

**MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD 19<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2011 IN THE MEETING ROOM, PUCKLECHURCH COMMUNITY CENTRE, ABSON ROAD.**

**PRE MEETING WITH PUCKLECHURCH CRICKET CLUB.** Members met to discuss the positioning of the semi permanent net facility. Cllr. Smith put on screen a map of the area and it was agreed that the best position would be between the Burial Ground hedge and the Oak tree.

**Action: Clerk to confirm agreement and ask for a plan indicating position and size of net facility to be provided.**

**PRESENT.** R. Symons Chairman, M.C. Smith Vice Chairman, E. Aze, Mrs. G. Boyle, P.J. Green, W. Prewett, M.S. Watson.

The Chairman opened the meeting with a welcome.

**NO 1. APOLOGIES.** Mrs. L.P. English, Ms Lori-Anne Scantlebury, Cllrs for Boyd Valley Steve Reade & Ben Stokes, P.C. Topps.

**NO 2. TO SIGN MINUTES.** The minutes of the meeting dated 21<sup>st</sup> September previously circulated were agreed a true record and signed.

**NO 3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.** The Chairman invited Mrs. Harvey to speak. Mrs. Harvey said she would like to clarify one or two points regarding her planning application to replace the mobile home with a brick built bungalow. Mrs. Harvey said regarding the comment that Councillors were sympathetic to the personal circumstances of the applicant but felt that the quickest and easiest way to meet the needs of the family and overcome the current problems with the mobile home was to install a new mobile home to modern specifications. She has been in contact with the manufacturer and been advised that to conform to British Standards mobile homes have to be built on wheels making them 25"/30" from the ground and all need steps. Regarding health problems there is a letter from their doctor saying that due to illness and age their health could only get worse. They have lived in the parish for 37 years, their children have never been in trouble and their son is a member of the Social Club. They have life time planning consent for the mobile home so their family will always be there, they do not think a bungalow will look much different and they have shown special circumstances. If Councillors are not happy with the plans they will change them and the caravan and utility building would be removed. Cllr. Watson said your caravan is classed as a traveller site and if converted will no longer be a traveller site and there are big problems with S.G.C. having insufficient sites also the final decision rests with S.G.C. Mrs. Harvey replied that there are three traveller sites that she is aware of that S.G.C. has recently lost and they had not appeared concerned also the Government has told Local Councils they can make their own decisions.

Cllr. Symons thanked Mrs. Harvey for coming and confirmed her comments would be noted in the minutes.

Cllr. Symons invited Mrs. Shirley Hall to speak. Mrs. Hall said she was upset to hear from the editor of the Parish Magazine that the Parish Council had said she wanted money to support the sale of the Post Office. Also the editor had refused to print an article drawing attention to the importance of the Post Office written by a local resident but had wanted to include something which she thought would make her look like a martyr. She knows she is paid for her work but believes the Post Office is more than a job and she definitely did not ask for money. Mrs. Hall said she hopes that the new Council will take more interest in the Post Office, the Parish Plan brochure says it is looking to make the village better but there is nothing in it to support the Post Office. She wants to retire and believes something should be done to inform residents, it is the elderly people she is worried about because they talk to her staff. She was upset by the remarks in Pucklechurch News and thinks the Council's suggestion to re-locate the Post Office to a community facility may not be an option because it's a commercial business in a busy village. Cllr. Watson replied that he did not make the decision he had been given the task by the Council and had reported back that the stumbling block seemed to be that you were hoping to get recognition for good will. Cllr. Symons thanked Mr. & Mrs. Hall for attending the meeting.

Councillors carried out a review and confirmed that they had not suggested or recorded that Mrs Hall had wanted money.

**NO 4. LAW & ORDER.** Clerk read the following report from P.C. Topps. From the 1<sup>st</sup> September to date there were 14 reports of crime two of which related to HMP Ashfield.

The types of crime reported are:

Assault/violence against a person -2.

Theft other (including scrap metal) – 2.

Theft from a dwelling - 1.

Theft of a pedal cycle – from a front garden – 1.

Theft from motor vehicles (these all relate to theft of fuel) – 3. (Suspects named and are being investigated/linked to the travelling community).

Criminal damage – 1.

Fraud – relating to internet investigation.

Harassment – 1.

In addition there have been 2 calls relating to anti social behaviour and disorder at St. Aldams Play Park. P.C. Topps has liaised with the S.G.C. Anti Social Behaviour Team and they confirmed they have no recorded incidents. A leaflet drop is being carried out by the ASB Team to inform residents that they consider there is no ASB issue surrounding the park based on the calls/complaints received.

The Police continue to patrol the area and on two occasions groups of youths have been spoken to and advised, although no disorder/street drinking has been seen. Minor damage has been reported to the Police and restorative justice has been implemented to deal with the issues with the agreement of the Parish Council.

Recent Community Tensions. Following a recent Crown Court Trial in relation to serious sexual offences committed by two local residents, they have been given substantial prison sentences. This has had the effect of increasing community tension in the area and is being monitored by the Beat Team in conjunction with the Police Public Protection Team.

**NO 5. ARISINGS/LOG.** See summary attached.

**NO 6. FINANCE.** A copy of the accounts has been circulated Cllr. Symons confirmed a £3000.00. unallocated spend, he said precept was £40,000.00. with estimated spend to the year end of £36,000.00. after allowing for the cost of a Parish Orderly he estimated the Council would end the year with a surplus of approximately £1500.00.

A reviewed and discussion about setting the budget for 2012/13 was undertaken and it was agreed that any significant expenditure for sports facilities/purchase of land could be met by a loan from the Public Works Loan Board. Cllr. Watson suggested the Council should allow for an increase in reserves and Cllr. Symons confirmed we were below the recommended reserve.

**Action: Obtain recommended reserve from N.A.L.C.**

Current view on spend – Gather list by December ready for setting precept include recommendations from Community Plan Steering Group. November review salaries, rents and contracts so that all costs are available by December. Cllr. Symons agreed to meet with Cllr. English to discuss salaries and make recommendations.

Following the review of the budget it was agreed that the Council could not offer financial support to the Cricket Club this financial year, but may be able to help next year if they could provide a cost of what could be reasonably asked for.

The following cheques were agreed for payment and signed. S.J. Aplin Playgrounds Ltd. £267.40. supply and fit new cradle seat to swing on recreation field. E.D.F. Energy £58.49. unmetered supply. Mazars £342.00. external audit. Clerk confirmed the Accounts to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011 had been signed by the External Auditor and so as to fulfil the legal requirement a copy of the Annual Return and the notice of conclusion of audit had to be displayed in the Notice Board for 14days. P.C.A. £90.25. 1 Parish Council meeting + 1 meeting to co-opt new Councillors + 5 Youth Club sessions. Mrs. Anna Sharpe £178.00. D. Bailey £661.61. being salary £319.97. stamps £7.48. projector screen £219.98. spare bulb for projector £114.18. Instant Landscapes £482.00. grass cutting.

**NO 7. PLANNING APPLICATIONS.** The following planning applications were considered and observations made.

PK11/3012/CLP application for Certificate of Lawfulness for proposed erection of 4no bio ethanol storage tanks within existing storage tank bund. Westerleigh Terminal. No objection.

PK11/3182/TCA works to 1no Horse Chestnut tree to reduce crown to previous pruning points. The Paddock, 18 Shortwood Road. No objection.

PK11/3075/ADV display of 1no. non illuminated freestanding post mounted notice board. Pucklechurch Community Centre. No comment.

PK11/3053/LB internal alterations to divide bedrooms mezzanine floor with half solid half glazed partitions. Harvest Barn, 5 Farlands, Pucklechurch. No objection.

**NO 8. CORRESPONDENCE.** An email was received from Safer Stronger Communities Officer at S.G.C. confirming the property 30 St. Aldams Drive is a halfway house for young people coming out of care in Bristol before they go into independent flats. It is run by Premier Care Trust they are on call 24hrs a day and if necessary will sleep at the premises. Councillors were concerned that there were offenders living in close proximity to prison officers, they also felt it was inappropriate to have young offenders from Ashfield

**Action 1: Cllr. Watson to get back to S.S.C.G.**

**NO 9.** A request was received from Sally Garnet asking for permission to erect a memorial seat on the recreation field in memory of her father Anthony Ponting. Councillors were happy to agree - position to be agreed.

**NO 10.** A copy of an email from Pucklechurch Football was received confirming they have no objection to the planned pitch improvements proposed by Pucklechurch Cricket Club.

**NO 11.** An invitation was received from St. Thomas a Becket Church to attend the Remembrance Day Service on 13<sup>th</sup> November at 10.45am. Cllr. Symons agreed to lay the wreath.

**Action: Clerk to purchase Poppy Wreath.**

**NO 12.** A letter was received from a resident regarding the Part Night Lighting saying that she accepts she must have been in the minority as the proposal was to go ahead and would be interested in the result as when she attended the consultation there was a majority in favour of leaving the lighting in place. She would also like to know why the lights are being switched off an hour earlier at 12.00am. in the winter. Cllr. Smith advised that despite information about the consultation being put in Pucklechurch News, on the website and emailed to 300 people in the village only six people from four households had attended. 1 person did not register a formal comment, 3 were against, 2 were not against but wanted modifications made. Two people commented on line, 1 for and 1 against. Based on the consultation it was the Parish Councils belief that the vast majority of residents were either in support of or not sufficiently concerned to comment; as a result of the consultation changes were made. Regarding the timing the lights switch on and off at approximately the same G.M.T. throughout the year it's British summertime (when the clocks change) that effects the switching time.

**Action: Clerk to send letter of explanation.**

**NO 13. REPORTS.** Cllr. Smith had attended the Joint Cycleway Group and reported that the proposed cycleway link from Pucklechurch has been registered and S.G.C. asked to give time scale. Regarding the proposed Yate spur planning conditions are still being investigated before the scheme can be started but it is hoped that the first section (Coxgrove Hill to Motorway Bridge) will start in the summer.

Cllr. Watson reported that at the ALCA AGM the Executive Committee had confirmed the new management would remain. New Councillor training packs would soon be available at a cost of £30.00. per person.

On the 28<sup>th</sup> September Cllr. Watson met with the Midwifery Trust and advised there is a proposal to try to re-instate ante natal services at Wick surgery for half a day every other week, residents can still go to Yate if they prefer.

Reference proposed new surgery for Pucklechurch Dr. John Seddon has advised progress is slow but his agents will contact S.G.C. to progress the need to start construction separately from the proposed housing development.

Cllr. Green attended the Boyd Link Meeting concern had been expressed that there was a need for volunteers. Grant information had been available which Cllr. Green would pass to the clerk.

The clerk read the Unitary Report on behalf of Cllr. Reade.

**NO 14. MEMBERS MATTERS.** Councillors had received two complaints about nettles encroaching over the footpath on Westerleigh Road between the village and St. Aldams Farm Nursery.

**Action: Clerk to contact S.G.C.**

Cllr. Smith asked for concern about herbicide spraying is added to the log.

Councillors had received concern that there was tree over hanging the play area at Parkfield.

**Action: Clerk to investigate.**

**NO 15. ENGAGEMENT WITH PUBLIC.** Cllr. Boyle had prepared a checklist of organisational and public needs that she recommended should be followed when future projects are undertaken. She suggested that although the Parish Council felt it had communicated sufficiently over the Play Garden it obviously hadn't also a contributing factor had been the protracted time scale due to the Government suspending the Play Builder funding. Cllr. Watson said there was a greatly under-used mechanism for communicating which was the calling of a Community Meeting. The Council agreed that before undertaking any significant project it would endeavour to consult as per the checklist annexed hereto.

**Action: Add checklist to Standing Orders.**

**NO 16. ST. ALDAMS PLAY GARDEN - REVIEW.** Cllr. Symons had collated a list of complaints/concerns received. Each issue was discussed and the way forward agreed. The list and recommendations are attached.

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

Date of Next Meeting. 16<sup>th</sup> November 2011 at 7.30pm.

21.09.11	Council meeting action		Screen to be purchased by Clerk	Closed
21.09.11	Council meeting action		Evacuation Plan in event of Nuclear incident to be formulated	Open
21.09.11	Council meeting action		Arrange Village Hall Makeover meeting	Open
21.09.11	Council meeting action		Erect Sign at Eagle Crescent play area - No Ball Games except Basketball	Closed
21.09.11	Council meeting action		Contact list for all village groups to be collated by Clerk	Open
21.09.11	Council meeting action		Contact with Speed Watch to be arranged - Cllr Smith	Open
21.09.11	Council meeting action		Notice board planning application to be submitted by Clerk	Closed
21.09.11	Council meeting action		Gates to be considered for Hill View side of recreation field.	Open
21.09.11	Council meeting action		Police to be invited to meetings - Clerk to invite	Closed
21.09.11	Council meeting action		Rebekah Harrison - Clerk to write for information regarding Pucklechurc participants and use of equipment after the event	Closed
21.09.11	Council meeting action		Letters regarding Finance auditing - Clerk to respond stating that PPC will await the outcome of the Localism Bill to decide action	Carried Forward
21.09.11	Council meeting action		Cricket Club pitch expansion - PCC to meet with Cricket Committee 19.00 19/10/11	Closed
21.09.11	Council meeting action		Halfway house - Clerk to contact Jacki Ward for advice	Closed
21.09.11	Council meeting action		Cradle swing repair - Clerk to arrange	Closed