS

The annual Parish Council Meeting and the ordinary meeting would be held one week later in order to address any issues raised at the annual Parish Meeting.

12. AOB

AH raised a potential road safety issue associated with the planting of a hedge on one of the bends in the village which may reduce visibility. Although it was stated that the hedge would be no higher than the existing fence. It was agreed SC would consult the Road Traffic team at the County Council and IS would consult Jeff Morris. It was also suggested that this development may change the character of the village conservation area and as such should potentially have been considered by the Parish Council prior to planting.

Action: SC; IS

13. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The annual Parish Council Meeting and the next ordinary Parish council Meeting will be held at 7:30 on Tuesday 23rd May at St. Mary's Church.

All parishioners welcome.

The meeting closed at 9:15 pm.