

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2009 IN THE MEETING ROOM, PUCKLECHURCH COMMUNITY CENTRE, ABSON ROAD.**

**PRESENT.** D.A.E. Holder Vice Chairman, P.J. Green, Mrs. M.C. Palmer, M.J. Watson, L.J. Whittock.

Cllr. Sandra Grant.

**NO 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.** O.A. Beg Chairman, R. Symons, M.C. Smith, Mrs. S.E. Turley.

**NO 2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.** None.

**NO 3. LAW & ORDER.** Inspector Thatcher and PCSO Ashley Roland attended the meeting . Inspector Thatcher advised there had been a couple of incidents of anti social behaviour in the Pucklechurch Village Sports & Social Club on St. Aldams Drive. Ashley Roland explained that he and P.C. Skelton had looked into it and drawn it to the attention of the Licensing Authority. Councillors advised they had an email from a resident in St. Aldams Drive concerned about the ongoing problems in the Club and they suggested it would be useful if residents could be made aware of progress.

Inspector Thatcher reported a few isolated instances in the underpass and a couple of burglaries, one of which was an attempt to enter the P.V.S.S.C. To help combat the problem of vehicles being dumped in Redford Lane S.G.C. have installed a bollard.

To a question as to how often the police were in the village Inspector Thatcher advised he had checked and they were often in Pucklechurch but not always seen.

Mr. Watson mentioned that at the Safer Stronger South Gloucestershire Meeting it had been suggested that the Police were issued with off road vehicles to help tackle anti social behaviour. Inspector Thatcher confirmed he had secured 2 motor cycles, he now needed other equipment and to train officers.

Mrs. Palmer said the Detached Youth Bus was in the car park engaging with our youth and she wondered if the police were involved. Inspector Thatcher said no and sometimes the young people prefer them not to be but they did work with the Youth Service in Cadbury Heath.

Mr. Whittock expressed concern about a group of 20yr olds who regularly congregate at the top end of the Village Hall car park. Inspector Thatcher explained the police go by intelligence and agreed to look at the situation.

Mr. Holder explained about the proposed tree work C.A. hoped to have carried out around the car park and asked if it would help to alleviate vandalism and anti social

behaviour. Inspector Thatcher confirmed that opening up an area and improving the lighting will improve natural surveillance and should help.

Mr. Green asked if anything could be done about people coming through Shortwood at 1 – 2 o'clock in the morning shouting. Inspector Thatcher indicated that was unacceptable behaviour and that the police should be called.

Mr. Holder thanked Inspector Thatcher and Ashley Roland for attending the meeting.

**NO 4. ARISING.** Minute reference no 3 Mr. Watson advised that at the Safer Stronger South Gloucestershire meeting people had been made aware of a small grant available for measures that help security and suggested the P.C.A. could apply.

Items 6a, 6b and 6c were awaiting action 6d the stone has been replaced.

No 11 clerk has received reply from Insurance Company that confirms one balloon lifting from recreation field would not be a problem provided their recommendations are met.

No 21 Mr Holder advised the grant the Parish Council gave towards the 'Kids Holiday Club' would allow 5 families to attend.

The minutes of the meeting held 15<sup>th</sup> July 09 were agreed a true record and signed.

**NO 5. FINANCE.** Mr. Symons had prepared a budget update which clerk passed to Councillors for information. Clerk explained that the battery and adaptor for the laptop had failed and had been replaced at a cost of £133.50. Mr. Holder proposed the Council should purchase an external hard drive as a backup for the laptop. All agreed.

The following cheques were agreed for payment and signed. Abacus H.R. Ltd. £159.48. clerk confirmed the contract had been completed and would be posted by Mr. Symons the cheque will be sent when the documents have been returned. Instant Landscapes £999.93. grass cutting. S.G.C. £74.29. maintenance of dog bin on St. Aldams Drive. Mr. & Mrs. Hall rent for Shortwood Playing Field £90.00. clerk explained that accounts would show 3 payments this year not 2 because the old lease was paid in arrears and the new lease is in advance. Mrs. A. Sharpe £125.00. Mrs. D. Bailey £477.40. being salary £310.66. + stamps £3.24. + tel £30.00. + battery & adaptor £133.50.

**NO 6. MEMBERS MATTERS.** Mr. Whittock advised that a balloon had come down in the recreation field. He also asked the Cricket Club to put away some broken bars that had been left on the field.

6a) Mr. Green advised that the drains on the edge of the highway on the bridge over the Avon Ring Road were blocked. Clerk to contact S.G.C.

6b) Mrs. Palmer advised the Director of HMP & YOI Ashfield was leaving.

6c) Mr. Holder had been asked about the possibility of a dropped kerb being installed between Elm View – 12 Abson Rd. Clerk to contact S.G.C.

**NO 7. REPORTS.** Mr. Watson had attended a successful Safer Stronger South Gloucestershire Meeting at Cold Ashton. The meeting had received a report of a horse and rider incident and may contact S.G.C. about increasing signage.

7a) Mr. Whittock had attended the Community Action AGM. He advised the Community Action West of England run a competition for Village Halls called Hall Mark and he hopes the new Village Hall Committee will enter Pucklechurch.

7b) Mr. Holder advised the accounts for the P.C.A. have received for last year showing a £20,000.00 turnover and a surplus of £500.00. There was nothing to report reference the 'Extreme Make Over Group' as people are on holiday.

**NO 8. STANDING ORDERS.** It was proposed by Mr. Watson and seconded by Mr. Whittock that item 6 should be changed to read 'The Clerk shall record the proceedings of Parish Council Meeting' all agreed.

**NO 9. RISK ASSESSMENT.** Potential risk areas were looked at and comments made under Statutory Requirements item 14 clerk reminded Councillors that any changes to Register of Members interest should be reported to the Monitoring Officer at S.G.C. Item 17 to include services of H.R. Company. Mr. Watson asked who had prepared the check list, clerk advised the Internal Auditor. It was proposed by Mr. Green and seconded by Mr. Watson that we ask A.L.C.A. if the form is adequate.

**NO 9. PROPOSED EXTENSION TO BURIAL GROUND.** Mr. Holder outlined the advantages/disadvantages. He was concerned that extending would take up valuable recreational land and questioned need as the Crematorium now has a burial section. He had visited the Crematorium with Mr. Smith and had been surprised at their charges, it was agreed clerk would contact a Funeral Director for advice on average charges. Item to be included on next months agenda.

**NO 10. RECREATION FIELD FENCE.** Clerk explained that as she had been unable to email Councillors to confirm whether they wanted to apply for grant funding to replace the old fence with Bow Top Railings she submitted an application as the deadline was the 14<sup>th</sup> August 09. The necessary quotations were obtained and submitted with the application to Cory Environmental Body. Councillors agreed to discuss the quotations when the result of the funding application was known.

**NO 11. ST. ALDAMS DRIVE PROPOSED PLAY GARDEN.** Mr. Holder confirmed a meeting had been held with Tina Rainey S.G.C. The tendering process is underway and a meeting for residents living near the site will be held in the Pucklechurch Sports & Social Club.

**NO 12. PLANNING.** The following applications were considered and observations made. PK09/1393/F erection of 1no detached garage, 112 Westerleigh Road. No objection.

PK09/5004/F erection of double garage, 5 Farlands, Pucklechurch. No objection.

PK09/5090/PNA prior notification of the intention to erect side extensions to hay barn. Gingells Farm, 126 Shortwood Hill. No objection.

PK09/5100F erection of 2no semi-detached dwellings with associated works, 11 Lansdown Road. No objection.

Mrs. Palmer advised that although S.G.C. had granted consent for development on the Pucklechurch Service Station site the owner of the Village Store has the power to stop the building due to the 'Party Wall Act'.

**NO 13 CORRESPONDENCE.** A letter was received from S.G.C. acknowledging receipt of comments on the new sites proposed for inclusion in the Gypsy & Traveller Sites DPD.

**NO 14.** Mrs. Palmer had been contacted by a local resident advising the land at Shortwood Road had changed hands again, the owner had left and 9 caravans moved in. Mr. Watson asked if a reply had been received to the letter he had drafted to S.G.C. as he felt this was further evidence in support. Clerk confirmed a reply had not been received. It was agreed clerk would write to S.G.C. in case they were not aware of the change in circumstances and mention Councillors were still awaiting a reply to their letter.

**NO 15.** An email was received from Mr. Attrill enclosing a copy of his letters regarding the Gypsy & Traveller Sites Consultation and the proposed new sites. It was agreed clerk would confirm receipt and forward copy of Parish Councils comments.

**NO 16.** A deed of grant dated 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan 1957 reference Lyde Green Common was received from S.G.C. It was agreed clerk would file with other documents.

**NO 17.** A letter was received from South Gloucestershire Heritage offering free tickets to ride on the Heritage Volunteer Special Sat 12<sup>th</sup> September 6.30 – 8.30pm. Clerk to request four tickets 2 for Mr. Whittock and 2 for Mr. Green.

**NO 18.** An email was received from Mrs. Elliott regarding concerns in St. Aldams Drive. Clerk to reply that her concerns regarding the Club have been drawn to the attention of Inspector Thatcher and that a residents meeting is to be arranged for the immediate neighbours of the proposed play garden.

**NO 19.** A letter was received from South Gloucestershire Citizens Advice Bureau advising the CAB is a charity and as such depends on donations and grants to be able to respond to ever-growing needs for advice. Having looked at their budgets and the service

levels they need to deliver, they have funding gap of approximately £60,000.00. per annum which is equivalent to about 40p per resident. They are writing to all Town & Parish Councils to ask that this sum is raised through the Precept, in our case it amounts to £1250.00. Members are asked to discuss this and let them know if they can rely on this contribution to their budget for 2010/11. They would also be grateful for any financial help for this current year 2009/10. Councillors were appreciative of the work of the C.A.B. but concerned that raising precept by the level suggested was not a realistic possibility unless they could provide data from our area in support. Reference budget for 2009/10 Mrs. Palmer proposed a grant of £250.00. seconded by Mr. Green all agreed.

**NO 20.** A letter was received from Pucklechurch Sports Football Club requesting use of the pitches on the recreation field for the coming 2009/10 season. Councillors were happy to grant permission, there was discussion about the amount of rent and it was decided the rent should be £420.00. Voting 4 in favour 1 abstention.

**NO 21.** An email was received from S.G.C. regarding concern raised about the condition of the carriageway near the roundabout on Shortwood Road. They confirm the roundabout has been added to their list of sites requiring maintenance within the next year. The list will be prioritised but in the meantime any dangerous areas will be made safe.

**NO 22.** An email was received from a lady who had travelled down from Scunthorpe to place flowers on her fathers grave, she was very disappointed and distressed to see the state of the burial ground. Mr. Whittock and clerk had also been concerned at how untidy the burial ground was, clerk had contacted Mr. Gay, he has apologised and the grass has since been cut. It was agreed clerk would write to Mr. Gay (enclosing a copy of the email) and asking for an immediate improvement in maintenance with the grass being cut at least once a fortnight.

**NO 23.** An email was received offering a copy of Arnold Baker - Local Council Administration 8<sup>th</sup> Edition with a 20% discount making the new price £53.00. Councillors agreed to order a copy.

There being no further business Mr. Holder declared the meeting closed.

Date for next meeting. 16<sup>th</sup> September 2009 at 7.30pm.