

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD 18TH FEBRUARY 2009 IN THE MEETING ROOM, PUCKLECHURCH COMMUNITY CENTRE, ABSON ROAD.

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

Cllr. S. Grant.

Mr. Beg opened the meeting with a welcome.

NO 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE. Mrs. S.E. Turley, L.J. Whittock, M.C. Smith who would be a little late.

NO 2. BRANDY BOTTOM COLLIERY. Mr. Beg introduced Mr. Steve Grudgings. Mr. Grudgings said that Brandy Bottom was a low key site last working in 1936, with a history of coal mining for 300yrs it was sunk/extended 1834, the coal workings are under the scarp and it is linked under ground with Parkfield Pit. Brandy Bottom was left broadly in tact a Chimney, Cornish Engine House and a later Engine House can be seen and the dramway runs by. The site recently passed from Istock Brick Co. to Avon Historic Trust and A.I.B.T. has the leased. Brandy Bottom Colliery is the largest in the area, well hidden and the A.I.B.T. are looking for groups to become involved. A.I.B.T. has some money from landfill and their ambition is to leave the site in a stable secure position, to conserve and pass on. Mr. Grudgings suggested it would be useful to contact Friends of Ram Hill on an informal basis because of the liability.

Councillors said if they took it on their ambition would be for it to remain a useful entity for history but stressed the ongoing liability concerned them. Mr. Grudgings said it would deteriorate as ivy is very invasive but the A.I.B.T. would work to get the building clear. He suggested the Parish Council being directly involved was not the best option, the site needs 'Friends of Brandy Bottom.' Councillors agreed that the site being a wild life haven and located next to the cycle path deserves being protected.

Mr. Grudgings said A.I.B.T. would do a full architectural review, clear the vegetation and preserve the site, he suggested the next step would be for him to try get them to talk to the Parish Council.

Mr. Beg thanked Mr Grudgings for coming and also for his previous tour of the site.

NO 3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION. None.

NO 4. LAW & ORDER. Clerk confirmed she had received an email from P.C. Skelton advising one of his PCSO's Anne James was returning to work after a long term serious illness, she was working from home and has been tasked with keeping the Parish Council informed in respect of any crime trends or problems that may concern the village.

NO 5. ARISINGS. Mr. Symons confirmed he had emailed 'Common land' information to Councillors he also confirmed A.L.C.A. had advised the clerk should be employed. It was agreed Mr. Symons would contact A.L.C.A. for details of an H.R. Firm for advice.

Mr. Beg confirmed he had explained the reason for the increase in Precept for 2009/10 in Pucklechurch News.

Mr. Beg confirmed a letter had been sent to the Project Group and that a reply had been received.

Councillors confirmed parking of HGV's on Oaktree Avenue had been reported and the situation has improved.

Mr. Holder thought it would probably be difficult to change the name of rec to 'The Burrell' and suggested the proposed new play area could be called the 'Burrell Play Area.' Mr. Smith advised an article had been placed in Pucklechurch News requesting residents views.

Mr. Smith confirmed the 'Freedom of Information Act' adopted at last months meeting had been published on the web site.

The minutes of the meeting held 21st January 2009 were agreed a true record and signed.

NO 6. MEMBERS MATTERS. Mr. Smith said a notice would be in Pucklechurch News to advise dates and times of Spring Clean in Pucklechurch and Shortwood. Gail Boyle had offered to provide refreshments for volunteers. Mr. Smith advised the refreshments would cost between £10.00./£20.00. and he proposed Parish Council should cover the cost. All agreed. It was agreed clerk would ask for skip to be placed in the car park near the Scout Hut.

Mr. Smith asked if the rubble outside No 1 Castle Rd. had been reported. Clerk confirmed it had and agreed to contact S.G.C. for an update.

Mr. Smith asked if S.G.C. had been contacted reference Speed Limit Review. Clerk confirmed she was trying to arrange a meeting with Mr. D. White.

Mr. Symons said he needed to meet with Mr. Holder and the clerk for a budget review and would report to the March meeting.

Mr. Watson raised concern about the trees overhanging the road on Police Station Hill. Clerk to contact the Highways Officer.

Mr. Watson advised lorries had damaged the verge outside The Meadows on Shortwood Road spreading mud over the carriageway, posts have now been erected to define the edge of the road/verge.

Mr. Watson reported large lumps of mud on the by-pass near the dramway roundabout which had obviously fallen off lorries leaving the landfill site. Mr. Holder said the debris looked like bricks. It was agreed clerk would contact the manager of the landfill site.

Mrs. Palmer reported organic matter on the pavement on the bend outside no 90 Parkfield Road. Mr. Holder also expressed concern that the width of the hedge was a problem for people walking. Clerk to arrange a site visit with S.G.C. Highways Officer.

NO 7. REPORTS. Mr. Green had attended the Boyd Link Meeting which had been rearranged due to the snow. The meeting had been poorly attended and concern had been expressed that new people were not attending. A report had been made about students carrying out countryside management work on Cock Ridge.

Mr. Green had attended the Shortwood Landfill Liaison Meeting. Cory were pleased to report there had been no more vandalism, CCTV has been installed and to aid this additional lighting had been installed. The relocation of the old tip should be complete by October and they hoped to be capping off Cell 1 in 2009. There was a 40/50% increase in the amount of domestic waste they were receiving. Regarding the collection of gas they expect to start flaring in 2009 and generating in 2010. South Gloucestershire Planning Department and the Environment Agency confirmed all licenses had been approved. Cory said the number of seagulls had increased but confirmed they were taking steps to control them.

Mr. Watson had attended the Safer Stronger Community Group meeting at Marshfield the meeting had been badly organised, people had been directed to the wrong room, an agenda was not available until the meeting, there was a problem with keys and very few people turned up. Mr. Watson said that after the meeting he spoke to William Kwok about his organisational skills.

Following the meeting he had been contacted by Debra White from the Rural and Parishes Team, this plus other issues has resulted in Mr. Kwok's contract not being renewed.

Mrs. Palmer confirmed she had attended the Waste Core Strategy Meeting.

NO 8. PLANNING APPLICATIONS. The following applications were considered and observations made. PK09/0235/F demolition of barn (Retrospective). Erection of 1no dwelling with access and associated works. (Amendment to previously approved scheme PK08/2741/F) and PK09/0238/LB demolition of barn (Application to retain works already carried out) Old Court Barn, Westerleigh Rd. No objections.

PK09/0178/F erection of rear conservatory, Greatwood, Coxgrove Hill. Councillors had no objection in principle to the application but commented this would increase the scale of the property which had already had to be scaled down.

PK09/0156/TCA works to reduce by 25% 1no Walnut tree, fell 1no. Acacia tree, remove deadwood and fit prop to 1no Ash Tree and crown lift over path by 2.5m 1no Yew tree situated in the Pucklechurch Conservation Area, Pucklechurch House, 35 Westerleigh Rd. Mr. Beg declared an interest. No objections were raised.

PK09/0297/ADV display of 1no externally illuminated fascia sign (Resubmission of PK08/1354/ADV). Pucklechurch Local Store, 4-6 Westerleigh Rd. After discussion it was agreed Councillors were encouraged by the proposed changes in signage, the only area of concern raised was whether the lighting was appropriate in the conservation area.

NO 9. CORRESPONDENCE. A letter of thanks was received from St. Thomas a Becket Church for the grant towards the upkeep of the Churchyard.

NO 10. A letter was received from St. Thomas a Becket Church asking if they could use a section of the recreation field on Palm Sunday 5th April between 4 – 5pm to allow them to give free donkey rides to children attending the Service. Councillors granted consent.

NO 11. An email was received from Revel Committee asking to use the recreation field for the following events: Use of a small area adjacent to The Star for the Beer Festival Wed. 10th – Sun 14th June, Thurs 18th June 4pm – 9pm for the Pram Race and Sat 20th June for Revel Day. Mr. Smith declared an interest. Councillors were happy to grant permission.

NO 12. A reply was received from S.G.C. regarding the Oaktree Avenue Subway. They advise they have no plans to block off the subway to prevent access as this would cost in the region of £20,000. However the approach ramps would remain in place and, could attract anti social behaviour, vandalism, graffiti, etc that would leave S.G.C. with a continuing maintenance liability. If the subway was no longer required the preferred option would be to fill in the subway and its approach ramps. This would remove any maintenance requirement but would cost in the region of £150,000. Their budget allocations are intended for the structural maintenance and improvement of highway structures. Because there is currently no structural need for the subway to be removed, they cannot prioritise it above structures that require maintenance or improvement that allows them to continue to be serviceable.

NO 13. A letter from S.G.C. advised an application under section 119 of the Highways Act 1980 has been received to make permanent a section of path LPU66/10. The proposed route is not considered to be substantially less convenient than the existing route and provides a much safer separation distance between path users and HGV's. There were no objections raised.

NO 14. An application form for bags, gloves and a skip to support S.G.C. Big Spring Clean 2009 was received.

NO 15. An email was received from Owen Jenkins S.G.C. advising roads on the secondary route for salting are reviewed annually and Oaktree Avenue and Castle Road will be added to the list for investigation/decision.

NO 16. A letter was received from Iain Selkirk offering his services as Internal Auditor for the 2008/9 audit. Mr. Selkirk confirmed that if appointed his fee will remain the same as last year and he will be acting totally independently of the Council. Councillors were happy to appoint Mr. Selkirk as Internal Auditor.

NO 17. A letter was received from David James & Partners acting for Mr Hall advising the lease for the play area in Cattybrook Road, Shortwood expires on 25th March 2009. Mr Hall is willing to enter into a new agreement, terms to be agreed and providing the Council wish to renew the Lease he will prepare draft Heads of Terms for consideration. Councillors agreed to renew the Lease subject to terms being agreeable.

NO 18. A quotation was received from A.P. Olive for the remedial work to solve the water ingress problem to the floor level floodlight illuminating the millennium stone. £130.00. plus V.A.T. Councillors agreed to accept the quotation.

NO 19. An email was received from S.G.C. to a meeting of Planning Transportation & Strategic Environment Select Committee on the 9th March at 2pm Thornbury Council Chamber for a presentation on the Cycle City initiative. Mr. Smith could attend the meeting if it was important to Pucklechurch. Clerk to enquire if the proposed cycle/foot way between Pucklechurch and the top of Shortwood Hill would be discussed.

NO 20. A letter was read from The Community Centre 'Makeover' Team reference Parish Council letter dated 18th February 09. The letter confirmed the Project Team was passionate about helping to facilitate a new village hall that would meet the current and future needs of the community. They have already put in considerable time and effort and are reluctant to walk away. However they cannot continue working on the project unless certain agreements are made by all parties concerned. They listed the key findings that have led to their position stating the comments were not due to the failings of any individuals but rather the structure, roles, accountabilities and relationships enshrined in the original constitution.

The letter contained Conditions Precedent – the terms of reference required to enable them to continue.

After discussing the letter Councillors agreed they needed advice reference the relationship and responsibility between Parish Council, C.A. Trustees, Executive Committee and C.A. Council. Clerk to contact Robert Lee and ask if he would be willing to give advice. A meeting to be arranged at Mr Lee's convenience and as quickly as possible. Mr. Symons agreed to email Councillors a copy of the Village Hall Lease and the C.A. Constitution. Clerk to reply to Makeover Team with copy to C.A. that their letter was discussed and the Parish Council will reply to them as quickly as possible.

NO 21. FINANCE. Mr. Symons updated Councillors on the current budget.

The following cheques were agreed for payment and signed. B.T. Payment Services Ltd. £75.86. Clerk advised this was the last payment covered by the agreement when S.G.C. provided all clerks with a laptop, printer and interconnection connection funded for 2 years. Councillors were concerned that with more and more documents being received by email costs were disseminating down to Parish Council. Councillors were now printing, at their own expense, quite lengthy documents. It was agreed clerk would write to the Chief Executive at about the internet connection charge as they believe it should be funded by S.G.C. P.C.A. £34.50. use of meeting room for Community Plan Meetings 7th & 28th Jan. and Parish Council Meeting 21st Jan. Mrs. Anna Sharpe £125.00. Mrs. D. Bailey £312.10. being salary £310.66. + stamps £1.44.

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

Date of next meeting 18th March 2009 at 7.30pm.