

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD 19TH MARCH 2008 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, R. Symons, M.C. Smith, M.S. Watson, L.J. Whittock.

NO 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE. Cllr. S.E. Turley, Cllr. S. Grant.

NO 2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION. Mr. Beg invited Mr. C. Simpson to speak. Mr. Simpson said he wanted to make Councillors aware that Wessex Water had discovered a very old junction on the underground main in Feltham Road and were waiting for Bristol Water to fit new valves. Once the new valves have been fitted they will turn off the water and plan working through the night to complete the work in the road. The ditch along Feltham Rd has been dug out, up to the Dawson's property, where they were refused access, means they will have flooding. Mr. Simpson said there is still a problem of surcharging onto the road and his fields, and screened sewage is discharging into the brook. Mr Simpson said there is already an odour, this was concurred by Mr. Whittock. The work was programmed to be completed end of February but will probably now be end of April.

NO 3. LAW & ORDER. Mr. Whittock advised the residents on Eagle Crescent were having problems with youths playing football on the play area again. Clerk to contact the Police and South Gloucestershire Play Rangers to ask if they would be able to help. Mr. Watson thought this was something the Safer Stronger Community group may get involved with.

Councillors have noticed more lorry drivers coming off the Ring Road using mobile telephones.

NO 4. ARISING AND TO AGREE MINUTES. Unauthorised Shop Sign Londis Store, an email was received advising South Gloucestershire Enforcement team have written to the owner to give her a final 28days before legal proceeding commence for the removal of the sign. Councillors were disappointed that S.G.C. did not abide by their original decision.

Clerk confirmed she had raised concern with S.G.C. that stables have been erected on land next to Redford Lane.

Mr. Beg advised St. Thomas a Becket Church thanked Councillors for allowing them to have the donkeys on the recreation field on Palm Sunday for their special Baptism Celebration.

Mr. Watson confirmed Mrs. Broom would liaise with him reference the details for the lunch to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of Twinning, but he was concerned that he

may be expected to make a speech in French. Mr. Beg said that as Chairman of Parish Council it was his duty to make the speech.

Reference grant application for extension of railings on recreation field, Mr. Smith confirmed Revel has agreed to fund the 10% third party contribution. Mr. Smith has had concern raised that children are squeezing through the gap where the railings end and the post and rail fence begins on Hill View Rd. Mr. Holder suggested the railings be extended 18ft into Hill View Rd.

Mr. Beg said he not been able to contact A.L.C.A. regarding our membership. Councillors agreed to discuss this next month.

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

Mr. Watson asked if there were minutes of the extra meeting when the Gypsy/Traveller Consultation was discussed. Clerk read copy of Councillors reply to the consultation document.

NO 5. RESPONSE TO PUBLIC PARTICIPATION. Mr. Smith thanked Mr. Simpson and agreed to liaise with him and write to Wessex Water. Mr. Smith that regarding Mr. Dawson's property he understood Wessex were sorting things out. Mr. Smith asked if the Environment Agency had replied to our letter asking if they were happy for untreated sewage to be discharged into Feltham Brook for up to nine times per year. No reply has been received, clerk to contact Environment Agency.

NO 6. MEMBERS MATTERS. Mrs. Palmer was concerned that the surface of the pavement on Castle Road between Lansdown Road and the entrance to the recreation field was in a poor condition. The School Travel Plan is being updated and an improved surface would encourage walking/scooting to school. Clerk to contact S.G.C.

Mr. Watson advised that the Partridge Road and Hawkridge Drive name signs needed replacing/re-erecting.

Concern was raised that due to the traffic lights on Feltham Rd junction HGV/buses has damaged the grass verge and it will need to be reinstated.

Mr. Green said that at an Environment Group Meeting held in the Village Hall meeting room they discovered someone had locked the entrance doors. He is concerned that if there had been a fire there could have been a problem. He asked that the Community Association be made aware of the problem as Fire Exit doors should not be locked. Mr. Symons said one of the user groups must have locked the door and he would make the Community Association aware.

Mr. Symons advised there was no formal method of appointing a Village Hall Trustee and the Community Association will confirm soon who has been elected, the Social Club do not need planning consent to erect a canopy over the veranda.

Mr. Smith said there was a problem with litter in the village, Pucklechurch News has received two letters from residents raising concern. It was agreed this should be an agenda item for next months meeting also clerk to advise date for Spring Clean.

Mr. Whittock said the glass was broken in the telephone box, the post for the dog waste bin post needed replacing near The Star and the water on Hill View Road is coming off the recreation field. Mr. Whittock thanked Mr. Simpson for erecting two kissing gates and a seat on the footpath crossing his land.

Mr. Beg advised confusion with the new arrangements for waste collections. Approximately 20 houses on Shortwood Rd should have received letters about the new arrangements but did not and their black bins were not emptied, Mr. Beg contacted S.G.C. and the problem has now been rectified.

NO 7. REPORTS. Mr. Holder said that by the end of March the Community Plan questionnaires should all be entered on the data base ready for analysis.

Mr. Green had attended the Waste Management Meeting the Strategic Partnerships discussed the four stages of waste and recycling. Sita admitted they were having problems with the collection of some bins and the question of why crews had been given new rounds was discussed. People in flats are to be issued with blue bags for transporting their recycling down to the bins. The use of disposable nappies was discussed and it was agreed information about the alternative options should be made available.

Mr. Watson had attended the Boyd Valley Safer Stronger Community South Gloucestershire Group Meeting there was a degree of confusion as the meeting planned for Pucklechurch was supposed to have been a public meeting. Mr. Watson spoke to Michelle Dixon as he was concerned there was a shortage of time and space if it was taking place in the The Star conservatory. Inspector Thatcher agreed the group was not ready for a public meeting and a closed meeting took place. Sarah Turley volunteered to chair the Organising Committee with Malcolm as deputy. The group will liaise with others so as to channel information through to network. Clerk was given a copy of the Safer and Stronger Community Groups 'Terms of Reference'.

NO 8. PLANNING. The following applications were considered and observations made:

PK08/050/F installation of 3no front dormers, 19 Shortwood Hill. No objections.

PK06/2400/O and PK04/1965/O urban extension of 102 hect. Emersons Green East. Mrs Palmer explained the new plans referred to alterations in the number of dwellings and the employment element. Councillors noted the changes.

PK07/2755/VAR Bristol & Bath Science Park, Eamersons Green East area C West. This was a technical document relating to the variations to the environmental report. Noted.

NO 9. CORRESPONDENCE. A letter of thanks was received from South Gloucestershire Citizens Advice Bureau for the grant aid.

NO 10. A letter was received from a resident concerned at the number of trees being destroyed in the village and for what reason. The first trees were sited at the edge of the Industrial Estate near the turning area at the top of St. Aldams Drive. The other trees were at the edge of previous Crown property near the Social Club. The trees at the edge of previous Crown property were the Poplar trees felled in accordance with the recommendations of the arboricultural survey and report. Clerk to contact resident as Councillors are not aware of trees being removed on the edge of the Industrial Estate.

NO 11. A letter was received from S.G.C. regarding improving performance in determining planning applications and how Parish Councils can help by:

- Agreeing to receive consultations electronically.
- Confirming the email address and name of the key contacts(s) who should be consulted in the Council.
- Confirming we will aim to meet the 21 days target for all responses.
- Put in place contingency procedures (ie delegation arrangements) if the normal process for making a reply cannot be undertaken, perhaps because of holidays etc, to ensure the 21 day target is met.
- Agree that in exceptional cases where we consider we may be unable to make the 21 day target, we will advise the case officer in good time.

There will be an opportunity to discuss this further at the Parish Charter meeting on the 15th April. Mr. Holder said he was unable to attend the Parish Charter meeting as he has a previous engagement. Mr. Watson agreed to attend the meeting.

NO 12. An invitation was received from S.G.C. to the Bio-diversity Topic Group meeting at Severn Beach Primary School on 31st March at 7pm.

NO 13. A letter from Montague Harris, Solicitors, advised they are reviewing all of the title deeds they hold in safe custody. They confirm they are still holding deeds for Parish Council Deeds and notice that the property is not registered at the Land Registry. Historically this has not been a problem but since the introduction of the Land Registration Act 2002, the Land Registry has become much more critical about the quality of plans and now insist they are drawn to a prescribed scale, with a north point and various other criteria shown. It was agreed clerk would contact Montague Harris for an estimate of the cost involved.

NO 14. Notification was received that the RoSPA inspection of children's play equipment would be undertaken during April.

NO 15. Clerk expressed concern that a new litter bin was needed for Shortwood play area, also the lid on the dog waste bin was rusting. Councillors agreed to the replacement of both bins.

NO 16. An email from S.G.C. advised Abson Rd. is to be surfaced dressed this year from its junction with Lodge Road to Feltham Rd. The red speed warning markings will be replaced, also they will provide an edge of carriageway marking to help stop traffic over running on to the verge and if this is successful they will then arrange for the verge to be repaired back to its original condition. The litter in Redford Lane has been logged to their cleansing department.

NO 17. A letter from S.G.C. advised that in line with recent planning applications they have been asked to agree to the location of a cricket pitch on Lyde Green Common. The common is subject to a Scheme of Management made in 1910 which was at one time administered by Pucklechurch Parish Council, however this was handed back to Sodbury Rural District Council in 1972 and is presently the responsibility of S.G.C. Before a decision is made they would be pleased to receive comments on the proposal. Councillors agreed they had no objection the common being used for cricket as it will secure maintenance and recreational use of the land.

NO 18. A letter from Merlin Housing Society regarding retention of Warden for Dennisworth and Homefield Sheltered Housing advised the reason for their review is primarily due to the fact that they are no longer able to provide sufficient funds to maintain resident scheme managers as the Supporting People funding has been frozen by Central Government from April 2006. A review by Supporting People felt the service they provided to residents was not 'Value for money' or 'Strategically relevant' and they needed to provide recommendations on how they could meet the requirements whilst still delivering a good service. They believe the proposed Hub & Spoke model will deliver support to those that need it most.

NO 19. A letter was received from Pucklechurch Revel Committee requesting use of the recreation field for the Pram Race 19th June, Revel day 21st June and an area for parking for the Revel Beer Festival 18th June from midday until 22nd at 10.00. Mr. Smith declared an interest as he is Chair of Revel Committee. Councillors were happy to grant permission for the use of the recreation field for this year's Revel.

Another letter from Revel Committee thanked Parish Council for their support over the years and confirmed they were able to donate £8,100.00. last year. The money went directly back into village groups such as youth sports teams, playgroups, scouts, girl guiding, mums & minors etc. This years Revel parade will be judged by Geof Twentyman from BBC Radio Bristol who is sure to generate considerable interest locally as well as the surrounding area. Much of the fund raising is done directly by Revel but they also seek support from local businesses and organisations in the community. Any support the Parish Council could offer would be gratefully appreciated.

Mr. Smith declared an interest and took no part in the voting. In the past Parish Council has funded the arena events, this years arena events are the Bristol Samba £400.00., traditional Punch and Judy £150.00. and Giant Childrens Games £300.00. Mr. Holder proposed a grant of £900.00. voting unanimous.

NO 20. A letter from C.P.R.E. advised the report on the Regional Spatial Strategy has been published and with it the proposed figures and sites for development in the area. Branch plans for 2008 will be centred around the RSS and they will launch a campaign linked with the protection of the Green Belt. A consultation period will start in early summer 2008 after the Secretary of State has had an opportunity to propose changes.

NO 21. A letter from Community Action thanked Councillors for their support in 2007 and invited them to renew membership. Mr. Holder declared an interest. Councillors agreed to renew their membership £20.00.

NO 22. A request for financial help was received from W.R.V.S. This request did not meet Parish Council criteria therefore they were unable to offer support.

NO 23. A letter from South Gloucestershire Heritage Forum invited renewal of membership. Councillors agreed to renew membership £10.00.

NO 24. A letter from S.G.C. advised new Parking Enforcement. Clerk to circulate information.

NO 25. A letter from S.G.C. asked if Parish Council wished to comment on the Draft Community Profiles consultation. Clerk to confirm document has been circulated and no comments raised.

NO 26. Clerk advised she has received an email from Revel Committee asking to be allowed to erect temporary signs/posters to advertise Revel week on the road signs at the entry to the village. The signs would be professionally produced and be attached on the posts below the permanent sign, they would be put in place early June and removed at the end of Revel. As these signs would be on the highway clerk has written to S.G.C. for permission and is awaiting a reply.

NO 27. An invitation was received from C.P.R.E. to enter the Village of the Year competition. Councillors agreed they would like to enter.

NO 28. Mr. Beg asked clerk to check dates for Annual Parish Meeting and email Councillors.

NO 29. Clerk had contract from Cory Environmental Trust for the funding towards the cost of extending the bow top fencing on the recreation field. The contract was signed and witnessed by the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Clerk. Clerk advised there could be an increase in the cost of the fencing material as the quotation was dated 24.8.07. she will email Councillors when the information was available.

NO 30. FINANCE. Clerk had quotation for grass cutting for the coming season from Instant Landscapes. Contractor explained he has had to increase prices by approximately 5% to cover fuel increases over the last two years. Councillors were concerned that this increase would effect budgeting as precept had only been increased by inflation 3.5%. It was agreed clerk would contact the contractor explain the position and ask if he could adjust his quotation in line with inflation. Councillors have been very pleased with his work and would like to retain his services.

Mr. Whittock and Clerk had looked at the possibility of creating an extra four plots on the Allotments. This would involve removing old fencing and posts from one plot and digging up and replanting a number of trees and then rotovating the whole area ready for cultivation. Clerk had asked Wizzard Landscapes for a quotation for this work £1140.00. plus VAT. Councillors were unable to agree to this work as it has not been budgeted for.

The following cheques were agreed for payment and signed. Greenman Environmental Management £1135.05. tree works on land opposite Birch Drive. P.C.A. £84.50. 3 Parish Council Meetings, 1 drop in and 1 public meeting reference proposed Composting Facility. Ensign Print £196.00. Pucklechurch News. Brandon Trust £56.00. printing proposed Composting Facility. Mr. Smith £50.91. expenses relating to Parish Council and Community Plan. B.T.C.V. membership £35.00. Mr. & Mrs. Hall £90.00. rent for Shortwood Play Area. Community Action £20.00. membership. South Gloucestershire Heritage Forum £10.00. membership. Town & Country Services £203.98. supply of 2ton top soil for levelling in Burial Ground. Supplying and spreading ½ ton top soil to fill ruts on recreation field, sowing grass seed and supply new post to repair fence on verge outside village hall. Mrs. A Sharpe £125.00. salary. Mrs. D. Bailey £1022.26. being salary £310.66. plus stamps £6.60. plus hire of Homefield Centre for extra meeting £5.00. plus annual expenses £700.00.

Mr. Beg said that reference the proposed Composting Facility he would like to thank everyone and particularly Mr Smith and Mr Holder, for all they did to ensure we achieved the right result for the village.

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

Date of Next Meeting. 16th April 08 at 6.45pm.