

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY 13TH MARCH 2013 IN THE MEETING ROOM, PUCKLECHURCH COMMUNITY CENTRE, ABSON ROAD.

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

Steve Reade Councillor for Boyd Valley.

The Chairman opened the meeting with a welcome.

NO 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE. Mrs L. English, Mrs J Hawkins, Ms Lori-Anne Scantlebury.

Ben Stokes Cllr for Boyd Valley.

NO 2. To discuss S.G.C. process for the Community Governance Review. The Chairman introduced Natalie Carr. Natalie explained she had brought a colleague with her to note down questions that may need a formal response. Cllr Boyle had collated questions and explained Councillors were disappointed not to be involved in the first stage of the consultation. They wrote raising concern that the leaflet did not contain sufficient information to enable residents to make an informed decision, that it did not go to all households and that the leaflet was different to the one published on line. They received an acknowledgement and apology for the discrepancy and an assurance that any later stage would include detailed information, the involvement of all interested parties locally and an opportunity for the Parish Council to become involved - clearly we have not.

Natalie advised that during the first stage of the consultation the Electoral Registration Officer left to join another authority and currently John McCormack the Monitoring Officer is administering this consultation. The results of the first consultation were presented to the Regulatory Committee who at a meeting with Ward Councillors for the Emerson's Green, Boyd Valley and Westerleigh area agreed the proposed creation of a new parish in Emerson's Green should progress to a second stage and took the view to leaflet properties directly affected.

Ms Carr had asserted that as S.G.C. had determined that the only properties in the Parish that were 'directly' involved were the twelve properties in Lyde Green that would change Parish. Ms Carr was asked if S.G.C. already knew the outcome of the public consultation. Ms Carr stated that as the consultation was not finished S.G.C. did not know the outcome. It was pointed out that their assumption that only twelve properties were directly affected was only valid if the boundary was changed. If, however, the boundary was not changed then the likely make-up of the Parish Council and its focus would shift from the existing parish to the new area. It was clear that in these circumstances all properties were 'directly' involved. Ms Carr said she understood the point and would get back to the Parish Council with clarification.

Ms Carr was asked about the next stage and if S.G.C. were serious about how they conducted their consultations. Ms Carr advised that following the closing date 12th April the results would be reported to the Regulatory Committee.

Councillors said they had tried to be pro-active they were dissatisfied with the process and asked if it could be stopped. Ms Carr said the Community Governance Review was on-going and she was not aware of how it could be challenged.

Councillors said the process was flawed and that they could ask for a review. Ms Carr advised John McCormack was the electoral Registration Officer currently administering the consultation.

At the end of the conversation Ms Carr was asked if she was aware of when Pucklechurch Parish Council had first asked for clarification regarding the implications of planning approval having been granted to Emerson's Green East. She admitted that she did not know and seemed surprised that the first communication from Pucklechurch Parish Council had been almost 2 years ago and that the initial enquiry and subsequent communications had not been elicited appropriate and satisfactory responses.

The Chairman thanked Natalie Carr for attending.

Cllr. Boyle gave apologies as she had to leave as she had a previous engagement.

NO 3. TO AGREE & SIGN MINUTES. The minutes of the meeting and the Public Meeting held 20th February 2013 were agreed a true record and signed.

NO 4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION. None.

NO 5. PLANNING. None.

Councillors have noticed what appears to be a new wooden building being erected on Stables in Abson Road below Fairview Cottage. Cllr Boyle to be asked to check.

Cllr Watson has received advice reference Sloes Well Paddock from S.G.C. confirming the High Court challenge to the Inspector's decision on this appeal was successful and that the Court has ordered a re-determination of the appeal. An anonymity order applies to the case to avoid the names of the appellant and his family being identified in any newspaper or press report. The correspondence was sent to Cllr Watson as he had attended the appeal on behalf of the Parish Council. It was agreed Cllr Reade would be sent a copy of the document.

Action: Clerk to forward copy of letter to Cllr Reade.

NO 6. FINANCE. Cllr Symons gave a budget update explaining the reasons for the overspend against the February budgeted figure.

To agree Capital Spend. Cllr Watson advised it was not necessary to make a decision on individual items until they came up but it was agreed it would be useful to go through the detail behind each of the proposed projects.

Action: Agenda Item for next meeting Cllr Smith to go through detail of 2013/14 project spend.

New Homes Bonus Grant Scheme. The Chairman confirmed the Parish Council had been successful in securing funding for two projects. The Community Car Scheme will be led by Cllr Smith. Cllr Smith confirmed a call for volunteers and date for a meeting has been advertised in Pucklechurch News. Cllr Reade said S.G.C. Members were very interested in the project their only concern was with making sure everything was done properly. Cllr Smith said that the group would be using the experience of many groups already established to ensure that the scheme was set up legally and correctly..

The grant for the creation of extra allotment plots would be led by Cllr Hawkins.

NO 7. REPORTS. Cllr Symons and Cllr Watson had attended the Safer Stronger Community Group meeting. Cllr Symons had circulated a written report. Cllr Watson was re-elected deputy chair.

Steve Reade reported that negotiations between S.G.C. and the Doctors regarding land for the new surgery had gone very quiet. Cllrs confirmed the possibility of the Doctors purchasing the Elizabeth Shawe building had fallen through.

Reference HMP & YOI Ashfield the Chief Executive has called for a meeting with NOMS, the Parish Council will be informed of the date. Cllrs Reade & Stokes were considering tabling an emergency motion to go to full Council.

Street Care would be reducing some services which Parish Councils may wish to consider buying back. Cllr Symons advised that at an A.L.C.A. meeting Mark King had committed to keeping Parish Councils informed.

NO 8. AGENDA ITEMS. To discuss and respond to a letter from Mrs Poole. Following discussion Councillors agreed to reply that they have looked into the points raised and that from information received from the Police there has only been one reported incident of antisocial behaviour since September and they have no mandate to make changes.

To discuss and agree actions following the Parish Meeting. On Tuesday 5th March a Parish Meeting was arranged by the Parish Council as a direct response to a parishioners request. The meeting gave an opportunity for the local community to discuss what actions, if any, could be taken to address the planned changes for HMP & YOI Ashfield. As a result of this meeting a group of parishioners have formed a committee to look at what actions the community can take to influence the decision and future management of Ashfield. A request for help with funding the printing a letter and questionnaire (£66.00. for 1300 copies) to be delivered with Pucklechurch News was discussed. Councillors support the collation of local opinion and agreed under the power of Local Government Act 1972 3142 to fund the cost.

To discuss alternative locations for Bus Stop Info Boards. Following discussion it was agreed clerk would check whether bus time table information board could be turned to allow Info Board to go back to back.

Action: Clerk to contact S.G.C. for clarification.

To review and update calendar. Clerk confirmed Spring Clean was to be included as an agenda item for the April Meeting when a date would be agreed so that the event can be advertised in the summer edition of Pucklechurch News.

Regarding the proposal to re-launch Participatory Budgeting at the Annual Parish Meeting it was agreed there was insufficient time to organise and implement within the 2013/14 financial year and it was agreed to use the £8000.00. for Capital Project spend and re-start Participatory Budgeting 2014/15.

Date for Annual Meeting - it was noted that the Annual Parish Meeting was held on the 5th March 2013.

Councillors agreed to include as an agenda item for the next meeting to identify a working group to review Standing Orders & Risk Assessment.

Update on Clerks application. Cllr Symons confirmed 25 job description/application packs had been requested, 5 completed applications have been received of which 3 did not meet the

essential criteria. Two applicants will be interviewed, one is already a clerk and the other works for legal services.

Current Youth Club. Cllr Symons confirmed he had spoken to Jason Prewitt his Company MiMS received an annual grant of £13,277.00. from S.G.C. and they believe it is very important for the Youth Club to continue. It was proposed by Cllr Smith that the Council funds one session a week for 3 months and work towards finding a permanent solution. Concern was raised that other groups in the village supporting youth do not receive the same level of support. After further discussion it was agreed to discuss as an agenda item at the next meeting 'Supporting the youth club for one session per week for 3 months circa £1700.00. whilst all parties look for grant support.

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

Date for next meeting 20th March at 7.30pm.