**Pailton Parish Council**

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 25 September 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 & Responsible Financial Officer (clerk)

Also present were three parishioners and Councillor Adrian Warwick, Warwickshire County Council – who left the meeting after item 7a.

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| Minute  Ref |  | Action |
| 1/25.9.23 | **Chairman’s Welcome and Apologies for Absence**  TG welcomed all to the meeting spoke about the recent co-option interviews with two very high quality candidates and proposed the co-option of Stuart Law to the Council – this was seconded by TS. Stuart Law joined the PC table at this point. There were no apologies for absence. |  |
| 2/25.9.23 | **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 Kristian Shaw as holder of the contract for the amenity grass in the village. |  |
| 3/25.9.22 | **Standing orders were suspended to allow members of the public to address the meeting**   * A parishioner raised the problem of very unpleasant waste being left in the driveway to his house and adjoining properties. TG said he would investigate, including talking to residents who have CCTV doorbell cameras. * A parishioner spoke of her concern that the automatic road sweeper did not sweep the layby in front of her house which because the drain and the way the water/rubbish flowed across the road would increase the risk of flooding. TG advised that he is spending time with the manager for this service to point out some of the issues that are Borough-wide – he will bring this up on the visit. | TG  TG |
| 4/25.9.23 | **Resumption of Standing Orders** |  |
| 5/25.9.23 | **To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 6 September 2023.**  These were approved and signed as a true record of the meeting. |  |
| 6/12/23 | **Matters Arising from previous meetings – not covered elsewhere on the agenda.**   * The clerk asked the meeting to advise where the problem potholes, reported at the last meeting where as WCC could not see any problems. TG advised that they have now been filled so no further action necessary. |  |
| 7/25.9./23 | **Information Reports**   1. **County Council AW**  * AW reported on the success of Safe & Well, whereby officers from the fire service are helping to ensure elderly residents are supported on their discharge from hospital – with safety checks on their homes to eliminate the risk of falls; getting essential shopping etc. * He also advised that WCC still had funds available in the Cost of Living scheme, and new initiatives would help with energy costs in the coming winter. * He advised the meeting that Birmingham’s financial problems were not unique and there would be other council’s in this position, largely due to the crippling costs of adult social care and funding education for children with severe special needs. Irrespective of political factors this must be addressed. * He noted that evidence gathering for Pailton’s traffic stats would provide essential data to validate traffic calming actions.  1. **Rugby Borough Council, TG**   TG spoke about the following:   * the new Community Infrastructure Level (CIL) that if approved by government would see communities receive funding to address the impact of new housing and large commercial developments – with a few exceptions such as social housing and wind farms. * Work on the Local Plan which is now underway and mentioned that the development of a Neighbourhood Plan for Pailton will become ever more important as CIL’s are limited to areas with Neighbourhood plan. These would stop the development of speculative housing in areas that are deemed unsuitable by parishes. * At a meeting with senior police officers he was briefed on the increasing threats from increased drug activities, including the use of empty properties for growing weed. * A new 200megawatt Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) has been proposed near J2 of the M6, opposite the proposed new HQ for the Fraser Group. * Brinklow is pushing for a meeting with WCC officials as they want VAS in their village and it seems that what was promoted by officers as a policy against the use of VAS is only guidance. * The A5 Partnership Group is considering a range of options for Gibbett Hill roundabout as it is realised that until this is addressed traffic will continue to build up and block the road from Rugby.  1. **Village Hall Trust, LF**   On behalf of the Trust, LF spoke about the following:   * The damaged staircase in the hall has been restored by a volunteer. * The Toddler Group has been taken over by two women and the Trust is very hopeful that this will improve the Group and she will pass on their details to Fisher German as soon as they are settled. * The income from the Fete has been distributed to the nominated charities (see Round the Revel for details). * The Trust is appealing for volunteers to help organise and run events – while members of the public are coming forward with good ideas but as yet residents don’t seem willing to take on responsibility for events. * It was agreed that the date for the Christmas Lighting event would be Sunday 10th December – with a church service, lights turned on at the War Memorial and free refreshments in the village hall.  1. **Playing Field Working Group and Footpaths, KS**   Nothing to report from the Working Group, but the clerk to find out when the ROSPA safety inspection would take place and it was agreed to add the cost of a ROSPA plan for monthly inspections to the schedule. The Clerk mentioned that she had received a request from WCC re the evaluation of the grant received for new play equipment. This is to be copied to LF and KS who will ensure it is completed.  On footpath KS reported that the entrance to the footpath by the Hoggard’s house in inaccessible and TG would speak to him about this.  MF spoke about his concerns on nettles and other weed along the whole frontage of the White Lion and KS would look at spraying this area. | KS/LF/Clerk  TG  KS |
| 8/25.9.23 | **White Lion Project Update**  TS gave a full update on the White Lion Project focusing on the very detailed Mid Stage Review with the National Lottery Heritage Fund advisers and the Design/Project Management Team for the project. A full report is attached as appendix 1 but the main outcome is that the NHLF were very impressed, made a number of useful suggestions, including advising the project team to ask for more money now – rather than wait until buildings is underway. The project was swiftly given the go ahead to continue. |  |
| 9/25.9.23 | **Finance and Governance**   1. The cash book for the September meeting was reviewed and approved and the clerk asked the meeting to include the payment of £480 for the cutting of grass on the playing field. 2. The following invoices were approved for payment:   - Clerk’s July Salary - £301.18; HMRC July - £75.30; Clerk’s office expenses for Q2 - £30; Colin Down, grass cutting in playing field - £480; Ian Dew replacement of gate post to the allotments- £234. **White Lion** -E-on standing charge - £32.55; Burrell Fischer Foley, design services - £8,640 Greenwoods, PM - £2,106; Anthony Collins, legal work on the CIF - £2100.   1. She updated the meeting on her efforts to secure a new electricity supplier after Npower put up their charges by 48%. KS offered to provide contact details for BG Lite who are one of the few providers to support small customers.   The clerk advised that as part of this work she had received a schedule from National Grid on the number/location village street lights – but she could not reconcile this with the latest schedule produced in June 2023 by TG and a former councillor and this will need to be addressed as part of the budget process in December | Clerk  KS  Clerk  All |
| 11/25.9.23 | **Planning Applications and Matters for Consideration**   1. No new planning issues this month |  |
| 12/25.9.23 | **Ongoing Village Matters**   1. Telephone Box Renovations – work is underway to manually strip back and repaint the box with the work undertaken by volunteers. 2. Highways Working Group and Speed Watch – the latest report from the Speed Watch Group had been circulated but this needs to be recalibrated on an 85% basis. MF reported that he believed a van had been abandoned in the layby opposite the dentist surgery – TG to check.  TG also advised that he had received a further complaint about the precarious fencing outside No 9 Coventry Road. Clerk to send letter asking for this to be remedied. There had also been a complaint about the ‘VAS’ left in the middle of the pavement, which meant a pedestrian had to walk in the road to avoid. Clerk to report to JF. 3. Street Lighting – TG is to repair, with help from KS the broken street light in Brookside as e-on are unable to fix this as they no longer use ladders and will only access lights from their trucks. E-on have quoted £2000 to replace the column and light. TG advised that there are four lights in Brookside that e-on cannot reach with their trucks. 4. Ex Service Men’s Club – nothing new to report | TG  Clerk  JF |
| 13/25.9.23. | **Correspondence**   1. Clerk advised that she has registered the Parish’s interest in a funded tree planting scheme as part of the coronation commemorations. Council to consider where trees might be planted if we are successful in bidding for funds. | All |
| 14/25.9.23 | **Additional items for next meeting**   * Replacement bins for the four damaged refuse bin * License for the White Lion |  |
| 15/25.9.23 | **Meeting Dates**  The next meetings will be on 23rd October and 27th November 2023 |  |

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Chairman of the Parish Council Anthony Gillias 23rd October 2023

Appendix A –

**Save the White Lion Report to Pailton PC – Monday 25th September 2023**

1. **Mid Stage Review-** Thursday 21st September -start 10am –finished at 4.30pm 12 people – NLHF Jeremy Fenn (promotion) David Fairbanks, Rob Wakerly (New contact), PM, Architect, Business, WG

Site visit to look at design, presentation from Architect, including conservation- all good

Back to Pailton hall, presentations from consultants and WG.

NLHF had looked at all the documents prior to the meeting, so were up to date.

PM explained that we had looked at 2 schemes – value engineered and full fat – business plan and fundraising plan showed clearly that the full fat scheme was the only real way forward, the value engineered had a deferred shop, affecting the business plan negatively and would not appeal to funders – NLHF agreed

PM explained that this would mean we would be asking for approx £2 million instead of approx £1 Million – NLHF said they understood and that all projects had the same issues re inflation and material costs. They gave us a clear steer that we needed to look at the whole project and probably up the ask for activity plans, PV’s (we had left them out because budget did not allow) possibly a pub interior designer. They said it was best to ask for more now if needed rather can come back halfway through and ask.

They praised our local fundraising, and community consultation. They were very happy with our activity statement, all the oral history, heritage found in pub(Tina showed an example of one document), oddfellows board etc, and suggested we expand all these activities, by perhaps getting local charities involved, looking at getting volunteer training for transcribing of the old documents we have been given. Re Governance, I showed them the progress we had made with the solicitor and sent the documents to them.

The areas we need to focus on are business planning and fundraising. we need to benchmark against comparator pubs. look at operating models and put dates on the fundraising when we will apply and when we will expect to hear the outcomes. We have already had meetings and are arranging others to ensure this gets completed.

We heard the next day that we had passed our Mid stage review and are eligible to put a round 2 submission in

Timeline- we need to put our round 2 application into NLHF by 17th November, this gives us 6 weeks allowing for reading and agreeing of documents. There is the opportunity to delay submission by 3 months , if needed , but we would have to loose out on 3 months repayments. We were concerned that COF would be a problem re spending money in a year , but new info is that they are giving extensions on spend time.

1. **Governance-** sent new updated documents from solicitor, please give me your feedback
2. **Community Consultation –** wed 18th October 7pm start – Village hall – hugely important that people attend to express their views and look at updated plans etc – Architect- PM – Business consultant and conservation consultant, WG will present. In round the Revel – Flyer will go to all – on Facebook and twitter. Please encourage attendance
3. **Quiz –** Aug 24th – Stuart quiz master – 3 teams- attended – 52 made- £315.41.

Sept 28th – Already FULL -10 tables booked – a first- which is excellent

We have volunteer Quiz masters right up to Christmas , showing fantastic community support