

DRAFT

Minutes for the meeting of Pillerton Hersey Parish Council 16th May 2018

Present:

Sian Case, (SC)
Sara Cichocka, Chair (SMC)
Clive Fidler (CF)
Alec Hitchman (AH)
Nigel Walker (NW)

Councillor Izzi Seccombe (IS)

Approximately 15 members of the public.

1. SMC welcomed everyone to the regular meeting, established that there were no apologies for absence and no changes to declarations of interests.
2. AH objected to the draft minutes for 24th January, as he was unhappy that he had been asked to leave for item 4 before the start of the meeting and not during the declaration of public interests. He remained unclear why he had an interest in item 4, and was reminded by SMC that he was mentioned in the original planning application of 2014 that had created the building plot on the southern edge of the village. He also rents land from the new owner of the building plot. AH apologised for leaving for the rest of the meeting and SC apologised for her inadvertent causing of offence by reminding AH of his need to declare an interest before the item on the agenda. Councillors SC, SMC, CF and NW approved the minutes of the last meeting and AH abstained.
3. Representations received from the public:

Terry Hitchman read out a speech, which he afterwards gave to SMC as a record kept separately from these minutes. He was concerned about the conduct of members of the council, who he accused of making incorrect and unsubstantiated remarks during council meetings.

Olly Arbor raised concerns about changes to school bus routes into Stratford and Alcester secondary schools that would now result in his son having to walk to or be given daily lifts to Priors. He requested that the parish council join families' campaigns to reach local politicians by writing a letter to support his request that the bus route stay through the village. Izzi Seccombe responded by stressing the cuts needing to be managed by all sections of county services, and that she had been told that one problem was the lack of families using the route. Olly and Izzi agreed to research further the correct number of students needing the bus

Tim Newcombe asked if the council would consider dropping a leaflet to explain further the benefits of a parish plan to every household in the

village. SMC explained that effectively this had already happened by advertising in the newsletter of last week's parish meeting to discuss the feasibility of a parish plan.

4. AH asked why the council had agreed to support Ian Crockett (IC) in distributing planings along the track to his fields, which is also village green. NW and SC confirmed that IC had given up the planning application on his fields and so the council had agreed to support the planings to ensure the public footpath on this track be kept drier. AH asked what IC's plans were now for the track and CF explained the plans for clearing the eastern ditch just above the track, (not the village green) in order to divert floodwater under the track.

CF also expressed disappointment at the lack of communication from Western Power about plans with an unspecified timescale to replace various power infrastructures. Despite promises made last year to SC the council had received no further updates on these plans but CF and other villagers had seen Western Power engineers working recently in several places. It was noted that these planned infrastructure moves were low priority.

AH requested that the council be provided with a sketch and description of agreed planned works by IC on the track as a record, also that the track not be widened at any point. AH proposed and NW seconded that CF agree with IC a formal plan with measurements of his proposed drainage works on under and adjacent to the track. All agreed.

Action CF

5. Following SC's research into our apparent lack of formal adopted Standing Orders, SMC proposed and SC seconded that we should adopt some formally at the next meeting. SC will build on the examples that she had already sent to councillors for this meeting to send detailed suggestions to all councillors with the intention of formally approving an agreed, relevant set of modern standing orders at our next meeting.

Action SC

6. Planning application 18/01321/FUL Hogwood Farm - no comment
7. No outstanding financial issues to discuss following the AGM that had just taken place.
8. Parish plan- following the lack of enthusiasm displayed by residents present at last week's annual parish meeting, it was believed that it would be pointless to continue with plans to launch such an activity. One parishioner present supported it, Izzi Seccombe believed that it wouldn't bring significant benefits to such a small village and the key driver for such plans should be whole community support. NW proposed that the council abandon the project, CF seconded the

motion and AH and SMC supported it. SC abstained due to her opinion that this was the correct practical decision and the wrong moral decision.

9. Issues brought to Parish meeting last week:

CF had already received a reply from Severn Trent acknowledging that work needed to take place on the retaining wall behind the pumping station and that they would investigate our long standing complaints about the capacity of the station.

SMC confirmed that Neighbourhood watch schemes were the responsibility of the police to co-ordinate. SC suggested using the facebook group Pillerton Postbox and Tim Newcombe suggested gathering a proactive email list linked to Ruralwatch in order to share notices about suspicious behaviour in any areas. (Action TN)

SC had, as promised, notified the newsletter editor of all requested news items from last week's meeting.

10. SC proposed the motion that we retain our policy of enabling public representation at meetings as agreed on the Nov.16 meeting, AH seconded it and all were in favour. Terry Hitchman asked how the public's representations would be considered or ignored and SMC confirmed that it would depend entirely on the context. SC confirmed that our policy would be directly described in our proposed new Standing Orders. IS commented that in her experience, local parishes manage parishioner contribution in a variety of ways but all have a formal place for it in meetings, so as to efficiently manage prepared business.

11. No District Councillor present

12. IS outlined that following the savings of £92m over the last electoral cycle, Warwickshire now had to make an additional £67m of savings over the next electoral cycle. Warwickshire's 2 key priorities will be: building a strong economy and looking after the most vulnerable. There is a central government proposal to return a higher percentage of locally raised business rates to us but that will be in exchange for taking on more services locally.

CF asked why green waste was now being used to build the post-landslide work at Harbury at a higher level of concentration than farmers are allowed to spread on agricultural land. This also meant that the green waste was no longer available to local farmers. IS said that she would investigate this issue.

Olly Arbor asked if it was true that SDC was sitting on reserves of £9m and had spent £20m on extra CCTV in the town and IS said that she believed that these figures were correct.

13 . Correspondence-

SC summarised her reply to Ms. Fraser's email concerning agenda item 4 of the last meeting, 24th Jan. All councillors had received a copy of the original email and SC's reply, which she had written after advice from WALC and was completely factually correct.

Residents of Oxhill Bridle Road were disappointed after the December closure that mended only a small portion of the many potholes along the road and SC had forwarded to all councillors the email string between Tim Pearson of Oxhill Bridle Road and Jeff Morris (Warks. Highways) discussing returning to mend more potholes. Councillors repeated their thanks to Jeff Morris for his support in past works (anti-flooding and upgrading of the ford). One small mending party had apparently arrived on a recent Sunday morning to mend another small pothole. IS will take up the issue with Jeff Morris. Parishioners and Councillors want one visit that sorts the entire problem along the road.

SC summarised her conversations with local clerks and repeated her view that it was simply untenable to continue as Chair and volunteer clerk. AH asked and NW confirmed that the precept was £1800 when we became councillors in 2015, we chose to reduce it to £1000 in view of the reserves and CF warned of the need to ensure that flood prevention reserves were still there for potential future work. SC proposed and SMC seconded that we employ a clerk and all supported that SC continue her research on costings and job descriptions and bring specific proposals to the next meeting.

Action SC

AOB: SMC had received encouragement from our Web site managers to upgrade to make our website mobile friendly. In view of the local mobile signals, this proposal was met with the universal opinion that it was not worth upgrading at present.

CF had spoken to Jason Hughes, his partner landowner on the other side of the stiles through the public footpath leading off Oxhill Bridle Road. Warwickshire would provide but not install kissing gates to replace stiles and improve access to the path, but only if all landowners involved were in agreement and Jason was not in agreement.

AH asked if we were GDPR compliant and SMC replied that she wasn't sure and that would be another matter for a future clerk to manage.

14. Next meeting is 7.30.p.m. on 7th August in the church
The meeting closed at approximately 10.00pm.