

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD 18<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 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, Mrs. S.E. Turley, M.J. Watson, L.J. Whittock.

Mr. Beg opened the meeting with a welcome.

**NO. 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.** R. Symons, Inspector Thatcher, P.C. Skelton.

**NO 2. PRESENTATION STANDARDS COMMITTEE.** Mr. Adrian Millward and Mr. Anthony Kwan attended the meeting they explained the Standards Committee was non political and made up of 15 members, 5 independent, 5 Parish/Town Councillors, 5 District Councillors and every Public Authority has to have one. Mr. Millward advised the majority of complaints received were against Town/Parish Councillors, he said there were 10 general principles of Public Life, copies were handed out, and that if these principles and the Code of Conduct were followed it would minimise complaints. Each complaint received has to be analysed the process is expensive as each case cost £3500.00. Councillors expressed concern that when a complaint was made against them they received no opportunity to defend themselves; they were the last person to know and this is very unjust. Mr. Millward said this may have happened before 2008 when complaints went to the Standards Board but South Gloucestershire Council's Monitoring Officer now has to notify you if a complaint has been made against you. Every case has to be investigated and in the majority of cases there is no breach. Councillors asked if action was taken against someone whose complaint had proved to be malicious. Mr. Millward replied no. Mr. Millward suggested the clerk could contact the Monitoring Officers at S.G.C. for help should there be any issues of concern. Mr. Beg thanked Mr. Millward and Mr. Kwan for attending the meeting.

**NO 3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.** None.

**NO 4. LAW & ORDER.** The August minutes recorded complaints about the Pucklechurch Village Sports & Social Club, the Chairman (the committee changed in February this year) telephoned Mr Smith as he was not aware of any complaints. He stated he had contacted the local PCSO advising he was welcome at the club at any time; they had nothing to hide were proud of what they have achieved and wanted to be good neighbours. He also contacted the Licensing Authority and they have no record of any complaints.

Mr. Watson said concern had been raised about a local runners club who run without adequate high visibility clothing. There is also a similar problem with young horse riders and Mr. Watson advised P.C. Skelton was working with Stables to make youngsters aware of the danger. Mr. Whittock said he had raised the problem with Ann Fay at the Boyd Link Group meeting.

**NO 5. ARISINGS & TO AGREE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING.** 8b) clerk advised S.G.C. had looked at Lamorna Cottage and did not think reinstatement was their responsibility and questioned the legality of the entrance. Mr. Smith said the previous owners had a pull in at the front but the new owners have created space within the garden for parking and had wanted to make good to the highway but were told they could only go up to their boundary. It was agreed clerk would contact the Highways Officer and suggest he has a meeting with the owner to discuss the problem.

8d) Clerk has contact S.G.C. the Highways Officer has agreed to spray the weed on the chicane in the centre of the road at the entrance to Shortwood, the island will be seeded and added to the grass cutting programme.

8f) Discussion reference to problems caused by the closure of Shortwood Road. Councillors were concerned that the information on South Gloucestershire Council's web site was either non existent or wrong and the diversion signs inadequate. Concern was raised as to whether the weight limit signs had been reinstated and it was suggested the Council should be asked to do a one off check to ensure lorries were not still using Westerleigh Road for access. It was agreed Mr Smith would draft and circulate a letter to the Highways Department regarding the difficulties experienced.

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed a true record and signed.

**NO 6. FINANCE.** Councillors were given a copy of the budget update prepared by Mr. Symons it was noted that actual admin expenditure in September was much higher than the budgeted figure. Clerk explained this was because of the purchase of the projector and external hard drive.

Three quotations were received for the various tree and hedge work around the Scout Hut. Town & Country Services £1782.00. plus V.A.T. Greenman Environmental Management Ltd. £518.00. plus V.A.T. Guy Bailey Tree & Landscape Services £620.00. Councillors agreed to accept the lowest tender.

Further to the quotation received last month totalling £3771.00. plus V.A.T. for various works on the childrens play equipment and safety surfacing another quotation has been obtained from Wickeed Playscapes. The price includes removal of old safety tiles under roundabout, supply and installation of new concrete pin kerb edgings and supply and lay 40mm thick wetpour. To dismantle for refurbishment and refit on site when ready Rolling Barrel. Repairs to 2bay 8ft swing carried out under warranty. Total cost £3804.00. plus V.A.T. After discussion it was agreed to accept the quotation from S.J. Aplin Playgrounds Ltd providing the safety surfacing was guaranteed for 5years.

The following cheques were agreed for payment and signed. Instant Landscapes £262.20. grass cutting. S.G.C. £39.33. maintenance and emptying of dog bin St. Aldams Drive. Mrs. A. Sharpe £125.00. Mrs. D. Bailey £368.14. being salary £310.66.+poppy wreath £24.00.+stamps £3.48.+tel £30.00.

**NO 7. MEMBERS MATTERS.** Mr. Whittock reported that as a large section of South Gloucestershire was considered urban South Gloucestershire Council received less government support.

7a) Mrs. Turley had been asked about the garage being built on the Old School House, Councillors thought it was covered under the new permitted development rules.

7b) A driveway had been installed next to the Doctors surgery and people have been asked not to obstruct it by parking.

7c) Mr. Green was concerned about lorries going in and out of Meadow View and leaving mud on Shortwood Road. Mrs Turley said Mr Hazel had moved vehicles and plant stored at Moor Paddock to Meadow View, she confirmed S.G.C. had been informed.

7d) Mrs. Palmer raised concern that the pavement between Parkfield and Pucklechurch needed looking at again. Villagers with prams were unable to use it due to debris and the adverse camber. Clerk to contact S.G.C. and request the path is cleaned.

7e) Mr. Beg said members of Twinning had recently returned from a very successful and enjoyable visit to Pringy.

St. Aldams Drive proposed play garden – Councillors reviewed the drop-in meeting held in the Pucklechurch Village Sports and Social Club. An email from Tina Rainey confirmed residents had raised issues that would need to be addressed so that the project could be moved forward in a positive and productive way. They are preparing a list of all comments received and will produce a full report for consideration.

**NO 8. REPORTS.** At a Community Environment Meeting comment had been made that street lights were being switched off after midnight in Charfield to save energy, the trial was proving successful. Clerk said an email from S.G.C. confirmed Street Care would be contacting other parishes to ask if they would be interested in a similar trial. It was agreed the item would be discussed as an agenda item next month.

8a) Mr. Holder and Mr. Watson attended the Parish Charter Meeting concern was raised that emailing consultations was not having the desired effect. Mr. Holder proposed there should be a monthly review of consultations and meetings. It was reported that some Councils have formed unofficial liaison groups with other parishes so that neighbouring concerns can be discussed. There is a proposal to publish a list of Officers contact details the list will be made available to clerks. The new Parish Charter will soon be available for consultation.

8b) Mr. Holder confirmed painting had commenced in the village hall and that HMP & YOI Ashfield had been contacted and were working on the staircase.

8c) Mr. Watson advised the cancelled Safer Stronger South Gloucestershire Group meeting had been re-scheduled for 9<sup>th</sup> December.

8d) Mr. Watson reported the South Gloucestershire A.L.C.A. meeting at Charfield had been interesting with a talk about planning/approval and building control. The importance of a parish plan was stressed in the context of Core Planning. There is a strong move to get as many street lights turned off as possible.

8e) Mrs. Palmer and Mr. Whittock met with Ian Gething reference the review consultation S.P.D. they looked at the conservation area and two other areas. They had an excellent meeting and Mr Gething had picked up on areas of concern.

**NO 9. BURIAL GROUND.** Mr. Beg confirmed he had visited the Gloucestershire County Archive and passed Councillors a printed extract from the 1967 – 1975 Parish Council Minutes. The minutes confirmed that at a special meeting held 27<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30pm Mr. Herbert proposed and Mr. Walters seconded that the whole of the ground be used for burials. As an amendment it was proposed by Mr. Sherman and seconded by Mr. Ralph Boulton that only part of the ground be used for burials. The result of the vote was as follows. For the Amendment 2. For the Proposition 6. The proposition that the whole of the land be used for a Burial Ground was therefore carried.

After a lengthy discussion it was proposed by Mr. Watson and seconded by Mr. Holder that it was not the Parish Councils intention to increase the Burial Ground and that the land remains open space. Voting for the proposal 4. Against 3.

**NO 10. PLANNING APPLICATIONS.** The following application was considered and observations made. PK09/5745/F subdivision of existing property into 2no dwellings and erection of first floor rear extension, 45 Westerleigh Rd. No objection.

During the month a planning application PK09/5583/F for change of use of agricultural to land for the stationing of 1no residential gypsy mobile home with associated access. Erection of utility/day room and associated hardstanding. Sloe Well Paddock, Westerleigh Road had been received. A letter strongly objecting to the application - primarily because it is inappropriate development in the green belt has been sent. A further communication advising an amended description has been received, the word 'Gypsy' omitted. It was agreed clerk would confirm Councillors letter of objection also applies to the amended plan.

Mr. Smith said one of the conditions attached to the Pucklechurch Service Station application was that the new properties would be constructed using 'natural stone' as 'Blue Lias' is common in Pucklechurch he wondered if this is the one they will use. Clerk to write to the Case Officer for clarification.

**NO 11. CORRESPONDENCE.** A letter was received from Reehana Sayeed thanking the Parish Council for meeting her and being so interested and supportive of the youth work. She would like to officially start youth club in January 2010 and as discussed this

would be on Thursdays between 6pm and 8pm. Mr. Holder had mentioned she could use the smaller room in the Community Centre, and the kitchen which could also be used for storage. She would like to ask if the Parish Council would consider meeting the cost of a youth work assistant and financial support towards the cost of hiring the village hall. Some costs could be met through charging the young people 50p entry. The cost of a Youth work assistant for 44 weeks would be £1,440.00. Mr. Holder, declaring an interest, confirmed the cost of hiring the meeting room would be £13.75. per week. It was proposed by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mrs Palmer that the Parish Council accepts the cost and look at funding for the future. Voting unanimous.

**NO 12.** A copy of South Gloucestershire Councils reply to Mr. Humphrey regarding the issue of excess water flowing from the recreation ground was received. It confirms they have identified an existing highway drainage system adequate to drain the highway and that instructions have been issued for their drainage team to cleanse and prove the systems integrity. Clerk is trying to contact the Contractor who installed the land drainage system on the recreation field to ascertain their discharge point.

**NO 13.** A letter was received from South Gloucestershire Council confirming they were happy for a memorial seat to be erected near the Jardin du Pringy providing their criteria is met. Clerk to contact Mrs Broom.

**NO 14.** An email was read from South Gloucestershire Council regarding a proposal to locate a cricket pitch on an area of Lyde Green Common. A comprehensive report has been prepared in draft to enable the Executive Member with the portfolio for Open Spaces to consider whether or not the application should be allowed. Councillors are invited to an informal meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> December 09 at 6.30pm in the Cullimore Room, Emersons Green Village Hall.

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

Date of Next meeting. 16<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm. Mr. Beg asked the Vice Chairman if he would chair the first half of the meeting.