

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2013 IN THE MEETING ROOM, PUCKLECHURCH COMMUNITY CENTRE, ABSON ROAD.**

**PRESENT.** R. Symons Chairman, Mrs G. Boyle Chairwoman, E. Aze, Mrs L. English, P.J. Green, Mrs J. Hawkins, M.C. Smith, M.S. Watson.

The Chairman opened the meeting with a welcome.

**NO 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.** Ms Lori-Anne Scantlebury.

Steve Reade & Ben Stokes Councillors for Boyd Valley.

**NO 2. TO SIGN THE MINUTES.** Cllr Smith said the minutes of the meeting dated 13<sup>th</sup> March have only just been circulated and proposed that the signing be deferred until the next meeting so that everyone has had a chance to read them. All agreed.

**NO 3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.** The Chairman invited Mr Alex Game to speak. Mr Game confirmed he was a member of the Ashfield Action Group concerned about the proposal to change HMP & YOI Ashfield into a male adult Category C sex offenders prison housing 400 inmates. He confirmed the Parish Council had organised public meetings attended by representatives from the Prison Management and National Offender Management Service. Concerns has been raised and some reassurance given but no guarantees and from these meetings an action group has been formed. The action group has put together a letter for circulation informing residents about the proposed changes and asking them to write to the Minister of Justice. The cost of printing 1300 copies is £66.00. and the group is grateful to the Parish Council for funding the printing. The letters can be dropped into boxes in the Newsagents and Village Store and the Action Group will ensure the letters are delivered to the key individuals concerned. Cllr Steve Reade has offered his email as a point of contact for the group. Cllr Smith confirmed he has included some information on the web site and offered the opportunity of using it as a vehicle of contact. Cllr Watson advised Steve Reade and Ben Stokes had tabled a motion at the meeting of full S.G.C. the outcome of which is not yet known but the motion has cross party support. The Chairman thanked Mr Game for attending.

Mr Hooper was invited to speak. Mr Hooper said he wanted to raise awareness about a planning application for a 6000 egg production unit in Abson. He was concerned about pollution, flies and drainage, he suggested the large buildings and the 26ton vehicles going in and out of the plant would affect Pucklechurch and he hoped the Council would object to such a large commercial enterprise. The Chairman thanked Mr Hooper for attending the meeting.

Mr Jason Prewitt was invited to speak. Mr Prewitt said he has been involved with the running of the Pucklechurch Youth Club for 4years and will be redundant at the end of March due to cut backs. He has formed a company Make it Mentoring (MiM) so that he can offer his services and is keen to keep working with the youth in Pucklechurch. Jason and a colleague gave a short presentation of what the Company can offer. They are willing to be flexible to Parish Council needs are skilled with working with challenging behaviour and grateful for the opportunity of introducing the company. Cllr Watson asked how MiM's was funded and if it had access or had applied for funding. Mr Prewitt advised they were appointed as service providers and currently had no funding of their own. Cllr Aze asked if they had an agreement with any other Council. Mr Prewitt confirmed they were employed by

Charfield and South Gloucestershire Council. Cllr Boyle questioned their budget and how it was worked out as the figures did not appear to add up. There seemed to be some confusion over the use of the bus and Cllr Symons asked about the importance of having it. Mr Prewitt advised the young people enjoyed using it was not essential. Cllr Smith said the Council was looking in the interim to fund the youth club for the next 3 months for one session a week and asked if the usual Thursday night was enough to keep the momentum of the club going until a permanent solution could be found. Mr Prewitt advised it was. The Chairman thanked Mr Prewitt for attending the meeting.

The Chairman invited a representative of the Pucklechurch Community Association to speak. The representative read a letter from Mrs Anna Sharpe advising that as the Youth Group use the Community Centre they would have liked to have been asked for an input. The PCA would like to indicate their wish to make a contribution and hope their opinion is known before the vote takes place. The PCA is delighted that the Youth Group use the Community Centre and wish that the building was more suitable to their needs. By getting the youth involved with the Centre they hope it fosters a respect for the building and the people using it. They understand the costs are quite substantial but with so little on offer for the youth in the village feel we are duty bound to support any provision that gives them the opportunity to engage with others. The Chairman thanked the lady for attending.

Mrs Jacki Berry was invited to speak. Mrs Berry said that in the 16 years she has been living in Pucklechurch there has been a need for a youth club. In the past it has been tried but has not worked. The one we have now is working well and it would be a shame to lose it. The Community Plan identified that the youth were the most underserved group in the village she hopes tonight's discussion have identified the need as she would hate to see it go. The Chairman thanked Mrs Berry for attending.

**NO 4. LAW & ORDER.** None. It was agreed the clerk would invite the new Inspector to the next meeting.

**NO 5. FINANCE.** The following cheques were agreed for payment and signed. G.B. Sport & Leisure UK Ltd £8941.20. supply and installation of new slide in recreation field. Yate Town Council £256.06. administration fee for JPCG Meetings. St. Thomas a Becket Church £825.00. grant towards the upkeep of the churchyard. Melanie Wickham £300.00. for producing artwork and 10 x limited edition lino prints. P.C.A. £85.00. hire of meeting room for 2 P.C. meetings, 1 Parish drop-in, 4 sessions of youth club. Cllr Smith £112.63. annual costs incurred for hosting the Pucklechurch web site. Mrs D. Hall £90.00. rent for Shortwood Playing field. Mrs. Anna Sharpe £178.00. salary. Mr G. Ashby £518.96. salary £399.00. plus mileage £69.20. plus expenses incurred for repair of tap in Burial Ground and Notice Board at entrance to Community Centre car park. Mrs D. Bailey £1241.17. salary £319.97. plus stamps £2.40. plus £800.00. annual expenses for use of home as an office plus £118.80. annual cost of text messaging service. The Conservation Volunteers £38.00. membership. Recresco Ltd £84.00. emptying plastic re-cycling bank. A.S. Hall & Son £348.00. maintenance of Shortwood Play area.

**NO 6. CORRESPONDENCE.** An email was received from the Planning Enforcement Officer regarding 85a Parkfield Road advising they are monitoring the application and will make a further assessment once the application has been determined. Enforcement will check with the Planning Officer to understand when the application will be determined and update with any further information. Councillors were concerned that no action was being taken as Mrs Ayers has not been and clearly does not intend to live there in the future. Her planning

permission expired in August 2011 and the current occupier is there without consent. It was agreed Cllr Boyle would draft a reply.

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

An invitation was received inviting members to a Civic Reception in honour of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the twinning of Pucklechurch with Pringy. The reception is to be held in the Community Centre on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2013 starting at 7pm. The Parish Council is also invited to extend the invitation to those it feels appropriate to attend. It was suggested the invitation could be extended the Chair of S.G.C. Janet Biggins and the District Councillors Stephen Reade and Ben Stokes.

A letter was received from Pucklechurch Revel requesting permission to use the recreation field for events. Pram Race 13<sup>th</sup> June, Revel day 15<sup>th</sup> June and parking for Revel Beer Festival. Councillors were happy to agree subject to Revel having insurance and carrying out their own risk assessment.

**Action: Clerk to confirm agreement.**

South Gloucestershire Council has received an application for the temporary closure of streets for the annual Revel and Beer Festival. Councillors had no objection.

**Action: Clerk to confirm Council has no objection to the temporary road closure.**

**NO 7. REPORTS.** Cllr Symons has circulated a written report advising the working group had interviewed candidates for the position of clerk. One person was unanimously chosen and he would like agreement to extend the offer. Cllr Symons confirmed the applicant met all the required criteria. Councillors agreed the appointment should be offered.

**NO 8. CLERKS REPORT.** An email has been received from Hayley Brazier the Officer at S.G.C. working to implement an Emergency Evacuation Plan requesting a meeting with Cllr Hawkins and Cllr Smith. Cllr Hawkins & Smith agreed to contact the Officer direct.

Concern had been raised by a local resident that the footpath at the side Pucklechurch School was still not open. S.G.C. confirmed the closure has been extended until 4<sup>th</sup> June.

A meeting with James Cooke the Enforcement Officer had been confirmed for 8<sup>th</sup> April at 2pm in Badminton Road Offices.

Meeting reference garages on Lansdown Road. Merlin Housing has agreed to attend and has asked for dates to be supplied. Councillors suggested meeting 1hr before the Council Meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> April. Clerk to confirm.

Clerk had telephone call from Pucklechurch Football Club asking if the recreation field could be cut. Concern was also raised that someone has been seen riding a horse on the playing field also golf has been played and a person with a metal detector seen digging up the turf. Councillors were happy for the grass to be cut providing the weather conditions allowed and agreed to discuss erecting signage to prohibit horse riding and golf at the next meeting.

**Action: Clerk to contact Grass Cutting Contractor.**

**Action: Clerk to include 'Discuss introducing signage' on agenda.**

**NO 9. PLANNING.** Planning application PK13/0812/F construction of all weather riding arena. Land at Redford Lane was discussed. Following discussion it was agreed there was no reason to object to this application.

**NO 10. AGENDA ITEMS. Community Plan.** Cllr Smith confirmed Pucklechurch School has been through the plan which is very encouraging. Reference surveying footpaths - work is continuing on a number of circular routes in and out of the village and these will be published next year. Work on the cycle path north of the M4 has been disrupted due to the weather. Reference the proposed cycle path on Police Station Hill talks with landowners will begin shortly.

It was commented that we have a number of projects in progress and there should be an agenda item covering each of them so that projects were kept visible and reported on regularly.

Allotments. Cllr Hawkins & Cllr English are to prepare a business plan for submission for funding from the New Homes Bonus Scheme.

Community Association. Cllr Hawkins reported that she has been working on the project trying to contact people but without much success until today when she received an email from the Make Over Group. A date is being arranged for a meeting.

To consider supporting Youth Club. There was further discussion regarding the Youth Club and the following points were discussed:

The need for a club for young people.

Who should apply for funding.

The importance of having correct figures for budgeting.

The possibility of working in partnership with the P.C.A. as they are a charity.

Setting aside money for other groups so that there is equal opportunity for young people across the board. Following the discussions Cllr Symons suggested Parish Council fund the Youth Club for 1 session a week for up to 3 months at £500.00. per month and works to set up a group to find a permanent funding solution. Proposed by Cllr Green seconded by Cllr English. Voting 6 for with 1 abstention.

It was agreed Cllrs Symons, Smith, Scantlebury & Green form working group.

To identify a working group to review the following:

Finance & Risk Assessment. Cllr Symons & Cllr English.

Standing Orders & Code of Conduct. Cllr Boyle, Cllr Watson & Cllr Symons.

2013/14 Capital Project Spend. Cllr Smith had previously circulated the list each item was looked at and the detail explained. Councillors were reminded that these items had been included in the budget for last year but the money not spent. It was felt members needed to be realistic about the amount of work they could do. Council to circulate to the Parish the items being considered and ask for community support in identifying need.

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

Dates for next meeting.

Parish Council. Wed 3rd April at 7.30pm.

Parish Drop-in Sat 6<sup>th</sup> April 10.00 – 12.00.