

PATNEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 11 December 2024 at 7.00pm **Virtual meeting via Teams**

Present:

Patricia Alsop	(PA)	Chairman
Gino Zabeo	(GZ)	Parish Councillor
Simon Guest	(SG)	Parish Councillor
Heather Cross	(HC)	Parish Councillor
Steve Welford	(SW)	Parish Councillor & Clerk
Paul Oatway		
Matt Wright		

1. Apologies for absence
 - None received
2. Minutes of Meeting held on 10 October 2024 and Matters Arising
 - The minutes of the meeting were approved
3. Finance Report and Budget 2025/26
 - Movements since the meeting on 10 October 2024 are instant access interest of £2.26; income received - £0; payments made - £540.00 (SWAFT)
 - Bank balances on 10 December 2024
 - Lloyds: £2,800.58, consisting of £1,447.54 in current account, £1,353.04 in instant access account
 - Cambridge Building Society 'Council Saver' account: £5,000; annual interest is due in January
 - Budget 2025/26
 - Non-discretionary expenditure: £1,099.17 inc. VAT
 - WC election costs: £400 estimated
 - Traffic speed reduction measures: £500 estimated
 - Agreed that parish precept for 2025 should increase by CPI, and annually thereafter
 - New line item added to accumulate funds for village asset maintenance, starting with the interest from Cambridge savings account
4. Annual Review of Parish Council policies and procedures
 - No changes proposed, other than updating review date

5. Planning applications
 - None open
6. Parish Steward
 - Vegetation cleared around salt bin at north end of Woodland Road
 - Discretionary Gulley Team cleared drains along Woodland Road and MFL in October
7. Defibrillator
 - Nothing to report
8. Highways & Rights of Way
 - Speed reduction along Woodland Road
 - Agreed to progress this through the WC-supported Local Highways & Footpaths Improvement Group (LHFIG) for the Pewsey community area; proposal discussed for improved speed limit signage in the village. PO will request WC traffic engineer to come and (a) advise on location of further traffic survey, and (b) suitability of speed limit repeater signs along WR
9. Matters from the public
 - Concern expressed about loss of habitat arising from the work being done by Network Rail on land in the vicinity of the railway bridge. Network Rail do not routinely inform PPC about planned work on their land, which were assumed to be required to minimise disruption to rail services.
 - Concern regarding further destabilisation of trees near the river bridge following recent storms; the landowner is aware and has contacted a tree surgeon.
 - Concern raised about deterioration of the road surface along MFL; PO will request WC highways team to review.
 - Concern expressed about vehicle parking on Green Lane bridleway; this is not a public parking area and must be kept clear for farm vehicle access. PPC will attempt to resolve this by contacting the owner of the vehicle.
10. WC update
 - Wiltshire Council has allocated £2,728,656.41 to a Household Support Fund to assist Parishioners on benefits and those of State Age, for food, household issues bills. To date 37,898 households have applied.
 - Allocated an extra £22 million for highways on top of the budget with a further £20.7 million from the government.
 - Investing a further £7 million on the county's bus services to improve extended hours and frequency.
 - The government is driving forward with devolution and Wiltshire is proposing joining with Dorset and North Somerset to create **The Heart of Wessex**. This combined authority will be controlled by a mayor with those elections in May

2026. Wiltshire's 2025 Unitary elections may be delayed but as authorities we will not change and exist under the mayor.

- The County's new Planning Policy replacing the Core Strategy is now with the Secretary of State.

11. Dates of future meetings

- The next PPC meeting is scheduled for 19 March 2025

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 20.45 pm.

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Patricia Alsop, Chairman