

KEEVIL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – 7th March 2016

The following is a summary of the significant matters discussed at the Parish Council Meeting:

In attendance: Cllr Jonathon Seed (WC) George Goodwin (Clerk) and 3 Members of the public.

Consultation Period:-

- Ms Janet White raised the issue of the footpath between Martins Road and the Playing Field. The path needs levelling and re-surfacing with materials that allow safe passage in wet weather. Ms White said that in its present state, the path is very slippery in wet weather and there have been a number of falls. The Clerk said that the PC has received two letters about this problem i.e. one from Ms White and one from A.N. Other. Ms White has asked for funding for this project from the Keevil Society dispersal of funds and suggested that the Keevil Men's Shed team could do the work. The Clerk said that the footpath is the responsibility of WC and he would contact the officer responsible to see if he had any objections to the work being carried out. Paul Lenaerts will inspect the footpath and assess whether or not the Men's Shed team could do the work. The Clerk mentioned that he has received an Email from Wiltshire Ramblers offering to assist with footpath improvement i.e. advice, support and funding etc.
- Paul Lenaerts said that he was representing the Keevil Men's Shed team in the absence of Bob Ayres who was attending another Men's Shed event in Trowbridge. Paul said that the team currently used premises at a secure barn on Longleaze Farm. The team's request for funding tools was also being considered by the Keevil Society dispersal of funds. The Clerk handed over details of the UK Men's Shed Association which gives advice and support to Men's Shed start-ups. They could help with advice about insurance, risk analysis, health & safety etc. The PC Chairman, Jerry Wickham, is on holiday and it is hoped that he can give details of the Westbury Men's Shed at the May meeting of the PC.
- PCSO Helen Wilson had Emailed the Police Report to the Clerk. There have been no incidents reported to the Police since the last meeting. Emily Thomas has returned from maternity leave and will now be covering Melksham Town Centre. PC Barry Dalton will be taking over from Emily with responsibility for the villages. The sergeant in charge of our area is Acting Sergeant Fulbrook-Smith. The PCSO assignments remain the same as before.

The Parish Council Meeting commenced with Councillor Banfield in the Chair.

Matters Arising:

- Donations 2015/2016 – cheques had been drawn up and would be signed at this meeting.
- Seend Farm Road - Chairman to reply to complainant. It is not known if this letter was sent and the Clerk will check with the Chairman on his return from holiday. WC have improved the ditch drainage of Seend Farm Road at the junction with the Bulkington Road and our drainage team have installed a grid over the drain to stop hedge cuttings blocking the drain. However, Cllr Banfield has received a complaint from Stephen Fry about the state of Seend Farm Road. Immediately outside Elmleaze Farm the road surface is breaking up and there is a very large pothole which has effectively greatly narrowed the road. The Clerk will pass the matter to Cllr West to contact WC Highways.

- Precept 2016/2017 - The Clerk has notified WC of the PC decision regarding the Precept for 2016/2017.
- Men's Shed - Chairman to provide details of the Westbury approach. Bob Ayres to prepare a proposal for a Keevil Men's Shed for the March Meeting of the PC. See Consultation Period above. It is hoped that the Chairman can retail his Westbury knowledge at the next PC Meeting in May.
- Main Street Footway – WC have replied to our complaint about the condition of the new footway. Highways Email has been circulated to Councillors. WC are unable to improve the current condition of the footway.
- Parish Magazine Articles – The Clerk has sent articles to the Editor concerning Pyatts Corner Parking, WC Bus Consultation and Dog Fouling.
- Airfield Crash Gate No.3 – The Clerk has raised the issue of the broken padlock with Brize Norton and they have the matter in hand.

Playing Field:

- PF Repairs - A.W. Services will continue with their contract for the 2016/2017 season. The mowing rates remain unchanged at £45.33 per cut.
- The damaged Springy has been repaired by the Men's Shed.
- The Clerk reminded Councillors that we should maintain weekly inspections of the Playing Field and record the visits and any actions taken as a result. This is needed to prove to our Insurance Company that we take Health & Safety seriously. Cllr Kevan currently carries out these inspections. The Clerk has also asked A.W. Services to provide proof that they have Insurance to cover their maintenance activities.
- PF Development – The additional Picnic table has been delivered and is on the PF. This table caters for wheel chair users which the conventional picnic table does not. Keevil W.I. are interested in providing some finance for sheltered seating on the PF together with a wheel chair path to it. In this connection, they have also asked for some funds from the Keevil Society dispersal of funds.
- Cllr Seed believes that the Area Board are likely to agree to make a grant to replace the goal posts, and provide nets for them, on the football pitch. The Clerk said that new advice has been received about installing goal posts on Playing Fields after a number of serious accidents. He passed details to Cllr Kevan.
- Cllr Kevan has also been discussing with a local Trust Fund the erection of an Aerial Slide/Zip Wire on the PF. The money available would not be enough to purchase one from a PF Equipment Supplier but it would be enough to buy the components with the Men's Shed providing the labour to build the system. There was some concern from Cllrs about the Health & Safety and Insurance implications of a DIY Zip Wire. Cllr Kevan said that it would be built to a ROSPA design for a DIY system. It was agreed that the PF Committee would consult with Colin Brown of WC about the DIY aspects. If and when a concrete proposal is available, the Clerk will contact our Insurers to see if they are happy with such a proposal.

Flooding & Drainage: Nothing significant to report.

Highway Matters:

- The Clerk reported that it was taking much longer for potholes to be repaired than previously and the Chairman said that details should be passed to Cllr Seed who would take the matter up with WC Highways.

- The Clerk also reported that the repairs to Pyatts Corner/Butts Lane road surface has been completed as has the drive way to Rosemary Cottage as promised by WC Highways.
- The Safety Railings on the high bank footway opposite Keevil School, should be installed before the end of March.
- The Chairman has a SID, with supporting documentation, and has asked our local SID sharing group to nominate a points of contact so that we can set up a sharing operation.
- Cllr Meatyard asked if WC Highways can be approached to re-paint the white lines at Wick Crossroads as they are badly faded. There have been several collision near misses at this junction and clearer lines would improve the safety at this junction. The Clerk will ask Cllr West to approach WC Highways.
- Cllr Link asked if it was possible to mark a "Disabled" space on Martins Road outside the Village Hall so that at least one disabled Hall user can park close to the Village Hall. The Clerk will refer the matter to Cllr West.

Coronation Bench: The PC deferred action last year regarding re-installing the Coronation Bench at a new location on the specially built plinth on the Main Street footway near the Manor Farm entrance. Cllr West wished to clear some of the vegetation around the plinth and to plant some flowers before the bench was installed. The installation of the bench also requires it to be bolted down to the concrete base to ensure that it is secure. The Men's Shed team could help with this and Paul Lenaerts will pass on the request. The Clerk will ask Cllr West to circulate his plans for the adjacent area.

Financial Statement: Total P.C. funds as of 7th March are £11,619.63

Cheque Approval – Payments totalling (£114.60) were made to Keevil Village Hall (£11.00) for hire of the Village Hall, Data Protection Registrar (£70.00) for annual renewal fees for the Parish Council & Keevil Neighbourhood Watch and to Getmapping plc (£33.60) for Parish Online Software.

Other Matters:

- Cllr Link said that the Village Hall AGM will be held on 14th April 2016. She is currently the PC representative on the Village Hall Committee. She is prepared to represent the PC for one more year and this was agreed.
- The Clerk informed Councillors that the Scarecrow Trail weekend will be held this year on 14th/15th May.
- The Clerk gave Councillors a brief summary of the projects put forward for support from the Keevil Society dispersal of funds.
- The Clerk has received an Email from Esso's Managing Agents, Fisher-German regarding the Esso pipeline that runs through Keevil to their refinery at Fawley. It would appear that in 1962 the Parish Council signed a Deed of Grant giving Esso an "easement" across Towmead Lane for their pipeline. Fisher-German wish to know if the PC still has an interest in the land as they wish to satisfy themselves that we are still following the safety rules regarding digging or drilling in the area of Towmead Lane. After discussion, the Councillors instructed the Clerk to write to Fisher-German to say that the Parish Council has no interest in the land, which is unregistered, and they should deal with the local land owners whose land is

crossed by the pipeline and Wiltshire council who are responsible for Towmead Lane itself which is a Byway.

- The Chairman reminded Councillors that the next meeting on 16th May 2016 would start at 7.00pm as it is also the Annual Parish Meeting.

The Minutes of the Parish Council are available at the following meeting of the Parish Council or alternatively copies are available from the Clerk on request or they can be downloaded from the Keevil Web Site. Members of the public are welcome to attend and are able to make comments prior to the Parish Council meeting commencing.

George Goodwin, Clerk to the Council