

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY 18TH JANUARY 2012 IN THE COMMUNITY CENTRE MEETING ROOM, ABSON ROAD.

PRESENT. R. Symons Chairman, M.C. Smith Vice Chairman, Mrs. G. Boyle, Mrs. L. English, P.J. Green, M.S. Watson.

NO 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE. E. Aze, Lori-Anne Scantlebury, W. Prewett.

Steve Reade and Ben Stokes Boyd Valley Councillors.

NO 2. TO SIGN THE MINUTES. The minutes of the meeting dated 21st December 2011 previously circulated were agreed a true record and signed.

NO 3. LOG AND CALENDAR. Reference the possibility of erecting gates in front of the gaps in the fence on Hill View side of recreation field. Councillors were concerned that gates could be left open and agreed to obtain a quotation to erect a barrier that would comply with legal and safety requirements..

Action: Clerk to obtain quotations.

Parish Charter. Clerk confirmed she has signed and returned the Revised Parish Charter.

Regarding Enforcement issues reference planning application PK11/0415/F The Stables, Redford Lane. Councillors have raised concern about the height of the Stables being erected and have reservations about the reply. There are also aspects of the planning system they question and they would like a face to face meeting to discuss them.

Action: Clerk to contact Mr. David Stockdale.

An email was read from S.G.C. Environmental Protection Team regarding the venting of gas from the Compressor Station in Redford Lane. S.G.C. said used to be the regulator for this process and did issue a permit to Transco for many years but DEFRA have now deregulated this control as the activity in terms of emissions to air is considered trivial. S.G.C. can informally contact Transco if the activity escalates and causes concern. Cllr. Smith expressed concern that S.G.C. was misunderstanding the situation as there had been a massive venting of gas. Councillors suggested that Cllr. Smith speak to the Environmental Protection Team.

Action: Clerk to provide contact details for S.G.C. Environmental Protection Team.

Calendar – Cllr. Smith to redesign the Calendar to incorporate Participatory Budgeting.

Action: Cllr. Smith to re-design Calendar.

NO 4. LAW & ORDER. P.C.S.O. Sam Patterson attended the meeting she said that since the 16th December 2011 there had been 13 crimes, four of which were linked to HMP & YOI Ashfield. She said there was a problem with drugs over the Christmas period (which the beat team were working on) 5 people had been stopped with cannabis.

Youths on mini motorbikes had been stopped and told not ride them on the bridle way. Cllr. Smith asked where they could be ridden. Sam Patterson advised there were very few places mostly private land but they would need to be transported as the bikes aren't allowed on the road. The best thing would be to encourage them to join a club. Councillors asked if there had been any reports on St. Aldams Drive. Sam Patterson advised there had been an instance relating to the Club.

NO 5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION. Cllr. Symons invited Rachel Goodchild and members of the Youth Club to address the meeting. Rachel said she was a qualified mobile art teacher and has been helping with Youth Club. She raised concern about the Oaktree Avenue underpass and said she would like to work with the youth to graffiti art paint it. The Youth Club would take responsibility for the project, a monthly clean-up rota introduced, tagging cleaned off and litter picked up. The project would be properly supervised, drawing and stencilling would be vetted, it would be bright and bold not negative. The youth believe there is a positive need to raise their profile they are very excited about the project and hope the Parish Council will support them. The question of funding was raised? Rachel confirmed she has funding for the project and said the Youth Club would pay for materials but they are hoping the Parish Council will support them with their application to South Gloucestershire Council. Cllr. Symons explained the Council would need to discuss the proposal before making a decision and thanked Rachel and the young people for their time.

Cllr. Symons invited Mr. Holder to speak on behalf of the P.C.A. Mr. Holder said he hoped members had been given a copy of his previous letter regarding the Car Park. He had included the quotation for the repair to try to illustrate that the upkeep of the car park and surround was a large cost for the P.C.A. The quotation was for remedial work to repair 5 areas of the car park. He believes villagers see it as a public car park and as such it performs a public service. It is essential for users of the Centre such as Bowls and Playgroup and for events at week-ends but to a large measure is used by mothers parking their cars to cross the field to school, by football and cricket teams playing home and away games plus the visiting teams and others park there to catch the bus into Bristol, Bath and Yate. Mr. Holder said the P.C.A. would like the Parish Council to consider taking over the Car Park. Councillors asked if groups using the hall were charged for using the car park as this could be a source of revenue. Mr. Holder said there was no separate charge for the car park but that external users were charged more for the hire of Hall. Cllr. Symons thanked Mr. Holder for coming to the meeting.

Action: Councillors would need to discuss as an agenda item.

Cllr. Symons invited Mrs. Anna Sharpe to address the meeting. Mrs. Sharpe said that HMP & YOI Ashfield had been funding the cost of a plastic bottle bank in the Community Centre Car Park. The bottle bank was very useful because it would take margarine tubs, yoghurt pots and meat trays things the kerb collection couldn't take. Ashfield had apparently stopped paying for the recycling to be collected and the bank has been removed. Mrs. Sharpe wonders if the Parish Council would consider funding the cost. She said there would not be a charge to re-instate the bank but a cost of £25.00. to empty, usually once a month. Councillors were surprised that the bank had been

removed as during a recent meeting with HMP & YOI Ashfield the bottle bank had been discussed and they had agreed to keep it. Cllr. Symons thanked Mrs. Sharpe for attending and drawing this to their attention. It was agreed the clerk would contact HMP Ashfield to discuss the situation.

Action: Clerk to contact HMP & YOI Ashfield.

NO 6. FINANCE. To discuss and agree precept requirement for 2012/13. Cllr. Symons had previously circulated the budget proposal for £57,000.00. for consideration. Councillors discussed the possibility of a further increase in precept of £25,000.00. in light of discussion with the Hall Make-Over Team and the possibility that Parish Councils will be capped next year. Following discussion Cllr. Watson proposed a precept of £57,000.00. seconded by Cllr. Smith, all agreed. Cllr. Watson further proposed that an extra £25,000.00. be added to the precept requirement. There was no seconder and the proposal was not carried.

Action: Clerk to advise precept requirement of £57,000.00.

The following cheques were agreed for payment and signed by Cllrs. Watson & Smith. E.D.F. Energy £58.48. unmetered supply to millennium stone. P.C.A. £41.50. use of meeting room for 1 Parish Council meeting and 2 Youth Club sessions plus storage. Mrs. Anna Sharpe £178.00. Shortwood Methodist Church £10.00. use of Vestry for Parish Council Surgery. Tristan Bawn £168.59. wage for Parish Orderly. Joanna Long £755.40. wage for new Parish Orderly (figure includes £591.20. tax refund) which has been re-claimed from HM Revenue & Customs. Mrs. D. Bailey £329.15. salary £19.97. + stamps £4.14. + £5.00. for laminating signs for bus shelters. St. Thomas a Becket Church £825.00. grant towards the upkeep of the Churchyard.

NO 7. PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION. PK11/4036/F construction of 4 bioethanol storage tanks within the existing storage tank bund. Westerleigh Terminal, Oakleigh Green. Cllrs. Boyle & English advised this was the same as the previous application for a Certificate of Lawfulness which had been refused as they needed to apply for full planning. There were no objections.

PK11/4038/F erection of Doctors Surgery, Pharmacy, landscaping, access, car parking and associated works. Land off Oaktree Avenue. After discussion it was agreed Councillors had no objection in principle but had reservations about the proposed slate roof preferring to see pan tiles which are consistent with the majority of the village.

PK12/0069/F erection of single storey side and rear extension to provide additional living accommodation. 63 Main Road, Mangotsfield. No objection.

NO 8. CORRESPONDENCE. Literature was received from RoSPA regarding the inspection of the children's play equipment. Councillors agreed to employ RoSPA to carry out this year's inspection.

Clerk asked if Councillors wanted to nominate someone to attend the Parish Charter Review Meeting. Cllrs. Boyle and Watson were proposed. All agreed.

Action: Clerk to complete and return nomination form.

A letter was received from Iain A Selkirk FCA offering his services for a fee of £125.00. to complete the independent internal audit of the Parish Council accounts to the year end March 2012. Councillors were happy to accept.

Action: Clerk to sign and return letter of acceptance.

A request for financial help towards the upkeep of the Churchyard was received from St. Thomas a Becket Church. After discussion Cllr. Smith proposed a grant of £825.00. seconded by Cllr. Boyle, all agreed.

A letter was received from the Pucklechurch Heartstart Project. Cllrs. Symons, English & Smith declared an interest having been involved in setting up the project. The group is asking if the Parish Council would consider supporting annually the maintenance and upkeep of three defibrillators in Pucklechurch. One in the Community Centre, one in the P.V.S.S.C. (being delivered in two weeks) and one hopefully in the Rose & Crown (to be in position within two month). The total annual cost is £150.00. per unit. The money will cover both the replacement pads and battery should the unit be used as well as any other materials such as replacement lights or bulbs. It is possible that the amount will not be used and can then roll over to cover the following year's costs. They also advise the committee has been approached by a villager in Shortwood expressing an interest in having a defibrillator for Shortwood. This will be discussed early in January but will of course mean that with the help of Shortwood residents they will have to raise another £2,500.00. They would be grateful for any information as to where grant funding may be available. Following discussions Councillors agreed to fund the annual cost of the three defibrillators. Cllr. Watson agreed to discuss support for funding.

Action: Clerk to advise Parish Council has agreed to support annually the maintenance and upkeep of three defibrillators.

A letter was received from Pucklechurch Revel Committee asking if the Council would consider supporting Revel again this year. They would be really grateful for a contribution towards games/events for the young people of the village but at this point in time a final decision has not been agreed as to what the events or games will be. Councillors agreed in principle to support Revel and looked forward to them applying when they know exact costs.

Action: Clerk to advise Parish Council support in principle their request and look forward to them applying when they have exact costs.

NO 9. AGENDA ITEM. To discuss Parish Council stance on development of Village Hall. Cllr. Symons declared that he had previously been a Trustee and offered to step down from Chairing this part of the meeting. Councillors agreed they were happy for him to continue in the Chair. A full and frank discussion was undertaken it was agreed Parish Council needed to take a more active roll. The first step would be for the Council to communicate with residents so that they have a clear understanding of what is needed. Councillors felt it was important that all groups PCA, Make-Over, Trustees and Parish Council work together and Cllr Symons offered to take a personal approach and talk to

the individual groups. Cllr. Boyle offered to prepare a 1 page questionnaire/survey for Pucklechurch News. Cllr Smith proposed that Parish Council take a leadership role, consult with the whole community, prepare a survey and formulate a strategy. Seconded by Cllr. Green. Voting 5 for, 1 abstention.

**Action: Chairman to communicate with stakeholder groups
Councillor Boyle to prepare draft questionnaire**

NO 10. REPORTS. Cllr. Smith attended the Joint Cycle Group Meeting and reported a difficult issue with Network Rail and the cycle path through the tunnel by the Westerleigh Terminal. The path between Pucklechurch and the Cycle network is on the task register and for the longer term they may consider adding a 200mt section to the path at Parkfield Rank.

Cllr. Smith had circulated a report on the Parish Woodland. There were a number of recommendations which would need further consideration. For immediate action would be the removal of tree guards scattered around the woodland. Following discussion it was felt that there was an opportunity for the school or youth club to be actively involved in the woodland by adopting it. Initially Clerk will contact the Youth group to discuss the idea.

Action: Clerk to contact Rachel Goodchild to ask if the Youth Club would like to 'adopt' the woodland and help with collecting the tree guards.

Cllr. Green attended the Shortwood Landfill Site Liaison Meeting he said it was interesting to see what work has been done since the last visit. Gas extraction is going well and the problem with the number of sea gulls is much improved. A permanent capping has been applied to cell 1 and work to permanently cap cells 2 & 3 will start soon. They have moved into cell 4 and will start engineering cell 5 later this year. The site is filling at a slower rate due to re-cycling and food and green waste is no longer coming in. They expect the site to be operating until 2017.

NO 11. MEMBERS MATTERS. Cllr. Smith asked for a letter to be sent to S.G.C. reminding them not to spray herbicide to the edges of Abson Road and use a lighter touch in other areas.

Action: Clerk to contact S.G.C.

Cllr. Smith reported a problem with the pavement between the village and St. Aldams Farm. Encroachment of soil and grass from the hedge is making the pavement narrow.

Action: Clerk to contact S.G.C. and ask for the soil/grass encroachment to be removed.

Cllr. Smith reported that he had been advised by the manager of the youth football team that competition from the new facilities at Pomphrey Hill, Mangotsfield were making it even more difficult to maintain youth teams in the village. He suggested that this be taken into account by the working group looking into sporting facilities.

Cllr. Smith reported the signs on the entrance roads into the village needed cleaning.

Action: Clerk to contact S.G.C.

Cllr. Smith advised that the February edition of Pucklechurch News was the last one that Jacki Berry would be editor of. Councillors asked that a letter of thanks to be sent.

Action: Clerk to send letter of thanks.

Cllr. Boyle has had concern raised that the trees in the lane between Abson Road and Birch Drive need pruning.

Action: Clerk to contact owner of property.

Cllr. Watson advised as follows:

A problem with water on Shortwood Road from the Traveller Site making the road dangerous.

Action: Clerk to contact S.G.C. Enforcement.

Concern about pot holes on the road in front of the play area at Parkfield.

Action: Clerk to obtain quotations for the cost of repairing the pot holes.

Safer Stronger Community Group meeting to be held 16th February he said it would be useful to have someone attend.

The ALCA Management Team were meeting on the 19th January to discuss the way forward.

The S.G. Strategic Plan was open for consultation until 17th February.

Abolition of the Standards Board was under dispute - the Power of Well Being was within the new act but the Power of Competence would not automatically transfer.

Health & Well Being Strategic Partnership is being replaced by Shadow Health & Well Being Board and community groups will be encouraged to be involved with Health Watch.

The Prevent Agenda was going through and a Steering Group were designing a plan.

Cllr. Watson has been nominated as Chairman of NHS Group on LINK.

Parish Council Surgery. Councillors attending the Saturday morning surgery advised three residents had attended.

- One resident wished to discuss the Play Garden at St. Aldams Drive.
- Another resident drew attention to the tree guards scattered around the Woodland.

Suggested the telephone box outside the Post Office could perhaps be used for a defibrillator – Councillors advised the telephone box was not in the ownership of the Parish Council, it was also a listed Grade II building and any works would require permission.

- Outside St. Thomas a Becket Church the pavement is dropped with a knobbly effect. Resident wondered if the knobby effect could be extended across the road as a warning to drivers – Councillors were concerned this would lead pedestrians to think it was a safe place to cross.

Councillors agreed to discuss the proposal put forward by Rachel Goodchild and the Youth Club. This would normally be discussed as an agenda item at the following meeting but Councillors felt the presentation and commitment to the project and work with the young people was important. Following discussion Councillors agreed to support the project.

Action: Clerk to write to Rachel Goodchild and the young people confirming Parish Council's support and encourage them to contact S.G.C. for permission.

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

Date of next meeting. 15th February at 7.30pm.