

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY 5TH DECEMBER 2012 IN THE MEETING ROOM, PUCKLECHURCH COMMUNITY CENTRE, ABSON ROAD.**

**PRESENT.** Mrs. G. Boyle Vice chairman, Mrs. L. English, Mrs. J. Hawkins, M.C. Smith, M.S. Watson.

Stephen Reade Councillor for Boyd Valley.

Cllr. Boyle chaired the meeting and opened with a welcome.

**NO 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.** R. Symons Chairman, E. Aze, P.J. Green, Ms. Lori-Anne Scantlebury.

Ben Stokes Councillor for Boyd Valley.

**NO 2. SIGN MINUTES.** The minutes of the meeting dated 21st November previously circulated were agreed a true record and signed.

**NO 3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.** None.

**NO 4. PLANNING APPLICATION FOR CONSIDERATION.**

PK12/3755/CA demolition of front garden wall and gate piers, 56 Parkfield Road. No objection.

PK12/3753/F replacement of front garden wall and gate piers 56 Parkfield Road. No objection.

**NO 5. FINANCE.** Cllr English confirmed the budgeted figure for November spend as £2739.00. with actual spend £3972.00. the overspend being the payment of the C.A. grant and the purchase of the new laptop. Balance at the bank c/acc. £35,286.82. and reserve acc. £14,287.00.

**PRECEPT 1ST DISCUSSION.** Cllr. English went through the proposal provided by Cllr. Symons she explained the process saying that the 2013/14 proposal was based on 2012/13 yr. line by line forecast. The figures were discussed Cllr. Watson asked why the amount allowed for training had been reduced. Cllr. English said the level reflected the figure in 2012/13 which was under budget. Cllr. Watson questioned the wisdom of this as training may be necessary when a new clerk is employed.

**Action: Question level of finance for training.**

Cllr. Reade advised S.G.C. were discussing the possibility of making cut backs on the grass cutting budget and reverting to two cuts a year and parishes asked to pay if they required more. Councillors were unable to comment without knowing costs and thought it would be unlikely to affect the 2013/14 precept.

Cllr. Reade mentioned the withdrawing of funding for Youth Services. Councillors advised this was being discussed as an agenda item at the next meeting.

Cllr. Smith said there were items in the community plan that should be added to the Capital Projects list.

**Action: Cllr. Smith to circulate items for consideration.**

Cllr. Watson stressed that once the figures were agreed it was essential to keep within the budget.

Twinning Anniversary Celebration. Cllr. Smith said the relationship between Pucklechurch & Pringy was a formal one and that the signed Charter is on display in St. Thomas a Becket. The Parish Council has a civic responsibility to maintain links with Pringy and 2013 is the 25th anniversary and is the longest running Twinning Association with reciprocal visits each year in South Gloucestershire. Cllr. Smith asked Councillors to consider funding the cost of planting Twin Trees near the millennium stone (subject to permission from S.G.C.) and for drinks/canapés for the reception. The reception is for 100-150 people and is on the 29th April 2013. Following discussion it was agreed Cllr. Smith would look into the cost of the reception.

**Action: Cllr. Smith to look into the cost of the reception.**

A letter was received from Pucklechurch Twinning asking if the Parish Council would consider funding a small gift to be presented to the Pringy Marie. Cllr. Boyle suggested that as Pucklechurch was a Saxon settlement a Saxon stone may be appropriate.

Action: Cllr. Boyle to source and cost item.

**NO 6. OPEN SPACES/AGENDA ITEMS.** Community Governance Review Representations. A reply was received from Amanda Deeks Chief Executive acknowledging mistakes had been made and apologising. She acknowledged the Councils view that more information should have been provided in the first stage and confirmed any later stage will include written information, public engagement sessions and the opportunity for the Parish Council to become involved. It was agreed that a letter would be sent advising Councillors look forward to being involved prior to the next stage of the consultation process.

**Action: Cllr. Boyle to draft letter.**

Village Green Design Statement & Character Assessment. Cllr. Boyle said Pucklechurch has a Supplementary Planning document for the Conservation Area and she believes it is important to have a document for the other areas so that things people care about i.e. unidentified heritage assets like the Chapel wall and gates and Back Lane, are protected. Work on a document can begin with Councillors working with volunteers to create a record. The Conservation Officer Ian Gething has worked with a group in Doynton. It is important to

work with the community as the document can then be used as a guide for any future development proposed under the Localism Act. It was proposed by Cllr. Smith that Cllr. Boyle moves forward on this initiative, seconded by Cllr. English. All agreed.

**Action: Cllr. Boyle to contact Ian Gething and move the project forward.**

Letter from First Step Homes. A letter was received from First Step Homes who specialise in the provision of rural affordable housing who have had for some time an interest in land in Pucklechurch. Their reason for this approach is that they believe they can offer the community a variety of benefits that have already been identified as being needed. They would make land available for affordable housing restricted to local people only, provide a football pitch with changing facilities for the local club and open space for the community.

An email from S.G.C. confirmed that since the determination of the village green application at Oaktree Avenue they have started to reassess the site and look at the land that has not been designated. Elected members will be asked to make a decision over the future of the site and a number of options will be considered. The options will include: 1) do nothing and leave the land as open space. 2) dispose of the land to a housing association for affordable housing development. 3) sell the site on the open market. S.G.C. advised First Step Homes had contacted them regarding a potential exception site in Pucklechurch and they have been advised to contact the Parish Council as its support is needed for an exception site.

Councillors agreed they were not in a position to discuss the proposal from First Step Homes until the feasibility study and decision was known and they had the view of members and the community.

**Action: Clerk to send holding letter to First Step Homes.**

**Action: Clerk to contact S.G.C. to ask when a decision is likely to be.**

Cllr. Smith raised the issue of the email from C.P.R.E. who are concerned that the Planning Minister wants to increase England's built up area by a third. Cllr. Smith suggested the Parish Council should write to the M.P. Steve Webb to make him aware we have evidence in our Community Plan to support the view that the majority of our residents want to see the Green Belt protected. Cllr. Boyle advised that the Council could not discuss this or make a decision to take this action at this meeting since the email was not an agenda item and to do so would be unlawful. The matter had been requested as an agenda item for the next meeting.

Cllr. Smith proposed a review of the Housing Needs Assessment be undertaken at a future meeting. Seconded by Cllr. Watson who asked that it include a realistic look at land around the village.

**Action: To include at a future meeting review of Housing Needs Assessment and land around the village.**

At a site meeting on the 2nd December a review of outstanding issues associated with St. Aldams Play Garden was undertaken. It was agreed to action the recommendations except for item 4 as this would need consent from English Heritage and reference item 2 clerk to circulate copies of letter sent to resident.

**Action: Clerk to circulate copy of letter.**

Discuss providing safe walking provision from Hawkrige Drive across Abson Rd. Cllr. Smith said a lot of walkers from the estate use the grass slope/verge near Hawkrige Drive to cross Abson Road and gain access to Hodden Lane and the public footpath. He has been made aware of two serious accidents where people have slipped on the grass slope and proposed this should be drawn to the attention of S.G.C. All agreed. Cllr. Reade suggested this could also be raised at the next Safer Stronger Community Group meeting.

There being no further business the Chairperson declared the meeting closed.

Date of next meeting. 19th December at 7.30pm.