

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY 19TH NOVEMBER 2008 IN THE MEETING ROOM, PUCKLECHURCH COMMUNITY CENTRE, ABSON ROAD.

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

Mr. Holder opened the meeting with a welcome explaining the Chairman was unable to attend as his wife was in hospital.

NO 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE. O.A. Beg Chairman, R. Symons.

NO 2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION. None.

NO 3. LAW & ORDER. Councillors were concerned to hear of several break-ins in the village. Clerk to email P.C. Skelton and ask to be informed what was happening. Councillors would like to be able to make residents aware of any problems locally as it may make them more safety conscious. It was agreed clerk would ask for a monthly crime report that could be included on the Web Site.

NO 4. ARISINGS. Clerk had received emails from residents in St. Aldams Drive pleased that the Council had decided to prune the leylandii hedge. Two residents however expressed concern that P.C. Skelton had indicated he was unaware of any problems at The Club. The Club has been a constant concern to residents and in early July a resident had spoken to P.C. Skelton and given him details, he in turn had promised to visit to discuss the matter. The resident had stayed in all day but P.C. Skelton did not attend. It was agreed clerk would write to Inspector Thatcher, enclosing copies of the emails asking him to investigate the allegations against The Club and advise what action is being taken. Clerk also to send copies to South Gloucestershire Council's Licensing Authority.

Councillors confirmed the rotten posts on the verge on Abson Road had been replaced, the tyres near the Crematorium removed and the damaged dog waste bin replaced.

Mr. Smith advised the turning on of the Christmas Tree lighting event was to take place on the 30th November at 4.30pm. He confirmed the conditions implemented by S.G.C. to allow the event to be held on the open space land behind the Millennium Stone had been met. Clerk confirmed the electrics had been checked, water had been seeping into the control box and causing the trip to blow, a water proof gland has been replaced but it may be necessary to replace the box.

Mr. Holder and Mr. Whittock said St. Thomas a Becket Church had been full for the Remembrance Day Service.

The minutes of the meeting dated 15th October 2008 were agreed a true record and signed.

NO 5. MEMBERS MATTERS. Mr. Smith said he had been on a history walk and discovered the recreation field used to be called 'The Burrow' and he wondered about renaming it. It was agreed to consult residents via the web site and Pucklechurch News.

Mr Smith has had concern raised about rubble outside the cottage on the end of Castle Road. Clerk to contact S.G.C.

Mr. Smith has had concern raised about an increase in the deer activity.

The Editors of Pucklechurch News would like to go to full colour for the December edition as it include photographs from the Revel Competition. This will create an overspend of £83.00. Councillors agreed to fund the extra cost for this edition.

The Community Plan had identified a lack of awareness of the role of the Parish Council. Mr. Smith had prepared a draft information leaflet for consideration that could be given to residents. It was agreed this should be an agenda item for next month.

Mr. Green said he had recently taken the bus from Pucklechurch to Shortwood, the bus was a bit late but the driver had driven much too fast for the comfort and safety of passengers. As he got off the bus he asked the driver to slow down, he also telephoned Wessex Connect who agreed to contact the driver. It was agreed clerk would write to S.G.C. Transport about the incident advising Councillors appreciate the need to make up time but believe safety should be the first consideration.

Mr. Watson expressed concern about the number of seagulls over the landfill site at Shortwood and also about the amount of mud tracking from Cattybrook Road to the Ring Road. Clerk to contact Cory Environmental.

Mr. Watson said there were bare branches protruding from the hedge on Police Station Hill which could scratch cars. Clerk to contact S.G.C. Highways Department.

Mr. Watson reported flooding on the bend at the bottom of Abson Hill he is concerned it is a regular occurrence. Clerk to write to S.G.C.

Mrs. Palmer expressed concern that the grass on the football pitch on the recreation field was long and bumpy. Mr. Whittock said it had not been rolled this season. Clerk said she had received a call asking if the grass could be cut once more. Councillors agreed clerk should contact the Contractor and ask if it would be possible for the recreation field to be cut once more.

Mr. Whittock mentioned how large the Shortwood Landfill Site has become. Councillors wondered about the possibility of a site visit. Clerk to contact Cory Environmental.

VILLAGE HALL MAKE OVER. Mr. Symons had emailed minutes of the 1st meeting held 14th October 08 and Project Governance information to Councillors. After

discussion it was agreed clerk would write to Mr. Symons advising Councillors were concerned the project governance was too complicated and suggest the Project Group should be given clear remit to do their job. Mr. Holder asked that the need to provide regular income/support towards the running costs of the Village Hall be discussed as an agenda item next month.

NO 6. REPORTS. Mrs. Palmer advised the C.P.R.E. AGM had been held in the Village Hall, it had been well attended with an interesting expert speaking on flooding.

Mr. Smith said the clerk had given him a consultation/report reference the next phase to generate energy from the methane being produced at the Shortwood Landfill Site. He suggested it could be useful to discuss/receive some insight into the report after the proposed site visit.

Mr. Holder had attended the Gypsy and Traveller Site Options Document meeting. South Gloucestershire Council was under pressure from the Government to provide 53 permanent and 23 transit sites. S.G.C. is carrying out a further consultation on the Towards Preferred Options stage of the plan and Councillors were given copies of the guide.

NO 7. BRANDY BOTTOM COLLIERY. It was established during the recent visit that the owners wanted to dispose of the site and it had been suggested the Parish Council may like to be involved in preserving it. After discussion it was agreed clerk would contact Steve Grudgings confirming Parish Council's interest in saving the site and advising they would need guidance as to the best way forward.

NO 8. LYDE GREEN COMMON. Clerk confirmed Solicitor has registered Parish Councils objection to title being granted to Norft Ltd. and requested a copy of the application and any supporting documents. After discussion it was agreed to reply Parish Council has documentary evidence that in the 1970's they had oversight responsibility for the land and that since there has been no transfer of responsibility, by default, could they claim title to the land.

NO 9. CORRESPONDENCE. A letter was received from First Step Homes thanking the Parish Council for the opportunity of speaking at the last meeting and hoping they had explained adequately the aims and objectives of the Company and they would be interested to receive comments. Clerk confirmed Councils comments had been sent.

NO 10. A letter was received from Mr. Simpson advising his hedge has been cut on both sides every year, it was his intention to lay the hedge when it was right because it is thin in the bottom but unless farming income improves it will not be possible as it is a very expensive operation. It was agreed clerk would send copy of the letter to the resident that raised the concern.

NO 11. An invitation was received to the Avonside CPRE AGM on 22nd November at Poole Court.

NO 12. The minutes of the Biodiversity Topic Group Meeting were available.

NO 13. Information/funding for Childrens Play Link will be circulated.

NO 14. An email was received from Mr. Bezer with a proposal to increase income to benefit the Village Hall. He would like the Council to support him in proposing that the Club rents him on an ongoing monthly basis a section of the car park for a food outlet. Councillors were unclear as to exactly what Mr. Bezer was proposing but advised that in the first instance the proposal should be taken up with the Community Association as they are responsible for the car park. Advice should also be taken from the Licensing Authority as any food outlet would need permission.

NO 15. A letter was received from S.G.C. Planning Enforcement Team regarding the Congregation Church Site advising they have made enquiries to the owners agent and confirming a pre-application (EK.08/1254) has been submitted to develop the site. The Planning Department is currently experiencing a significant increase in the number of applications and pre-application enquiries and it may be 4 - 6 months before a decision on the site is made. The agent has been informed that a complaint has been received as to the untidy condition of the site and they will inform the owner. In view of the circumstances the Planning Enforcement team will not pursue this matter further.

NO 16. A letter from S.G.C. advised that over the next few weeks they will be taking the final steps in implementing a new planning and building control IT system. Every effort has been made to plan this major project in a way which should result in no or at most minimal disruption to customers.

NO 17. FINANCE. Councillors received an update of the budget.

Clerk confirmed the audit of the accounts to 31st March 2008 was complete and that the accounts had to be displayed for 14days and the electorate advised they could inspect and make copies.

The following cheques were agreed for payment and signed. Greenman Environmental Management £1005.80. trimming leylandii hedge at St. Aldams Drive. Barry King Contractor £750.00. grant for installation of ramp to Scout Hut. B.T. Payment Services £77.51. internet services. A.S. Hall & Son £305.50. maintenance of Shortwood Play Area. Queensbury Shelters Ltd £1099.47. refurbishment of Abson Road shelter and one panel in shelter on Maple Walk. Mazars £334.99. External Auditor. Mrs. A. Sharpe £125.00. Mrs. D. Bailey £364.98. salary £310.66. + stamps £4.32. + tel. £30.00. + £20.00. Poppy wreath for Remembrance Day Service.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed.
Date of Next Meeting. 17th December at 7.30pm.

