

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD 16TH JANUARY 2008
IN THE MEETING ROOM OF THE VILLAGE HALL, ABSON ROAD.**

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

Cllr. S. Grant.

NO1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE. M.S. Watson.

NO 2. PRESENTATION BY SITA. Mr. Beg introduced Mr. Gareth Phillips and Mr. James Pike from Sita and Mr. Pursglove head of Environmental Services at S.G.C. Mr. Phillips advised Sita employed more than 5,000 people and has 318 sites in the UK, they view waste as a resource, diverting it away from landfill through reuse and recycling. Their contract with S.G.C. is for the collection, recycling and management of household waste within South Gloucestershire. Their contract requires the construction of a 20,000tonne per annum In-Vessel Composting Facility to recycle cardboard, green and food wastes arising within South Gloucestershire. Currently they collect green and cardboard for recycling but not food waste. The nearest operational In-Vessel composting facility with spare capacity is located in Poole, Dorset. In order to reduce reliance on transporting waste across and outside the area Sita needs to provide an In-Vessel composting facility. A planning application will be submitted for the construction and operation of a 30,000 tonne per annum In-Vessel composting facility on land off Batchfield Lane. Access will be from Batchfield Lane and a 4mt high bund will screen the site from the motorway. The site will consist of a Reception Building, two Composting Tunnels and an 11.2mt high Maturation Building. The composting process is undertaken within a sealed vessel and air is pumped through the waste material to accelerate the process. A Gore-tex roof lets air out but traps moisture and soluble organic compounds that create odour within the vessel, extracted air will pass through a bio-filter. The composted material can be used as fertilizer for agriculture or bagged and sold at B & Q and Home Base.

The following concerns/questions were raised:

Concerned that the proposal was on green belt land. Sita agreed the site was not ideal but is the result of a 7year search which has looked at 25 sites. A number of industrial sites had been looked but due to the lengthy planning process the land had been sold to other buyers. Sita cannot purchase land until planning consent has been granted. There is no appropriate industrial land available therefore an isolated site with good transport links was required.

Concern was expressed that the proposed site is near to the Crematorium. Sita said signage could be set back as the site will not be open to the public.

Concern was raised about traffic using the site. Sita advised that on a daily basis 24 HGV's would visit the site making a total of 48 movements.

Concern was raised that traffic would use Pucklechurch to access the proposed site. Sita said that only one vehicle would come through, the one collecting in the village. To aid route management Sita were installing tracking devices in vehicles.

Councillors were concern that the proposed site would be visually intrusive. Sita confirmed that a landscape/photographic survey would form part of the planning application and that they propose installing a 4mt bund to screen the day to day operations at the site.

Councillors had raised concern about light pollution. Sita advised lighting would not be required outside operational hours. Working hours 0700 – 1700 Mon – Frid. 0700 – 1600 Sat. and 0800 – 1200 Sun. just to allow staff to check process - no deliveries. A detailed lighting scheme would be produced by experts as part of the planning application.

Councillors asked about time scale. Sita said that if planning permission was granted they would start building straight away 2008. They would endeavour to make sure their Contractors did not use the road through Pucklechurch and that they cleaned their vehicles before leaving site.

Sarah Turley declaring an interest, said that Batchfield Lane had been narrowed and gated to keep out nuisance. Sita said the entrance could be gated or CCTV introduced.

A resident asked if he could ask questions, Mr. Beg explained the presentation was for Councillors but said there would be an opportunity for residents to ask questions at a later date. Mr. Phillips confirmed Sita would arrange a meeting for the public.

Mr. Beg thanked Mr. Phillips and Mr. Pike for their talk and illustration and confirmed Councillors would involve parishioners in the consultation.

NO 3 PUBLIC PARTIPIICATION. None.

NO 4. LAW & ORDER. Mrs. Palmer asked if it would be possible for Parish Council to receive a copy of the crime report the Neighbourhood Watch receive.

Clerk confirmed SGC had investigated concerns about a breach of the planning permission approved by the Planning Inspectorate at Meadow View, Shortwood Rd. their letter confirms that at this stage there does not appear to be a breach.

NO 5. ARISINGS. Mr. Beg confirmed Twinning was very happy with grant and would be inviting a Parish Councillor in thanks.

NO 6. MEMBERS MATTERS. Mrs. Palmer said Merlin Housing Society were carrying out a Sheltered Services Review and had given elderly residents in Dennisworth & Homfield Rd a consultation document recommending the introduction of a Hub &

Spoke service instead of a resident warden. Merlin Housing was concerned that only people in sheltered housing schemes were able to benefit from the Governments Supporting People programme, however, this is not the case in Pucklechurch. Mrs. Palmer asked if Councillors would write in support of the retention of a resident warden in Pucklechurch as she is highly valued and it would be a retrograde step for residents to move to the proposed Hub and Spoke scheme. All agreed.

Mr. Green said that on new years eve he had seen three tankers stopped outside the Fleur de Lys, he suggested writing to the Murco terminal at Westerleigh requesting they remind drivers of the weight restriction in Pucklechurch. All agreed. Clerk also to make Community Police Officers aware of the problem.

Mr. Holder expressed concern about the surface of the road near the junction of Abson Rd/Feltham Rd. Clerk to contact S.G.C.

Mr. Symons reminded Councillors that at the end of December they would no longer be members of A.L.C.A. Councillors were concerned that their reasons for only paying half of the membership had been ignored. It was agreed Mr. Beg would speak to A.L.C.A. and the item included on next months agenda.

Mr. Symons drew attention to a Waste Management consultation document he had received asking if he should reply on behalf of Councillors. It was agreed clerk would email details of the consultation document to allow Councillors to read it on line and comment if they so wished.

Mrs. Turley reminded Councillors that the time limit for Mr. Hazel to vacate the site off Westerleigh Rd expired on the 11th January 08. It was agreed clerk should write to S.G.C. Enforcement Team asking what action is being taken as Councillors are keen to see the site restored.

Mr. Whittock advised that before Christmas 30/34 lorry tyres had been dumped in Kings Lane and he wondered if it would be possible to have a bollard erected to prevent futher problems.

Mr. Beg expressed concern that cars were parking on the pavement outside the Village Store. It was agreed clerk would contact S.G.C. as they now have their own wardens.

NO 7. REPORTS. Mr. Whittock and Mrs. Turley attended the Joint Cycleway Group Meeting, the meeting mainly dealt with issues in and around Yate but there is a proposal to investigate the possibility of introducing a link between Shortwood Hill and the Siston turning. Clerk has received a letter listing current and future projects, the letter advised a link was being investigated and designed this year for implementation 2008/9 at Shorthill Road, Pucklechurch. Clerk to ask for clarification (map reference) that the path being investigated is Shortwood Hill, Pucklechurch.

Mr. Smith said that reference the Community Plan, data entry is about 50% but they still need more help. Regarding additional funding for traffic surveys he believes some funding has become available.

Mr. Holder said that Community Action was keen to give a presentation to Parish Councils about local transport systems. Councillors did not think this necessary as Pucklechurch is already well served by 'Kingswood Dial a Ride' Service.

NO 8. PLANNING. The following applications were considered and observations made. PK07/3717/F erection of first floor side extension to form additional living accommodation. 1 Eagle Crescent. No objection.

PK08/0007/F erection of two storey side, first floor rear and single storey side extensions to form additional living accommodation. Greatwood, Coxgrove Hill. After discussion it was agreed Councillors support this application but are concerned about the size. Mrs. Turley abstained from commenting as she is a member of S.G.C. Planning Committee.

NO 9. CORRESPONDENCE. A letter was received from John Hicks Associates offering to undertake safety inspections and access audits on play areas and premises managed by the Council. Councillors declined the invitation as they already have a contract with RoSPA.

NO 10. A letter from Cory Environmental advised they were applying for planning permission to vary the hours they can accept waste at Shortwood Quarry.

NO 11. A letter requesting grant aid was received from South Gloucestershire Citizens Advice Bureau. After discussion Mrs Palmer proposed a grant of £250.00. seconded by Mr. Whittock. All agreed.

NO 12. A letter was read from Mr. D. Matthews advising that he wished to cease serving as a trustee on the Pucklechurch Community Centre from 14th January 08. Clerk to contact Mr Matthews to advise he should contact the Community Association.

NO 13. FINANCE. PRECEPT. Councillors had been given a copy of the projected figures prepared by Mr. Holder, Mr. Symons and clerk. The figures were explained and discussed, it was agreed last years precept figure plus inflation at 3.9% would be requested.

REVIEW OF SALARIES. Clerk advised Mrs. Sharp received was paid £115.50. per month confirming it had been the same for 2 years. After discussion Councillors proposed the amount be increased to £125.00. per month starting February 08. Clerk to write thanking Mrs. Sharpe for her hard work in keeping the village clean.

Clerks salary - Mr. Beg asked clerk to leave the room while they discussed her salary. After discussion Mrs Bailey was invited back in, Mr. Beg advised they had agreed that as

there had been no increase for two years clerk should have back pay of £140.00. plus an increase from February 08 of £200.00. per annum.

The following cheques were agreed for payment and signed. Mr. Boulton £190.00. maintenance of Parkfield Play Area. Pucklechurch Twinning Association £250.00. Grant. E.D.F. Energy £12.83. unmetered supply. Mrs. A. Sharpe £115.50. Mrs. D. Bailey £313.05. being salary £294.00. + stamps £3.06. + Frame for village map £15.99. Mr. Smith £244.95. expenses in relation to Community Plan and hosting Community Website.

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

Date of next meeting 20th February at 7.30pm.