

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD 19TH JANUARY 2011
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 Cllr for Parish and Boyd Valley, M.S. Watson, L.J. Whittock.

Inspector Kevin Thatcher, PCSO Samantha Paterson.

NO 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE. Sandra Grant Cllr. for Boyd Valley, P.C. Simon Topps.

NO 2. Declaration of Interest. None.

NO 3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION. None.

NO 4. LAW & ORDER. Inspector Thatcher advised that over a two month period there were only 15 reported crimes in Pucklechurch of which 6 related to HMP & YOI Ashfield. There was no theft from dwellings or vehicles, crime was very low. Sam Paterson advised there had been one incident of anti social behaviour but non since Christmas. Inspector Thatcher said he could find no trace of a report of drugs being grown in Pucklechurch, but cannabis factories were popular and if anyone saw anything suspicious would they please report it. Councillors asked if the cut backs in funding would affect the size of the Beat Team. Inspector Thatcher said no the PCSO's were Government funded and he has assurance from the Local Authority. Inspector Thatcher advised a change in the beat team saying Hugh Barnes was going to Kingswood and that he would be replaced by Kath Voice. Mr. Beg thanked Inspector Thatcher and Sam Paterson for attending the meeting.

NO 5. ARISINGS. 5) Mr. Smith said he had received assurance that the lettering 'Fleur de Lis' was not incorrect.

21) Clerk has spoken to Tina Rainey at S.G.C. she confirmed the plans are being prepared by the Contractor's Architect. Councillors will receive the plans for consultation and residents that expressed an interest at the previous public consultation will also be contacted.

Clerk advised she had received an email from the C.A. Make-Over Team confirming they did require the £1000.00. set aside. It was agreed clerk would invite the Make-Over Team to a meeting to give an update and progress report.

Mr. Beg suggested to Councillors that they should claim expenses at the agreed rate of 40p. per mile for attending the meeting with S.G.C. on the 10th January 11.

Mr. Smith confirmed the Public Meeting for the Part Night Switch Off initiative would be a walk in event on the 23rd February in the Village Hall.

The minutes of the meeting dated 15th December 2010 were agreed a true record and signed.

NO 6. FINANCE. Mr. Symons gave a budget update. Councillors asked what the '137' payments related to. Mr. Symons confirmed the majority of the spend was for funding of the Youth Club.

To set rents for Cricket and Football Clubs. There was discussion as to why the rent for the Cricket Club was lower than for the Football Club. This was because the season was shorter and the Cricket Club cut the wicket and outfield, clerk advised that last season the Council's contractor had cut the outfield. It was agreed clerk would arrange a meeting with the Cricket Club to look and discuss costs/rent.

Rent for Football Club. A small increase of £10.00. was proposed to cover increase in maintenance costs. The rent for the coming 2011/12 season to be £430.00.

Rent for Allotments. After discussion it was agreed clerk would advise allotment holders when sending out requests for payment that as there had been no increase in the rent since before the current Council was elected in 2007 the rent would be increased to £10.00. per plot per annum. It would be up to successive Councils to discuss and decide future increases.

Budget for Pucklechurch News. It was agreed that Pucklechurch News is a valuable asset that should be supported. Councillors proposed the budget be increased to £1400.00. for the next financial year.

Quotation for Grass Cutting. Clerk had quotation for grass cutting for the 2011 season from Instant Landscapes. Main Playing field including strimming front of hall £126.00. per cut. Main playing field extra cut when needed £74.00. Strimming around posts, fencing and edge of field £46.00. per visit. St. Aldams Drive open space area £115.00. After discussion Councillors agreed to accept the quotation from Instant Landscapes.

Quotation for grass cutting in Burial Ground and cutting Burial Ground hedge. Clerk had received a quotation from Mr. D. Gay of £610.00. for cutting the grass in the Burial Ground for the 2011 season and a quotation of £470.00. for cutting the Beech hedge around the Burial Ground. Councillors agreed to accept the quotations but clerk to ask that the clippings from the Beech hedge are removed within one week of the completion of the work.

Review of Salaries. It was agreed that the clerk should be encouraged to claim for fuel at 40p mile for all journeys in connection with her work.

Salary for Mrs. Anna Sharpe to be increased to £178.00. per month.

To agree Precept requirement. Councillors discussed the possibility of needing extra funding for the Localism bill, Youth Club, employment of a Village Orderly (for say 4hrs week), Village Notice boards and possibly taking responsibility for the Community Centre car park as a facility for the village. Mr. Holder (declaring an interest) advised the hedge in the car park was cut annually and some remedial work/white lining to the tarmac may be necessary.

Mr. Smith expressed concern that there were not sufficient sports areas in the village; he also thought the Parish Council should adopt in principle the Community Centre car park. Mr Symons (declaring an interest as a Trustee) said he had no problem funding the C.A. for the upkeep of the car park but to consider adoption of it would need a review of the current lease.

Mr. Watson proposed a precept figure of £40,000.00. which equates to approximately £3.00. per household per month, seconded by Mr. Symons. Voting 5 in favour, 3 abstentions.

NO 7. PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION. PK10/3380/O land at Oaktree Avenue, Pucklechurch. Mrs. Palmer confirmed the new plans had been delivered together with a summary of actions since the meeting on 10th January 2011 and an updated design and access statement.

Following discussions it was proposed by Mr. Watson that the following reply be sent:

Thanks to Marie Bath for making sure Councillors had the revised plans in time for the meeting but advising they were disappointed not to see the section S106 agreement. Understandably Councillors did not feel they were in a position to make final comments until such time as they had seen the full S106 agreement and that they would expect the consultation for the development to be held open until such time as this was satisfied.

Notwithstanding the above they were in a position to give feedback on the latest information.

Councillors acknowledged the design was now acceptable but still had reservations about the 1.5 storey flats.

They noted the effort made to increase parking but were still concerned about the overall state of parking in the area resulting from the loss of the existing off street parking on Oaktree Avenue following the development.

£20,000. to provide a social car scheme to transport people to and from the proposed surgery in Oaktree Avenue. Councillors questioned why the funding was so closely linked to the doctor's surgery rather than as a general social car scheme for the village.

They were concerned that there were no comments from Wessex Water and would like confirmation that the Sewage Works in Redland Lane would be able to cope with the extra amount of sewage from the development.

Regarding nature conservation, notwithstanding South Gloucestershire Councils Ecologist having 'no problem' Councillors were concerned that based on the recommendations of Natural England and their own metrological data that this survey was carried out too quickly and not during the correct weather conditions.

Seconded by Mr. Smith, voting unanimous.

PK11/0052/TCA works to reduce and reshape 1no. Robina tree by 50% situated within the Pucklechurch Conservation Area, 17 Westerleigh Road. No objection.

PK11/0010/F installation of step lift platform on front elevation, 26 Parkfield Rank. No objection.

NO 8. MEMBERS MATTERS. Mr. Smith was concerned that there was graffiti on the sub-stations and asked if clerk would investigate the possibility of the Utility Company giving carte blanche permission for its removal.

8a) Mr. Smith agreed to email comments to clerk on the Nuclear Strategy consultation for submission.

8b) Mr. Smith expressed concern that two drains covers on Shortwood Road just past the bend on Police Station Hill were very low and a potential hazard for cyclists. Clerk to contact S.G.C.

8c) Mrs. Palmer said there were errors on the S.G. Core Strategy – Proposed Changes. Clerk to contact S.G.G. Spatial Planning Team.

8d) Mrs. Palmer reported that Mrs. Birk in the Village Store was being threatened with legal action if she didn't remove the wooden backboard behind the shop sign. She has had work carried out to improve the appearance of the sign and the wooden backboard is there because of damage to the brickwork behind the sign. Mrs. Birk cannot afford to have the brickwork put right and wonders if there is anything the Parish Council could do to help. After discussion it was agreed clerk would write to S.G.C. advising Councillors feel that perhaps a balance has to be struck in this case and that they would prefer the backboard remain than risk losing the shop.

8e) Mrs. Palmer suggested that a sub-committee be formed to help locate a new venue for the Post Office. Mrs. Palmer, Mr. Symons and Mr. Whittock agreed – a meeting to be arranged with Post Watch and other shop owners.

8f) Mrs. Palmer advised there was an application in the Post Office to file an area on Oaktree Avenue as a village green.

NO 9. REPORTS. Mr. Smith had attended the Joint Cycle Group Meeting he advised that due to cuts 'Cycling City' was going in March. The Government was to allocate a small amount of funding and S.G.C. was pushing to get the cycle/footpath between Pucklechurch and Emerson's Green to the top of list. S.G.C. may need the help of Parish Council in securing land on the corner of Police Station Hill.

Mr. Smith and Mr. Watson attended the 'Heart Start' meeting in the Village Hall, three possible options were discussed and a small team has been formed to take the initiative forward.

Mr. Watson reported he had attended the following meetings.

Strategic Partnership on the 6th Jan. 2011 as ALCA representative.

Parish Charter Meeting.

S.S.C.G. Chairman's meeting at S.G.C. Offices.

Prevent Implementation Strategy Meeting - ways of encouraging all communities to be aware of and look for signs of terrorists attack was discussed.

A.L.C.A. – management has changed completely there will now be 3 people from each of the Unitary authorities, all hold a portfolio and Malcolm's is finance. Control is much tighter, fees have been reduced and they hope to increase in membership.

NO 10. REVIEW OF LOG. A review of the log was carried out.

NO 11. CORRESPONDENCE. A consultation on School Term & Holiday dates was received. Mr. Beg agreed to respond on behalf of the Council.

NO 12. A letter and photograph taken before the recent work was carried out was received from Mr. Paul Hanney showing the wall between the new development and the Burial Ground. Clerk has also spoken to Mr. D. Gay as he has been cutting the grass in the Burial Ground for many years and he confirmed the section of wall in dispute was re-built with blocks by the previous owner some years before. It was agreed no further action could be taken.

NO 13. A letter was received from St. Thomas a Becket Church asking for financial help towards the upkeep of the Burial Ground. Councillors agreed a grant of £800.00. as the previous year.

NO 14. A report was received from S.G.C. Planning Enforcement reference activities at Meadow View, Shortwood Road.

NO 15. A letter was received from Pucklechurch Cricket Club they advise the roller on the recreation field belongs to the Football Club; the grass/soil left by the wall is not from the cricket square they think it's more likely to have come from the football goal mouths. They are in a dilemma as to what to do with the site screens as they cannot be dismantled. If the Council would allow the soil/grass to be put into the skip the Cricket Club would happily try to arrange for volunteers to move it. Action – clerk to arrange meeting.

NO 16. A report was received from S.G.C. Waste Management and Enforcement Officers regarding 1 Castle Road.

NO 17. An email was received from Mrs. English regarding the proposed Play Garden on St. Aldams Drive asking at what point local residents will be able to view the new proposal and where. Also regarding minutes of Parish Council Meeting 17th November 2010 point 8 footpath between the proposed doctor's surgery and St. Aldams Drive. Is the Council proposing a walkway at the end of St. Aldams Drive where there is at the moment a fence? Mrs English agrees that in theory this would be a good idea but she has reservations about the youths using it as a cut through for motorbikes and cycles. Clerk has replied that her concerns will be drawn to the attention of the Council and that there are no plans available at the moment for the Play Garden but that residents who left details at the public meeting will be contacted.

NO 18. An email was received from Gail Boyle regarding minutes of Parish Council Meeting 17th November 2010 item no 21 reference the proposed Play Garden on St. Aldams Drive open space asking at what point local residents will be able to view the new proposal and where. Clerk has replied.

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

Date of next meeting 16th February 2011 at 7.30pm.