

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY 18TH JUNE 2008 IN THE MEETING ROOM, PUCKLECHURCH COMMUNITY CENTRE, ABSON ROAD.

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.

The Chairman opened the meeting with a welcome.

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

NO 2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION. Mr. Beg invited Mr. R. Morton to speak. Mr. Morton said he was Chair of Shortwood Green Belt Campaign; he wanted to represent views expressed by many at, or subsequent to, the public meetings held in Shortwood.

Mr. Morton said: *He is constantly told that residents of Shortwood do not feel represented by the Parish Council as a body, nor do they feel accepted as part of Pucklechurch by village organisations, of which they may even be members.*

He believes each political group on Pucklechurch Parish Council has representation on the South West Regional Assembly, drawn from their S.G.C. District Councillors. Therefore your political parties knew probably in August 2006 when the Draft Regional Spatial Strategy public consultation closed, that part of your parish, Shortwood, could be concreted over.

Certainly District Council representatives would have known in July 2007 when the evidence in public was concluded, as the Pegasus Consultancy, representing the so called Shortwood Landowners Group and builders' consortium, were detailing access points.

The draft Spatial Strategy Report was published in January 2008 your political groupings should, by then, have notified you that Shortwood was the only village, out of 40 in South Gloucestershire, to be absorbed into the Bristol urban sprawl - Shortwood itself didn't know.

South Gloucestershire's Core Strategy Consultation Document was written in April 2008, a closed meeting was held at Emerson's Green Village Hall in May 2008 - still no-one in authority bothered to notify Shortwood residents.

Shortwood residents themselves organised the only non-political meeting and exhibition, using the South Gloucestershire Planning Department consultation display boards, after being notified of the issue – on a party political basis.

Mr. Morton thanked the Parish Plan survey people for supplying their very pertinent data at incredibly short notice.

Previous Commitments – what particularly irks Shortwood residents is the renegeing by the “Powers that Be” on previous commitments that Shortwood’s status in the Green Belt would be protected.

Briefness of Consultation Period – They understand the Parish Councils logistical dilemma in trying to hurriedly formulate its own Core Strategy response within the fixed schedule of meetings but a telephone call to involve the local community would have been appreciated.

They question the genuineness of the consultation as there is yet no official decision to roll back the Green Belt, yet S.G.C. has chosen to undertake the Core Strategy consultation on the basis of that pre-supposition. Shortwood residents are being asked to choose between two options, an overwhelming onslaught of concrete or simply a gigantic onslaught of concrete, they do not intend to accept either.

NO 3. LAW & ORDER. Mr. Watson expressed concern that P.C. Skelton did not appear to appreciate the seriousness of the problems on Eagle Crescent. He has received 4/5 telephone calls from local residents, one particularly nasty incident occurred when young people were throwing bricks at the house on the corner of the play area. When asked about what they were doing the youngsters replied ‘the police don’t do anything when come’. Also a neighbour videoed vandalism taking place, he contacted the police but nothing has happened. On another occasion a group of 10—12 youngsters were seen damaging and pulling up road name signs on the estate. It was agreed clerk would write to P.C. Skelton with a copy to Inspector Thatcher about the incidents and advising there is no improvement. Mr. Beg agreed to draw the problems to the attention of the Head Teacher at Mangotsfield School.

Mr. Whittock advised the Neighbourhood Watch had also reported incidents.

NO 4. ARISINGS & TO AGREE MINUTES. Mr. Holder confirmed the polycarbonate panels on the bus shelters on Shortwood Rd. had been replaced and asked if Councillors would agree to replace the panels outside the Village Hall and on Maple Walk. Clerk to obtain quotation.

Mr Watson said Karen Ross had sent a synopsis of comments regarding the proposed development Oaktree Ave and that in return Parish Council had forwarded a list of the comments they had received.

The minutes of the meeting dated 21st May 2008 were agreed a true record and signed.

NO 5. RESPONSE TO PUBLIC PARTICIPATION. Mr. Watson said he would like to correct some misapprehension. The first Parish Council knew about the details in the Core Strategy was 8 weeks ago and if the major parties knew they did not made known to us. Regarding the political concerns raised by Shortwood residents he said ‘Pucklechurch Parish Council does not work or vote on party policy’. He confirmed that

after receiving the consultation document members arranged a non political meeting with the M.P. for Shortwood. Mr. Morton commented that the news had come through in a party political newsletter.

Mrs. Palmer said the meeting with the M.P. was purely on the green belt - to alert Shortwood residents - information giving.

Mrs. Turley said the meeting was not political and confirmed the M.P. has attended at other places. She said the consultation was in the early stages and that there were many levels to go.

Mr. Beg said the Parish Council was there to represent Shortwood and Pucklechurch and confirmed it would support in any way it could.

NO 6. MEMBERS MATTERS. Mr. Watson confirmed the name road signs needing re-erection were Birch Drive, Partridge Road, Hawkridge Drive, also the sign on Eagle Crescent is loose.

Mrs. Turley said she has received phone calls about the extent of the illegal works at Meadow View, Shortwood Rd. S.G.C. is waiting to gain access to check if planning restrictions have been broken but the occupants do not want them or the Police there. Mr. Watson said it was possible to take photographs via Wessex Water roadway or the public footpath. Councillors felt that the Appeal Hearing the Secretary of State had not consider the concerns raised but granted permission because S.G.C. does not have sufficient traveller/gypsy sites. It was agreed Mrs Palmer would write to the Secretary of State with a copy to Peter Jackson.

Mrs. Turley said regarding the illegal site off Westerleigh Rd Mr. Hazel is going to court 1st July after which S.G.C. will gain access.

Mr. Whittock said an old BBQ had been left by the Burial Ground skip.

Mr. Whittock raised concerned about the state of the hedges around the Village Hall and suggested Parish Council should be responsible as the Community Association has no money.

Mr. Holder said he believes the hall is important to our community and that since becoming involved with Community Action he realises that most halls receive a grant and suggests Parish Council takes a lead and consider awarding an annual grant of £2000.00 - £3000.00. It was decided this should be discussed as an agenda item next month.

Mr. Whittock asked if a letter had been received from Shirley Hall in the Post Office as she had expressed concern about flooding. Clerk confirmed no letter had been received. Mrs. Palmer said S.G.C. Highways were introducing a scheme to prioritise works, it was agreed clerk would contact S.G.C to enquire if the scheme was up and running.

Mr. Beg reported that the bulb in the street lamp on Shortwood Rd, above The Poplars, was very bright. Clerk to contact S.G.C.

Mr. Watson advised there had been problems with a blocked drain in Partridge Road, S.G.C. had looked but responsibility was unclear so as a gesture of goodwill they asked Dynorod to clear the blockage. Clerk to send letter of thanks.

Mr. Symons said the Community Association understands Parish Councils concerns and they have identified the problems. They finished the year with £400.00. which is not sufficient to cover the utility bill due in. The Trustees have had a separate meeting about the low usage of the hall and as explained have plans to apply for lottery funding.

NO 7. REPORTS. Mr. Symons had attended the Waste Management Forum the following key topics were discussed:

- Plastic Bottle Recycling Bins. - Proving successful with another six to be placed, based on a set of criteria.
- In Vessel Composting. - Despite delays in planning the weekly food collections are to commence April 09.
- Bulk Waste Charges. - £15 per three items from January 09. Two free collections for families on Income Support.
- Fly tipping. - Education. Restricting access to hot spots. Pursuance of offenders. Overt/covert cameras.
- Home Composting. - Low cost bins available from S.G.C.
- Sort it/ Cross tipping. Automatic number plate recognition. Post code checking. Frequent offenders targeted. Restrict number of visits. Reasonable construction/demolition limits. No asbestos, tyres, cylinders, engine oil etc. Trailer size limitation. Weekend ban.

Mrs. Turley said the Safer Stronger South Gloucestershire Group meeting is in Pucklechurch and she is concerned it has not been advertised sufficiently.

Good Neighbour Scheme – S.G.C. were going to help fund 17 Good Neighbour Schemes. The group will now have to register and fund CRB checks.

Mr. Watson is concerned about Councils inability to get information out.

Mr. Holder said communication came up in the Parish Plan questionnaires

Mrs. Palmer thought Pucklechurch was no worse than other Councils, she said we make a big effort with Pucklechurch News and the Web Site, some people do not want to engage.

Mr. Whittock said he and Mr Green had attended Boyd Link Meeting they had discussed hedges and hedge rows followed by a walk around the Forest of Avon site at Over's Court Farm.

Mr. Whittock attended the Biodiversity Meeting on climate action, solar panels, heating, lighting had been discussed. Tina Symons had attended on behalf of the Community Association.

NO 8. PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION. PK08/1519/F retention of 2no agricultural storage buildings and 1.2m high galvanised steel entrance gates. (Retrospective). (Resubmission of PK08/3612/F). land adjacent to 166 Westerleigh Road. It was agreed that Parish Council's previous concerns had been addressed. No objections.

PK08/1602/TCA works to fell 1no Holly Tree situated within Pucklechurch Conservation Area, 20 The Poplars, Shortwood Rd. No objections.

NO 9. STANDING ORDERS & RISK ASSESSMENT. A review of the Standing Orders was undertaken and agreed for this year and the risk assessment completed.

NO 10. CORRESPONDENCE. A letter from Jacki Berry thanked Councillors for supporting the suggested budget for the funding of Pucklechurch News.

NO 11. A letter of thanks was received from Pucklechurch Scout Executive Committee for arranging for the Oak tree to be felled and the damaged drain covers replaced.

NO 12. An email from Robert Lee advised voluntary first registration is normally used by owners of large tracts of unregistered land to make it harder for squatters to obtain title by adversely possessing land for 12years. Due to the nature and visibility of the Parish Councils land he suggests the risk is probably not sufficient to justify the expense involved.

NO 13. An email from Gary Meddick S.G.C. confirmed: The trimming of the hedge along Back Lane will be investigated. The damaged verge on Shortwood Rd has already been identified and Highways asked to consider repairing and extending the existing kerb up to the end of the 30mph sign.

NO 14. A letter from Pucklechurch Sports Youth F.C. asked for permission to use a section of the recreation field for Registration on the afternoon of 13th July between 2pm – 6pm. Councillors were happy to agree providing the event ended promptly, it being a Sunday.

NO 15. An invitation was received to attend Kingswood Community Transport AGM. It was agreed clerk would ask Mr. Green if he would like to attend.

NO 16. An invitation was received to the Chase & Kings Forest AGM. 17th July 12 – 2pm.

NO 17. A letter was received from S.G.C. advising changes to the arrangements for the investigation of complaints. Complaints against Councillors will no longer be referred to the Standards Board for England. All complaints received by the Monitoring Officer will be referred to the Assessment sub-committee for investigation. A Review sub-committee will review any appeal where the Assessment sub-committee has determined that either there is no breach of the Code or there is to be no investigation.

NO 18. An email from Project Frenchay confirmed the report of the Stakeholder Workshop held at The Greenfield Centre is now available.

NO 19. A letter was received from the Alzheimer's Society requesting financial assistance for their work to support carers and people suffering with dementia. Mr. Beg declared an interest. Mrs Palmer proposed a grant of £80.00., seconded by Mr. Watson. Voting in favour six, one abstention.

NO 20. An email from Mr. Smith confirmed he had looked into the cost of mobile broadband. Unfortunately he could not find a pay-as-you-go option only monthly contracts. All were far more than the minimal use Parish Council will need.

NO 21 FINANCE. Mr. Symons gave Councillors a copy and explanation of the up to date budget figures for 08/09.

The following cheques were agreed for payment and signed. Mr. & Mrs. Abbott £46.92. expenses for 2nd Youth survey for Parish Plan. Allianz Insurance Plc £61.32. extra payment for cover for new bus shelter. Ensign Print £224.00. Pucklechurch News. Pucklechurch Community Association £72.50. five meetings @ £11.50. plus one at £15.00. Mrs. Anna Sharpe £125.00. Mrs. D. Bailey £317.62 being salary £310.66. plus stamps £3.96. plus £3.00. laminating sign for Burial Ground. Alzheimer's Society £80.00. grant.

Mr. Beg said that during October Twinning would make the return visit to Pringy and would the Parish Council consider funded an official gift to celebrate the 20th anniversary.

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

Date for next meeting. 16th July 2008 at 7.30pm.