

MINUTES OF A PATTINGHAM AND PATSHULL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON  
MONDAY 17<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2019 AT PATTINGHAM VILLAGE HALL

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Present: Councillors: Councillors R Lines (Chairman), D Billson (Vice Chairman), T Mason, J Tomlinson, M Finch, A Freeman, N Hill, L Billingham, Mrs C Clarke and Mrs A Davies

Also present Miss J Cree - Clerk

71/19. Apologies for Absence.

An apology of absence was received from County Councillor K James.

72/19. Declarations of Councillors' Interest.

Cllr Lines, Cllr Billson, Cllr Finch, Cllr Mrs Clarke, Cllr Mrs Davies all declared an interest in item 86/19 as members of the Village Hall Committee. Cllr Mrs Davies also declared an interest in item 79/19 as organiser of the Church Fete and member of St Chads PCC.

73/19. Public Forum - Democratic fifteen minute period / public question time.

For note: The public participation is for the public to address the Parish Council on matters that they wish to. The Parish Council cannot comment or resolve action on any points raised at this time. If the item requires information being sent from the Council, the Clerk will do this following the meeting. If it is a matter for further discussion it may be added to a future agenda. All meetings are recorded and any member of the public not wishing to be recorded should advise the Chairman.

Members of the Council agreed to raise Standing orders to enable members of the public to speak.

Mr Arthur Thompson addressed the Council on his concerns over the uneven pavements in the Parish and over grown foliage on the alley ways and in the High Street by the Bus Shelter the trees are very low.

He has an elderly mother who is now virtually house bound as she is scared of leaving the house in case she falls. The drains and gutters are all blocked and as a result flooding takes place.

He passed the Clerk copies of photographs of blocked drains for reference. He commented that the lack of weed spraying over several years has resulted in the weeds being at un-manageable levels, and when the road sweeper does come to the village they cannot clear the gutters as the weeds are too large.

It was noted that some of the trees in the park need to be crown lifted and this will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

PCSO Sian Fryer and Jorga Whittingham addressed the Council, they had issued the crime statistics prior to the meeting. It was noted that there appears to be growing issues of drugs being used / sold in the village. PCSO asked that if members have any relevant information they should pass this to the Police and she is patrolling the playing fields when she is on duty in the Parish.

Standing orders were reinstated.

74/19. To receive for confirmation and adoption, the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2019.

The minutes of the meetings detailed above were agreed as a true and accurate record of proceedings. It was noted that in future voting of key positions on the Council, that the actual number of votes from a secret ballot should be recorded in the minutes.

75/19. County / District Councillors to address the Council on any matters relevant to the Parish

The County Council have arranged for a meeting in connection with the Local Community Fund that is being looked at for ways to distribute funding more effectively. The date for County Councillors to gather details for changes to be explained is on 3/06/19 at the County Buildings in Stafford. A report will be sent covering the way the amount allocated to each Division will be dealt with.

I have also been in touch with the Highways Manager concerning the installation of speed limit signs for Burnhill Green road for details of the installation date of these at the site. The reply is that this project will require a speed regulation order, advertising etc. He estimates that this could be about six months for delivery. The request is fairly strait forward and the process can be started over the next few weeks.

The allocation of an extra £20,000, to focus on highway repair work was welcomed by County Councillors in Staffordshire. This will be used to tackle pothole issues in the County and it is hoped that with the cooperation of Local Parish Councils reporting to the Highways Departments and acquiring a reference number in their areas, that an improvement of road surfaces can be achieved.

This was noted.

## **DISTRICT REPORT FOR JUNE 2019 MEETING**

This year the Council has reduced the size of its planning committee. Previously all Councillors were represented on the planning committee, but, following recommendations from last years peer review of the Council's operations, the size of the committee has been reduced to 21 members including the Chairman and Vice Chairman. The first meeting under the new scale takes place the day after the parish meeting. I have been Chair of this committee for the last two years and was reappointed this year and have been heavily involved in developing new procedures and an improved training regime for those members sitting on the committee.

As this year forms the start of a new council term there have been many structural changes in committees including Licensing, which has a new Chair and Vice Chair and the need for new member training has held up the hearing of the new application for revised operating hours for The Crown. As evidenced at the extraordinary meeting held previously, a number of residents have expressed concern and the hearing of the application is to be held on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> of this month. All those who commented and expressed a wish to attend or speak should have been separately advised.

The Council is receiving a briefing at 5.30, immediately preceding the parish meeting, from Highways England on the latest position on consultation on the proposed M54/M6 link. The consultation ends on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July and I will give a verbal update if necessary following this presentation.

Cllr Terry Mason - District Councillor for Pattingham & Patshull.

Members asked for an update on the formerly known as the Western Orbital route known now as Midlands Connect, is unlikely to even be considered as a viable project for 25 years. The costs involved are very high.

76/19. To Consider filling the Burnhill Green vacancy onto the Parish Council via co-option (if any applications are received or expressions of interest).

There was one nomination for the vacancy, from Nick Land. It was proposed by Councillor Mrs A Davies and seconded A Freeman to accept this nomination and on a vote this was carried with 6 votes for and 4 abstentions. Therefore Mr Land was co-opted onto the Council.

77/19. Matters arising from Previous Minutes.

The Defibulator is waiting to be installed and the new goal post sockets for the playing field football goals have been purchased and are awaiting installation. This was noted.

78/19. To discuss a grant application for Pattingham Baby and Toddler Group

A grant has been requested of £500 towards the above groups room hire costs. The Group have supplied their accounts and bank statements as requested. It was proposed by Councillor T Mason and seconded by Councillor N Hill that a grant of £500 is given to the group. On a vote this was carried unanimously.

79/19. To confirm the use of the playing fields for the Village fete (date / details)

The date of the field being used for the church fete is Saturday 6th July 2019, members agreed that this was acceptable and no fee is to be charged. It was proposed by Councillor D Billson and seconded by Councillor J Tomlinson to allow the field to be used for this year's fete with no cost. This was agreed unanimously.

It was noted that next year's fete will be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> July 2020.

80/19. To discuss purchasing additional Christmas Lights festoons for Pattingham / Burnhill Green

It was noted that the new power supply at Burnhill Green has been installed. As this is a new supply further festoons are required to be connected. In addition to this it was noted last year at Pattingham, as the Fair was not at the light switch on for the first time, the area to the side of the hall was very dark. Therefore it was agreed to put in additional festoons in the trees to lighten this area.

Therefore to complete the set up for the 2019 light switch on 3 x 50m festoons are required and 400 x superbright led bulbs (300 for the new festoons and 100 spares / additional bulbs that were short from 2018).

It was proposed by Councillor L Billingham and seconded by Councillor J Tomlinson to set a maximum budget of £2000 to purchase the required festoons and bulbs. On a vote this was carried unanimously.

81/19. To discuss the play area at Burnhill Green

It was noted that the repair to the wooden climbing equipment should be completed by the end of June at a cost of £1400. In addition the tables to the rear of the Dartmouth Arms (on the Play Area) need to be removed, it was agreed that Councillor L Billingham will ask the Dartmouth Arms if they would like them to be removed and disposed of if they are not required.

The tall wooden bollard by the park on the pinch point needs to be replaced, the Clerk to progress the report that has already been reported to the County Council.

82/19. To discuss what action to request from the County Council re the drains on Clive Road/flooding on the road

Cllr Tomlinson reported that the above road still has a major problem in that the drains system under the road appears to be collapsing. Cllr Tomlinson had not reported the issue to Staffordshire County Council recently and did not have a reference number for following up. It was noted that the issue has been reported numerous times by several members of the Council over the past few years. The chairman had reported it to Staffordshire County Council last week, and received the following email update this morning via the Amey Staffordshire-Production Task Processor:

*This is an update to your enquiry dated 12/06/2019 in relation to CLIVE ROAD.  
A highways inspector has now visited the site and added the following notes to the report:*

*Nothing found at investigatory / intervention levels at point of inspection. Area will be monitored with our on going routine inspections.*

It was noted the road junction with Clive Road / High Street / Westbeech Road did not flood last Tuesday 11th June (despite persistent rain all night & day). County Highways swept that area of road and cleared the drain gullies the previous week - which probably prevented any flooding of the road.

Cllr Tomlinson had received a letter from a member of the public relating to a drain opposite their house in Clive Road and handed it to the Clerk as evidence of a problem.

It was agreed that Councillor J Tomlinson and M Finch progress this matter further with the County Council and report back to the next Council meeting.

83/19. To discuss litter picking in the village

Councillor D Billson reported that the Parish Council previously employed a litter picker who visited the village twice a week for 2 hours each time. On his retirement this position was not filled although the parish council have several initiatives involving volunteer litter pickers.

At the present time we have 2 Duke of Edinburgh Award students helping litter pick the field on a weekend, and a volunteer group who litter pick designated areas. Following a Facebook appeal a number of individuals volunteered and received equipment, but only two actually carried out any litter picking.

The Chairman collected a #2minutelitterpick board on loan from the District Council. The scheme started as a beach litter pick and has been extended. People are encouraged to do a 2 minute litter pick and upload a photo of themselves doing their bit. The board is located around the village hall grassed areas, and entrance to the play park. The chairman thanked Cllr Mrs Clarke for

placing the board out each day and storing it the village hall overnight. Our month-long loan of the board is coming to an end.

It was agreed to discuss paying someone for litter picking under the next agenda item and add these duties to the contracted lengths-man's work.

84/19. To discuss the lengths-man's contract as budget has almost been reached.

The initial budget for the contractor for this work was set at £1000, this has been used from March through to mid-June. Members agreed that this contract had worked well to date.

It was proposed by Councillor T Mason and seconded by Councillor N Hill, to allocate the remainder of the litter picking / maintenance budget of £2600 for lengths-man's work for the village and this to now include litter picking twice weekly. On a vote this was carried with 8 for and 2 abstentions (Councillors J Tomlinson and M Finch).

The list of jobs to include:-

Trees by the bus shelter  
Green Close – Greenway Gardens alley way  
Alleyway near the butchers (Wolverhampton Road to Letchmere Close / Orchard Close)  
Alleyway between The Square and Hall Close.  
Pussy Willow tree on Orchard Close

Any additional items to be forwarded to the Clerk.

85/19. To discuss how to raise the communication via social media.

Councillor A Freeman suggested that the Facebook Page could be used more widely to publicise the Parish Council. It was noted that there have been recent posts, but you have to be a friend of the Parish Council to read them. The Clerk will look at the possibility of changing this so posts are public but still members of the public are restricted on posting onto the page.

He suggested that the agendas and minutes are posted on there along with important items of news. It was agreed that the Clerk would liaise with Councillor A Freeman and bring back suggestions on improving the page to the next meeting.

86/19. Request from the Village Hall Committee for assistance with replacing the security doors on the Village Hall

The Parish Council holds in its accounts a balance of £6102.59 for the Village Hall for contingencies / emergencies. The Village Hall Committee have requested the Parish Council release to them £3040 from this fund to enable them to replace the Village Hall front doors. It was noted that in the last financial year bookings are down compared with the previous year and the committee are budgeting to refurbish the kitchen and foyer areas.

It was proposed by Councillor N Hill and seconded by Councillor L Billingham that the funds are released to the Village Hall. On a vote this was carried.

87/19. To agree football pitch fees and invoice clubs for the new 2019/20 season

It was agreed to keep the fees for the 2019/20 season the same as the 2018/19 season and the Clerk to invoice the 2 clubs (Trysull Tigers FC & Wombourne Pool Bar FC) their full seasons fees for payment in August.

88/19. Discussion on combating drugs use and drug dealing in Pattingham

This item was briefly mentioned under the Public Participation, and it was reiterated that if any members of the public or Council have information on drug dealing or use in the village this should be reported to the Police either by phoning 101 or via Staffordshire Police Facebook Messenger. The Clerk will add this as a post to the Facebook page.

89/19. Report from the Clerk.

Nothing was reported.

90/19. Accounts for Payment.

**Ratification list for June Pattingham Parish Council**

<b>Chq No.</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount (inc VAT)</b>
723066	Water Plus	Water rates	66.95
723067	Neat n Tidy	Grounds works	288.00
723068	Dittons	Grass cutting	472.50
723069	C Clarke	Changing room cleaning	60.00
723070	Memorial Plaque		325.62
723071	Over 65's grant		2500.00
723072	Neat n Tidy	Grounds works	360.00
723073	Play force	Play area inspection	180.00
723074	Viking Direct		19.66
723075	Zurich Municipal	Insurance	1200.15
723076	New goal sockets		168.38
723077	Inland Revenue	June	149.88
723078	J Cree	June	584.49
723079	Crown estate		120.00
723080	A Horton	Grass cutting	140.00
DD	EE	Monthly charge	17.00
DD	Utility Warehouse	Monthly charge	12.83
DD	BT	Monthly charge	46.08

**6711.54**

**Income**

The Clerk reported that the insurance for the Parish Council had been changed from Came and Company to Zurich as this had saved the Council £800 on a 1 year premium. The Clerk contacted 3 insurance companies for quotes and Zurich were the best value / cover. This was noted.

91/19. Items for future Meetings

VE/VJ Day; Millennium Walks – lease expires July 2020; Protecting open spaces; Crown lift park trees; Replace benches; Facebook update, Clive Road Drains.

92/19. Dates of Next Meetings –

29<sup>th</sup> July 2019                      Pattingham Village Hall

9<sup>th</sup> September 2019              Pattingham Village Hall

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