

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD 18TH JULY 2007 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, M.C. Smith, R. Symons, M.S. Watson, L.J. Whittock.

NO 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE. Mrs. S.E. Turley, Cllr. S. Grant.

Mr. Beg opened the meeting welcoming Inspector Krouwel from Staple Hill Station.

NO 2. INSPECTOR KROUWEL. Inspector Krouwel thanked Councillors for inviting him to the meeting saying he was not just here to talk it was also important to listen.

He advised his officers in the Boyd Valley Neighbourhood Policing Team were P.C. Chris Skelton and PCSO Ashley Roland. Councillors asked if P.C. Skelton and PCSO Roland always worked together. Inspector Krouwel said yes because PCSO Roland did not have a driving licence but as he has now passed his test their shift patterns may change.

Mr. Whittock raised concern that a resident on the estate, reporting concerns about mini motos, was not getting a response from P.C. Skelton.

Inspector Krouwel agreed there was a problem with mini moto's and quad bikes on the Estate he indicated that when they were caught they bikes would be taken and pulped. Moto and quad bikes are not designed to be ridden on roads and pavements and are dangerous. Inspector Krouwel will ask P.C. Skelton to contact the resident.

Inspector Krouwel said the police were not always good at communication, he would try to make a commitment and could if required provide crime figures. Mr. Smith said that could be helpful as we were compiling a Community Plan and it would be useful to compare figures.

Inspector Krouwel is looking to develop for Hanham and Boyd Valley a Safer & Stronger Community Group, the group will meet on a quarterly basis hopefully from September and he is keen for Parish Councils to be involved.

Mrs. Palmer said lorries were breaching the weight limit recently introduced on Abson Road. Inspector Krouwel agreed to arrange for the situation to be monitored.

Mrs. Palmer said the planning appeal against enforcement notices and refusal of planning permission to allow Mr. Hazel to station caravans on land off Westerleigh Rd has been dismissed and he has 6 months to leave. Mr. Hazel has made many complaints about a neighbour, all unfounded; Mrs Palmer is concerned that gypsies are being given priority. Inspector Krouwel said they must not judge on the nature of the person they have to be impartial. Inspector Krouwel said he would be happy to meet the person concerned to discuss it.

Mr. Symons asked if there was anything the Council could do to help the police. Inspector Krouwel said communication was the main thing, twelve cars in the area had been broken into recently, the person has been caught but people don't know this.

Mr. Holder thought it would be useful to have an article for Pucklechurch News. Inspector Krouwel said he would ask P.C. Skelton to prepare something on a regular basis.

Mr. Beg said that on Easter Monday morning he had received a report of people camping on the recreation field, he telephoned the police they acted very fast and everything was removed from recreation field by 12 o'clock.

Mr. Beg thanked Inspector Krouwel for coming.

NO 3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION. Mr. Beg invited Mr. Simpson to speak. Mr. Simpson said he had had a meeting with Wessex Water about the proposed sewage works on his land and in Feltham Road. He said the work did not require planning consent and was scheduled to begin in October. An underground tank sewer would be installed near the entrance to his farm and when it reached a certain level would discharge into Feltham Brook. He was concerned that the proposal to discharge sewage and storm water into the brook would increase the danger of flooding.

After discussion Mr. Smith asked for another meeting be arranged with Wessex Water, clerk also to contact the Environment Agency, as a reply has not yet been received.

Mr. Beg thanked Mr. Simpson for coming to the meeting.

NO 4. ARISINGS. Mrs. Palmer asked if reply had been received from Western Power regarding the possibility of placing overhead cables underground. Clerk said a reply had not yet been received.

Mrs. Palmer said that as previously advised the appeal against enforcement notices and refusal of planning permission land off Westerleigh Rd has been upheld. The enforcement and stop notices are back in effect and Mr. Hazel has been given six months to leave.

Mr. Watson said that within 24hrs of the last Parish Council Meeting there was another power cut in Partridge Rd., he contacted Western Power and they asked him to let them know immediately if there were others.

Councillors were concerned to hear that the reason the grass on the high bank on Shortwood Road had not been cut was due to concern it could upset a particular resident. It was agreed clerk would write to S.G.C. that Councillors appreciate cutting the grass is their prerogative but strongly object to an individual having precedence over that which benefits the whole community.

Mr. Holder said they were still waiting for some replies to the Parish Plan questionnaire. Response was expected to be 57% for the householder and 60% for the

individual questionnaires. Some problems have been identified and Mr. Holder would like to discuss at a Parish Council meeting ways of addressing them.

Clerk confirmed she had been in touch with HMP Leyhill regarding their offer of a party of prisoners to work in the community. Also Mr. Bence had been in contact asking about the possibility of the shrubs around the Village Hall Car Park being pruned.

Mr. Smith confirmed a meeting with S.G.C. had taken place to discuss grant funding and positioning of a bus shelter for the Merlin Ridge stop. Clerk said the necessary quotations had been obtained and forwarded with an application requesting grant finding and a licence.

The minutes of the Meeting dated 20th June 2007 were agreed a true record and signed.

NO 5. MEMBERS MATTERS. Mr. Symons said he believed Parish Council had contributed towards the purchase of a speed camera for the village and wondered when it would be in use. Councillors said their funding offer had been declined as the Speed Watch Group had been concerned accepting could influence their grant application. It was agreed clerk would contact Mr. F. Rogers for a progress report.

Mr. Symons asked about protocol enquiring if it would correct for him to sign, say an article for Pucklechurch News, Cllr. Symons. Mr. Beg said he not think they had been asked that question before but suggested any item signed Councillor Symons should state that the views expressed are personal and not necessarily the views of the Parish Council.

Mr. Green reported weeds coming through the gates of the old Chapel again. Clerk to write requesting they are cut back again.

Mr. Watson had had concern raised about grass left on graves in the Burial Ground. Clerk confirmed she has spoken to Mr Gay about the problem. Mr. Whittock said Mr. Gay cut the grass last time using a mower with a box, collecting and depositing the grass in the skip.

Mr. Holder raised concern that the hedge in the garden of Beech House, Westerleigh Rd. was over hanging the pavement. Clerk to write to Beech House Management Committee.

Mr. Holder said the 1st Pucklechurch Brownies had prepared a book containing photographs, sketches and comments identifying things they like and dislike about the village. It was agreed clerk send letter of thanks and appreciation.

Mrs. Palmer raised concern about the condition of the surface of Westerleigh Rd. between the Hairdressers and Castle Rd. Clerk to write to S.G.C. to enquire about the possibility of it being re-surfaced.

Mr. Whittock said the 'Hawkridge Rd' street name sign needed re-erecting.

Mr. Whittock said a bough of a tree in the recreation field had been hanging down near the bus stop on Castle Road, he contacted Lawrence Tree Surgeons and they removed the limb the same day.

NO 6. REPORTS. Mr. Symons said he had attended the A.L.C.A. training day on the 30th June. There were high numbers in attendance; the day was very interesting with representation from a wide area. Topics covered were: Roles of the Council, Council Powers and their use, Standard Committee, Meeting Management, Community Plan and Children in the Community. Mr. Holder suggested Mr. Symons might like to tell Councillors about the things he felt were most important. It was agreed clerk would include item on next months agenda.

Mr. Smith had attended the S.G.C. Biodiversity Meeting on surveying hedgerows, approximately 26 people had attended and 5/6 were residents of Pucklechurch. They were looking for volunteers to survey and record the hedgerows; the information collected will be useful to South Gloucestershire Council Planning Department as a way of helping protect the environment.

Mr. Whittock had attended the Joint Cycle Group Meeting, it mostly deals with cycle routes around Yate but they are looking again at the possibility of purchasing land to construct the missing link between Pucklechurch and Shortwood.

NO 7. PLANNING APPLICATIONS. The following applications were considered and observations made.

PK07/1887/F alterations to roofline and erection of single storey rear extension to provide additional living accommodation. (Re-submission of PK07/0468/F) 80 Hawkridge Drive. No objections.

PK07/1896/O erection of 1no. agricultural workers dwelling, Gingells Farm, 126 Shortwood Hill. Councillors noted the application was in the green belt but felt that a strong case for granting permission had been made. Councillors asked that should it be granted consent it should have an agricultural tie.

PK07/2098/TCA works to fell 2no Lawson pine trees within Pucklechurch Conservation Area, 1 Abson Rd. No objections.

PK07/1993/F overcladding of existing roof with plastic coated steel. Replacement Guttering. Unit 6B Beaufort Trading Park, Pucklechurch Trading Estate. No objections.

PK07/2157/TCA removal of Leylandi Hedge within Pucklechurch Conservation Area 15 Shortwood Road, Pucklechurch. Mr. Beg declared an interest as the property belonged to his neighbour. Councillors had no objections.

PK07/21770/O demolition of existing dwelling and erection of 4no. detached dwellings (Outline) with all other matters reserved. No objection.

NO 8. CORRESPONDENCE. A letter and questionnaire was received from The Vassall Centre asking if the Council would like to be included on their Room 102

database. After studying the questionnaire it was agreed the service provided was not relevant to Parish Council.

NO 9. An invitation was received to attend the S.G. Heritage Volunteer Special steam train Tuesday 31st July 07 leaving Bitton Station at 7pm. Clerk to apply for tickets for Mr. Watson.

NO 10. A letter from S.G.C. advised the appointment of a Parish Council Member for the District Council's Standards Committee had been filled.

NO 11. A letter from S.G.C. confirmed an Officer in the Council's planning enforcement team would visit Londis Store to establish whether a breach of planning control has occurred. Councillors will be advised of the outcome.

NO 12. A letter of thanks was received from the Alzheimer's Society.

NO 13. A letter of thanks was received from the S.G. Senior Citizens Forum.

NO 14. A letter was received from A.L.C.A. advising the Executive Committee had decided that our cheque for £281.34 would entitle us to 6months membership beginning 1st July and terminating 31st Dec. 07. They hoped that in the meantime we would reconsider our decision and join ALCA in the New Year. Councillors were concerned that their reason for paying only half the membership was being overlooked. Clerk to write reminding them and confirm we will continue to attend meetings and if things improve may reconsider.

NO 15. A letter was received from Pucklechurch Sports Youth F.C. apologising for their misunderstanding of the etiquette that surrounds Pucklechurch Parish Council and the use of the recreation field. They had organized a registration/social evening and as the evening was of an informal nature did not realise they needed Parish Councils consent. They will in future notify the Council. Clerk to reply thanking them for their letter that has cleared up any confusion and explain that as the Parish Council is responsible for the recreation field they need to be aware of events/ activities taking place.

NO 16. A letter of thanks for grant aid was received from Victim Support.

NO 17. A letter was read from Save Frenchay Hospital Group drawing attention to the fact that the local NHS duplicitously engaged in a capacity planning exercise to determine what services it could buy from the private sector whilst simultaneously taking part in a public consultation exercise. The independent sector provision was kept from the public. Cllr John Calway, Leader, South Gloucestershire Council has written to the Rt Hon Alan Johnson, Secretary of State for Health asking him to postpone the signing of any contract with UK Specialist Hospitals to provide an independent sector surgical hospital at Emerson's Green. S.F.H.G. is requesting all Parish Councils write to Alan Johnson asking him to call in the Bristol Health Service Plan and refer it to the Independent Reconfiguration Panel for independent scrutiny.

After discussion it was proposed by Mr. Beg that Councillors write requesting the Secretary of State for Health asks for the plan to be re-examined. Voting 7 for 1 against.

NO 18. FINANCE. Councillors were given a copy of and discussed the Accounts to 31st March 2007.

The Annual Return was completed, agreed and signed.

A quotation was received from Mr. Gay to cut the beech hedge around the Burial Ground of £278.50. Mr. Gay is hoping to carry out the work in the autumn so that there is less pruning to be removed. Mr. Whittock suggested hiring a chipper and spreading as a mulch around trees. Councillors agreed to accept the quotation.

The following cheques were agreed for payment and signed. Iain Selkirk £115.00. Internal Auditor. Pucklechurch Community Assoc. £33.00. hire of meeting room. EDF Energy £12.83. unmetered supply for millennium stone. D.W. Parsons £486.00. installation of base and erection of picnic table and seats for Shortwood Playing field and supply and lay concrete slab to repair skate ramp in Woodland. Mrs. A Sharpe £115.50. D. Bailey £300.12. being salary £294.00. + £6.12. stamps. Instant Landscapes £658.00. grass cutting.

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

Date for next meeting. 15th August 07 at 7.30pm.