

PILLERTON HERSEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting

7:00 pm, Thursday 21 October 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
Cllr. Penny-Anne O'Donnell, SDC

Public

Four members

The meeting commenced at 7:36 pm

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from WCC Cllr. O'Donnell and SDC Cllr O'Donnell.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest

3. Dispensations

None

At this stage, the Chair, Cllr. Scott stated that item 4 would be addressed at the end of the agenda.

5. Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the parish council held on 09/09/2021 as an accurate record of the meeting.

6. Matters Arising

The Clerk updated the parish council that Pillerton Priors PC had discussed the matter of the roadside footpath between Pillerton Hersey and Pillerton Priors and they did not want to proceed with any joint work to restore the path.

7. Public Forum

There were no statements made during the public forum.

8. Co-option of new Councillors

It was **RESOLVED** to co-opt Simon Emery and Ian Brooks to fill the two current vacancies. Cllr Emery and Cllr. Brooks signed their declaration of acceptance of office and were invited to take a seat.

New councillors were reminded to complete the register of interests and send to Stratford District Council Monitoring Officer and existing councillors were reminded to check in case their register of interest were current and update them if required.

9. Finance

It was **RESOLVED** to add Cllr. Emery and Cllr Brooks to the bank mandate.

It was **RESOLVED** to remove Tim Newcombe and Dick Leaper from the bank mandate once the Clerk has received confirmation from the bank that Cllr. Scott and Cllr. Hitchman have had their names added.

10. Planning

a. Planning applications received

- i. [21/02642/FUL](#) – 3 Bunkers Hill Pillerton Hersey Warwick CV35 0QH
It was noted that a delegated response of no representation was made.

b. Planning decisions

- i. [21/02595/TREE](#) – Nyumbani, Warwick Road Pillerton Hersey CV35 0QJ
It was noted that tree works were approved with conditions.
- iii. [21/02772/TREE](#) – Appleyards, Oxhill Bridle Road Pillerton Hersey CV35 0QB
It was noted that that tree works were approved with conditions.

11. Consultations

- a. South Warwickshire Consultation – consultation on the proposed merger of Stratford District Council and Warwick District Council.

The parish council discussed the proposed merger and identified the following issues:

- There is concern that the changes will bring about an increase in council tax
- Planning matters are already being merged and there is a concern that there will be an increase in planning enforcement issues, particularly if the number of staff decreases. There is no reassurance of how issues would be dealt with if this happened, but the council is concerned about what would happen if things went wrong.
- Proposals include a weekly food waste collection, however, SDC has recently proposed a change from a fortnightly collection to once every three weeks. There is no indication of what would happen in the future. SDC currently has good waste collection services and it may suffer as a result of the merger with WDC where the service is less good.
- In terms of policing, a merged police force would result in it being less localised and potentially less coverage of rural areas.

The parish council acknowledged the financial challenge that is faced and that the merger is likely to go ahead regardless of the feedback. In the short term the merger may save money but there is a concern about whether there will be consideration of rural/outlying communities. Democratically, there is an imbalance with the more rural SDC currently having 36 ward councillors but more urban WDC with 41. It was agreed however that WDC has a better social housing scheme.

It was **RESOLVED** to object to the proposed merger of SDC and WDC.

It was **RESOLVED** that the response to the merger consultation be that there was concern about how this had been rushed through with a lack of consultation and detailed evidence provided.

b. Consultation on draft recommendations for ward boundaries in Stratford District.

The parish council acknowledged the intention to balance populations of wards where possible is good. It was noted that Pillerton Hersey will move to a different ward.

It was **RESOLVED** to support the draft recommendations.

- c. Highway Verge management consultation – A draft Highway Verge Management Policy has been developed to raise the awareness of the biodiversity value of roadside verges in

Warwickshire. It sets out how verges can be managed to maintain their high value, whilst recognising the overriding importance of road safety. Closing date 1 November 2021

The parish council agreed that two cuts of the verge per year was good, it supported biodiversity which is important. A cut of 1 metre from the road can still leave space for people to get off the road. However the long grass can be an issue in terms of visibility. It was noted that some verges are listed as local wildlife sites and wildflowers do need some undisturbed sites.

It was suggested that the proposed community group on environment could be asked to set out zones where the parish council could ask WCC not to cut.

After discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to keep the current system of highway verge management and share the comments made by councillors in the response.

12. County, District and Parish Liaison

None.

13. Reports and Questions

Consultations

The Clerk was asked to ensure that councillors saw the outputs from consultations and responses.

Website

Work is ongoing to update the website.

Newsletter

Cllr. Emery queried whether the parish council produced a newsletter. It was confirmed that earlier in the year, the parish council had produced a one-off newsletter because the Pillertons newsletter had been suspended due to the pandemic. This had now resumed, and the parish council was able to share content in the newsletter as appropriate.

The parish council has previously discussed the need for effective communication with residents. There is now a Pillerton Hersey Parish Council Facebook account, a Pillerton Hersey community Facebook page and a read only WhatsApp group to share notices. These will take time to be established. A member of the public suggested that the parish council enquire whether notices could be posted on the Pillerton Postbox Facebook group. The Clerk will enquire about this. Cllr Scott comments that community engagement should be one of the key parts of a future parish council strategy/business plan.

Budget

The November meeting will be used to discuss the budget, but this will be finalised in January 2022.

14. Confirmation of future meetings

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

4. 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.

a. To note report of Clerk appraisal

Cllr. Scott noted that he had conducted the annual appraisal of the Clerk in September 2021 and presented recommendations to the parish council.

a. To consider proposed amendments to Clerk's contract
These included a review of the pay scale and a change to the way hours are contracted and calculated. This would require the Clerk to complete timesheets.

It was **RESOLVED** to amend the Clerk's contract to state that work would be based on 24 hours per quarter, to be paid quarterly (January, April, July and November). If additional hours were required, the Clerk would need to notify councillors in good time, and this would need to be authorised by two councillors. To support transparency, the Clerk would be required to produce a timesheet at each parish council meeting.

It was **RESOLVED** to update the Clerk's contract to point 18 on the 2020/21 Local Government pay scales.

It was **RESOLVED** that the changes to the Clerk's contract and salary would be effective from 1 October 2021.

The meeting closed at 21:40.

Signed:

Date:

Chair

Appendix A: Responses to consultations

South Warwickshire Consultation – consultation on the proposed merger of Stratford District Council and Warwick District Council.

Sent by email (not online survey) due to issues accessing survey

Pillerton Hersey object to the proposed merger of SDC and WDC because there is concern that this had been rushed through with a lack of consultation and detailed evidence provided. In particular the longer-term financial impact, the imbalance in democratic representation between urban and rural areas, key services (particularly refuse and recycling collections) and rural policing.

Consultation on draft recommendations for ward boundaries in Stratford District.

Pillerton Hersey Parish Council has resolved to support the proposed changes inward boundaries. It acknowledges the intention to balance populations of wards where possible and notes that the parish of Pillerton Hersey will become part of a different ward.

Highway Verge Management consultation

The Parish Council is in agreement that it is appropriate to keep the current system of highway management. The following comments were made:

- Two cuts of the verge per year was good, it supports biodiversity which is important.
- A cut of 1 metre from the road can still leave space for people to get off the road. However, it is recognised that the long grass can be an issue in terms of visibility, but this is addressed in the policy which states that consideration is given to road safety.
- The parish council notes that some verges are listed as local wildlife sites and wildflowers do need some undisturbed sites therefore it is important to ensure these are known.