

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD 17TH JUNE 2009 IN THE MEETING ROOM, PUCKLECHURCH COMMUNITY CENTRE, ABSON ROAD.

PRESENT. O.A. Beg Chairman, D.A.E. Holder Vice Chairman, R. Symons, M.S. Watson, L.J. Whittock.

Cllr. S. Grant.

Mr. Beg opened the meeting with a welcome.

NO 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE. P.J. Green, Mrs. M.C. Palmer, M.C. Smith, Mrs S.E. Turley.

NO 2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION. None.

NO 3. LAW & ORDER. Mr. Beg introduced Inspector Kevin Thatcher based at Staple Hill Police Station. Inspector Thatcher reported the following crime figures based on a 4 month period. 2 – shed burglaries, 4 – dwelling burglaries, 1 – vehicle crime and 7 – anti social behaviour calls.

Inspector Thatcher also warned about bogus contractors (paving, electrical and water board officials) targeting the elderly but not in Pucklechurch.

Councillors asked about reports of farm burglaries – Inspector Thatcher confirmed farm machinery had been targeted and tack from stables, he confirmed arrests had recently been made.

Encounters with travellers was mentioned - Inspector Thatcher said that before they take action the police have to assess risk e.g. is there an increase in crime or anti social behaviour in the area, they need evidence. The Police and South Gloucestershire Council recently managed to remove an encampment in Siston.

Mr. Watson said that since the expansion of the site on Shortwood Road people using nearby stables had expressed concern about the safety of their horses and had stayed with them over night. They contacted the Police but they are unable to help as no crime had been committed and he wondered if there was anything else they could do. Inspector Thatcher confirmed everything should be reported as they need information.

Mr. Holder said that from the Community Plan only half of residents were satisfied with the Police but it came down to a lack of communication. Inspector Thatcher was surprised there was no Police report in Pucklechurch News as he had asked all Beat Managers to use local magazines as a means of communication. Councillors advised copy date for the next edition was 15th August for delivery in September. Inspector Thatcher guaranteed there would be something for the next issue.

Mr. Beg reported a spate of young lads on mini motto's around the village late afternoons/early evenings.

Mr. Beg said that on Bank Holiday Monday there had been an event in the Fleur de Lys that due to inconsiderate parking had resulted in a tractor and the bus having difficulty getting by. Mr. Beg asked if the Police contact landlords of pubs so as to avoid problems in the future. Inspector Thatcher said pubs have to apply for temporary event notices and that normally he is aware.

Mr. Beg thanked Inspector Thatcher for attending the meeting.

Clerk had written report from P.C. Skelton confirming there were no crime trends to speak of concerning Pucklechurch and no reports of anti social behaviour. There is advice on the Web site concerning theft of live stock from small holdings but this is a national rather than local problem.

NO 4. ARISINGS & TO AGREE AND SIGN MINUTES. Councillors had met at Rebekka's memorial garden to look at the trees before agreeing the decision to have them felled.

Clerk advised she had spoken to Mr. Gay about grass being left on headstones in the Burial Ground and he has agreed to cut with mulch mower to avoid the problem in the future.

Mr. Watson said the problem of HGV's parking on Oaktree Avenue had re-started.

Clerk confirmed the 'Revel Roundoff' event was to be held in the car park of the Star.

Mr. Watson read a letter he had sent to Mr. Thomas and the Makeover Project Team advising the Parish Council had agreed that as C.A. has a new management team they felt the most appropriate way forward would be for them to contact the new Chairman and present their thoughts and findings.

The minutes of the meeting dated 20th May 09 were agreed a true record and signed.

NO 5. FINANCE. Mr. Symons had prepared a budget update (copy attached) and advised Council was in a good position. The following cheques were agreed for payment and signed. Ensign Print £248.00. Pucklechurch News. Complete Weed Control £494.50. Spraying the recreation field with weed and feed. Senior Citizens Forum £65.00. grant. C.P.R.E. £29.00. membership. J.G. Isaacs £70.00. repairs to Burial Ground tap. P.C.A. £34.50. hire of meeting room. D.W. Parsons £138.00. cutting hedge lane to Hill View Road and repairs to fence on St. Aldams Rd. Mr. G. Bailey £500.00. felling of trees entrance to Rebekka's garden and tidying shrubs overhanging pavement (Clerk confirmed the Home Office had contributed to half of the cost). Mrs. A. Sharpe £125.00. Mrs. D. Bailey £314.62 being salary £310.66. + stamps £3.96. Instant

Landscapes £1380.95. grass cutting, cutting pathways in Woodland and Stump grinding.
Alzheimer's Society £80.00. grant.

NO 6. MEMBERS MATTERS. Mr. Symons confirmed he had reviewed the letter from the Tax Office and had telephoned the Tax Officer. Mrs. A Sharpe is self employed as she can work when she wants or ask someone else to do the work on her behalf. The Clerk is employed but the Council is not liable for anything as Mrs. Bailey is responsible for her own tax and completes a tax return annually. Mr. Symons proposed that as the Council has employer responsibilities the services of Abacus, costing £11.00. month/£138.00. a year, be accepted so as to ensure compliancy. Seconded by Mr Watson all agreed.

Mr. Beg advised the hedge between the Churchyard and Burial Ground needed cutting. Clerk to contact Mr. Gay.

NO 7. REPORTS. Mr. Watson had attended the S.G.C. Planning Meeting when the plans for an additional mobile home and 4 transit pitches was decided. He confirmed he had learnt a lot but suggested that if sending someone again they should be better briefed. Mr. Watson thanked Cllr. Grant for taking appropriate and strong action on our behalf and Cllr. Hockey for her back-up - the outcome being that the application was rejected.

Councillors are concerned that work relating to the rejected application may have already taken place and believe an inspection of the site should be urgently undertaken by Planning Enforcement. Concern was also raised about ownership as the original consent was specific to Mr. Jones and his family who no longer appear to be living there. Mr. Watson agreed to draft a letter to S.G.C. Planning Department for agreement/alteration before sending.

Mr. Watson had attended the Safer Stronger Community Group Annual Review it was an interesting meeting.

Mr. Watson had attended the Link Meeting at the BAWA Club he expressed an interest as he thought local people should be involved.

Mr. Symons attended the Waste Management Meeting and gave Councillors a copy of his report (attached).

Mr. Holder also attended the SSCG meeting he said the meeting was very interesting and had full cross party support.

Mr. Whittock had attended the Biodiversity Meeting at Willsbridge Mill the meeting was very interesting with a talk on 'Climate Change'.

Mr. Green had attended the Shortwood Quarry Liaison Meeting the clerk read his report.

NO 8. SPEED GROUP. The decision to set a date for the meeting of Speed Group Sub Committee was deferred.

NO 9. Councillors checked, agreed and signed the lease for Shortwood Play Area. Mr Beg and Mr Holder being Chairman and Vice Chairman signed on behalf of the Council.

NO 10. PLANNING. The following application was considered. Erection of 2no terraced dwellings. Extension to existing dwelling to form 2no dwellings. Construction of cart barn with access and associated works. Pucklechurch Service Station 8-10 Westerleigh Road. (Change of description and revised plans). Councillors strongly object to this application as detailed previously, they also object to the loss of amenity and jobs in the village. They were concerned that only a limited attempt was made to sell the business and a more suitable time scale should have been allowed.

Councillors asked if a decision had made regarding the Village Store. Clerk to ask S.G.C. for an update.

South Gloucestershire Council Gypsy and Traveller Sites Development Plan Document. As a result of the public consultation additional areas of land have been identified and put forward as suitable for Gypsy/Traveller use by landowners, three of the sites being in Pucklechurch. After discussion it was agreed Mr. Beg would draft a reply, email it to the clerk for circulation/alteration before sending.

NO 11. ALLOTMENTS. Mr. Holder said he was pleased to report the whole place was incredible, a letter was to be sent 2/3 people saying we appreciate the improvement but that if at any time they find the garden is more than they need to let us know as we have a waiting list. Mr. Holder suggested that should any plots become available they could be halved as they are very large.

NO 12. VILLAGE HALL CAR PARK. Mr. Holder declared an interest. Clerk had quotation from Wizzard Landscapes for work to border left hand side of car park as follows: To remove all trees and shrubs and excavate to a depth of 250mm, removing all debris from site to contractors tip. To supply and install 45 linear mts of path edging, set in concrete. To supply, lay and compact 175mm of type one stone. To supply, lay and compact 50mm dense binder course and supply, lay and compact 30mm of 10mm dense surface course to match existing. To plant 60 Pyracantha bushes (est 3-4ft in height). £9127.00. plus V.A.T. Quotation no 2 to clear ground and shrubbery, whilst leaving trees and including planting 60 Pyracantha. £2175.00. plus V.A.T.

Mr. Holder as Chair of C.A. obtained quotation for tree work around car park as follows :
Unit 1. Beech hedge – reduce height to 8ft (car park side) trim up both sides. £575.00.
Unit 2. Trim hedge, Reduce trees Goat willow, Beech, Field Maple and Sycamore.
Remove suckers and cut back hard Buddleia. Crown lift Field Maple, reduce thorn trees to existing hedge. £1725.00.

Unit 3. Reduce and crown lift Goat Willow. Trim privet hedge. Leylandii hedge reduce height to 8ft trim up both sides. Cherry tree reduce. Clear privet and Sycamore suckers to ground level. £1150.00.

Unit 4. Clear area with strimmer. Remove Elder and Sycamore saplings. Trim up shrubs and hedge. Tidy broken limbs but not touch back hedge. £575.00. Mr. Holder hoped the work could be carried out as a joint project perhaps funded by C.A. and Parish Council with a grant from Revel. It may also be appropriate to discuss with Project Group.

NO 13. CORRESPONDENCE. A letter was received from Mr. C. Boyle Chair of Junior Football in response to Parish Councils letter regarding youngsters damaging a residents wall and urinating in the bushes. He will pass concerns to managers of their teams and ask them to manage this when organizing matches, training sessions and other events on the recreation field. He will also ask them to request that all players avoid such behaviour when they are in the area at other times, although this is not something for which they can be accountable. Changing room facilities are available and used by players and families during organized activities but they obviously are not available at other times.

Clerk confirmed she has also written to the Cricket Club about the problem and is awaiting a reply.

NO 14. An email was received from Mr. C. Thomas saying the Project Group will contact Mr. Holder with a view to arranging a meeting but that there are matters in their letter of 29th March to which they would like a response. It was agreed Mr. Watson would draft a response and email to Councillors for agreement/alteration before sending.

NO 15. A reply was received from S.G.C. regarding cars parked near the corner of Homefield Road advising installing no waiting restrictions at any time (double yellow lines) requires the making of a Traffic Regulation Order. This process takes a considerable time due to the need to consult and publicly advertise the proposal. It can take in excess of 12 months and consequently they do not have the resources to carry out this process for single sites. Their records show no injury accidents on this length of Homefield Road in the last five years and whilst this is no reason to be complacent it makes it difficult to justify diverting limited funds away from sites where injury accidents regularly occur. Clerk to pass comments on to Mr. Peters and contact P.C. Skelton and ask him to look at parking and speak to anyone causing an obstruction.

NO 16. An invitation was received to attend Kingswood Community Transport AGM 2nd July at 2.30pm in the Council Chamber, Kingswood Civic Centre.

NO 17. An invitation was received to attend S.G.C. Biodiversity Meeting 29th June 7-9pm Kingswood Civic Centre.

NO 18. A letter was received from the Alzheimer's Society asking for financial assistance for 2009/10. Mr. Beg declared an interest and took no part in the voting. Mr. Holder proposed a grant of £80.00. all agreed.

NO 19. A letter was received from Montague Harris regarding the Lyde Green Common enclosing a letter from the Land Registry indicating they have not upheld Parish Councils objection to the registration of the property.

NO 20. A letter from Age Concern South Gloucestershire advised they would like to test local support for their nail cutting service and would be grateful for ideas and suggestions about the format and content of their event. They would also be grateful for suggestions as to how the event can be advertised and the best channels to follow. Clerk to reply that for Pucklechurch leaflets advertising the open day could be placed in the Homefield and Dennisworth centre's, the Poplars Retirement Flats, the Doctors surgery and the Community Nursing Service and for residents in Shortwood the Chapel notice board.

NO 21. An invitation was received to 'Transforming Lives Congress' 10th July 09 at the David Hiatt Baker Conference Centre at the Vassall Centre, Gill Avenue. Mr. Watson agreed to attend.

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

Date for next meeting 15th July at 7.30pm. Mr. Watson gave apologies.