



## Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council

7:00 pm, Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Pillerton Priors Village Hall, Pillerton Priors, CV35 0PJ.

### **Present:**

Cllr Hewson  
Cllr Hitchman  
Cllr Brooks

### **In attendance:**

Laura Callow, Clerk and RFO

The meeting started at 19:03

### 1. Apologies

It was RESOLVED to accept apologies from Cllr Littlewood and Cllr Thomas

### 2. Declarations of Interest

No declarations were made by Councillors.

### 3. Dispensations

None

### 4. Public Forum

No members of the public were present.

### 5. Approval of Minutes

To approve the minutes of the previous meetings:

- a. Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council, 17<sup>th</sup> September 2024

It was RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of 17<sup>th</sup> September 2024  
(Proposed: Cllr Hewson, seconded: Cllr Brooks, all in favour)

### 6. County, District and Parish Liaison

County Council update

Cllr Seccombe has given a report. This is attached to the minutes under **Appendix A**.

District Council update

Cllr Littlewoods report is attached to the minutes. **Appendix B**

### 7. Finance

- a) To review finance report

It was RESOLVED to accept the finance report (Proposed: Cllr Hewson, seconded: Cllr Hitchman, all in favour).

- b) To receive bank reconciliation report

It was RESOLVED to accept the bank reconciliation report (Proposed: Cllr Hewson, seconded: Cllr Hitchman, all in favour). **Appendix C**

- c) To approve accounts for payment

It was RESOLVED to accept the accounts for payment (Proposed: Cllr Hewson, seconded: Cllr Hitchman, all in favour).



- d) To Agree Draft Budget for 2025/2026

It was RESOLVED to agree a budget of £4000 for 2025/26 (Proposed: Cllr Hewson, seconded: Cllr Brooks, all in favour)

## 8. Reports and questions

Chair reported that she went on an employment webinar about harassment and intimidation/bullying. Chair has a template for a harassment/bullying policy which we will adopt, and this will be reviewed and approved at a future meeting. Employment Law will be changing in 2026 which will potentially impact council, recommended other councillors attend any future employment training being offered.

## 9. Exclusion of Public & Press

Confidential matters, including those identified during the meeting, to be discussed here following a resolution to exclude the public under Sec 100A of the Local Government Act 1972.

Date of next meeting

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> January at 7.00pm

Meeting closed 20:50

Signed.....

### **Appendix A**

#### **WCC Cllr Izzi Seccombe**

#### **November Report**

##### **Armed Forces Covenant and Remembrance**

Last week I was delighted to host at Warwick the signing of the Armed Service Covenant. WCC is a Gold Member and has led partners such as Districts, Education, Health and Business in joining and engaging in the support of Veterans and Servicemen and women. This is about support and understanding the challenges of service men/women and veterans around housing ...especially when leaving services. Education, Health. Valuing their commitment. We were delighted that over a hundred attended and we had national support from Defence Services.

I also was incredibly touched once again to lay a wreath on behalf of WCC at Sundays Remembrance Service in Warwick.

##### **Budget**

We have some benefits from the Budget around SEND and Social Care, but as ever the detail is not yet understood, and we await the Local Government settlement in December for that. We are still a long way from achieving the demands we face, but welcome what is likely to come our way.

WCC is providing a support network to help those who may be entitled to welfare support after the loss of the Winter Fuel Payments. If anyone is known, please direct them our way.



I am working with PennyAnne ODonnel to hold a debate on the impact of the Budget on our Farming Community. Food Security to the nation and the ability to ensure we have an ongoing and vibrant Farming sector is under threat. We intend to write to this Government objecting and raising all these important issues.

## **Health and Social Care**

I am pleased to be hosting a roundtable with the CX of NHS England (Matthew Taylor) later this month. I have attending all our Hospital Chairman and CXs and we intend to put the Warwickshire perspective and challenges together with opportunities that we can and want to take forward.

## **Appendix B**

### **DC Cllr Littlewood**

#### **October Report**

### State of the District

The State of the District is reported on an annual basis and forms part of the decision and planning process for resource allocation at SDC.

### Population

It is no surprise that the District has a ageing population with nearly 50% over the age of 49, 25% 65+, and only 15% under 18 of the just under the estimated 142,000.

### Business

The latest figures available are for 2023 which showed just over 8,500 businesses in the Stratford District with 8.8% in agriculture.

### Housing

At the end of March 2024 there were 66,405 dwellings in the District of which new were 1,435.

The Median House Price in the District is £375,000 compared to £290,000 for England as a whole, of which 71% are Owner Occupied. The median cost of Rental properties increased by 13% [£100 per month] since the end of March 2023.

Across the District it is estimated that 2,267 properties are vacant. 6% of vacant properties are owned by Housing Associations and 66% of these are long term vacant. As Social Housing is a major issue in the District, this situation needs to be addressed.

### Poverty & Cost of Living Crisis

76% of all adults in the District are employed of which 23% are self-employed.

There are a number of indicators highlighting Living Poverty. They include:

- Fuel Poverty
- Receiving Low Income or Unemployment benefits
- Renting private housing in combination with either of the above.

The most up-to-date data is for 2022 which means that the numbers living in poverty in the District will have risen from the 16.5% of households. In August of this year 9,312 people were claiming Universal Credit of which 4,004 were in employment.

In Tysoe Ward in August 2024 80 people are receiving UC of which 17 are in employment.

### Crime

Recorded Crimes in the District were 7,904 (to July 2024) or 60 crimes per 1,000 residents of which 24 per 1,000 residents were Violent or Sexual offences and 6 per 1,000 vehicle crime.



## Finance

### Summary

Overall performance to Budget looks positive, but the predicted favourable outturn hides problems within the overall operation of the Council. A fundamental problem is that this Administration is not pushing forward with promised project completions.

At a 'Top Down' level, un-forecast positive Outturns mask underlining issues that should be addressed.

### Capital Budget

In February 2024 the LibDem led council agreed a capital expenditure in 2024/25 of £1,735,000. With slippage of projects from 2023/24 and S106 the current budgeted expenditure is £7,921,331.

Accumulated capital receipts and capital grants at the beginning of FY 2024/25 was £6,226,768.

Therefore, a further £205,000 will be require a budgeted Capital Finance movement.

Looking at actual spend, and therefore budgeted projects completion this Council is very much under performing and failing to deliver on programmed projects.

Of the S.106 funds held of £12,500,000 only £974,000 has been achieved. Committed CIL money of £3.1m still has £1.2m unallocated.

### Revenue Budget

The estimated outturn at the end of FY2024/25 is a favourable £685k. This number, however, hides the poor forecast performance of a number of revenue streams.

| Unfavourable Forecast<br>2024/25 Outturns |              |   |
|---|--------------|---|
| Council Tax                               | £50k         | Debt collection Fees                                  |
| Housing Benefit Admin                     | £25k         | Hired Services  |
| Housing Benefits                          | £75k         | Under recovery of overpayments & shortfall in Subsidy |
| Planning & Enforcement                    | £100k        | Reduction in Reduced Planning Income & CIL admin      |
| Leisure Centres                           | £20k         | Repair Costs  |
| Off-Street Parking                        | £85k         |   |
| Parks & Playing fields                    | £40k         | Damage to facilities following floods                 |
| Property                                  | £40k         | Work schedule backlog                                 |
| Refuse Collection                         | £75k         | Value of recycled materials below forecast            |
| Legal Services                            | £20k         | Agency Costs  |
| Resources                                 | £40k         | Agency Costs  |
| <b>Total</b>                              | <b>£570k</b> |   |

There are several favourable forecast outturns. Notably Interest Income from deposited Reserves of £933k due to good investment management left over from the Conservative Administration prior to May 2023. The effect of the current budget may halt the reduction in interest earnings; however this is not likely to be a long-term positive revenue stream as funds are reduced to manage shortfalls in other revenue streams and the BoE is likely to reduce interest rates this month and inflation set to rise from this Governments actions.

| Effect on Revenue Reserves – General Reserve Account |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| Opening Balance April 2024                           | £13,062,463        |
| Contributions to General Reserve [Feb 2024]          | £ 2,550,853        |
| Earmarked reserves funding [Feb 2024]                | (£ 4,331,000)      |
| <b>Estimated Outturn Position</b>                    | <b>£11,967,316</b> |

# Pillerton Hersey Parish Council

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## Appendix C

| <b>PILLERTON HERSEY PARISH COUNCIL</b>     |   |           |                 |
|--|---|-----------|-----------------|
| <b>Bank Reconciliation report</b>          |   |           |                 |
| <b>Financial year ending 31 March 2025</b> |   |           |                 |
| BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD 1 APRIL 2024       |   | £         | 3,301.61        |
| <b>RECEIPTS</b>                            |   |           |                 |
| 28/04/2024                                 | Stratford District Council precept        | £         | 1,383.00        |
| 16/09/2024                                 | Stratford District Council precept        | £         | 1,383.00        |
|  |   | <b>£</b>  | <b>2,766.00</b> |
|  |   | £         | 2,766.00        |
| <b>PAYMENTS</b>                            |   |           |                 |
| 02/04/2024                                 | Alana Collis salary (March 2024)          | -£        | 107.72          |
| 02/04/2024                                 | HMRC (of Clerk salary)                    | -£        | 27.00           |
| 02/04/2024                                 | Alana Collis overtime                     | -£        | 79.07           |
| 02/04/2024                                 | HMRC (of Clerk overtime)                  | -£        | 19.80           |
| 30/04/2024                                 | Alana Collis salary (April 2023)          | -£        | 78.37           |
| 30/04/2024                                 | HMRC (of Clerk salary)                    | -£        | 52.00           |
| 20/05/2024                                 | WALC (inv 853)                            | -£        | 126.00          |
| 20/05/2024                                 | Alana Collis (expenses - printing)        | -£        | 4.50            |
| 20/05/2024                                 | Alana Collis (expenses - PM refreshments) | -£        | 20.55           |
| 31/05/2024                                 | Alana Collis (salay, May 2024)            | -£        | 80.72           |
| 31/05/2024                                 | HMRC (of Clerk salary)                    | -£        | 54.00           |
| 24/06/2024                                 | WALC (inv 987)                            | -£        | 42.00           |
| 24/06/2024                                 | Pillerton Priors Village Hall             | -£        | 12.00           |
| 24/06/2024                                 | W J Robinson                              | -£        | 130.00          |
| 01/07/2024                                 | Alana Collis salary (July 2024)           | -£        | 78.37           |
| 01/07/2024                                 | HMRC (of clerk salary)                    | -£        | 52.00           |
| 16/07/2024                                 | Alana Collis laptop reimbursment          | -£        | 249.00          |
| 31/07/2024                                 | Laura Callow (of clerk salary)            | -£        | 116.82          |
| 31/07/2024                                 | HMRC (of clerk salary)                    | -£        | 29.20           |
| 30/08/2024                                 | Laura Callow (of clerk salary)            | -£        | 122.82          |
| 30/08/2024                                 | HMRC (of Clerk salary)                    | -£        | 23.20           |
| 19/09/2024                                 | Training CiLCA                            | -£        | 64.17           |
| 30/09/2024                                 | Laura Callow (of clerk salary)            | -£        | 116.82          |
| 30/09/2024                                 | HMRC (of clerk salary)                    | -£        | 29.20           |
| 18/10/2024                                 | Wellers Law Group                         | -£        | 720.00          |
| 30/10/2024                                 | Laura Callow (of clerk salary)            | -£        | 136.00          |
| 30/10/2024                                 | HMRC (of clerk salary)                    | -£        | 34.20           |
| 15/11/2024                                 | Pillerton Priors Village Hall             | -£        | 9.00            |
| 30/11/2024                                 | Laura Callow (of clerk salary)            | -£        | 121.66          |
| 30/11/2024                                 | HMRC (of clerk salary)                    | -£        | 30.40           |
|  |   | <b>-£</b> | <b>2,766.59</b> |
|  |   | -£        | 2,766.59        |
| <b>BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD 19/11/2024</b>  |   | £         | <b>3,301.02</b> |
| <b>BANK STATEMENT 19/11/2024</b>           |   | £         | <b>3,462.08</b> |
| Signed                                     |   |           |                 |
| Chair                                      |   | Date:     |                 |
| Clerk & RFO                                |   | Date:     |                 |