

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD 16TH MARCH 2011 IN THE COMMUNITY CENTRE MEETING ROOM, 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.S. Watson, L.J. Whittock.

Sandra Grant Cllr. for Boyd Valley. Inspector Kevin Thatcher.

Councillors decided to hold the first part of the meeting in the club above as it would offer more space for the public wishing to comment on installation of the play garden on St. Aldams Drive open space land.

Mr. Beg opened the meeting with a welcome explaining that the first ½ hour would be dedicated to issues associated with the Play Garden.

NO 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE. Mrs. S.E. Turley Cllr for Parish and Boyd Valley, P.C. Simon Topps.

NO 2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST. None.

NO 3. ST. ALDAMS DRIVE PLAY GARDEN. A resident asked if there was a covenant on the land to prevent the building of permanent structures and if the deeds were available to look at. Mrs. Palmer advised she had received an email from the Home Office that day confirming there was no covenant preventing the erecting of permanent structures. Clerk confirmed the deeds were available for inspection and she has photocopied the relevant pages should anyone wish to take them away.

A resident commented that the Social Club had erected a sign in the pub garden saying 'Open to non members'.

A resident handed in a petition with 75 names the motion was "We welcome the decision by Pucklechurch Parish Council to install a new play area on the open ground near St. Aldams".

A resident said he was for and against - he has two girls aged 4 and 6yrs and there is nothing for them to do locally as there is only one goal mouth on the open space land but he is concerned the development will attract teenagers and anti social behaviour. He suggested there was little for teenagers to do and no buses in the evening to take them in and out of the village. He enquired whether the play garden was set or if it could be added too. Councillors advised this could be a beginning the area could change/evolve there could be more planting or equipment provided as and when money became available. Councillors advised there were guidelines recommending the amount of recreational space per head of population. Pucklechurch was low specifically on sports pitches and equipped areas.

A resident living near the play area at Parkfield Rank said that on a positive note if the area is nicer it will be used by families and the presence of adults will surely deter anti social behaviour.

A resident said she was not against play areas but she didn't think this was the right place it was to close to houses and was there somewhere else it could go. She said the Parish Council had put up a teen shelter on the recreation field but the kids hang around in the bus shelter and in the underpass.

Another resident said he couldn't go to bed with the windows open because of the noise from the underpass which is worse in the summer. He said there was also a problem with litter and glass bottles.

Mr. Watson said there were problems linked with anti social behaviour and the underpass and moves afoot to deal with them but there was also a huge disparity between the extent of anti social behaviour and the way it is perceived.

A resident commented that he has picked up drug paraphernalia, bottles and cans around the proposed site and is concerned the problem will get worse.

Reference the 1mt hedge at the bottom of the slope opposite Birch Drive resident would prefer the hedge was 3mt to act as a sound barrier.

Inspector Thatcher said the Police advise a more open area to help prevent anti social behaviour.

Councillors advised the reason for installing a fence was to stop youngsters running into the road until the hedge has become established.

Another resident raised concern about cars speeding in Birch Drive and thought there should be some form of traffic calming. Councillors commented that generally traffic calming is only considered where there is a record of accidents.

A resident raised concern that she had helped to run the youth club at one time and experienced no end of trouble and could not walk down the road without being shouted at. She thought this generation of young people were worse and wanted to know who would police it.

Inspector Thatcher responded advising that if there were problems and issues the Police would be there to deal with them but they would need residents to help with reporting - he emphasised the need to report issues.

A resident asked if there were plans to fill-in the Oaktree Avenue underpass and install a zebra crossing. Councillors advised they had investigated the possibility with S.G.C. but the cost was too high.

Councillors Response. Mr. Watson said 'I am vice chairman of Safer Stronger Community Group you can bring anti social behaviour concerns to the meetings or report them to the Police and please make sure you get a crime reference number. I live in Partridge Road next to the Eagle Crescent play area and yes sometimes there is noise, footballs come into my garden and I am sometimes disturbed by kids playing but I also was young once'.

Mrs. Palmer said 'I live opposite the recreation field on Castle Road the pub and play area is used constantly, it's not a problem'.

Mr. Symons said 'I live in 67 Birch Drive and have similar concerns but it is the Parish Councils responsibility to do what is best for the whole of the community. As the site develops the Council will work with the Police to investigate any problems that arise, we will look to employ an Orderly to monitor and clean the area and if necessary speak to S.G.C. about the road'.

Mr. Smith said 'I have analysis that confirms two thirds of all children in the parish live within the defined Estate and you need the play area where the children are. In terms of anti social behaviour this was made clear at the earlier consultation and major items of equipment have been removed. Since the public meeting SGC has been speaking to residents about erecting a fence by the garages also a fence is being provided around the car park and at the bottom of the slope by Birch Drive. There may be problems associated with the play garden and if there are they will be looked into'.

Mr. Green said 'regarding there being no bus service in the evenings you cannot expect a contractor to sustain a service unless it is well used'.

Mr. Whittock said 'I also live by the recreation field and sometimes children do make a noise and I have to close the windows'.

Mr. Holder said 'problems with youths are not new the play garden is for families to enjoy it will not increase problems'.

Mr. Beg said 'Councillors want what is best for the whole village this is an opportunity for the village and this development will be a facility for your children and grandchildren to enjoy'.

Mr. Beg thanked the residents for their patience confirming their concerns have been taken on board, listened too and action taken.

Councillors reconvened in the Meeting Room.

NO 4. LAW & ORDER. Inspector Thatcher said one of his team had prepared an update of the crime figures between 1st February and 16th March. There had been 13 reported crimes of which 4 were at HMP & YOI Ashfield and 3 were domestic - there were no anti social behaviour incidents. Mr. Smith asked about the figures being

available on the Police UK Web Site. Inspector Thatcher said there had been a few problems but the site was getting better and more accurate – people should be advised that the figures include statistics from Ashfield. There was discussion reference A.S.B. Inspector Thatcher said their target for A.S.B. was easily met whereas their target for reducing people's perception was not. Mr. Smith suggested the statics could be put on an email that he sends out monthly. Mr. Beg thanked Inspector Thatcher for coming to the meeting and for his support.

NO 5. ARISINGS. 4 - 8e) Mrs. Palmer confirmed Mrs. Hall was now ready for a meeting with Post Watch.

4 - 14) clerk confirmed Enforcement has been contacted they have also been made aware that brick walls have been erected inside the site and Mrs Turley has asked Enforcement to look at the new gate pillars they are building.

7 - Mr. Watson said he thought there was an ongoing initiative to establish Police Drop-In sessions at the Community Centre. Mr. Holder confirmed that if they came they would need wifi.

14 – Mr. Beg confirmed he had spoken with members of St. Thomas a Becket about the erection of a 'Keep Dogs on Lead' sign. It was agreed clerk would contact Dog Warden to ask if they could provide signs.

The minutes of the meeting dated 16th February 2011 were agreed a true record and signed.

A summary of the notes taken at the ad hock meeting on the 9th March were presented, accepted and are appended.

NO 6. PART NIGHT SWITCH OFF. Mr. Smith and Mr. Watson had organised the Public Consultation six people (4 households) had attended, three had concerns, one person was concerned but did not register a formal comment. Mr. Smith took Councillors through the consultation notes and recommended they adopt South Gloucestershire Councils base line plus enclosed walk ways, the 30mph rule and discuss with S.G.C. the possibility of leaving on specific lights. Councillors wondered about the possibility of having sensor activated lights in the underpass.

Mr. Smith expressed concern about communication and consultation suggesting it should be a priority for the next Council. He said reference the Play Garden at St. Aldams Drive we relied on S.G.C. to do the consultation but we should have served our own - when there are big issues we need to do more.

Mr. Beg asked for thanks to be recorded to Mr. Smith for his work.

NO 7. Clerk has received quotation from South Gloucestershire Council of £525.80. a day to hire jetting crew and equipment to carry out a cobra investigation. The cobra

investigation will involve putting a camera into the land drainage system on the recreation field to prove it's integrity/identify any blockage - the work is estimated to take ½ day. After discussion Councillors agreed to have the work carried out. Clerk to write to Mr. Humphrey confirming the work will be undertaken and remind him we are doing this without prejudice.

NO 8. FINANCE. Mr. Symons updated the Council on the budget explaining there was an overspend this month against budget he confirmed a balance of £13,488.00. in the bank of which £4,818.00. was unallocated.

Councillors were advised that the introduction of new guidance meant parish clerks could no longer be classed as self employed. Clerk to contact H.M.R.C. to register Parish Council as an employer.

The following cheques were agreed for payment and signed. St. Peters Hospice £120.00. grant. P.C.A. £75.00. hire of meeting room for 1 Parish Council Meeting, 4 Youth Club sessions and 1 Heart Start meeting. B.T.C.V. £35.00. Membership. Mr. E. Boulton £200.00. for maintenance of Parkfield Rank play area for the 2010 season. Mr. & Mrs. Hall £90.00. rent for Shortwood play area. Lawrence Tree Services £1608.00. tree work indentified in Survey. Clerk advised supply and planting of a Beech Tree in the Burial Ground and moving the trunk is still outstanding. Mrs. A. Sharpe £128.75. Mrs. D. Bailey £1138.39. being salary £319.97. + stamps £2.46. + annual expenses £800.00. + cutting extra keys for new allotment holders £15.96. Mr. D. Gay £470.00. cutting Beech hedge in Burial Ground.

NO 9. MEMBERS MATTERS. Mr. Green raised concern about the low drain covers on Shortwood Road – Clerk to ask SGC for an update.

Councillors were pleased to report that the bicycle racks provided by S.G.C. have been installed.

Mrs. Palmer raised concern that there were pot holes at either end of existing repair on Westerleigh Road. Clerk to report to S.G.C.

Mr. Whittock questioned the need for the post at the back of the Community Centre that originally housed a light. Clerk to write to P.C.A. to ask if it could please be removed for reasons of safety.

Mr. Symons said reference the new Play Garden on St. Aldams Drive he thought the sign put up by the P.V.S.S.C. related to the use of the proposed outdoor seating area not the Club.

Mr. Symons raised the possibility of anti social behaviour due to the new Play Garden. After discussion it was agreed clerk would write to Reahana Sayeed the youth worker to ask if she is still doing outreach work in Pucklechurch as A.S.B. continues to be a perceived problem.

Parking - Should this become a problem Councillors will speak to S.G.C.

Should there be an increase Councillors will look at employing a Village Orderly.

Mr. Symons reported branches on the land opposite Cedar Way and Birch Drive. Clerk to arrange for their removal.

Mr. Smith said the Editor of Pucklechurch News was advised by S.G.C. Democratic & Statutory Services Department not to include the 'Voter's Guide' in the next issue of the magazine as it will be out before the nomination period has closed. The information will be included on the web site after the closing date.

Mr. Smith raised concern that S.G.C. has not answered the comments made regarding the Oaktree Avenue Development planning application. It was agreed clerk would contact the Planning Officer.

Mr. Smith reported that at the Heart Start Meeting Lynne English signed up to be 1st responder in the village and at least six others registered an interest. The initiative is moving ahead.

Oldbury Power Station Consultation - Mr. Smith said he hopes the Parish Councils comments regarding 'Flooding' will be noted.

NO 10. REPORTS. Mr. Holder asked if the P.C.A. Make-over Team had been asked to give a report. Clerk confirmed she had contacted them but they had been unable to attend the previous meeting. It was agreed clerk would invite them to the April Meeting.

Mr. Holder reported that the Revel Cider Festival had raised £1000.00. for the P.C.A.

Mr. Symons and Mr. Green had attended the Waste Forum and reported sites will open Sundays 8 – 6.30pm in the summer and 9 – 3.30pm winter and will be introducing 'Meeters & Greeters' to direct people to the correct tipping areas. Driver recognition has been introduced, recycling is going well and they can now accept garden furniture, bric-a-brac, ink cartridges and cooking oil. New bags will be available for recycling cardboard and they may need help from Parish Councils to distribute them. Councillors suggested the new bags could perhaps be made available for people to collect at Revel.

Mr. Watson attended the S.G. Health & Select Committee meeting which was very interesting and informative. He also attended the S.G. Local Strategic Partnership meeting as A.L.C.A. representative.

Mr. Watson advised he is no longer involved with finance at A.L.C.A. but has moved over to training.

NO 11. PLANNING. Mr. Symons declared an interest and left the room. Planning application PK11/0635/F alterations to roof to provide additional living accommodation at first floor level, 67 Birch Drive, was considered. The windows were either end of the dormer extension and did not overlook neighbours. Councillors had no objection. Mr. Symons was invited back into the meeting.

NO 12. REVIEW OF LOG. Log No 65834 it was noted that the proposal to replace the bollard with rocks in Redford Lane has not been carried out. Clerk to contact Rights of Way for an update expressing concern that the lane is becoming attractive to 4 wheel vehicles.

Abandoned car at Parkfield Rank. Clerk confirmed SGC could not help as the vehicle is on private land (Parish Councils). It was agreed clerk would place a letter on the vehicle asking the owner to remove it within 14days to avoid other action being taken.

NO 13. CORRESPONDENCE. An invitation was received to attend S.G. District of Avonside C.P.R.E. AGM 19th March at Winterbourne Barn. Mrs. Palmer to attend.

NO 14. A letter of thanks was received from Revel Committee. Mr. Smith to locate the litter pickers.

NO 15. A letter was received from S.G.C. Legal Services advising that the proposal to set out a cricket ground on Lyde Green common under the powers contained in the Scheme of Management be allowed (at such time as the development takes place) subject to the Consortium formally agreeing, by way of the section 106 agreement.

NO 16. An email was received from a resident in St. Aldams Drive asking if hedge could be cut as it is overhanging the road and restricting the view for people exiting the path in front of nos. 38 – 44. It was agreed clerk would obtains quotations.

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

Date of Next Meeting. 20th April 2011 at 7.30pm.