

**PUCKLECHURCH PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 16<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2007 IN THE MEETING ROOM, COMMUNITY CENTRE, ABSON ROAD.**

**PRESENT.** O.A. Beg Chairman, L.J. Whittock Vice Chairman, Mrs. J.E. Crispin, P.J. Green, D.A.E. Holder, R.C. Lee, Mrs. M.C. Palmer, W.K. Skidmore, M.C. Smith.

**NO 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.** Cllr. Sandra Grant.

**NO 2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.** The Chairman invited Mr. C. Simpson to address the Council. Mr. Simpson wished to draw attention to the sewage problem in the Feltham Road area and advised Wessex Water were proposing to install a screening plant underground with tank storage. The proposed plant should prevent surcharging on his farmland but could ultimately result, during flood conditions, with sewage of 6mm and less being released into Feltham Brook. Although the work scheduled to start in July 07 will benefit Mr. Simpson he is concerned it could be a problem for others.

Mr. Simpson also mentioned flooding problems within the Feltham Road area caused by surface water. He is concerned that this will increase if further development like the Oaktree Avenue project goes ahead.

Mr. Beg thanked Mr. Simpson.

**NO 3. LAW & ORDER.** Nothing to report.

**NO 4. ARISING & TO AGREE AND SIGN MINUTES.** Mr. Skidmore asked if the 'Issues & Options for Waste in the West of England' survey had been received. Clerk said she had not yet received it.

The minutes of the meeting held 20<sup>th</sup> December 2006 were agreed a true record and signed.

**NO 5. RESPONSE TO PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.** Mr. Smith said he thought it was important to talk to the authorities concerned and suggested they should be invited to a site meeting. Mrs. Palmer said Wessex Water was aware of the proposed development as they were consultees and could possibly be asked to contribute towards the sewage system. It was agreed clerk would contact the authorities to arrange a site meeting.

**NO 6. PUCKLECHURCH FOOTBALL CLUB.** Mr. Beg advised Councillors needed to decide whether to allow the erection of a permanent barrier around the football pitch and if the goal posts could remain in position until the end of the season. Councillors were concerned that a permanent barrier around the pitch would give the impression the area could only be used by the Football Club rather than the whole community. The barrier would have to be fairly substantial and would interfere with the openness of the field and would not enhance the church and conservation area. Councillors were also concerned that the barrier would attract vandalism giving rise to who would be responsible for ongoing repairs plus the possibility of a child running into it and injuring him/herself.

Councillors decided their primary responsibility was to the wider community and therefore they could not allow the erection of a permanent barrier around the pitch. It was agreed clerk would send letter of explanation to the Gloucestershire County League.

Councillors agreed the goal posts could remain for the rest of the season.

**NO 7. GOVERNMENTS PROPOSALS FOR POST OFFICE NETWORK.** The consultation document had been circulated, Councillors strongly supported the intention to make substantial funding available over the next 5 years as the retention of our local Post Office is very important. Pucklechurch has a substantial number of elderly people who rely on the Post Office for their pension and paying bills etc., and from the social aspect is an important meeting point. Although there are other Post Offices within a 3 mile radius of Pucklechurch accessing them would be difficult as there is no safe footway and only a limited bus service. Councillors agreed to respond directly to the Department of Trade & Industry with a copy to South Gloucestershire Council.

**NO 8. MEMBERS MATTERS.** Mr. Lee asked if South Gloucestershire Council could arrange for the white 'no parking' signs on the corner of Parkfield Rd/Westerleigh Rd to be repainted.

Mr. Smith showed Councillors an aerial photograph of the illegal encampment on Shortwood Rd. that he had printed from the internet. Councillors were very concerned at how established the site had become and concerned as to how the rubbish dumped at the back of the site would be disposed of. Mr. Holder asked clerk to make South Gloucestershire Council aware of their concern, enclosing the photograph.

Mr. Holder asked if Councillors would consider giving a grant to Pucklechurch Speed Watch committee of £250.00. to secure the purchase of a speed gun and high visibility jackets. The cost of the speed gun is £800.00. the Police have given a grant of £500.00. and the Area Forum £150.00. After discussion it was unanimously agreed clerk would write to the Chairman Mr. F. Rogers offering a grant of £250.00.

Mr. Green reported that the Christmas tree provided by Revel had been left by the Millennium Stone on Shortwood Rd. Mr. Smith agreed to make sure it was removed.

Mrs. Palmer reported the road sign 'Crematorium' on Westerleigh Rd. and 'Cattybrook Road North' needed re-fixing. The pavement on Shortwood Rd. between the bus stop and the Millennium Stone is very green and needs treating or it could become slippery. The whole village would benefit by sweeping as due to the high winds there is a lot of debris about. Clerk to write to S.G.C. Street Care Department.

**NO 9. REPORTS.** Twinning - Mr. Beg advised families from Pringy would arrive Saturday before Easter and return Wednesday morning.

Community Plan – Mr. Smith said they now had six working groups and from over 500 topics the groups were developing questions. The questionnaires would be delivered by hand, information collated and the plan published October.

**NO 10. PLANNING APPLICATIONS.** None.

**NO 11. CORRESPONDENCE.** A letter was received from S.G.C. regarding an alleged planning breach in Partridge Road confirming the owners of the property had been advised planning permission is required for the works. S.G.C. suggest they would be unlikely to support an application for the front porch but has invited an application for the work to the rear.

**NO 12.** A letter from S.G. Patient & Public Involvement Forum advised the PPI Forum for S.G. PCT is an independent body set up by the government to monitor health service provision. The Forum is made up from volunteers in the local community who are enthusiastic about helping patients and the public influence the way healthcare is organised and delivered and they are currently looking for new members.

**NO 13.** An email from a resident in Parkfield Rank thanked the Parish Council Chairman for his article in the Local Magazine about parking, unfortunately it hasn't helped the situation very much and he would be grateful for anything else the Council could suggest. It was agreed clerk would write to S.G.C. enclosing a copy of the article and ask that they please take appropriate action.

**NO 14.** A letter from S.G.C. regarding the weight restriction on Castle Road advised that under the 1994 Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions all environmental weight limits contain an exemption for vehicles to gain access to premises or to load/unload on the affected length of road. The Crews Transport Yard at Doynton falls within the extent of the weight limit and the lorries are not contravening any restriction.

**NO 15.** An email from S.G.C. Planning Enforcement Officer advised an enforcement notice in respect of the caravans on land at Shortwood Road has been issued.

**NO 16.** A notice from S.G.C. advised the arrangements for the hearing into the appeals against four Enforcement Notices and refusal of planning permission land off Westerleigh Rd. 5<sup>th</sup> June 07 at 10.00, The Council Offices Castle St., Thornbury.

**NO 17.** A letter was received from Pucklechurch Community Association regarding the Health & Safety Assessment of the Scout Hut advising Members had agreed that to put up a barrier now was unnecessary as in its 20year history of being sited next to the Scout hut there has never been an incident of a car overshooting the car park. However, they have agreed to dig out the built-up silt residue around the edge of the car park so that the raised kerb is clear.

The P.C.A. received a brochure offering bike stands for the car park. Whilst they would like to help promote a healthier lifestyle and reduce car emissions they are struggling with finances and wonder if the Parish Council could fund this for them.

Also the Village Hall car park has not been renovated for a while and is in quite a sad state. They are able to help finance the repairs but wonder if the Parish Council would be able to fund half of the cost. Councillors agreed they could fund the cost of properly lined parking bays but suggested it would be more appropriate for the P.C.A. to apply for grant funding from another source. Clerk to advise contact details for outside sources of grant funding.

**NO 18.** An invitation was received to S.G.C. Local Agenda 21 forum on 13.2.07.

**NO 19.** A letter from Slough Estates Plc advised they have recently acquired the Pucklechurch Industrial Estate and in respect of the concern regarding the parking of HGV's in Becket Court and St. Aldams Drive, their managing agent has discussed the matter with Baylis and their security operator to remind them both that they should discourage lorries from parking in the residential area. Baylis has undertaken to address the problem and the matter will be monitored.

**NO 20.** An email from Rob Grieve S.G.C. advised they are working on improvements on Castle Road for the school. Following a survey one of the issues raised has been that in wet weather the recreation ground is very muddy and makes walking from the car park to the school very unpleasant. Although they do not have sufficient funds for a path across the field, as part of the improvements they would like to consider installing a small section of footpath at the car park and Lansdown Road access points. They would like to know if the Parish Council owns the recreation ground and if so, if they would have any objection to them installing a 5m long section of tarmac at each point. Clerk to confirm Parish Council own the land and have no objection to the proposed footpaths.

**NO 21. FINANCE.** To consider the following quotations for rubbing down, undercoating and painting using Weathershield exterior paint play equipment in parish. Wizzard Landscapes £2358.00. Martyn Williams £1075.00. It was proposed by Mr. Holder, seconded by Mr Whittock that the quotation from Martyn Williams be accepted. All agreed.

Clerk had quotation from Wizzard Landscapes for installing 3ft 6ins high galvanised drop down bollard at entrance to recreation field £297.00. Councillors agreed to accept quotation plus cost of attaching spring closure to pedestrian gate.

To agree Precept figure for 2007/8. Following last months budget review Mr. Beg proposed a precept figure of £23000.00., seconded by Mr. Holder. All agreed. Clerk to advise S.G.C. that they are unable to provide indicative budget figures for 2008/9 and 2009/10 due to the unknown outcome of the Parish Plan.

The following cheques were agreed for payment and signed. S.G. Citizens Advice Bureau £200.00. grant. St. Thomas a Becket Church £800.00. grant towards upkeep of churchyard. EDF Energy Ltd. £4.52. unmetered supply. Mrs. Anna Sharpe £115.50. Mrs. D. Bailey £298.48. salary £294.00. + stamps £4.48.

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

Date for next meeting. 21<sup>st</sup> February 2007 at 7.30pm.

