**Pailton Parish Council**

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 26 February 2024 in Pailton Village Hall**

Present:

Councillors: Tony Gillias (Chair, TG), Tina Simpson (Vice Chair, TS), Kristian Shaw (KS)

Mark Foxon (MF), Stuart Law (SL)

In attendance: Leona Bendall, Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer (clerk)

Also present for the meeting were three parishioners and Councillor Adrian Warwick (Cllr AW) until the end of item 7a.

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| Minute  Ref |  | Action |
| 1/26.02.24 | **Chairman’s Welcome and Apologies for Absence**  Councillor Gillias welcomed all to the meeting. There were no apologies for absence. AW left the meeting after item 7a and KS left the meeting after item 11a. |  |
| 2/26.02.24 | **Declarations of Interest**  These were given by Cllr T Gillias, as a Councillor for Rugby Borough Council (RBC) and Chair of RBC’s Planning Committee and Cllr Kristian Shaw as holder of the contract for the amenity grass cuts in the village. Cllr Gillias also declared an interest as a Trustee for the Lady Mary Trust |  |
| 3/26.02.24 | **Standing orders were suspended to allow members of the public to address the meeting . The following items were raised:**   * A parishioner raised the experience of his property at the top of Lutterworth Road and properties opposite who saw considerable flooding on their exterior spaces (not homes) in the early January storms. He reported that ‘rivers of water’ were running down from the fields – all existing ditches that were supposed to carry the water away are blocked. In addition Cllr Shaw advised that the differing heights between the gullies and drain on the road outside his home meant that the flood water could not access the drain. The impact of the storm on the village had previously been discussed at the January meeting and been reported to WCC. It was agreed that this should be reported again and that Cllr Warwick would support WCC officers doing an onsite inspection to see if there are easy solutions that might mitigate against further problems. * A parishioner advised the Council that as a consequence of the cancellation of HS2, Balfour Beatty are making trees available upon request. | Clerk /AW/TG |
| 4/26.02.24 | **Resumption of Standing Orders** |  |
| 5/26.02.24 | **To approve the minutes and financial papers of the meeting held on 22nd January 2024.**   * These were proposed by KS seconded by TS and approved by all. They were signed by the chairman as a true record of the meeting. |  |
| 6/18.12/23 | **Matters Arising from previous meetings – not covered elsewhere on the agenda.**   * Nothing raised |  |
| 7/18.12/23 | **Information Reports –**   1. **County Council AW made the following points**  * WCC has set its budget for 2024/25 at 4.99% but like most major authorities faces very difficult financial pressures mostly from increased demand for adult social care and Special Education Needs – both of which need considerable additional funding which central government is unable or unwilling to provide. * He urged the PC to contribute to the online consultation on the Avon Mill Roundabout which is designed to improve traffic flows along the Leicester Road and into the town centre.  1. **Rugby Borough Council, TG**  * TG also commented on financial pressure at RBC which is going for a 2.99% Council Tax increase but is investing in a health partnership and reducing waste by increasing recycling to save costs in the longer term. * TG shared options that the A5 Partnership Team are looking at to improve traffic flows on the Gibbet Hill roundabout . He also stressed the need to respond to the Avon Mill consultation and suggested respondents stress the need for continuous flow left hand lanes to keep traffic moving.  1. V**illage Hall Trust, LF**  * LF reported on the success of the Saturday cafés and the Live and Local events and that the first meeting to set up a committee to run the local fete will go ahead in early March. * LF also reported that wifi has been installed in the Hall and is working well and that they are preparing bids for a projector and screen to the Lady Mary Trust. * The Village Hall has also bought a bingo machine and will hold events in the near future. |  |
| 8/26.02.24 | **White Lion Project Update**   * TS reported that planning permission should be issued this week, and that further discussions would be held with Highways and Planners as the project goes forward on the conditions related to approval. * She spoke with enthusiasm of the work on identifying the history of former residents associated with the Odd Fellows Lodge and the early the post masters as the post office was housed in the White Lion from the 1850s. * There is a significant presentation on the 4 March with the Working Group, National Lottery team, Architects and the current Project Manager visiting the site. The feedback from the National Lottery team will by fed through into the National Lottery decision committee that meets in the week commencing 11 March – a decision is expected by the end of March. * The ‘address’ of Pailton Parish Council was discussed. This is usually the address of the clerk, which works well in most cases but presents problems and confusion in relation to the White Lion. For example on the Planning Application; while the Land Registery records and papers related to the Public Works Loan Board both show the address of the Parish Council as the home of the former clerk, who lives outside of the village and in a different county. It was agreed that the formal address for the Parish Council (on White Lion matters) should be the White Lion itself. The Working Group will install a proper post box outside the Brew House and the clerk to try and get the other addresses revised. | TS  TS / Clerk |
| 9/26.02.24 | **Finance and Governance**   1. The clerk asked the meeting to accept the cash book forecast to the end of February and approve the following payments: Clerk’s salary – £312; HMRC - £78.00; Fisher German - £250 playing field lease for 2024. **White Lion** – Alison Berwick £2000 and eon standing charge of £32.55. This was proposed by KS, seconded by TS and approved by all. Post meeting note: an additional a direct debit of £120.53 was paid in respect of the street lighting to SSE and a Bleedkit was purchased for the defibrillator at a cost of £105.00. 2. The clerk gave an update on the insurance claim – in that the driver had admitted full liability and our insurance company would meet our costs, she will continue to pursue this. 3. The clerk sought consent to appoint Bill Wooliscroft to undertake the 2024 audit at a fee of £200.00. This was agreed by all. 4. The clerk updated the meeting on the website and email addresses after our supplier had advised that all services would end on 31 March 2024. The position has now changed and we will have all services until at least August 2024, without any further costs. However the instruction from the Cabinet Office that all parish councils must have website addresses ending in .gov and the suffix on all parish councillors emails must end in .gov.uk means there is further work to do. The clerk sought permission to change her email address at a cost of circa £100 … but this should be funded by the Cabinet Office. This change was agreed by all and the clerk is to report back. 5. The clerk updated councillors on a briefing on the forthcoming election that will be held on 29 February at 5.30pm in the Town Hall. Attendance can be in person or via teams – clerk to send around the email from RBC democratic services. She will attend the session and report back. 6. It was agreed to consider the appointment of an amenity cut contractor for 2024 at the end of the meeting – with KS to leave the meeting before the discussion. | Clerk  Clerk  Clerk  Clerk  Clerk |
| 11/26.02.24 | **Planning Applications and Matters for Consideration**   1. TG advised that the decision on the Old Telephone Exchange, which was due to come before the committee in March, has been put back to April. The Clerk will as agreed attend to put forward the PC’s views. 2. The PC discussed its response to planning application R24/0110 for a new detached garage to the rear of 42 Coventry Road. After discussion it was agreed the clerk to submit a response saying we had no objection in principle as clearly the applicant is parking on this land currently – but for consistency it should be a condition of planning that any access or egress from this site should be forward drive only i.e. no reversing onto Coventry Road. 3. The clerk followed up on her email she had previously circulated on a Neighbourhood Plan and it was agreed that the PC would develop a Plan, with the support of RBC. This work would not necessarily be led by a councillor. Councillors to suggest suitably capable residents who might be willing to take this further. A separate meeting would be arranged to take this forward. 4. Consultation on the WCC Rights of Way – it was agreed that the clerk would circulate a draft for councillors to comment on. This to be submitted by 4 April 2024. | All  Clerk/All  All  Clerk |
| 12/26.02.24 | **Ongoing Village Matters –**   1. Playing Fields and Footpaths – KS   The working group has met and the following points were noted:   * Positioning of the climbing frame was agreed, for which we have received a grant from the National Lottery of £6,800 – subject to approval from the Trustees of the Denbigh Estate. * The possible creation of a community orchard at one end of the playing field – see the attached plan for location of both the climbing frame and the orchard – to be discussed further. * Internal hedges will be cut back by volunteers on 17 March – starting at 10am. All welcome. SL is still considering whether he can take on the cutting of the playing field and will discuss this with KS. * KS had completed the first monthly monitoring report based on the template from RoSPA. He will provide a copy of the report to the clerk each month to be attached the minutes of the meeting.  1. Highways Working Group – TG   Nothing new to report until the WCC test results are in – clerk to chase. TG reported that whatever the results say WCC will not agree to VAS equipment – villages with far more serious traffic flows have already been refused. A decision must be made soon or any funding will be removed. The position of the warning sign for HGV traffic at the roundabouts on the A5 not to come through the villages is still to be agreed.     1. Ex Service Men’s club – TG   Nothing new to report. | KS/clerk  KS  All  KS/SL  KS/Clerk  TS |
| 13/26.02.24. | **Correspondence/Other matters**   * Telephone Box Bleed kit - clerk is to research options for the bleed kit to go in the phone box for emergency use. * Replacement of damaged refuse bin – clerk tabled options for replacing bins but it was agreed that circular bins were required and the bin next to the phone box, should be more ‘significant’. Clerk to get other options and circulate. It was agreed that this has been discussed many times and once the bins themselves were agreed the clerk could order them after getting agreement by email. * Severn Trent – raw sewage discharge. TG gave the meeting an update on raw sewage that with the very heavy rain is now being discharged from Severn Trent’s drain and is spewing on to fields owned by a parishioner, covering parts of a public footpath and contaminating the local water course - the Smite Brook. This has been going for years, but now it is worse than ever. Severn Trent has failed again and again to take any action to solve this issue and it was agreed the clerk would seek help next from the Environment Officer at RBC. | Clerk  All/clerk |
| 14/26.02.24 | **Additional items for next meeting**   * Final arrangements for village Litter Pick * Progress plans for Neighbourhood Plan |  |
| 15/26.02.24 | **Meeting Dates**  The next meetings will be on 25 March 2024 and 22 April 2024 |  |
| The meeting closed at 9.34 | |  |

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Chairman of the Parish Council

Anthony Gillias 25 March 2024