

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD 17TH AUGUST 2011
IN THE MEETING ROOM PUCKLECHURCH COMMUNITY CENTRE,
ABSON ROAD.**

PRESENT. R. Symons Chairman, Mrs. G. Boyle, Mrs. L.P. English, P.J. Green, M.S. Watson.

NO 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE. M.C. Smith. Ben Stokes Cllr for Boyd Valley, P.C. Topps.

NO 2. TO AGREE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING. The minutes of the meeting dated 20th July had been pre-read and were agreed a true record and signed. The arising/actions were checked and the following comments noted.

Installation of wi-fi for Community Centre. Clerk had obtained quotation from B.T. A no frills unlimited usage, plug in and play device, router not included but can be purchased from B.T. for £79.00. - rental £18.00. a month.

Or 50 GB option includes router - rental £23.00. month. It would be necessary to add an extra £5.00. month to both options to cover security which is updated automatically.

It was agreed to progress the option provided by Cllr Smith at last meeting as it was the cheaper option.

Action: Progress installation of wi-fi.

Screen for projector. Clerk confirmed she had contacted C.A. who are happy for the Parish Council to provide a screen there only concern being one had previously disappeared and one had broken. They suggested a section on the wall in the Meeting Room could be plastered with a flat finish. Councillors agreed they would prefer a portable screen that could also be used in the Hall.

Action: Purchase screen.

Merlin Housing reference Nuclear Power Station - evacuation plan in the event of an emergency.

Action: Ongoing.

Make Over Team – calendar of dates not available.

Action: Ongoing.

Eagle Crescent Play Area – Clerk has quotation of £110.00. plus V.A.T. for installation of two signs. Wording to say ‘NO BALL GAMES EXCEPT BASKET BALL’

Action: Clerk to accept quotation.

Meeting with S.G.C. Planning Department. Clerk confirmed she now has the name of Planning Manager; but he was on annual leave until 15th August.

Action: Ongoing.

Contact List of Groups in the Village. Clerk confirmed Angela Hallett has agreed to pass on details.

Action: On going.

Maple Walk amenity grass.

Action: On going.

Public Transport – 689 bus Cllr. Green had decided it was too late to report incident. Councillors felt it was important that problems with the bus service were reported.

Action: Include reference in Chairman’s Report for Pucklechurch News.

Community Plan meeting.

Action: Ongoing.

Compulsory purchase of land on bend Shortwood Hill for cycle/footpath. Clerk confirmed she has written to S.G.G. they have acknowledged and noted content.

Visit to Landfill Site at Shortwood.

Action: Ongoing until after co-option.

Speed Watch Cllr Smith to contact Chairman.

Action: Ongoing.

Community Notice Board – Clerk confirmed that only one is now available due to demand. Clerk confirmed C.A. was happy for it be erected at the entrance to the car park. After discussion Councillors agreed the best place was the Village Hall.

Action: Clerk to accept offer and check whether planning consent is required.

Wessex Water taking over private drainage. Clerk has not taken action as residents of St. Aldams Drive have already been approached by Wessex Water.

Clerk confirmed she has written to the sub committee of Pucklechurch Sports & Social Club.

Clerk confirmed she has written to Mr Hillier reference St. Aldams Play Garden.

NO 3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION. Cllr. R. Symons invited Mr. Judd to speak. Mr. Judd asked 1) why was it that the minutes were published on the web site two months behind. 2) He thought a separate meeting was needed to discuss ongoing problems at St. Aldams Drive Play Garden and was concerned that discussing it at tonight’s meeting would not allow sufficient time. 3) He had heard that the PVSSC were planning to build a patio area with seating for their clientele and would like to know if this is likely to happen? 4) He has given Police further information about damage and reported drugs being used in a car parked outside his house but the Police have not taken action.

Councillors commented: 1) the minutes cannot be published until they have been agreed a true record and signed. 2) The comment was noted. 3) Councillors were aware and have emailed the Licensing Authority. 4) Noted.

Cllr. Symons invited Mr. Hillier to speak. Mr. Hillier said he lives at 32 Birch Drive at the end of the new development. He wrote to Parish Council who replied to his question 'do you intend to take action to review the decision to proceed and build' with Councillors have agreed to arrange a meeting to look at and discuss what measures are needed for future management of the site. There was further mention of removing stones from bushes and trees and employing an orderly to pick up litter. Mr. Hillier said the zip wire is at one corner of his property, the play tree at the other with football in between. He said Mr. Judd has reported nuisance to the Police many times. He said he was looking into litigation as nuisance to neighbours cannot be conducive to others enjoyment.

Cllr. Symons thanked residents for attending.

NO 4. LAW & ORDER. Cllr. Watson advised Inspector Thatcher was to move to other responsibilities and proposed a letter of thanks for his work be sent on behalf of the Council. All agreed.

Action: Clerk to send letter of thanks to Inspector Thatcher.

NO 5. FINANCE. Cllr. Symons advised Council had budgeted to spend £3182.00. in July actual spend had been £6173.00. the reason for the overspend being the grant to the P.C.A. The following cheques were agreed for payment and signed. Instant Landscapes £558.00. grass cutting. Mrs. Anna Sharpe £178.00. Mrs. D. Bailey £353.65. being salary £319.97.+stamps £3.68.+tele. £30.00. P.C.A. £64.00. use of meeting room for 1 P.C. meeting, 4 sessions of Youth Club and storage. Clerk confirmed a cheque for £285.00. had been signed and sent to Seed Co being the third party contribution for the grant for cavity wall insulation for the Village Hall.

NO 6. ST. ALDAMS DRIVE PLAY GARDEN. Clerk advised she has been informed that the post installation inspection has been carried out by RoSPA. Tina Rainey apologised that Councillors were not informed but she did not know it had taken place. Councillors had particularly asked to be present as there were questions they wanted to put to the Inspectors. It was agreed clerk should contact Tina to request RoSPA revisit with representatives of Parish Council.

Cllr. Symons had previously been through the document Mr. Judd presented at the July Parish Council Meeting and had emailed the questions raised to Councillors for consideration.

- When is the equipment to be moved? Councillors confirmed they have no immediate plans to remove the equipment but they will keep it under constant review.
- Why is the footpath being dug up and whose decision was it? Clerk confirmed the decision was taken by SGC as the land belongs to the resident of no 19 St. Aldams Drive.

- Can the deeds be provided for viewing? After discussion it was agreed clerk would arrange for the deeds to be viewed from the Pucklechurch web site.
- What are the views of the Council on zip wire usage and should it be adequately monitored when in use. Councillors advised there is no evidence to suggest the zip wire needed to be monitored.

Cllr. Symons wondered about the possibility of arranging another open meeting. Councillors did not think this would be appropriate until they had seen the report from RoSPA also the decision not to remove/relocate the equipment (unless instructed by RoSPA) had already been taken.

Councillors said they have this evening been informed about drugs and possibly litigation. The possibility of litigation was noted. The issue of drugs is considered to be a police matter. There was concern raised that the police had not attended and Cllr Watson advised a Safer Stronger Community Group meeting was to be held the next day (18th) at 7pm at Doynton Village Hall the meeting was open to the public and residents should attend and report their concerns. Cllr for Boyd Valley Steve Reade emphasised the need for residents to obtain log numbers when reporting crime, he also suggested that the more people that could attend the SSCG meeting the better as any vote would need support.

Action: Review after report. Deeds to be made available on web site.

Mr. Judd said that his question ‘why was the equipment in a different position to the original plan’ had not been answered. Cllr. Symons apologised that it had been overlooked.

Cllr Watson advised he and the chair of SSCG had a pre meeting with Jacqui Ward to go over and look at progress. He was able to confirm that horse warning signs were going in, the junction near the post office in Pucklechurch was considered dangerous an extension of ‘No Parking’ had been looked at but Highways had assessed and decided that parking helped slow the traffic. Parking on St. Aldams Drive and Becket Court is insensitive but not illegal and a footpath on Oaktree Avenue has now been included on S.G.C’s Task List. Cllr. Watson said it is not clear yet which bits will be footpaths and we don’t know when. Cllr. Steve Reade said he had raised the proposal and had asked for the whole length to be included and for it not to be dependant on development.

NO 7. REVIEW OF LOG. A review of the open items on the Log was carried out. Cllr. Reade said he was picking up issues and asking for them to be carried out as he was going around the Boyd Valley area. Cllr. Watson raised concern that the shrubs on Partridge Road have not been pruned. Clerk to contact SGC and arrange a site visit with Highways.

Action: Clerk to arrange site visit with Highways Officer.

NO 8. PLANNING APPLICATIONS. The following applications were considered and observations made. PK11/2430/F erection of autoclave process compound, Land south of Howsmoor Lane. No objection.

PK11/1778/ADV notification for change of description to 'Display of 2no non illuminated Community art signs (1no being retrospective). Pucklechurch Community Centre, Abson Road. No objection.

PK11/2515/F erection of dwelling with detached garage and associated works (Resubmission of PK11/1406/F) 150 Westerleigh Road, Pucklechurch. No objections.

Sellwood Planning statutory landowners/agricultural tenants notice in respect of amendments to Emerson's Green urban extension planning application PK04/1965/0. Cllr. Boyle had spent considerable time looking at this application and advised Lyde Green Common is no longer included in the application therefore they have had to re-jig everything. Sports pitches are now outside the senior school and the amount of open space appears to be the same.

Concern was raised as to whether or not the 2500 planned houses would form part of the parish of Pucklechurch. It is an important consideration as this number of properties would increase the size of the Parish Council and effect precept. It was suggested that we seek clarification from S.G.C. as to whether it will be a separate parish or part of Pucklechurch.

The question of S106 money was raised and whether it will be purely for the development or would some be available for the parish.

Reference was made to a letter from English Heritage suggesting Brandy Bottom Colliery should be assessed and considered as an ancient monument. Councillors were made aware of the history and importance of Brandy Bottom and concurred with what English Heritage had said.

Action: Comments to SGC Planning Authority and SGC Electoral Office for parish clarification.

NO 9. CORRESPONDENCE. An email was received S.G.C. advising that a member of the public has asked for access at the bus stop outside the Star Inn to be improved. The bus when it arrives is unable to stop at the hardstanding because of parked cars and either stops in the middle of the road or drops passengers off in the gravel access road to the side. Rather than put in a formal bus stop marking across the entrance or try to relocate the stop they propose simply extending the keep clear marking by 2 meters to allow the bus to pull up against the kerb. As this will affect parking they are checking the Parish is happy for the work to proceed. After discussion Councillors agreed they were happy for the work to proceed.

Action: Clerk to confirm Councillors agreement.

A letter was received from the Treasurer of the Pucklechurch Mums & Minors with a suggestion as to what the money they gave to the parish could be spent on. He was in the park near the Star when two of his 2year old grandchildren ran off to one of the gaps in the fence in Hill View Road, luckily his daughter managed to stop them before they ran into the road. He feels the fence should have gates or 1 gate and block off one of the openings (there used only to be one opening). Councillors agreed to look into the suggestion.

Action: Clerk to advise Councillors will look at and investigate the suggestion.

A letter was received from S.G.C. advising bags for recycling cardboard will be available for collection from local libraries, leisure centres and a range of local distribution points over the next two weeks. Bags will be available on a one per household, first come, first served basis while stocks last. Posters were provided with space to advise local distribution point.

Action: Clerk to ask Cllr. Smith if the information could be put on the web site.

An invitation was received to attend the S.G. Heritage Extraordinary Meeting at 4pm Saturday 10th September at Avon Valley Railway, Bitton; they were also proposing to run the heritage volunteer train after the meeting at 6pm. Cllr Boyle agreed to attend the meeting was unable to stay for the volunteer train ride.

Action: Clerk to confirm.

Clerk has a quotation from Prosigns for supply and fitting of 2no. Di-bond signs with vinyl lettering to read 'NO BALL GAMES EXCEPT BASKET BALL' size 420 x 300 for the sum of £110.00. plus VAT. The signs to replace existing at play area on Eagle Crescent. Councillors accepted the quotation.

Action: Clerk to accept quotation from Prosigns.

Clerk had received a questionnaire for completion regarding North Bristol NHS Trust becoming a Foundation Trust. Consultation to run until 4th November 11. A series of meetings has been arranged for September and October. Cllr. Watson to attend one of the meetings before the questionnaire can be completed.

A letter was received from Merlin Housing Society advising they gave a commitment to residents that they would review and where appropriate, improve sheltered housing properties. All 50 of their schemes have been inspected and ARK Housing Consultancy commissioned to help shape this work going forward. They are in the process of writing to all residents of their sheltered housing schemes to invite them to meetings where the outcome of the ARK report and what this means for their scheme will be discussed. Councillors are invited to attend any meeting at any scheme in their parish. The meeting in Pucklechurch is at Dennisworth 26th August 12.30 – 13.30. Councillors would like to attend the meeting but were concerned at the short notice. Clerk confirmed the letter had arrived in the morning post. Cllr. Green agreed to attend.

Action: Clerk to confirm Cllr. Green would attend and express concern at the short notice.

A letter has been received from Pucklechurch Cricket Club advising that over the past few years they have been growing their playing membership and is now able to field five youth sides, covering ages 6 – 17, three Saturday adult sides and a Sunday development team. This is what they have been working towards but they have become a victim of their own success and are starting to outgrow their facilities. The amount of cricket being played and the need for good quality training surfaces is putting a strain on the current square. As a result they are contemplating three areas of growth but before being able to progress need to obtain Parish Council backing. Councillors agreed this needed to be an agenda item.

Action: Clerk to include as part of agenda item to discuss ‘Consideration of Sports facilities’.

A note was read from a resident living in Becket Court saying she would like to thank the Parish Council for the children’s play area. It’s lovely seeing activity on the green and hearing the noises of children playing. It would be nice to have a seat for the grannies and litter bins (some of us periodically pick up the litter).

Action: Clerk to send letter of thanks.

NO 10 REPORTS. Cllr. Watson advised the Annual Parish Charter Meeting was 27th October 7.30pm at Poole Court. Cllr. Watson to attend and perhaps Cllr. Boyle.

Cllr. Watson advises he and Cllr. Symons would attend the A.L.C.A. AGM.

Cllr. Boyle proposed the following wording ‘*General correspondence not received before the Council’s formal meeting agenda has been issued can only be dealt with at the following month’s meeting*’ be included at the bottom of minutes and agenda. All agreed.

Cllr. Watson advised the Hearing to determine the Village Green application was 6th-9th September at Mangotsfield Golf Club. The meeting is open to the public and he is attending on his own behalf. He asked if members had a stance given that the doctor’s surgery application can go ahead separately and low cost housing accommodated elsewhere in the village.

There was discussion reference the reply received from S.G.C. Solicitor regarding the Statutory Notice received advising S.G.C. were to transfer land at Oaktree Avenue, Pucklechurch. Cllr. Watson said S.G.C. had not answered all the Parish Councils questions he thought they were being unhelpful and that it was their intention to build by whatever means.

Cllr. Watson explained to Cllr. Reade that the planning application had been a ‘Hybrid’ application which effectively meant the housing element of the application was for full planning. Conservative and Lib Dem District Councillors had been asked to call the application in but both had refused as they were concerned they would be held responsible for the doctor’s surgery not going ahead. Cllr. Watson suggested it may be appropriate to send a letter of complaint to the Chief Executive with a copy to the M.P.

Cllr. Watson asked if it was the Councils wish to support the Village Green application. Cllr. Green said he would only agree if the new doctor’s surgery could go ahead. Councillors confirmed SGC’s letter advised ‘approval has been granted to dispose of part of the land for a doctors surgery for £150.000’.

Cllr. Watson proposed ‘the current Parish Council wishes to support the Village Green application at the Enquiry’, seconded by Cllr. English, all agreed.

NO 11. UNITARY AUTHORITY REPORT. Cllr. Reade said that most of his points had already been covered. He confirmed he has had discussions with the local Speed Watch and had asked why they didn't work with the Parish Council. They had replied that the Parish Council wanted to control them. Cllr. Reade suggested talking to the group again could be useful, he also confirmed they have funding for Speed Watch signs.

Cllr. Reade advised mobile speed signs were going up around Boyd Valley and confirmed Highways had said parking slows traffic but he was concern that children could also walk out between cars.

Cllr Watson explained to Cllr. Reade that the Parish Council had been trying to get a meeting S.C.G Planning and he wondered if he would be able to help. Clerk said she now had the name of the Area Planning Officer but had not been able to contact him.

Action: Clerk to email name of Officer to Cllr. Reade.

Part Night Lighting. - Cllr. Watson said that the when the Parish Council had accepted the proposal for Part Night Lighting there was a requirement for lights in a 200yd/30mph limit to remain on. This is no a requirement and a new plan has been prepared. Councillors looked at the new plans and Cllr. Watson pointed out where lights would be left on. Cllr. Watson proposed the plan be accepted, seconded by Cllr. Boyle, all agreed.

Action: Clerk to confirm Parish Councils agreement.

NO 12. MEMBERS MATTERS. Cllr. Green advised he had received a letter from the Coal Authority and someone had knocked on his door asking about mining in the area. He was concerned as to whether this was legitimate. It was suggested that residents in Parkfield Rank may also have received the same letter.

Action: Clerk to contact resident in Parkfield Rank.

Cllr. Boyle reported that the grass has been killed off so that the fence could be installed at the bottom of the new play area but the area is now inhabited by weeds, also on the lane leading to the Estate the hedge needs pruning and weed and litter clearing.

Action: Clerk to contact S.G.C.

Cllr. Boyle has noticed in other areas of South Gloucestershire that wild flowers have been planted at the edge of verges. She suggested the Council could look at setting aside money from the budget that the community could access for things they would like to do. It was agreed this should be an agenda item at a future meeting.

Cllr. Watson advised S.G.C. has agreed there are problems with HGV's using roads inappropriately and have set up a dedicated line but complaints must be reported within 24hrs and details of date, time, location, vehicle registration etc provided.

Cllr. English raised concern that bark being used as a mulch around the planting at St. Aldams Play Garden was blowing/being kicked everywhere.

Cllr. Green said the recreation field looked very good and he thought the contractor carrying out the spraying had done a good job.

Cllr. Symons drew attention to the following items that had been emailed during the month.

Monday 22nd August meeting with candidates for cop-option.

Information on the Draft National Planning Policy Framework.

VAT and Parish & Town Councils.

Pucklechurch Village Sports & Social Club – information reference licensing.

LINK Stakeholder invitation. Cllr. Watson to attend.

Queens Jubilee – To be discussed as an agenda item.

Conference Calls - Councillors did not wish to progress this and also confirmed formal decisions could not be made by email.

Community Leadership Awards for new, regular, old Councillors.

Suggestion to hold two meetings a month – Cllr. Symons said there had been a huge amount to get through on the agenda recently particularly with the issues around the new play park. He did not think two meetings a month would be necessary as we should now be able to get back to Council business.

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

Date for next meeting 21st September at 7.30pm.

NB. General correspondence not received before the Council's formal meeting agenda has been issued can only be dealt with at the following month's meeting.