

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD 21ST OCTOBER 2009
IN THE MEETING ROOM, PUCKLECHURCH COMMUNITY CENTRE,
ABSON ROAD.**

PRESENT. O.A. Beg Chairman, D.A.E. Holder Vice Chairman, P.J. Green, Mrs. M.C. Palmer, M.C. Smith, R. Symons, M.J. Watson, L.J. Whittock.

Mr. Beg opened the meeting with a welcome.

NO 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE. Mrs. S.E. Turley, Cllr. S. Grant, Inspector K. Thatcher.

NO 2. Mr. Beg introduced Mr. Ian Gething. Mr. Gething said he was the Conservation Officer for South Gloucestershire Council and that he was preparing a Supplementary Planning Document for Pucklechurch. In preparing the document he has to look at what defines the character of the area, what makes it special, architectural interest, listed buildings, spaces etc. It is important that Councillors and members of the public are consulted and questionnaires have been delivered to properties around the conservation area to enable them to comment. A number of surveys have been carried out and some helpful comments received; Councillors suggested it would helpful to have a public meeting, Mr. Gething said unfortunately there would not be time but agreed to meet with 2 Councillors. Mr. Gething said there may be scope to extend the conservation area in places but changes to the boundary have to be justified. Mr. Gething said the document will be similar to the layout prepared for Siston and the draft appraisal will hopefully be out for consultation next February/March and adopted later in 2010. Mr. Beg thanked Mr. Gething for coming to the meeting and for his quick response.

NO 3. Mr. Beg introduced Reehana Sayeed. Reehana advised she is Play Officer for South Gloucestershire Council she has been working with our young people (13/14yr olds some older) on the recreation field and has had a good response. With only 2 members of staff and the weather getting cold they are looking for a building, somewhere to meet with and work with our young people. She is hoping to be able to use the village hall or another building, currently they have two youth leaders but need three they also need funding for equipment and somewhere to store it. Mr. Smith advised that the Community Plan had identified a distinctive lack of facilities for the age group targeted. Mr. Holder asked when she would be looking for access into the hall and for how long. Reehana said it would need to be a Thursday as she works in other villages and this is the only evening she has available. The time required would be 3 ½ hrs the sessions to run from 6pm – 8.30pm with ½ hr to set up and clear away time and she hopes to start within the next few weeks. Mr. Watson suggested funding may be available through the Safer Stronger South Gloucestershire Group. Mr. Holder said the hall was fully booked but thought something could be worked out to enable them to use the meeting room. Mr. Beg thanked Reehana for coming to the meeting and for her work with the young people.

NO 4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION. None.

NO 5. LAW & ORDER. P.C. Chris Skelton attended the meeting he suggested it would be helpful if residents could be made aware that people with horses on the edge of villages have had their tack rooms broken into. He advised the police would be out in force on the evening of Halloween. Councillors advised heavy goods vehicles have been seen parked at night in Becket Court and we are concerned they would obstruct access, should the need arise, to a fire engine. We have written to the Trading Estate but they are unfortunately unable to allow vehicles that do not belong to their customers to park in the estate and this would create an increased security risk resulting in higher insurance premiums. P.C. Skelton said he would look at the problem. Mr. Watson said he has noticed young people in cars parked in gateways in Abson. P.C. Skelton said they are usually young people chilling out but he will check. Mr. Beg said a lone motor cyclist could be heard roaring through the village towards the Ring Road evenings between 8.30 – 9pm. P.C. Skelton agreed to investigate. Mr. Beg thanked P.C. Skelton for coming to the meeting.

NO 6. ARISINGS. Clerk advised she had obtained two more quotations for the levelling of the five headstones in the Burial Ground. Roy Preddy Funeral Directors & Memorial Consultants quoted £475.00. plus V.A.T. Summers Memorials quoted £825.00. plus V.A.T. Roy Preddy have been asked to carry out the work as their price was the lowest.

6b) The letter from Segro also advised they had consulted with security guards on site who confirmed a heavy duty vehicle had parked across from the estate, however at no time had the driver attempted to gain access to the estate and in the morning the driver returned to the vehicle and drove away. Their security guards are instructed to direct vehicles arriving after hours to the lay-bys on the Bristol Ring Road and not to park within the village. Segro will continue to work with the community but it is impossible for them to have any control over vehicles with no connection to the estate.

6g) Only one car has been seen at the property since the last meeting therefore no action has been taken.

7. Mr. Holder confirmed the painting of doors and windows on the outside of the hall was complete and they hoped to start on the inside of the hall during half term. A planning application for tree works around the car park has been submitted.

Reference proposed planning application for I.V.C. at Tormarton it appears the application has been withdrawn.

It was agreed Mr. Whittock and Mr. Symons would lay a wreath on behalf of the Council at the Remembrance Day Service in St. Thomas A Becket Church.

The minutes of the meeting held 16th September 2009 were agreed a true record and signed.

NO 7. FINANCE. Mr Symons had prepared a budget update he confirmed there had been no call on the £3000.00. set aside for the Community Centre and said that providing there was no unexpected expenditure £8000.00. would be carried over at the end of the financial year.

Clerk had quotation from Steve Aplin for work on children's play equipment in the recreation field as follows. Remove old safety tiles and edgings; install new concrete pin kerb edgings to the correct dimensions for the existing G.L. Jones Roundabout. Allowing for some modification to the base works to achieve the correct clearance for 300mm beneath the roundabout platform. Supply and lay black EPDM wet pour continuous safer surfacing £2503.00. To supply and fit new shackles and high tensile bolts to 12' swing unit £88.00. Supply and fit new fitting to centre support of 2bay swing unit, allowing for repositioning due to vandalism and spot weld to prevent repeat vandalism £283.00. this price also includes welding small plates to foot bar on roundabout. Remove and send off for refurbishment by manufacturer roller barrel £309.00. Parkfield Play Area. Rebond loose safety tiles and fill gaps on roundabout and slide bases £145.00. Supply and fit new chains, shackles and olite bushes. New seats to be supplied by Parish Council £216.00. Clerk confirmed this item was repaired last year but not billed. Shortwood Play Area. Rebond loose safety tiles and fill gaps on slide and swing bases £145.00. Supply and lay grass matt to each spring rocker £82.00. Mr. Holder proposed that in line with standing orders another quotation should be obtained from Wicksteed Leisure, all agreed.

The following cheques were agreed for payment and signed. EDF Energy £6.65. for unmetered supply to millennium stone. Silverback Arboricultural Consultancy £400.00. tree survey and report. Mrs. A. Sharpe £125.00. Mrs. D. Bailey £891.30. being salary £310.66. + stamps £3.96. + inkjets for printer £137.93. + Projector £390.76. + £47.99. external hard drive.

NO 8. MEMBERS MATTERS. Mr. Symons advised he has received the staff hand book and contract from Abacus but will need to check contract details with clerk.

8a) Mr. Smith confirmed the tri-fold information leaflet was ready for printing and could be distributed with the next issue of Pucklechurch News.

8b) Mr. Smith advised repair work had been carried out on Hodden Lane but not to the area in front of Lamorna Cottage.

8c) Mr. Holder advised a resident had suggested that when the Home Office sold the land on St. Aldams Drive to the Parish Council it was on the understanding that the areas remained green and that there was no development on them. Mr. Holder said he and the clerk had looked at the lease for clarification. The deed referring to the land marked 'areas B & C' states in the First Schedule part II – Not to use for any purpose other than land for recreational purpose. First Schedule Part III – To keep the grass neat and tidy and cut at regular intervals and maintain the trees.

8d) Mr. Green expressed concern about the weeds and untidy appearance of the chicane in the middle of the road at the entrance to Shortwood.

8e) Mr. Watson asked Councillors if there were any items they would like him to report to the Safer Stronger Community Group Meeting. Mr. Holder said the Community Centre had been broken into.

8f) Mr. Beg said notices have been put up advising Shortwood Road will be closed from the 9th November for essential works. No information has been received from S.G.C. he feels communication is poor.

NO 9. REPORTS. Mr. Whittock said he and Mr. Green had attended the Boyd Link Group Meeting.

Mr. Whittock attended the Joint Cycleway Group meeting and reported the Police Station Hill Scheme was to be put forward as a reserve scheme under the Cycling City Initiative and that negotiations with landowners would start in the 2010/11 financial year. The proposals for the Yate and Mangotsfield Cycle Route are out for consultation, the route will provide a new north/south link between the Bristol and Bath path at Coxgrove Hill and Station Road, Yate.

Mr. Green attended the Shortwood Landfill Liaison Meeting. Cell 1 is complete and is being topped off with soil, bore holes have been drilled to take flares. Cell 2 is nearly filled and they have started Cell 3. Bird control is in hand and no vandalism or poaching complaints have been received.

NO 10. AREA AROUND SCOUT HUT. Clerk has received three letters all expressing concern about incidents involving youths at the hut causing damage and on one occasion an attempted break in whilst the Guides were in session. Guides and Scouts regularly have youths hanging around the hut causing problems and if this type of intimidation continues they are concerned parents will stop their children from attending. They urgently need the clearance of all the bushes around the hut so there is no where for them to gather. The Police have agreed to increase their presence around the hut and they are monitoring and keeping a record of every incident but they believe action is needed before someone is injured. It was agreed clerk would check area with Mr. Holder and obtain quotations for the work.

NO 11. RISK ASSESSMENT. Mr. Holder attended a Risk Assessment Meeting and was concerned about Parish Councils responsibility towards allowing use of the recreation field for events such as Revel. After discussion it was agreed clerk would write to A.L.C.A. and ask if there is a requirement for Parish Council to request a risk assessment for a fete.

NO 12. BURIAL GROUND. A possible extension to the Burial Ground was discussed. It was agreed Mr. Beg would visit the Gloucestershire Registry Office and look at the old minute books to clarification.

NO 13. BRANDY BOTTOM COLLIERY. An email was received from Steve Grudgings with an update on the current proposals. It was agreed clerk should reply that when preparing the article for Pucklechurch News the following points are covered.

1. Why Brandy Bottom is important.
2. What would volunteers need to do.
3. What would volunteers get out of it.
4. What is the potential long term future of the pit.

NO 14. PLANNING APPLICATIONS. The following applications were considered. PK09/5161/F erection of 1no detached dwelling with access and associated works, 5 Castle Road. No objection.

PK09/51423/TCA works to various trees identified on the site plan/schedule of works received 25th Sept 09 within the Pucklechurch Conservation Area. Pucklechurch Community Centre, Abson Road. Mr. Beg, Mr. Holder, Mr. Smith, Mr. Symons and Mr. Whittock declared an interest being members of the Community Association. No objections.

NO 15. CORRESPONDENCE. A letter was received from Steve Webb M.P. regarding the Sustainable Communities Act Early Day Motion confirming several constituents had been in touch to register their support and that he will add his name to it when Parliament resumes.

NO 16. A letter had been received from Digital UK offering to visit to provide an opportunity for Councillors and residents to ask questions about the planned changeover. Clerk has received confirmation that communal aerials i.e. Dennisworth and Homefield bungalows are the responsibility of S.G.C. and will be upgraded but the televisions are the responsibility of the tenant. It was agreed clerk would write suggesting a visit to the Dennisworth & Homefield Centres may be helpful.

NO 17. An invitation was received to a Regional 'One Day' Conference on the 3rd Dec 09.

NO 18. A letter was received from Mrs. V. Broom asking it would be possible for her to erect a memorial seat near the Jardin du Pringy. As the land belongs to S.G.C. it was agreed clerk would forward letter requesting permission with Parish Council support.

NO 19. A letter was received from Wizzard Landscapes expressing disappointment at not being awarded the contract to complete the railings on the Hill View Road side of the recreation. As he had already completed the first two phases to everyone's satisfaction he had been looking forward to his firm completing the work. It was agreed clerk should reply Councillors can sympathise with his disappointment but they have a responsibility to make decisions in a democratic and justifiable way.

NO 20. A letter was received from a resident in Hill View Road suggesting that water from the recreation field could be seen flowing up through the tarmac and causing repetitive temporary tarmac filling at the corner with Castle Rd. Of more concern to the resident is the movement of earth in his front garden causing a rippling effect on the once flat lawn. There is also movement and cracking of the concrete path and concrete surround at the front of the house and his once closing front gate is now free-swinging. Clerk advised she had met with S.G.C. Highways Officer who agreed to look at existing highway drainage. It was not thought likely that the problem was from the recreation field and a land drainage system had been installed some years previously. Mrs. Palmer said the houses in Hill View had been underpinned by South Gloucestershire Council.

NO 21. A letter was received from B.T. Payphones inviting the Council to adopt it's local red kiosks for £1.00. Feedback has confirmed a huge fondness for the traditional red kiosk but the kiosks are rarely used and do not generate sufficient usage to cover their running costs. It was agreed clerk would reply that unfortunately the Parish Council is unable to accept their offer.

NO 22. An email was read from S.G.C. Planning Department regarding The Meadows at Parkfield, confirming that due to the length of time that has elapsed since the application was registered and the changes in policy framework relating specifically to gypsy applications the applicant has been invited to withdraw the application with a view to submitting a revised planning application with updated and revised supporting information. They accept this is a sensitive issue and one that local residents are concerned about, but stress they are looking to secure a revised application so the situation can be moved along.

NO 23. A letter was received from S.G.C. Legal & Democratic Services department regarding an amendment to the legislation in relation to dispensations. It was agreed clerk would email a copy of the letter to Councillors.

NO 24. An email was received from a resident in St. Aldams Drive raising concern that a tree on the Trading Estate behind nos. 10 and 12 had been removed. The resident was under the impression the tree had a preservation order on it and would like to know what would happen to the owners of the estate for taking the tree down. It was agreed clerk would refer the letter to S.G.C.

NO 25. A letter was read from Pucklechurch Revel advising they have been looking for new ideas for next years Revel events/activities, one of which is raising money through sponsorship. They are requesting permission to display advertising banners around the railings of the recreation field for this purpose on Revel Day Saturday 19th June 2010. Councillors had no objection to the temporary display of advertising banners.

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

Date for next meeting 18th November 2009 at 7.30pm.