

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD 17<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 07  
IN THE MEETING ROOM, PUCKLECURCH COMMUNITY CENTRE,  
ABSON RD.**

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

Cllr. S. Grant, PSO Ashley Roland.

Mr. Beg opened the meeting with a welcome.

**NO 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.** P.J. Green, M.C. Smith.

**NO 2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.** None.

**NO 3. LAW & ORDER.** PSO Ashley Roland said he has been working in Pucklechurch for approximately 6 months having taken over from PSO Ann who is on extended sick leave. The main issue in Pucklechurch is mini moto's around Oaktree Ave. he has one name but has been unable to catch anyone. The bikes are dangerous and should not be ridden on roads and pavements, the police operate zero tolerance and anyone caught riding them will have them taken away and broken up.

Mr. Watson said that a recent meeting he had been staggered at the size of PSO Rolands beat area. PSO Roland said it was large area and their group has low staff but statically there is less crime. Mrs. Turley asked how many officers were in each group. PSO Roland advised there were 5 groups, 6/7 on a shift with 3/4 response cars per shift.

PSO Roland advised that with Halloween and firework night approaching the Police had sent letters to shops asking them not to sell fireworks, eggs or flour to under 18year olds.

Councillors asked PSO Roland if he was able to visit at school time as there were problems with inconsiderate parking. Mrs. Turley advised that since an enormous HGV blocked Castle Road the Headteacher has specified children must be taken into and collected from school. PSO Roland agreed parking was a problem he suggested sending letters asking parents to be considerate as issuing tickets had not worked. Mr. Beg thanked PSO Roland for attending the meeting.

**NO 4. ARISINGS.** Mr. Beg advised the drain outside 11 – 13 Shortwood Rd had been replaced but he thought water would still hold as the kerbstones had not been repaired.

Mr. Beg said the problem of smell caused by the spreading of pig manure had been resolved without the need of a letter as the farmer had said spreading pig manure was not practical and that in future he intended using farm manure and chemicals.

Mrs. Palmer said that in relation to the proposed sewage works on Feltham Rd. she had noticed a planning application for a kiosk, grass-crete paved area and bollards had just been submitted.

The minutes of the meeting held 19<sup>th</sup> September 07 were agreed a true record and signed.

**NO 5. MEBERS MATTERS.** Mr. Whittock said he had minutes of the Neighbourhood Watch Meeting and he would circulate them for information.

Mrs. Palmer said that a meeting in Nibley Court Dr. Seddon had expressed concern that 2years had passed but there had been no significant progress with plans for the new surgery. Councillors Sarah Turley and Sandra Grant were asked if they would support Dr. Seddon as Parish Council was anxious the plans should not fail. Sandra Grant confirmed their support saying they were concerned Pucklechurch could end up without a surgery if Dr. Winbolt needed the premises.

Mr. Beg said he was pleased to see the Chapel grounds had been cut back and suggested clerk write expressing thanks and also request the site be cleared of litter.

**NO 6. REPORTS.** Mr. Holder said he had attended the Parish Charter Meeting the group brings together Parish Councils and keeps S.G.C. in touch with the people.

Mr. Whittock had attended the Cycle Group Meeting a report was read proposing alterations to the junction on the Siston turning to improve the scheme to link the existing cycle path on the corner of Shortwood Hill with the top of the Link Road.

Mrs. Turley had attended the Housing Strategy workshop the event had been interesting but a bit disorganised as delegates had all referred to their own areas. Future housing for private, social and affordable needs and regeneration for Staple Hill was discussed.

Councillors attended the Safer, Stronger Community Partnership meeting and were concerned that the concept of the meeting had been wrong, the community was supposed to elect a committee but it ended up a police meeting with people telling the police about problems in the park in Wick. The next meeting will probably be in Pucklechurch.

Mr. Watson had been unable to attend the A.L.C.A. meeting.

Mrs. Palmer attended the Core Strategy Meeting and had expressed the importance of retaining the green belt around Pucklechurch.

Mrs. Palmer said S.G.C. was carrying out a review of all its 30 conservation areas but Pucklechurch had been waiting for several years. As the RSS has identified land near Pucklechurch as an 'Area of Search' she thought a review would be relevant. Clerk to write to S.G.C.

**NO 7. BALLOON LANDING POLICY.** It was agreed clerk would contact Cameron Balloons for information.

**NO 8. GYPSY/TRAVELLER PROVISION CONSULTATION.** Mr. Beg re-assessed the points raised at the previous meeting. Councillors were concerned the

consultation was too narrow and felt there should have been clearer distinction between residential and transit sites and more emphasis on smaller sites. It was agreed Mr. Beg would reply to the consultation.

**NO 9. PLANNING APPLICATIONS.** The following applications were considered. PK07/2929/F erection of single storey side extension to form additional living accommodation. Replacement of flat roof with pitched roof over existing single storey extension and garage. 18 Homefield Rd. No objections.

PK07/2997/F erection of rear conservatory. 68 Hawkridge Drive. No objections.

PK07/2971/F installation of 1.8m wall mounted satellite dish, 5m above ground level. HMP & YOI Ashfield, Shortwood Rd. Councillors objected to application as there was nothing to indicate position, they also questioned why the dish was so large.

**NO 10. SITE VISIT.** Mr. Beg, Mr. Green, Mr. Holder, Mr. Watson & Mr. Whittock had met with Mr. G. Meddick Highway Officer for S.G.C. the following issues were discussed:

- Concern about a horsebox parked on the paved pedestrian area opposite the Millennium Stone. Extra bollards were requested, on the grounds of safety, to prevent parking.
- Concern was raised that grassed areas were left uncut for weeks and then shaved. Mr. Meddick said that in the past S.G.C. had staff to supervise but not any more he was also concerned the service would get worse as SGC has to make savings.
- Mr. Meddick confirmed signage for Oaktree Ave was already in hand.
- He agreed to address the issue of trees and bushes overhanging roads and paths and asked for locations to be identified.
- Councillors were concerned about the inappropriate, excessive use of weed killer. This was because S.G.C. no longer has the man power to trim.
- Mr. Meddick confirmed street cleaning and gullies was carried out in a cycle but for routine sweeping it is impractical to cone. Large areas were coned for deep cleaning. Councillors felt the meeting had been useful.

**NO 11. CORRESPONDENCE.** An email from Sally Pattison, Biodiversity Officer confirmed two people were surveying hedgerows at St. Aldams. They would like to encourage more volunteers and were looking at dates for another Parish Walk.

**NO 12.** A letter from S.G.C. confirmed the overgrown lane between Shortwood Rd and Becket Court has been logged onto their system. The potholes have also been logged and they will ask their Highways Team to inspect Abson Road but cannot be positive about when they will be able to address the issues as their budget is committed for this year. Any safety issue will be dealt with immediately.

**NO 13.** A letter of thanks for increasing the grant towards the upkeep of the Churchyard this year, due to the extra expenditure, was received from St. Thomas A Becket.

**NO 14.** A letter was received from Pucklechurch Community Association advising they are trying to raise funds towards the external repair and refurbishment of the village hall. The hall is struggling to stay afloat and to help address increases in overheads the rates to users will be increased. The hall is well used by both the local community and outside groups and they feel that by introducing improvements it will encourage more users. They would be grateful for help with funding towards the contribution of materials, possibly in the region of £1300.00. Councillors suggested it would be beneficial for the Community Association to apply to outside bodies for funding, clerk to forward application forms. Councillors wished to support the Community Association and agreed they should be able to meet any shortfall. Also it was time for the hedges bordering the car park to be trimmed, they are in the process of arranging quotations and hopeful that the cost will be similar to last year (£300.00.) and would be grateful if the Parish Councillor could consider sharing the cost as in previous years. Councillors agreed they would share the cost as in previous years but as the trees and shrubs have become very large suggested a full assessment was obtained.

**NO 15.** A letter from the Secretary Pucklechurch Scout Executive regarding a collapsed drain cover and the oak tree adjacent to the Scout hut was received. The letter explained that they had recently had a problem with a blocked sewer running between the Scout hut and the Community Centre, which resulted in the water board clearing the blockage. During the work attention was drawn to other manhole covers that needed replacing for safety and to prevent debris entering the sewer. Clerk had met with the Secretary to identify the drain covers and check the condition of the Oak Tree. Clerk has obtained quotation for replacement of the three damaged manhole covers and frames from Wizzard Landscapes of £220.20. plus V.A.T. Councillors agreed to accept the quotation. Reference the Oak tree this has been inspected and although not dangerous will never properly recover and felling is recommended. It was agreed permission would be obtained for the tree to be felled.

**NO 16.** A letter was received from Community Action introducing the new Rural Services Officer.

**NO 17.** An invitation was received to the South Gloucestershire District of Avonside CPRE AGM 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov. 10.30am at Poole Court, Poole Court Drive, Yate.

**NO 18.** A letter was read inviting members to the Remembrance Day Service at St. Thomas A Becket Church Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> Nov. at 10.45am. It was proposed by Mr. Holder and seconded by Mrs. Turley that Mr. Whittock presents the wreath on behalf of Parish Council. All agreed.

**NO 19. FINANCE.** Councillors agreed to apply for grant aid to complete the railings on Castle Rd end of the recreation field.

The following cheques were agreed for payment and signed. Jane Russett £100.00. winner of the prize for completing the Parish Plan Questionnaire. E.D.F. Energy

£12.86. unmetered supply for millennium stone. Mazars £334.88. completion of external audit. Town & Country Services £133.95. skip changeover in Burial Ground. A.S. Hall & Son £293.75. maintenance of Shortwood Play Area. Mr. & Mrs. Hall £90.00. rent for Shortwood Playing Field. Mrs. A. Sharpe £115.50. Mrs. D. Bailey £298.76. being salary £294.00. plus stamps £4.76. St. Thomas A Becket Church £1000.00. grant towards upkeep of Churchyard. D.W. Parsons £61.00. cutting hedge in lane between Abson Rd and Hill View Rd and strimming area. Lawrence Tree Services £881.25. Arboriculture survey and report. Instant Landscapes £259.67. grass cutting.

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

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