

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PARISH MEETING HELD
5TH MAY 2009 IN THE MEETING ROOM, PUCKLECHURCH COMMUNITY
CENTRE, ABSON ROAD.**

Present. O.A. Beg Parish Council Chairman, Diane Bailey Parish Clerk, Mrs. R. Abbott, Ms. J. Berry, Mrs. G. Boyle, Mrs. G. Hayden, Mr. R. Hills, D.A.E. Holder, Mrs. M. Palmer, Ms H. Parker, Mr. M. Smith, Mr. M. Watson, Mrs. E. Webb, Mr. L.J. Whittock.

Mr. Beg presided welcoming everyone to the meeting.

Apologies for absence. Mr. & Mrs. Freestone, Cllr S. Grant, Mr. P.J. Green.

Copies of the minutes of the previous meeting dated 14th May 2008 were available and those present agreed they should be signed as a true record.

NO 1. Parish Council Chairman's Report. Mr. Beg said he would begin the evening with a brief resume of some of the matters with which the Parish Council had dealt during the last year.

RURAL SPACIAL STRATEGY. Some matters are on-going and others are such that we cannot make the final decision and the R.S.S. was one such. As this affected every County and Unitary Council in the South West our role was to get as much information as possible; advise those most affected (in this case Shortwood) and write to South Glos Councillors and our M.P. as well as responding individually to the R.S.S. – so that the relevant Minister would know the strength of feeling about the plans for part of our parish and the wider area between Kingswood and Siston. A statement from the Minister is due in a few weeks time.

HOUSING. Last year I mention Sovereign Housing Associations indicative plans for the land at the top of Oaktree Avenue. Since then things have gone very quiet and no further information has been given to us about their intentions. If and when we have further information we will put it on the web-site and also discuss it at the Council meeting.

TREE FELLING. During the year, as part of our insurance we have had to fell some trees and have others shortened or trimmed. As a rural Council we do not like to cut down trees but when we are advised that to leave them could be potentially dangerous and could nullify our insurance we had to take action. Several years ago we took similar action at the bottom of the steps leading down from St. Aldams Drive. For a while the area looked a little bleak but now the trees have grown the whole area is attractive.

FINANCIAL HELP. During the year we again gave donations to charities that help people in Pucklechurch. Citizens Advice Bureau, C.P.R.E. and Alzheimer's Society are amongst those to whom we give. The amounts are not large but they demonstrate our continuing support for very worthwhile charities. We also give small grants to village

organisations – including Scouts and St. Thomas a Becket to help with costs towards the upkeep of the churchyard.

When we were considering the Budget for 2009/10 it was decided to ‘ring-fence’ an amount which the C.A. could call on should they have to make a large outlay on repairs and maintenance. By increasing the amount in your Council Tax Bill which the Parish Council receive we will be able to have about £3000.00. available to C.A. should they need it. A small increase for everyone should enable the hall to be serviceable in the foreseeable future.

VILLAGE HALL MAKEOVER. The Progress of the village hall makeover has been dogged by some unfortunate misunderstandings which my colleagues and I have tried to resolve – although the Council are only the landlord. I very much hope that the enthusiasm of the small group working on producing plans for the hall’s future will bear fruit. The present building is to use a well used phrase ‘unfit for purpose.’ I am sure the will to make progress is there, what we all must do now is to see the bigger picture – a facility for the village which will be able to provide for the needs of the village for the next twenty or thirty years.

CONCLUSION. The last year has been one of challenge, much success and some disappointments. My colleagues have worked hard not only on regular Council matters but in other areas as well, attending meetings, helping individual parishioners with problems or giving advice. Diane Bailey has, as ever been totally committed to keeping us informed with information from S.G.C. including planning matters and consultations. My other colleagues all have areas in which they excel and take additional responsibility. To them, on your behalf I say thank you as I do to Diane.

It has been a privilege once again to Chair the Council and I thank my colleagues for their support. Our meetings are often quite lively but that is good, it shows that Pucklechurch Councillors are passionate about getting the best for the village and ensuring that we do our best to bring it about.

NO 2. Financial Report of Audited Accounts 2007/8. The Clerk confirmed the accounts for 2007/8 had been audited and £11,169.00. carried forward. The figures were as recorded at last year’s Annual Parish Meeting.

The accounts for 2008/9 have been prepared and will be presented to the next Parish Council Meeting (20th May).

Income including precept was.	32,075. 36.
Expenditure.	30,860. 67.
Surplus.	1,276. 78.

These accounts will be available for inspection by the electorate between 9am – 7pm Mon – Fri commencing 20th July and ending 14th August 2009. The audit will be carried

out by Mazars LLP on the 17th August 2009. £12,445. 00. is being carried forward to 2009/10.

NO 3. Report of Unitary Authority. Clerk read the report on behalf of Cllr. Grant. South Gloucestershire Council has achieved a four star rating and continues to improve. It works in partnership with other bodies (Police, Fire Authority and other Councils) to attain the best service for the community.

During the last year the South Gloucestershire Local Involvement Network (LINK) has been set up to ask local people what they think about their local health and social care services, to investigate specific issues of concern to the community and give local people a chance to influence how services are planned and run.

Any member of the public can join the group. The number to ring for more information is 0117 589348.

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA). A joint project with NHS South Gloucestershire (formerly South Gloucestershire Primary Care Trust) LINK and South Gloucestershire Council. Their aim, which is a statutory requirement, is to bring together all of the important information on health and social care needs of local residents. Its core purpose is to inform the planning and commissioning of health and social care services.

Bristol Health Services Plan. Significant work has been completed including establishing the Service Development Groups. There are a set of principles underpinning the work of these groups. In summary they are:

To enhance and develop the role of the primary care clinicians in the provision of services.

To develop models of service provision that successfully achieve care closer to home and increased choice and convenience for patients.

To support self management as an important component of care pathways where appropriate.

To create options for enabling rapid access to an acute assessment, without always requiring an admission.

To create integrated care pathways that optimally utilise both primary care and secondary care staff and strengthen the interface between the two.

To involve patients and the public in the design process.

Yate Community Health Care Centre due to open in November 2009.

Cossham Hospital redevelopment due to be completed late 2011.

New Southmead Hospital (includes Southmead Community Hospital) due to be completed 2013/14.

Frenchay Community Hospital and Thornbury Hospital. Planning is ongoing involving stakeholders.

NO 4. Report for Pucklechurch Primary School. Apologies unable to attend.

NO 5. Reports from Local Organisation. Pucklechurch Cricket Club. The report was read by Gale Boyle on behalf of Vicky & Dean Freestone. Pucklechurch Cricket Club runs three adult teams on Saturdays, a development team on Sundays and Youth teams Under 11, 13, 15 and 17years.

2008 proved to be another good year. Despite the lack of on field success all the teams remained in their existing divisions and the club continues to grow. The youth teams had good numbers. Financially they were able to replace the pitch roller while still maintaining a bank balance. The club thrives on its social events with families made welcome on every possible occasion.

As they approach the 2009 season they have been holding indoor training for senior players and youth squads at King Edmund School, Yate. Last Sunday saw the first under 17s game of the season, in addition there were 20 under 13s and 15 under 11s training on the Recreation field.

Looking forward they are considering an artificial surface on the Recreation field and hope the Parish Council is be able to give the proposal full attention when it is presented and finally, thank you for your continued support.

Pucklechurch Sports YFC. Gale Boyle reported Pucklechurch Sports YFC has been running for 13 years and has recently become a FA Charter Standard Club. It currently runs four teams, under 10s, 13s, 14s and 15s which play in the Hanham Manor League and the Avon Youth League. This year (2009/10 season) they have more than 60 players signed on.

The Club is fully committed to providing a safe and friendly environment for young people to enjoy and play football with a team identity in which they can be proud. Although they make all possible efforts to keep costs to individual players down (so that participation and inclusion is not down to financial circumstance) it has become necessary to introduce a signing on fee over the last two years and increase weekly match subs. This is largely due to the ever increasing cost of providing suitable training facilities over the winter months – each team trains at least once per week throughout the year and in the winter this necessitates using floodlit facilities provided outside the village.

There ethos is based on the power of positive encouragement. They believe players develop a deep sense of commitment to the club, playing week in, week out, whatever the weather and training on dark winter evenings keeps them out of mischief and gives them a sense of purpose.

The teams currently play on the recreation field, the school playing field and at Tormarton cricket club – the older teams need bigger pitches to play on and they have two teams that need pitches like this on a Sunday afternoon.

The Club is run by a Management Committee of volunteers and this year saw a change of personnel, their longstanding Honorary Chairman Trevor Murphy as well as their equally longstanding Honorary Secretary Debbie Preece both stood down after many years of faithful service and these positions have been filled by Chris Boyle and Tim Newport.

The Club faces considerable financial challenges over the next year – income generated is barely keeping pace with necessary expenditure. Similarly recruiting new volunteers who are prepared to take on new teams for the younger age groups has become increasingly difficult – two coaches folded their teams over the last 18 months due to conflicting work and other responsibilities. The Management Committee are resolved to try and reverse this situation as soon as possible.

Pucklechurch Sports Football Club. The report from Malcolm Grainger was read by the Clerk. Pucklechurch Sports continues to run 3 adult football sides in the Premier Combination and Bristol & District League. The first team was relegated from the Gloucestershire County League at the end of last season and has now settled into the Avon Premier Combination. There are a couple of fixtures outstanding but they are likely to finish in fourth position. A much lower financial and bureaucratic burden is an added bonus. Reserves finished comfortably mid table in Division 1 whilst the third team came fourth in Division 5.

New officers have settled in well with first team manager Tom Hartree now assisted by Mike Wiltshire. Dick Savage replaced Jackie Mooney for his second stint as Secretary.

The pressure on facilities such as a solid barrier around the pitch has lessened with our relegation from the County League. The new goalposts, which are taken down after each game, are working well.

After some delays they managed to erect new aluminium guttering to the rear elevation of the village hall. They have been able to pressure wash the brickwork which will hopefully improve the appearance generally, however the new guttering has been subject to breakages already and will require constant maintenance.

Although there are a small number of fixtures outstanding, none relate to Pucklechurch Sports so players, officials and spectators are starting a well earned rest prior to preparation for next season which starts later in the summer. Anyone interested in playing for the club can contact them via the Pucklechurch website.

Pucklechurch Girl Guiding. Rosalind Abbott gave the following report. As we near the start of Girl Guiding UK's centenary in September this year, I am delighted to report that over 100 girls regularly enjoy Guiding in Pucklechurch. They are supported and encouraged by a dedicated band of around 20 leaders, who provide a safe, girls-only space for them to grow and develop into caring citizens.

They presently have two Rainbow Units for the 5 – 7year olds, two Brownie Packs for 7 – 10years and one Guide Company for 10+ to 15th birthday. However, most of the older girls prefer to move on to the Senior Section when they reach 13 ½ - 14 years.

Some girls become Young Leaders between the ages of 14 – 18, they greatly value the time these young people are prepared to put into guiding - giving back some of the fun and friendship they had themselves. They are our leaders of tomorrow.

During this past year all Units have taken part in our national challenge to ‘Change the World.’ Girl Guiding UK has teamed up with 19 recognised charities which have all prepared fact sheets, activities and fund raising suggestions.

Locally the girls have supported:

The Woodland Trust.

Book Aid International.

World Wildlife Fund, specifically focusing on tortoise protection.

Plan which aims to improve the lives of girls and women.

The Brownies have documented the differences between their lives here in Pucklechurch and those of a girl in Liberia focusing on homeless people and in particular the foot problems they face.

Red Cross.

Through learning facts and participating in the activities, plus fund raising, the girls have realised that even here in our small village we can in fact play a small part in ‘Changing the World’.

This sense of empowerment bolsters self confidence and self belief and is important to Guiding where all members are encouraged to have a say in what happens in our Units. We are the largest female organisation in the UK and the world with a global membership of 10million. We have remained a girls only organisation as we feel that sometimes girls just need their own space. This does not mean that we just do ‘girly’ things in fact here in Pucklechurch during the last year the Rainbows have been ten-pin bowling, played cricket and ridden on the Bitton steam train, visited Dyrham Park to plant trees for the Woodland Trust and to climb them.

Brownies have practised road and countryside codes and made a hedgehog house. They have cared for others by carol singing at the Homefield Centre and worked for their ‘Friend to Animals’ badge and went by train to Weston-S-Mare for a day on the beach.

Guides have been regularly working outdoors on their allotment, learning to grow vegetables and to light and cook on wood fires. They helped in the community by joining in the litter picking. They camped with 100 other guides at Division camp and spent a weekend at Badminton cottages. Along with thousands of others some went to the Girl Guiding Big Gig concert which featured all the girls favourite pop star bands.

Senior Section started a website and are working on their bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award. They have played croquet, searched for badgers, slept in a haunted house, been tractor driving, won the County Senior Section quiz and carried out a bat survey at Dyrham Park.

Last October I joined a group of leaders on a visit to one of our world centres in Mexico. Leaders came from Canada, Argentina, Venezuela, Brazil and other parts of the UK. The staff were from Mexico, USA, Honduras and Israel. We learnt about Mexican Festivals and Traditions which was fascinating, we met together to explore and share a common aim. We met quietly and made instant friends, regardless of colour or creed. This was an amazing experience and I felt very proud to belong to such a fantastic organisation. How wonderful if all the world could live in harmony as we did there.

In October three leaders visited Mrs Eileen Pitman in Doynton. She was 108yrs old, had been to school with Lord Baden-Powells sister Agnes and started Guides in Doynton. This was one of the earliest Guide companies in our area and the visitors recorded her memories of early guiding which will prove invaluable for our centenary celebrations. Unfortunately she died in April and several Guiders, in uniform, attended her memorial service on 2nd May. The original flag for 1st Doynton Guides was in the church and we were asked to form a colour party leading out the congregation after the service. This was indeed an honour and inspired several people to speak to us about their Guiding memories.

Guiding therefore, is alive, active and as relevant today as it ever was. This is proven by the fact that sadly in the UK we have 50,000 girls on our waiting-to-join lists. Why are they waiting? We need more leaders to accommodate them. So if you have been inspired by this report and would like to join us and take part in all the fun and friendship please speak to me tonight.

St. Thomas A Becket Church. Elizabeth Webb gave the following report. During the past year all the special services in Church have been well attended with special mention of the services on Remembrance Sunday, Christmas Carol and Christingle Services when we were pleased to see a very full Church. Also of particular note is 'Messy Church' which has taken place four times, this consists of a short act of worship, various activities, like painting and craft then refreshments are served and we finish with a prayer. A Light Party/Service took place at the end of October (this was an alternative to Halloween), and the All Souls Service in November was once again well received. The Scare Crow Trail in May raised £1400.00. and this years has just been completed.

On a normal Sunday morning the average attendance in Church is 36 with 14 young people who go into Junior Church for a time together during the service. Youth Club meets once a month at the Vicarage, they have activities, food, videos and discussions of Christian input.

10 pews 5 from each side of the Church were placed into storage in July and we are applying for permission for their permanent removal from the Diocese together with the remainder of the Pews. We have purchased chairs to replace them.

The fabric of the Church both inside and out remains in good condition, all minor works are carried out as and when they occur. There will be a need in the future to do some re-pointing work and the electrics have to be tested.

They thanked the Parish Council for its continued support especially for the donation towards the maintenance of the Churchyard.

Twinning. Helen Parker reported members made the reciprocal visit to Pringy when once again it was springtime in October. Thirty nine members travelled by coach and overnight ferry arriving in Pringy mid- morning on Saturday to a customary warm welcome. On Sunday they gathered outside the Mairie (town hall) for an introduction to the new mayor Monsieur Eric Bonnomet and the unveiling of a new plaque at 'Square Pucklechurch' to commemorate the 20th anniversary. After the speeches we gathered in Pringy's beautiful park to watch the release of pigeons as a sign of friendship and peace. A formal reception and the signing of the Twinning Charter took place in the Foyer Rural. Twinning trips are fun from start to finish, the arranged activities are vibrant with everyone joining in and having a thoroughly enjoyable time with the youngster totally involved with the adults and each other.

Twinning runs a full programme of events and some fund raising, they are grateful to the Parish Council for the grant that helped fund the 20th anniversary celebrations in Pucklechurch. Twinning runs a raft of events for Revel, they are grateful to the organiser of the Revel Ramble and pleased to be entering a float this year.

The Easter visit week-end saw 39 guests of which 15 were under 19yrs they arrived about 5pm on Saturday. Sunday was spent with hosts. Monday saw a visit to the Cotswolds plus the usual reception and disco in the Village Hall. We said a fond farewell to our guests on Wednesday morning - the end of a very successful and enjoyable visit.

The Twinning Charters that were signed for the 20th anniversary are on display in St. Thomas A Becket Church, one either side of the plaque commemorating the 10th anniversary.

Revel. Mr. Smith gave the following report. Last year's Revel distributed £6760.00. to Village Organisations, all details are available on the community website.

This year's Revel will be held over the two weeks from 6th – 20th June with Revel Day being Saturday 20th the theme is 'TV programmes past and present.'

Beer Festival will be held on Friday and Saturday 12/13th June, this is a change, something else new will be the opening of the Beer Festival bar on Sunday 14th June at lunchtime in conjunction with an open mic/talent competition in the marquee.

This year Revel will not print a large programme instead we will distribute a leaflet with event details with Pucklechurch News plus a full list of events will be published on the website. There will also be more publicity for people outside the village by promoting Revel as a 'traditional village fete'.

Many organisations are good enough to help sell Raffle Tickets, however this year we do need unsold tickets returned by the Beer Festival on the 12th so that they can be sold during the week. In the past late return of tickets has meant that we have been unable to sell them and this means less income.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the local businesses for their support and sponsorship and in particular the Parish Council who has sponsored the children's entertainment. While fund raising is important Revel is about community and the committee focuses on providing community events during Revel week.

All organisations should by now have let Angela Hallett know what they want to do for Revel which includes events, parade, stalls etc. Also all groups should have provided information on how Revel money from 2008 has been spent. As explained at the 2008 AGM it is important to let the community know how the money is spent it is also a requirement of good governance and will be taken into account when allocating funds for 2009.

Community Plan. Mr. Holder gave the following report. The team has been working hard to complete the plan. We were a victim of the success we had with the great response from the Parish as there was an enormous amount of data to enter and analyse. Most of this is now complete and some of the detailed work will be published on the website in June/July.

Data from the plan has already been used in a variety of ways. Two new groups have been formed in the village, the Good Neighbour and Sustainability and Environment Groups. Data was also used when fighting the Composting Facility and the Regional Spatial Strategy and we are now engaged with South Gloucestershire Council regarding proposals to make the countryside and historic sites in the area more accessible.

Once the analysis is complete the main work will be to produce a summary and action plan that will be presented to the Parish Council for adoption. It will then be printed and distributed to all households in the Parish.

Jacki Berry advised that the Sustainability & Environment Group was in crisis of leadership as the Treasurer and Secretary had pulled out because of other commitments. The Chairman has had to step down due to ill health and is asking for others to lead.

NO 6. Any Other Business. The resident living next to the Village Hall car park expressed concern that young people were using the bushes between his boundary wall and the car park as a public toilet and asked what the Council was going to do about it.

He was also annoyed that youngsters playing football and cricket on the recreation field were damaging the pointing on his wall. He said he was for every telling them to play further away, he thought something should be done, he said the Council take enough money off him and suggested a fence be erected.

Mr. Beg explained that the recreation field is owned by the Parish Council not South Gloucestershire Council and that a large sum of money has already been spent on replacing the fencing on Castle Road to increase safety.

Regarding the issue of people urinating in the bushes the Parish Council was not aware of the problem and blame should not be attributed as others play football and cricket that do not belong to organisations. Mrs. Palmer asked the resident what he thought should be done as presumably he would not want the trees and shrubs removed – to which he agreed.

It was agreed the resident would write to the Clerk regarding the issues so that they could be discussed as an agenda item at the Parish Council Meeting.

Mrs. Boyle suggested that if he had issues with specific players he wrote to the Chairman of the Cricket/Football Clubs and they would endeavour to make sure the player and parents are contacted.

A resident raised concern that not everyone has access to computers and information always seems to be available on the web site. Mr. Smith said Councillors were very aware of this he confirmed other means of communication had not diminished; the web site was additional and is a quicker way of distributing information.

Mr. Beg agreed there was no easy answer as to how information was passed to others this evenings meeting could have been advertised in the press but it would be expensive, he believes a half page article in Pucklechurch News and word of mouth is best.

Mr. Beg thanked everyone for sharing their reports which shows Pucklechurch is vibrant and interesting and he hopes that next year more groups will attend.

The meeting closed at 8pm.