

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD WEDNSDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER 2008 IN THE MEETING ROOM, PUCKLECHURCH COMMUNITY CENTRE, ABSON ROAD.

PRE MEETING. Arranged to begin at 6.45pm to allow Councillors time to discuss and organise the Public Meeting arranged for 23rd September at 7.30pm. The Village Hall has been booked so that residents can be made aware of the decision by the Secretary of State to increase the proposed number of dwellings in the area to 8000 and to provide guidance as to how they can respond.

Mr. Beg will chair the meeting which will be presented by Steve Webb M.P., it was considered important that Councillors were there to participate.

It was agreed posters on stakes would be placed on the entrance roads into the village to remind residents and night before posters placed each side of the entrance to the Village Hall. A budget of £70.00. was agreed for the production of the posters.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING AT 7.30PM.

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

Cllr. S. Grant.

NO.1. APOLOGIES. Mr. Symons apologised for being unable to make the pre meeting.

NO 2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION. None.

NO 3. LAW & ORDER. An email from P.C. Skelton regarding Eagle Crescent play area had been forwarded to Councillors.

NO 4. ARISINGS. Mr. Whittock advised a new street light had been erected on the corner of Castle Road.

Clerk confirmed she had been in touch with S.G.C. about the state of the grass cutting of the verges and open spaces in the Village. S.G.C. advised it had been a very difficult season due to the weather conditions and their equipment which needed replacing. They confirmed they would keep cutting until they had the grass under control.

Quality Status – Mr. Holder explained that a section of the qualification was in the process of being altered and suggested it would be better to wait as this part of the documentation could not be submitted.

The minutes of the meeting held 20th August 08 were agreed a true record and signed.

NO 5. MEMBERS MATTERS. Mr. Whittock said a balloon had come down on the recreation field during a cricket match. Although it had stopped play the Cricket Club had not complained but he wondered if a charge for landing should be introduced. It was decided not to introduce a landing charge as it only happens occasionally.

Mr. Whittock advised the garden of 13 Lansdown Rd backed onto the recreation field and the resident has replaced his fence enclosing a tree and he wonders who will be responsible for pruning it. Clerk to check.

Mrs. Turley said the speed limit signs on Westerleigh Rd., Abson Rd and Parkfield Rd were being obstructed. Clerk to contact S.G.C.

Mr. Symons suggested a review of I.T. equipment should be carried out. It was agreed to include as an agenda item next month.

Mr. Symons asked for an update reference the unauthorised sign on the Local Store.

Mr. Green said there were 4 'For Sale' signs on the verge outside The Poplars which looked untidy. It was agreed clerk would contact S.G.C. as they should be inside the boundary of the property.

Mr. Green was concerned that nothing had been done in the grounds of the old Chapel. Mr. Whittock said he had cut back some of the bramble because residents had complained. Mrs. Turley was concerned about the advertising sign on the Chapel. Clerk to write again requesting the brambles are cleared and the sign removed.

Mrs. Palmer advised Cllr Chris Wilmore had contacted her and asked if the Parish Council would be interested in having Brandy Bottom as Defra were looking to dispose of it. It was agreed Mrs. Palmer would contact Steve Grudgings the consultant for Defra to arrange a site visit.

NO 6. REPORTS. Mr. Whittock said he was unable to attend the Environment & Climate Change Forum on 7th October at Bradley Stoke. Clerk has details if anyone would like to attend.

Mr. Smith said the latest analysis from the Community Plan was ready for distribution, he would email the information and thought Councillors may want to discuss it next month.

Mr. Holder confirmed S.G.C. had granted consent for the stationing of 2no residential gypsy mobile homes, 2no associated touring caravans and associated pitches, day room and hardstanding at the Shortwood Road site. Mrs. Turley said Councillors has discussed restricting it to family members but were advised this was not reasonable also S.G.C. needed more pitches for gypsies.

Mr. Green attended the Shortwood landfill site liaison meeting. The meeting began with a walk around the Landfill Site in Cattybrook Road North, the Manager explained they were preparing cell 2 for use in the near future and will be moving material from the old tip as well as accepting new waste. They apologised for any clay on the roads advising that due to the weather conditions and maintenance commitments on site they were having to rely on a road sweeper as well as the wheel wash. Regarding lighting – they have experienced problems with theft and vandalism and have had to install CCTV. Local residents from The Rosary and Coxgrove Hill confirmed the lighting was not a problem. Reference leachate and surface/ground water and gas they hoped to begin extracting gas in 2009, first with a flare stack followed by the first generating engine increasing to 2 and 3 depending on the amount of gas accumulating. The flare stack and generating engines will be positioned near the main office and placed inside containers to prevent vandalism and minimize noise. Monitoring will take place and can be accessed through the Environment Agency or S.G.C. Reference Seagulls – no complaints have been received. Good news – foliage on the clay stock piles is encouraging wildlife and birds ie chaffinches have been seen. Date of the next meeting 22nd January 09 at 3pm.

NO 7. TO DISCUSS REQUEST FOR MEMORIAL. A request was received from Mrs D. Todd asking to be allowed to erect a memorial plaque near to the spot her husband tragically died. Councillors were sympathetic to the request but unable to support it. Clerk to write and give letter to Mrs Todd explaining Councils reasons for having to refuse.

NO 8. TO DISCUSS FUNDING OF RAMP TO SCOUT HUT. Clerk had received further information confirming material used would be concrete with a riven finish to ensure the path would not become slippery in winter and the gradient on the proposed slope would be approximately 14:1. Two quotations were included the cheaper of two being due to labour being provided from the scout group including the scouts themselves supporting their community involvement. After discussion Councillors agreed to fund up to £750.00. subject to the slope meeting the recommended gradient.

NO 9. REFURBISHMENT OF BUS SHELTERS. Councillors agreed to accept the quotation from Queensbury Shelters for the re-glazing of the shelter on Abson Road (outside the Village Hall) and the replacement of the damaged panel on the Maple Walk Shelter.

NO 10. REVIEW OF SPEED LIMITS. Mr. Smith had produced a map showing the speed limits on the roads coming in Pucklechurch. Analysis of the Community Plan has indicated concern and the need to reduce the speed of vehicles coming into the village. It was agreed clerk would contact the Highways Department and arrange a meeting to discuss traffic concerns. Cllr Grant suggested contacting the local Speed Watch Group as their readings may add weight to our concerns.

NO 11. HEDGE – ST ALDAMS DRIVE. Clerk had written to residents about the proposal to prune or remove altogether the leylandii hedge on the edge of the open land and St. Aldams Drive. The replies, except for one, supported pruning the hedge.

Residents did not want it removed as it obscures the view of the Pucklechurch Sports & Social Club and its occupants. They are subjected to noise and fowl language from the Club most weekends and on occasions the police have been called to resolve trouble. Also since the introduction of the 'No smoking ban' there is considerably more disturbance at night from smokers on the paved area at the rear of the Club. Councillors were unaware of the problems caused by the Social Club and it was agreed clerk would contact P.C. Skelton to enquire whether he was aware of the problems and ask to be kept informed. It was further agreed that an audit of the number of letters sent and replies received was required.

NO 12. PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION. PK08/2515/F installation of 1no side dormer to provide additional living accommodation. 44 Birch Drive. Mr. Beg and Mr Smith declared at interest. Councillors had no objection to this application.

PK08/2484/F change of use of land from agricultural to land for the keeping of horses. Erection of stable block with hay barn and storage area. Land to the south of Redford Lane. Councillors objected on the grounds of visual impact as the application proposes erecting the buildings near the brow of the hill. Concern was also raised that the proliferation of stables in the area is detracting from the openness of the green belt.

PK08/2549/F erection of front porch, 4 Eagle Crescent. Mr. Beg, Mr Holder and Mr Smith declared an interest. Councillors raised no objection.

Mrs. Palmer drew attention to correspondence in circulation from First Step Homes, their letter of introduction advises they are dedicated solely to providing affordable housing for local people and are seeking to work closely with Parish & District Councils. A potential site has been identified that appears to fulfil 'exceptions policy' criteria. Mrs. Palmer said 'rural exceptions criteria' is rigorous and she wonders if a local village survey has been carried out and if they were aware of the proposals for Oaktree Avenue. Councillors agreed they should be invited to attend the next meeting.

NO 13. CORRESPONDENCE. An invitation was received to the Calor Village of the Year Award Ceremony 8th November at 11.30am in Pucklechurch Village Hall.

NO 14. An annual Community Policing Awards nomination form has been received.

NO 15. An invitation was received to A.L.C.A. AGM 4th October at 10am at Flax Bourton Village. Mr. Symons and Mr Watson to attend.

NO 16. An invitation was received to Boyd & Kingswood Environmental Link Group meeting 2nd October at 10am at St. Bartholomew's Church Hall, Wick. Mr. Whittock and Mr. Green to attend.

NO 17. An invitation was received to Kings Forest Area Forum, 22nd September at 7pm at Kingswood Council Chamber.

NO 18. A letter was received from Pucklechurch Community Association regarding a large hole appearing in the tarmac at the gate entrance to the car park. They would be grateful if Parish Council would consider undertaking the cost of repairing the hole as it is becoming a health and safety issue and could cause damage to vehicles using the facilities. The PCA does not have the means to pay for anything other than normal running costs at the moment. Councillors agreed to fund the cost of the repair. Clerk to obtain quotations and arrange for the work to be carried out.

NO 19. A letter of thanks for grant aid was received from South Gloucestershire Senior Citizens Forum.

NO 20. FINANCE. Mr. Symons gave Councillors a copy of the up to date budget sheet and confirmed the forecasted figures were on target.

The following cheques were agreed for payment and signed Pucklechurch Community Association £34.50. use of meeting room for three meetings. Town & Country Services £376.00. remove seesaw and base, supply soil to fill hole and supply and lay cultivated turf on recreation field. Mr. & Mrs. Hall £90.00. rent for Shortwood Playing Field. Mrs. Anna Sharpe £125.00. Mrs. D. Bailey £313.90. salary £310.66. plus £3.24. stamps. Instant Landscapes £804.94. grass cutting. Mr. L. Whittock £15.18 expenses.

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

Date of next meeting 15th October 2008 at 7pm.