

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD 18TH MARCH 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, M.C. Smith, 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. Cllr. S. Grant.

NO 2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION. Mr. Beg invited Mr. David Anthony to speak. Mr Anthony introduced himself advising he had the Farm Shop on Westerleigh Road he said the shop had been well supported at Christmas and in February during the snow but unfortunately the level of support was not consistent enough to make the shop viable. He was registered with South Gloucestershire Council and listed in the S.G. Local Food & Drink Directory. He enjoys working in and meeting villagers and is hoping the Parish Council could help. Mr. Beg thanked Mr. Anthony for coming.

Mr. G. Thorn was invited to speak. Mr. Thorn raised concern about the planning application to sub divide the existing dwelling and erect 2no terraced dwellings on the Service Station, 8-10 Westerleigh Rd. He felt that to adjoin a 21st century construction to an 18th century period building of local historic interest was totally inappropriate. He was concerned at the loss of yet another amenity as allowing development would remove a garage facility that has operated successfully for over 100years. He was also concerned it would significantly increase traffic problems. Mr. Beg thanked Mr Thorn for attending.

NO 3. LAW & ORDER. Mr. Whittock said the police were continually being asked to stop youngsters playing football in the Village Hall car park as they were damaging cars.

NO 4. ARISING & TO SIGN MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING. Rubble outside no 1 Castle Rd. Clerk confirmed it had been reported to S.G.C. It was agreed to request an update on the situation.

Mr. Beg said that at St. Thomas a Becket Church A.G.M. he had explained that the grant for the churchyard had reverted to £800.00. as last years grant had included an additional amount for tree felling work.

Mr. Watson advised the graffiti in the Oaktree Avenue sub-way had been painted out.

The minutes of the meeting dated 18th February 2009 were agreed a true record and signed.

NO 5. RESPONSE TO PUBLIC PARTICIPATION. Mr. Whittock suggested the Farm Shop could perhaps advertise in Pucklechurch News. Mr. Holder suggested the Local Communities Act may provide information. S.G.C. has not yet adopted the act but

perhaps the Parish Council should learn about it and put pressure on them. Mr. Smith said the Local Environment Group supported a 'buy local initiative' but regarding Pucklechurch News the current editorial team do not accept advertising but he could see no problem with them submitting an article. Mr. Holder said the Community Association at Long Ashton had a small shops grants scheme they could apply to. Mr. Symons asked Mr. Anthony how he thought the Parish Council help. Mr. Anthony said he was hoping for guidance, support and ways to integrate. Mr. Beg suggested something could be included on the web site. Mr. Smith said if Parish Council wished he could put an article on the web site indicating Parish Council strongly urges residents to shop locally. Mr. Smith suggested part of the problem could be that residents are not in the village but at work when the shop is open as their opening times are restricted to those of the Bakery.

NO 6. VILLAGE HALL MAKEOVER. Mr. Beg thanked Mr. Holder for chairing the meeting on the 3rd March with Mr. R. Lee. Mr. Symons declared an interest being a Trustee of the Village Hall. Mr. Holder explained Mr. Lee was a Solicitor living in the village who had been prepared to offer advice. He confirmed the minutes (copy attached) were an accurate record of their meeting, he said the meeting had further agreed the way forward would be to form a sub committee of 3 Parish Councillors (one to Chair meetings), 2 P.C.A. members and 2 Project Groups members. Mr. Watson said that Mr Lee had advised that irrespective of who had signed the lease the people running the village hall were responsible and it is with them Councillors should deal. It was proposed by Mr. Watson and seconded by Mrs Palmer that a group be formed. Voting all in favour. It was further agreed Mrs Palmer, Mrs Turley and Mr Watson form the committee.

NO 7. MEMBERS MATTERS. Councillors noted the sad death of Mr. Desmond Broom, the funeral to be held Wednesday 25th March at 1pm in the Crematorium.

Mr. Watson advised he had been concerned to hear that 7 – 8 express bus routes were planned across Bristol one involving the Ring Road. He had contacted S.G.C. for clarification and been advised the plan was to use the Ring Road but there would be no bus stops on the carriageway. Councillors said an MMI had been planned for Emersons Green East, Mrs Turley advised the developer had planned one by the two plus lane but S.G.C. has rejected it as the area is already grid locked.

Mr. Holder said the hedge on Shortwood Hill opposite Gingels Farm needed cutting back as it no longer possible to walk on the verge. Clerk to contact S.G.C.

Mr. Watson asked for a letter of thanks to be sent to Western Power for arranging for the overhead cables in the centre of the village to be placed underground and for replacing the four overhead cables on Abson Rd – Feltham Rd with a single wire.

Mr. Green expressed concern that the keep left bollard by the bridge over the Ring Road in Shortwood has been damaged. He also reported two abandoned cars in Pucklechurch one outside the Post Office and one on the grass-crete area on Westerleigh Rd.

Mr. Smith expressed concern that since the Homefield Centre has been taken over by Merlin it is impossible to book the centre for meetings. Mrs Palmer said that residents across the area were unhappy at having their wardens removed. Clerk to write expressing concern at the deterioration of service.

Mr. Smith advised that a recent Green Belt fund raising event in the Village Hall there had been less than 20 people from Pucklechurch.

Mr. Smith said a Google car had been seen surveying in the village and advised a 'Google street view' would be live after September.

Mr. Smith advised the situation regarding dial up broadband was improving and the price coming down. It was agreed this should be discussed next month.

Mr. Whittock wondered what was happening in Castle Rd as the Head Teacher at Pucklechurch School had suggested there would be traffic chaos. Mrs. Turley said she had asked Rob Grieve at S.G.C. but he did not know.

Mr. Whittock had noticed a person in a yellow jacket taking notes near the cricket square. Mr. Smith said the Cricket Club had been given a donation, subject to Parish Council agreement, for an all weather area and perhaps it was something to do with that.

Mr. Watson was appalled at the amount of litter on the estate. Clerk to contact S.G.C. to ask if the pavements could be swept. Also the foot/cycleway by HMP & YOI Ashfield needs attention. Clerk to contact the Governor Wendy Sinclair for help.

NO 8. REPORTS. Mr. Smith said he had attended a workshop on 'negotiation' organised by S.G.C. it had been good value for money and very useful.

Mr. Smith reported work was continuing on the Community Plan, two sections were now complete, a small pamphlet was being prepared and would be presented to Parish Council and published. A lot of work has gone into the Community Plan and all the work has been carried out by volunteers, also two new groups have been formed.

Mr. Smith said the meeting with Mr Dennis White had been helpful, there was some confusion over the 30mph limit on Abson Road and Mr. White has since sent on some information. It was agreed Councillors would discuss reviewing speed limits as an agenda item in the future.

Mr. Holder reported having had a good meeting on Parkfield Road with Gary Meddick they had looked at the pavement and the hedges. Mr Meddick agreed to arrange for the pavement to be swept and said he would try to establish ownership of the hedges but it would take time. They looked at the reverse camber on the pavement and Mr. Meddick suggested that in the past someone had probably installed the pavement believing it to be a good idea but as the road is a narrow country lane it should not have a pavement.

Mr. Holder said he and Mrs Turley had met with Michael Follett the Play Development Adviser for S.G.C. and looked at the recreation field. They had had a positive discussion resulting in the fact that incorporating the new design on the rec would mean having to move the football pitch towards the Scout Hut. They then moved on to look at the open space land near St. Aldams Drive, the large area with the goal mouth in the middle, this was thought to be by far the better area. Mr. Holder told Mr. Follett residents had objected strongly to the Parish Councils proposal to install a skate park on the land. Mr. Follett said he did not think there would be a problem because the area would be like a community garden not a park but would include things for children plus the natural environment. Mr. Follett said that as well as the £35,000.00. he could probably access extra money through the 'Play Builder' funding scheme. Another meeting to include a landscape architect is to be arranged. Mr. Holder suggested the Council also applies to Cory Environmental Trust for funding.

NO 9. PLANNING APPLICATIONS. The following applications were considered and observations made. PK09/0398/F change of use of grazing land (sui generis) for the stationing of 1no. residential gypsy mobile home, 4no associated touring caravan pitches (1no permanent and 3no transit pitches). Erection of utility/day room and associated hardstanding. Councillors strongly objected to this application as it would allow further encroachment into the green belt and no special circumstances had been demonstrated as to why it should be allowed. Councillors were concerned that there is already an issue with flooding on Shortwood Road and allowing more development could exacerbate the problem. Concern was expressed about the track at the side of the development as it is obviously being used by works vehicles accessing the existing site and are the owners of the land aware of this. The site is not included on the emerging Gypsy & Traveller Development Plan Document. It was also considered important that S.G.C. visit the site as the plans are not accurate as some of the existing caravans are not shown. Councillors believe it is essential that accurate plans are provided before the application is considered suggested it should be returned. It was also noted that the application involves the sale/transfer of part of the site that was deemed essential for a previous application but no evidence has been supplied to suggest a change of circumstances rendering that part of the site redundant.

PK09/0326/F erection of 2no terraced dwellings and subdivision of existing dwelling to form 2no dwellings with access and associated works. Pucklechurch Service Station, 8-10 Westerleigh Rd. Councillors strongly objected to this application they felt adjoining 2 small modern cottages to an 18th century period building would be totally inappropriate. They were also concerned at the loss of another amenity to the village and as this part of the village is prone to flooding allowing more development could potentially add to the problem. Councillors were also concerned this would be over development in the Conservation Area.

PK09/0446/F installation of 1no rear dormer window to facilitate loft conversion, 7 Castle Road. Councillors had no objection to this application particularly as it will mirror the property next door.

PK09/0452/F alteration to roof to facilitate single storey front extension. Erection of side porch. 41 Homefield Rd. No objection.

NO 10. TO DISCUSS H.R. SUPPORT. Mr. Symons said he has been advised the Council is not an employer and therefore does not need the services of an H.R. Company but suggests the Tax Office is contacted for confirmation.

NO 11. CORRESPONDENCE. An invitation was received from S.G.C. to their Wildroots Celebration 31st March 11am – 2pm.

NO 12. A letter advised the RoSPA Inspection of childrens play equipment in the parish will take place in April.

NO 13. An invitation was received to a Reception & Briefing by the Army Presentation Team 22nd April at Arnolfini, 16 Narrow Quay, Bristol.

NO 14. An email was received from Mrs. C. Shaw informing the Council that her son was knocked over on the 24th Feb 09 by a car travelling towards the Fleur de Lys pub. Her son was not seriously hurt requiring only a couple of stitches to his elbow but she thought the Council should know about the accident in case they require the information for records. It was agreed clerk should send the information to P.C. Skelton and S.G.C. as they keep the accident/injury records.

NO 15. LEASE FOR SHORTWOOD PLAY AREA. The Heads of Terms received from David James & Partner on behalf of Mr. & Mrs. Hall, Rock House Farm, Shortwood, for the lease for the play area in Cattybrook Road was discussed. Clerk advised she had contacted David James & Partner and explained that the fee for preparing the lease was much higher than before and that the Council had not budgeted for £1500.00. David James had spoken to Mr. & Mrs Halls Solicitor and they have agreed to reduce the fee by £250.00. After discussion Councillors agreed to renew the lease.

NO 16. FINANCE. Clerk had obtained quotations for grass cutting for the coming season: Mr. D. Gay cutting grass in New Burial Ground £565.00. an increase of just over 1.5% . Councillors agreed to accept the quotation.

Instant Landscapes cutting main playing field and Eagle Crescent including strimming area in front of the Village Hall £120.00. per cut. Main playing field extra cut £70.38. Strimming around posts etc at edge of field £43.47. Open space land St. Aldam Drive £108.68. Clerk confirmed these prices were the same as last year. Councillors agreed to accept the quotation.

The following cheques were agreed for payment and signed. Mr. M. Smith £223.00. expenses for hosting Pucklechurch web site and expenditure in connection with Community Plan. Mr. E. Boulton £200.00. maintenance of Parkfield Play Area. P.C.A. £34.50. use of meeting room for 3 meetings 4th 18th & 24th Feb 09 (2 Community Plan 1 Parish Council). Town & Country Services £149.50. skip changeover in Burial Ground.

B.T.C.V. £35.00. membership. Ensign Print £224.00. Pucklechurch News. Mr. D. Gay £556.00. grass cutting in New Burial Ground 2008 season. Mrs. A. Sharpe £125.00. Mrs. D. Bailey £1042.46. being salary £310.66. + stamps £1.80. + tel £30.00. + expenses for use of home as office etc £700.00.

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

Date of Next Meeting 15th April at 7.30pm.

Mr. Watson gave apologies for next meeting as he will be on holiday.