**Pailton Parish Council**

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 26 June 2023 in Pailton Village Hall**

Present:

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

Mark Foxon (MF)

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

Also present were two parishioners and Councillor Adrian Warwick, Warwickshire County Council

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| Minute  Ref |  | Action |
| 1/26.6.23 | **Chairman’s Welcome and Apologies for Absence**  TG welcomed all to the meeting and asked that a minute’s silence be observed for Philip Morris Jones, whose funeral would take place on 27 June 2023. |  |
| 2/26.6.23 | **Apologies for absence**  The chairman advised that Cllr Towner has given written notice that he is resigning, this becomes effective immediately. The clerk should begin the Casual Vacancy process. | Clerk |
| 3/26.6.23 | **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 K Shaw as contract holder for the village amenity grass cuts for Pailton Parish Council. |  |
| 4/26.6.22 | **Standing orders were suspended to allow members of the public to address the meeting**  No matters were raised |  |
| 5/26.6.23 | **Resumption of Standing Orders** |  |
| 6/26.6.23 | **To approve the minutes of three meetings held on 22 May 2023: Parish Annual Meeting, Annual Meeting of Pailton Parish Council and the normal May Meeting of Pailton Parish Council. Minutes of the policy meeting held on 12 June 2023 were also considered.**  The minutes from all four meetings were approved. |  |
| 7/12/23 | **Matters Arising from previous meetings – not covered elsewhere on the agenda.**  There were no matters arising from the previous minutes. |  |
| 8/26.6./23 | **Information Reports**   1. **County Council AW**   AW began by also paying tribute to Philip Morris Jones who he described as displaying a tremendous community spirit that was above any narrow political ties.  He then gave his insight on the background to Pailton Parish Council’s continuing struggle to reduce speeding through the village. AW spoke about the variety and number of existing signs, road markings and the chicanes that already exist in the village. He made the point that legislation has changed considerably and that there was now a need to computer model and produce audited evidence that any new traffic schemes would improve road safety before any improvements were considered. He also explained that there was a far greater emphasis on reducing signage ‘clutter’. Litigation is now a very real threat to highway authorities should any scheme, however well meant, result in an accident. He also advised that should any of Pailton’s existing signage be put forward for implementation today, they would be unlikely to meet the challenges of safety audits. He was very clear that ownership of the roads was a County function – something he described as ‘infrastructure’ but monitoring and enforcement to ensure roads were used safely was a police function and that discussions need to be had with the police to hold regular action against speeding motorists. Thanks to David Towner and the speed watch group, Pailton has ample evidence that up to half of all motorists that drive through the village are speeding. Cllr KS made the point that the PC and Working Group had missed seeking involvement of the police as part of their plans to improve the situation.  In summary AW felt that there was little that would be within the legislation that would effect any improvement on the current position. He strongly made the point that speed bumps would be an absolute nightmare in Pailton as the proximity of houses to the road would mean noise levels in these houses would be horrendous. He also stressed that VAS (mobile electronic speed measuring/recording devices) are no longer supported by WCC and even if funded by the PCC are not an option for any villages in WCC – although they will not take out existing signs.  At this point Cllr TS forcibly made the point that the Parish Council, the Highways Working Group and the village itself feel that they have no say in road safety in their village and no one is listening to them. She cited the example of TG’s proposals that parish councillors and a member of the working group should meet with Jo Edwards, WCC’s lead commissioner for Safety Engineering Transport Strategy and discuss ideas on what would be possible. Instead without any other Pailton representatives, TG held a site meeting with Ms Edward and informed the Working Group and councillors late on Friday evening that the meeting had gone ahead and the outcome was negative. Referring them instead to the improvement scheme that parish councillors had already refused to support. TG himself had advised the working group that his conviction that a proper grounding down and resurfacing of the roads would deliver the best result against noise pollution in the village- but that there was no budget for this.  AW replied that managing expectations was important and that while TG had hoped to set up the meeting with Ms Edwards she had refused to come and meet with any group of councillors over concerns that this would end up in a shouting match. Instead the short drop-in with TG was all that was possible. However, he did offer to try and arrange an online meeting with Graham Stanley to discuss what, if anything, was possible and that he and TG would speak to the police about a holding a series of speed watches. This was agreed.  AW then raised the issue of the proposal by the Frasers Group to build a major new HQ with large warehousing and distribution facilities on greenbelt land at Ansty, between the M6 and M69. This he felt was a nightmare scenario for the whole of our corner of Warwickshire and would see a further 9,000 vehicular movements every day, plus other journeys as workers travelled to and from the site. Frasers argue that this would create jobs in Rugby but the reality is that most workers would be relocating from their existing Derbyshire base – going directly against the government’s priority of levelling up. In addition, he made the point that Rugby does not have any need to create sites for employment purposes. The real draw is the extra £9m a year that the site could produce in business rates for RBC. It is likely that a planning application will be submitted by Frasers in September and that every PC in this area should object in the strongest term.   1. Rugby Borough Council, TG   TG spoke about an update from the new police chief in Rugby with teams of officers in place they are working to continue the fight against crime – which has fallen 11% over the past year.   1. Village Hall Trust, LF   LF explained how the VHT’s focus is on the fete and that other events are paused for the summer and will resume in September, but in the meantime all fire extinguishers would be safety checked.   1. Playing Field Working Group and Footpaths, KS   KS advised that there was nothing to report from the Working Group but that he had noticed to two footpath gates were blocked and he would speak to the landowner. | AW/TG  KS |
| 9/26.6.23 | **White Lion Project Update**  TS gave a full update on the White Lion Project which in summary covered:   * The key mid stage review looks like taking place in mid August. At this review the NLHF question every aspect of the project and review all documentation, including plans & designs, survey, evaluations, costings, funding and the PC’s own policies. If this goes as well as expected then an application for Round 2 funding would be submitted in November and an answer from this would be received by March/April 2024. * A further budget meeting would be held on line with the Clerk and Project Manager in the next week. * Because of recognised cost pressures the NLHF have said they may be willing to consider bids for further funding of current development grants. The working group/project team are therefore looking to submit a further application to cover such items as Conservation Management and buying-in more time from our fund raiser. * A village builder has submitted costs to ‘open up’ parts of the fabric of the building to enable this to take place – further details on this to follow. * The design-team are commissioning a traffic survey and TS circulated a draft proposal for this and asked councillors to consider and let her know if this was acceptable. This is wholly funded by the survey budget. * The bat and bird survey has been partially completed without any sightings but a further two sessions need to be held to ensure no bats are nesting below slipped roof tiles. * A business planning/hospitality work shop had been held that generated a lot of ideas, including the possibility of considering joining a local pub group – for example the Lovely Pub Group and further research would be undertaken on this. The issue of using apprentices (both catering and on the construction side) would be explored. * Positive and creative discussions are taking place on use of space in and above the stables, the demand for artists’ studios etc and whether the old kitchen could provide further seating for the restaurant in a conservatory. * Social fund raising is going very well with over £1315 raised from the Garden Party and the last pub quiz attracted record numbers. New plans include an afternoon tea, to be followed by a pub games evening on 5 August to be held in Pailton Hall. * The Little White Lion bar would run at the Fete and all visitors would be asked to complete a questionnaire to develop more information on the wider visitors engagement. Displays boards from the community meeting in May will be on display and visitors will be welcome to come and chat. |  |
| 10/26.6.23 | **Finance and Governance**   1. Annual Governance and Accounting Return for 2022-23 The internal auditors report and his recommendations were discussed in detail on 12 June meeting and steps are underway to implement all the recommendations. 2. The clerk went through all of the governance statements and Councillors agreed that these were all positive. At this point the Chairman and the Clerk signed the Governance Statement. 3. The clerk went through the Accounting Statements which were consistent with the end of financial year reports prepared by the clerk in April 2023. All councillors approved submission of this report and at this point the Chairman and the Clerk signed the Accounting Statements. 4. The clerk explained the arrangement for the Exercise of Public Rights which were approved and the process will begin on Tuesday 27th June and run until Friday 29th July. 5. The cash book for the June meeting was reviewed and   approved.   1. The following invoices were approved for payment:   -Clerk’s salary of £291.20 and HMRC payment of £72.80  - Eon standing charge and electricity for WL of £31.09.  - White Lion costs :Alison Berwick, fund raiser £1575,   Burrell Foley Fischer, design team £2772, Greenwood,   Project manager £2,106, DCA, business planner £4800  - £150 for new hanging baskets     1. The purchase of new bins at a cost of £1120 plus installation was approved but these were not to be ordered until councillors had seen images of the bins. 2. The new Communication, Social Media and GPDR policy was approved. |  |
| 11/26.6.23 | **Planning Application and Matters for Consideration**   1. R23/0571 is a retrospective application for paving to a seating area in land to the rear of 7 St Denys View. The PC has already objected to other similar application in this area so for consistency it should object but the clerk to circulate images from the application for councillors to consider again. 2. R23/0559 A planning application for the demolition of a chicken shed and their replacement byu two new houses in land to the rear of 31 Coventry Road, This it was agreed would be better than the existing eyesore but questions were raised on privacy and it was agreed clerk to circulate more information on this. 3. TG drew the meeting’s attention to an appeal for new housing on the former Brandon speedway sight. Councillors spoke about this and agreed they should respond by objecting to the proposals and instead argue for the   re-instatement of the leisure facilities. | Clerk  Clerk  Clerk |
| 12/26.6.23 | Ongoing Village Matters   1. Events – fete preparation as mentioned above this is going well and volunteers were sought to help with setting up on Saturday 1 July. 2. Telephone Box Renovations – to be arranged after the Fete weekend but a local builder has offered to provide four fence panels to securely shield adjacent homes/bus stop from the shop blasting and priming. 3. Highways Working Group and Speed Watch – nothing extra to add after the discussions under item 8a. 4. Street Lighting – nothing new to report 5. Ex Service Men’s Club – nothing new to report | All  KS |
| 13/26.6.23. | **Correspondence**   1. Clerk had previously circulated an invitation to join the Council for the Protection of Rural England - this was discussed and it was agreed it would be useful as they provide help in objecting to unwelcome planning applications such as the Fraser scheme mentioned in 8a above. 2. TG reported complaints re fireworks coming from a house in Pailton after a weddding. It was agreed that the clerk should ask residents in the next issue of the Revel, to alert village via facebook or even notices that they are planning a firework display so animal and pet owners can be aware. 3. TG reported that a resident is seeking his help with a drainage issue where a diverted surface water pipe is flooding their drive . TG is following this up with the Craig Thompson of WCC. | Clerk  Clerk  TG |
| 14/26.6.23 | **Additional items for next meeting**  Nothing raised |  |
| 15/26.6.23 | **The next meeting date was confirmed as Monday 24 July 2023** |  |

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Chairman of the Parish Council Anthony Gillias 24 July 2023