



Pilning & Severn Beach Parish Council

Web: www.psbpc.co.uk

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/PilningSevernParishCouncil>

Tel.: **01454 631499** (Jonathan Edwardes - Parish Clerk)

Email: clerk@pilningsevernbeach-pc.gov.uk

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING AND CASUAL VACANCY

The next Parish Council meeting will be held at Pilning Village Hall on **Tuesday, January the 4th** starting at 7pm. Please see the parish council website for the agenda and minutes of the past meetings.

In February will be hearing from candidates who wish to fill the vacant position by co-option. If you are interested in joining us, please attend the January meeting to listen in. You can download the application form from the website, but please make sure that it reaches our Clerk before Monday, the 31st of January 2022. If you would like to have an informal chat about this opportunity, please let us know well in advance of the deadline!

PILNING AND SEVERN BEACH PLAYING FIELDS - GAME COURTS

Great news for all the lovers of ball sports in our Parish. The Parish Council approved to fund the markings of both the netball and the tennis courts in Pilning, as well as the multi-games area in Severn Beach. These will be professionally done as soon as the weather allows so!

PILNING VILLAGE HALL

There has been further development in the workings of Pilning Village Hall Management Committee. The Parish Council offered a meeting between the Management Committee and Parish Councillors to see how we all can best revitalise the fortunes of the village hall. The intention of the meeting will be to decide how the hall is managed in the future. We are very much hoping for a positive outcome and would like to remind our readers that if anyone has any fresh ideas about how to best manage the Village Hall, please get in touch.

ABLETON COURT

The Parish Council were made aware that Ableton Court is not being used for its intended purpose (which is short-term sheltered housing for vulnerable people), and residents are finding themselves there for a lot longer than expected. Concerns have been raised that the building is not fit for this purpose and requires a lot of maintenance to make it habitable. Cllr Robert Griffin confirmed that even though this is not a direct responsibility of South Gloucestershire Council, their cabinet member is looking into the situation liaising with all the relevant authorities and will update us as soon as possible.

CLIMATE EMERGENCY

The Parish Council are actively looking into adopting a climate emergency policy, which will be quite similar to the policies adopted by our neighbouring parish councils. This subject will be debated at our February meeting, although we are not expecting to make any decisions in haste. If you feel strongly about the subject or if you work in the field and want to offer your professional help, please contact our Clerk by email or phone, or - even better - come and talk to us during the Public Participation section of the forthcoming meeting!

OXFORD INSTRUMENTS, ORCHARD POOLS AND “PLOT 9000”

At the end of November, our Chairman and the Clerk were invited to visit the new premises that are being constructed for Oxford Instruments Plasma Technology. The invitation came from the company’s Operations Director, so we had a good chance to find out more about the company and their vision for their new facility in Western Approach. Oxford Instruments is a leading provider of high technology tools and systems for research and industry. They design and manufacturer equipment that can fabricate, analyse and manipulate matter at the atomic and molecular level.

We asked Oxford Instruments what they made of their new location on the border of the industrial park and the “green buffer”. They said that they would support the local economy and would want to work with the Parish Council to maintain their contribution here. The nature of their business prompts that they need a quiet area to manufacture and test their equipment. We welcome Oxford Instruments to our Parish, and we hope that their colleagues will find it to be a good place to be.

Our concern, however, remains, that Plasma Technology’s facility may not be completely free of vibrations. As you know, we are closely following the developments around the so-called “Plot 9000”, which – if permitted – would be Plasma Technology’s neighbour on the north edge of the industrial park, protruding into the current green buffer. The November planning meeting at South Gloucestershire Council refused the permission for “Plot 9000”, and it has now been referred to a higher committee, which will take place on February the 21st. There is also the situation



*Abandoned entrance to the Orchard Pools site
November 2021*

around Orchard Pools. Our barrister (who is undertaking this task for us pro bono) is looking into further details and will be in touch with us in the nearest future. We are still hopeful that Orchard Pools will remain part of the green belt and we will challenge every attempt of further industrial development between the edge of Western Approach and the village of Severn Beach.

PLANNING MATTERS

On the subject of planning, we hope that you noted the proposal for a new roadside truck stop just off the A403 opposite Severnwood Gardens. This planning application (Reference no. P21/075717/F) was swamped with objections from local residents, with virtually everyone pointing out that this very useful facility should be located closer to the new M49 junction, away from the village, so it does not have a detrimental effect on our community. The determination deadline for this application is February the 16th.

Please remember to check our website for the latest planning application that concern our Parish and remember to comment where you feel you should. Your input matters! psbpc.co.uk/planning

ANDREWS’ COMMEMORATIVE TREE

It has come to our attention that the Andrews’ commemorative tree behind the tea cottage at Severn Beach needs to be replaced. We will make sure that this lovely tribute to the local family continues to be kept looking special.

Article by Olga Taylor on behalf of the Parish Council