

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY 17TH
DECEMBER 2008 IN THE MEETING ROOM, PUCKLECHURCH
COMMUNITY CENTRE, ABSON ROAD.**

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

Cll. S. Grant.

Mr. Beg opened the meeting with a welcome and thanked Mr. Holder for chairing the previous meeting.

Mr. Beg advised the presentation by Mr. Follett Play Development Adviser had been cancelled due to illness.

NO 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE. P.J. Green, R. Symons.

NO 2. LAW & ORDER. Councillors reported reading about an article on the internet stating P.C. Skelton had organised outings etc for youths in Pucklechurch. 'Puckle Massive' had been formed to help prevent crime/anti social behaviour and had been aimed at youngsters who did not want to be part of an organised youth club. Mrs. Palmer said youth is something the Council is concerned about and Mr. Smith offered to pass the information to the Community Plan Team. This was considered history no action taken.

Mr. Whittock said recently a resident in Homefield Rd heard noises in her kitchen, went to investigate and found someone trying to force the window. Fortunately they were not able to break-in.

Clerk to contact P.C. Skelton requesting crime figures for Pucklechurch as Councillors believe specific information would be useful.

A letter from Inspector Thatcher reference problems at Pucklechurch Sports & Social Club confirmed he would arranged a meeting with the club officials to discuss issues. Councillors felt it was important that residents were kept informed. It was agreed clerk would request a report of the meeting so that residents could be updated.

NO 3. ARISINGS. Mr. Beg said the wall on the Congregational Church site on Abson Road had been re-built, also work had taken place in the pavement on Shortwood Road by the Water Company, although barriers had been erected around both sites warning lights had not been provided. Clerk confirmed she had contacted S.G.C. and had been advised that beacons were not required during work being undertaken in pavements only barriers and signage.

The minutes of the meeting dated 19th November 08 were agreed a true record and signed.

NO 4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION. Four members of the Pucklechurch Community Association attended the meeting, Mr. L. Bence Chairman, Mrs. T. Symons Treasurer, Mrs Denise Taylor Social Club Treasurer and Mr. G. Thorn Trustee P.C.A. Mr. Bence addressed members saying that as Councillors were aware following a meeting in the Village Hall it had been decided to work towards a 'Make Over', a Steering Group has been set up and a Project Group formed. An email from the Parish Council appears to have given the Project Group authority to work independently, the P.C.A. find this unacceptable and would like a letter sent confirming the email was the opinion of the Parish Council not an authority.

NO 5. RESPONSE. Mr. Smith said he had been contacted by the Project Group and asked what had happened at the Parish Council Meeting, he had advised what he believed was factual 'that the Governance was complicated' he did not think his email could be construed as an authority.

Mr. Beg said Councillors thought that as the volunteers were highly professional they should be left to come up with ideas and then go to the village. He confirmed the Parish Council wanted the building as it is a place for all to meet.

Mr. Watson said he understood the Project Group would be working on the project and would report to the Steering Group mid January.

Mr. Whittock advised he had been involved with the building of the Village Hall 30-40years ago and internal problems then had taken him to court. He is concerned that internal problems create bad feelings in the village - groups need to work together.

Mr. Holder said he was disappointed he had thought the C.A. were coming to ask for financial help as the Council has the ability to raise money annually. He confirmed he had seen the email it advised the Parish Council thought the project governance was too complicated and that the Project Group should be given clear remit to do their job. He suggested the C.A. be invited to report back to the next Parish Council Meeting with an update on progress so far. All agreed.

Mr. Beg thanked Mr. Bence and members of the group for attending the meeting.

NO 6. MEMBERS MATTERS. Mr Watson said that when driving towards Shortwood recently he had met a build up of traffic because a flatbed lorry carrying engines was manoeuvring into the lane to the reservoir, clearly going into the traveller's site. A business is obviously being run from the site and alterations to the boundary is a breach of planning conditions. Clerk to contact Enforcement.

Mr. Smith advised he had been contact by residents in Parkfield Rank about ice on Parkfield Rd near The Vale. Residents had contacted S.G.C. and been advised that Parkfield Road was not on the gritting run but that they could spread salt from the bins.

Clerk contacted Mr Meddick Highways Officer about the problem, the road has now been gritted and the salt bins topped up and residents are happy that action has been taken.

Clerk was advised S.G.C. only have winter funding to cover A and B roads. Mr. Meddick had suggested Parish Council write to Mr Owen Jenkins explaining that the problem of ice is not confined to the bend on Parkfield Road as there are several areas where water runs off the fields and freezes and ask for it could be included on the secondary route.

Mr. Smith said a bus had had an accident on Oaktree Avenue and he had been surprised to learn it was not on the gritting route.

Mr. Whittock said the School Crossing Lady had reported ice by the School.

Mr. Whittock said the 30mpr speed head had been taken off the post on Westerleigh Road near the green.

Mr. Whittock said the short section of fence by the Scout Hut was broken and new posts and rail were needed. It was agreed clerk would arrange for fence to be replaced/repared urgently.

Mr. Whittock said a Horse Chestnut tree on the lane leading from Shortwood Rd to Becket Court needed looking at. Clerk to contact S.G.C.

Mr. Beg advised that approximately 1 ½ yrs ago S.G.C. had agreed to shorten the chevrons on the Ring Road between the Dramway and Sainsbury's Roundabouts. Clerk to write asking for the chevrons to be shortened now that the speed limit changes have taken place.

NO 7. REPORTS. Mr. Holder and Mr. Whittock had attended the Kings Forest Forum meeting and the introduction of a footway on Feltham Road had been discussed and the funding for a horse track along side the cycle route on Shortwood Hill.

Mr. Watson had attended the A.L.C.A. AGM this was followed by the E.G.M.

Mr. Watson attended the Rural & Parishes Meeting on the 9th December it was established that the questionnaire from S.G.C. to clerks and in some cases Councillors was useful. S.G.C. Officials had held a working lunch but this had been poorly attended the event was to be repeated on the 9th February between 3 – 9pm.

Mr. Watson had attended the South Gloucestershire A.L.C.A. meeting which had included a fascinating talk on local waste strategy. In the new year a trial kerbside food waste collection will be introduced on three rounds. S.G.C. has a contract with Sita to dispose of food waste therefore it is up to Sita where food waste goes and it was suggested the A46 site will go ahead.

The Sustainable Communities Act is being updated, information is in circulation.

Mrs. Palmer attended the Gypsy/Traveller consultation meeting at Emersons Green.

Mr. Beg advised he had given apologies to HMP & YOI Ashfield as he had been unable to attend the Extravaganza event.

NO 8. TO ADOPT FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT. Clerk explained that the Freedom of Information Act expires on the 31st December 08. The Information Commissioner's Office has produced a new model scheme that has to be adopted from 1st January 2009. Clerk has been unable to download the act from the web site as the page was unavailable but the paper copy has not yet been received. It was agreed the scheme would be adopted at next months meeting.

NO 9. TO DISCUSS PROPOSED LEAFLET. It was agreed the leaflet concept was good and should have pro active aims. The leaflet should contain contact details of Councillors and a group photograph. Layout to be agreed. Headings to be prepared as follows: Responsibility – Mrs. Palmer. Budget – Mr. Symons. – Public Spaces – Mr. Holder. Allotments – Clerk.

NO 10. VILLAGE HALL FINANCIAL SUPPORT. After discussion it was proposed by Mr. Holder and seconded by Mr. Beg that Councillors are minded to make a regular commitment towards the upkeep of the Village Hall subject to receiving a list of current needs and forecast of income and expenditure. All agreed. Clerk to draft letter for circulation and agreement before sending.

NO 11. LYDE GREEN COMMON – TITLE DEED. Clerk has documents provided by Norft Ltd provided to Land Registry in support of their claim for title. Mrs. Palmer has a copy of a letter sent to C.P.R.E. from S.G.C. confirming that Common Unit CL127 is subject to a Scheme of Management which was made in 1910 and at one time administered by Pucklechurch (the entry in the Register relating to the regulation by the Scheme states “and the Management delegated to the Pucklechurch Parish Council on 23 February 1959”), however, it is understood that this was handed back to Sodbury Rural District Council in 1972 and is presently the responsibility of S.G.C. Clerk also has letter from S.G.C. confirming Pucklechurch Parish Council registered the Common CL 127, under Application No 113. It was agreed clerk would ask Solicitor to check the legal status of common land.

NO 12. PLANNING APPLICATIONS. The following applications were considered. PK08/3065/LB installation of 3no. conservation roof lights to front elevation and 4no. to rear elevation to facilitate creation of attic room. Replacement of roof tiles. Moat Farm Barn, 7 Farlands, Pucklechurch. No objection.

PK08/3094/PNA prior notification of the intention to erect an agricultural building for the storage of hay. Churchmead Farm, Hodden Lane. Mr. Smith declared an interest. No objections.

PK08/3175/F demolition of existing dwelling to facilitate erection of 1no. dwelling with associated works. Strata Finis, Parkfield. Mrs. Turley declared an interest. No objections.

NO 13. CORRESPONDENCE. S.G.C. Consultation on School Term and Holiday dates for year 2010-11. Mr. Beg agreed to reply to the consultation.

NO14. C.P.R.E. Litter Campaign. It was agreed clerk would circulate the information.

NO 15. Clerk had received a telephone call from a resident in Feltham Road advising a lorry wheel had left an indentation on the edge of Feltham Road and he was concerned that a car could get drawn into the rut and tipped into the ditch. Clerk has emailed S.G.C. about the problem and has received an acknowledgement.

NO 16. FINANCE. Mr. Symons had prepared an update of the budgeted accounts. Clerk said that providing project income and expenditure to the end of the financial year was as budgeted approximately £7834.00. would be carried forward to 2009/10.

The following cheques were agreed for payment and signed. Ensign Print £414.00. Pucklechurch News. Instant Landscapes £82.70. extra cut. S.G.C. £38.60. maintenance and emptying of dog bin St. Aldams Drive. Mrs. A. Sharpe £125.00. Mrs. D. Bailey £314.62. being salary £310.66. plus stamps £3.96. Mr. L. Whittock £4.95. plants for planters on Shortwood Rd.

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

Date of next meeting 21st January 2009 starting at the earlier time of 6.45pm with a presentation by Mr. Follett Play Development Adviser.