

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD 19TH SEPTEMBER 2007 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, M.S. Watson, L.J. Whittock.

Mr. Beg opened the meeting thanking Mrs. Palmer for chairing the August Meeting and Councillors for their work.

NO 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE. Cllr. S. Grant.

NO 2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION. Mr. Mail was invited to speak he thanked the Council for dealing with his letter promptly. He confirmed Mr. Watson had meet with him to discuss issues. Mr. Mail said he had received a reply from South Gloucestershire Council but he thought it was because the clerk had prompted them following his telephone call.

S.G.C. had replied advising kerbed carriage ways were swept on a cyclical basis currently working on a 7–8 week cycle. Mr. Mail suggested it would be helpful for St. Aldams Drive and Becket Court to be swept early in the morning so as to avoid parked cars.

Gullies are attended to, again on a cyclical basis. Reports of flooding issues are investigated and action taken as necessary by the Area Teams.

On the whole roadside ditches are the responsibility of adjacent land owners, but with reports of specific problems S.G.C. will work with the land owner and get the ditches cleared on their behalf.

The request for ‘speeding bars’ has been passed to Traffic Management who will respond in due course.

The damaged drain outside no 11 and 13 Shortwood Rd. had been logged and will be dealt with.

Following all tarmacing projects drains are retested to ensure they still operate sufficiently.

The report of the poor state of the Becket Court to Shortwood Road footpath has been logged and will be dealt with in due course.

Mr. Mail is concerned that no work has taken place to improve this footpath, he was also concerned about the grassed area adjacent to the footpath that was sometimes not cut but recently had been cut three times in four days.

Mr. Beg confirmed he had seen two people investigating the drain on Shortwood Rd. and thought it would soon be repaired.

Mr. Mails was concerned about the prison parking in Becket Court and St. Aldams Drive and wondered if the area could be made 'Residents Parking Only'

He also expressed concern about the amount vandalism happening in Becket Court.

Mr. Mail asked if the Parish Council would allow a plaque to be erected somewhere in memory of the late Brian Budding. Mr. Budding had worked for the Prison Authority and had been a member of the Parish Council. Councillors said a memorial seat with a plaque was acceptable but they did not encourage the erection of plaques on their own. Mr. Mail said he agreed with suggestion and would speak to the Prison Authority and ask if they would provide a memorial seat.

NO 3. LAW & ORDER. Clerk advised she had received a telephone call from P.C. Chris Skelton asking to be informed of any problems in the village.

NO 4. ARISINGS. Mr. Watson said the sign at the top of Oaktree Ave was still hidden by the hedge and thanked Mr. Whittock for his quick action at removing the low branch on the Willow Tree.

Councillors confirmed they met with Western Power Distribution, Mr. Morgan had explained the criteria for changing lines to a different type of cable system, ie 1 line instead of 4 or placing them underground, was taken for health and safety not environmental reasons.

Mr. Morgan thought it should be possible on the grounds of safety to place the 4 overhead cables to St. Thomas A Becket underground. It would be necessary for the Church to fund the cost of digging a trench between the West Door and the gate for the cable but Western Power would cover all other costs.

Mr. Watson suggested Council look into the cost of hiring a mini digger to dig a trench along side the existing path.

Mr. Morgan had suggested he would like to replace the metal pole between 2 Westerleigh Rd and 1 Abson Rd with a wooden one. Mrs. Palmer had explained a resident was experiencing difficulty negotiating the pole with her wheelchair and Mr. Morgan said this information was very useful and would help him justify changing the pole.

The problem of mini power cuts on the Estate was discussed, it appears the Estate is on the edge of the Pucklechurch Loop and is vulnerable. Councillors agreed the site visit had been very useful.

The minutes of the meeting dated 15th August 2007 were agreed a true records and signed.

NO 5. RESPONSE TO PUBLIC PARTICIPATION. Councillors were concerned about grass cutting as complaints about other areas in the village had also been received. Concern had also been made that the base of trees had been sprayed with weed killer. It was agreed clerk would contact S.G.C. and request a meeting to discuss problems.

Mr. Smith asked Mr. Mail if he would write to The Editor of Pucklechurch News about the vandalism as the community as a whole needed to be made aware. Also a meeting was to take place in the Village Hall on Tuesday 25th September to discuss the possibility of introducing of a 'Good Neighbour Scheme'

NO 6. MEMBERS MATTERS. Mrs. Turley advised that pig manure had been spread on fields in the village, the smell had been horrendous lasting for days and she was concerned there was more to be spread. Mr. Whittock said he had contacted S.G.C. Air Pollution and been told they would visit and resolve the problem. Mrs. Turley said the manure was obtained from the Slaughter House and was healthier and better for the land than chemicals but should have been ploughed in within the hour. Mr. Holder proposed a letter be sent to the Environment Agency telling them when and how long the smell had lasted and request they contact the farmer with advice on the best way to spread the manure to cause minimum effect on neighbours. A copy of the letter to be sent to the farmer.

Mr. Watson said the road name signs Goldfinch Way and Partridge Rd were loose and needed re-concreting.

Mr. Watson said the resident concerned about the grass cutting in the Burial Ground was delighted in the change, the problem has gone away.

Mr. Watson reported potholes on the junction of Feltham Rd./Abson Rd. he said the surface of Abson Rd is appalling and the red tarmac is eroding. Clerk to write to S.G.C.

Mr. Green said he had been to look at the plans for the proposed development of Emerson's Green East and had noticed Sainsbury's were planning to extend and is concerned extending will further reduce car parking.

Mr. Symons asked if the music festival at Dyrham Park had caused any problems. Mrs. Palmer said some villages had been affected but not Pucklechurch.

Mr. Whittock said a balloon had landed on the recreation field and he had been asked to open the gate key to allow it to be retrieved. Mr. Holder suggested Councillors consider introducing a policy to deal with this situation should it arise again. Item to be included on next months agenda.

NO 7. REPORTS. Mr. Whittock attended the Forest of Avon Link Group Meeting. Concern had been expressed that traffic generated from the new shopping complex to be opened in Longwell Green may have an impact on traffic on the Ring Road. The Forest of Avon has planted four new woodlands in the area.

Mr. Smith said letters have been sent to Wessex Water and the Environment Agency about the proposed work in Feltham Road.

An email has been sent to S.G.C. and the following response to questions received.

Flooding

Shortwood Rd to Siston junction, this had been reported by Parish Council but not witnessed by S.G.C. and will be investigated under rainfall conditions.

Shortwood Rd to village centre, highway drainage investigation was undertaken and 2 repairs carried out 6months ago, with subsequent monitoring undertaken.

Feltham Rd recent cleansing of highway drainage by bridge, also gully connection repair on junction with Abson Rd was carried out.

Manholes Village Hall recent investigation revealed highway drainage to be obstructed. This was cleared in the spring.

South Gloucestershire Council has no computer records but has offered to let Councillors look at maps. Mr. Smith confirmed he would look at maps but was very busy at the moment.

Mr. Holder said help was needed with processing data for the Community Plan and he would be grateful to be put in touch with anyone that could help.

NO 8. MINUTES & AGENDA. Mr. Holder asked Councillors to consider receiving minutes and agenda electronically. After discussion it was agreed clerk would email Councillors with the exception of Mr. Whittock and Mrs. Palmer who will receive printed copies.

NO 9. GYPSY/TRAVELLER PROVISION CONSULTATION. There was extensive discussion on this subject. It was agreed the Chairman would summarise the discussions for next months meeting.

NO 10. QUESTIONNAIRE ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING POLICY. The questionnaire was completed.

NO 11. CONSULTATION PROPOSED TRAFFIC SIGNAL JUNCTION WESTERLEIGH RD/SHORTHILL RD CROSSROADS. Councillors agreed to support the proposal.

NO 12. PLANNING. The following applications were considered and observations made. PK07/2587/LB Installation of 5no roof light. Internal alterations to include the removal of concrete block partitions at ground floor level and timber stud partitions at first floor level. Erection of new internal walls and insertion of doorway to create wet room. 1 Abson Rd., Pucklechurch. After discussion Councillors agreed they had no objection in principle to the application but were concerned the proposed roof light in the front elevation could spoil the appearance of the listed building.

PK07/2523/F Change of use of land from grazing to residential land for stationing of 2no gypsy caravans and creation of access track. (Retrospective Application) The Meadows, Parkfield, Pucklechurch. Councillors objected to this application as it is in the green belt and inappropriate, plus they did not consider the reasons given by the applicant constituted very special circumstances. Clerk to ask why S.G.C. accepted this application as Councillors can see no material difference.

PK07/2521/F Erection of rear conservatory. 27 Castle Rd., Pucklechurch. Councillors did not comment on this application as the S.G.C. web site confirmed a decision had already been made.

PK07/2688/TCA Works to fell 1no Pine tree and 1 no. Cupressus tree both situated in the Pucklechurch Conservation Area, 13 Shortwood Rd. Pucklechurch. Mr. Beg declared an interest, the property belonging to his neighbour, and took no part in the discussions. Councillors had no objection.

PK07/2686/TCA Works to reduce crown of 1no Walnut tree by 30% and remove deadwood and crossing branches and PK07/2706/TCA works to reduce by 30% Hazelnut tree situated in the Pucklechurch Conservation Area, 9 Shortwood Road. Mr. Beg declared an interest, the property belonging to his neighbour. Councillors had no objection to these applications.

PK07/2755/VAR Modification of Section 106 Agreement dated 22nd March 2000 attached to planning permission P95/4605 to enable development of the site to take place in the context of a revised masterplan, supported by an Environmental Statement. Bristol & Bath Science Park, Emersons Green East area C West. This application was to modify the S106 agreement. Councillors were unable to comment.

PK07/2780/F Erection of single storey modular building to form additional classrooms, HMP & YOI Ashfield, Shortwood Rd., Pucklechurch. Councillors had no objection to the proposed extra buildings in the secure area but were concerned that the additional classrooms would necessitate the need for extra staff with additional need for car parking spaces.

PK07/2818/F Erection of rear conservatory, 50 Homefield Rd., Pucklechurch. No objection.

Notice of an appeal against Enforcement Notice 47 Partridge Rd., Pucklechurch was received. Clerk to confirm Parish Council support South Gloucestershire Councils actions.

Mr. Holder raised awareness of a caravan being parked in the front garden of a property in Cedar Way.

NO 13. CORRESPONDENCE. An invitation was received to Village of the Year 2007 Award Ceremony on the 24th November at 11am. Mr. Whittock confirmed he would be attending.

NO 14. A letter was received from Joint Health Scrutiny Committee regarding proposals for Orchard View.

NO 15. A letter was received from Department of Health addressing concerns raised in Parish Councils letter to Alan Johnson MP dated 23rd July 07.

NO 16. A letter from S.G.C. confirmed the concerns raised about the installation of a concrete slab at 19 Shortwood Hill, would be investigated.

NO 17. An invitation was received to attend the NALC Conference in Bournemouth 5-7th October 07.

NO 18. An invitation was received to South Gloucestershire 2026 Parish & Town Council consultation on the 26th September 7.30 –9pm at Ridgewood Centre.

NO 19. An invitation was received to Community Action A.G.M. 19th October at 2.30pm Long Ashton Community Centre. Mr. Whittock and Mr Holder confirmed they would attend.

NO 20. A letter from Insp. Krouwel Avon & Somerset Constabulary confirmed P.C. Skelton had telephoned Mr.Broad regarding his complaint about motor-cycles. P.C. Skelton and PCSO Rowland paid regular attention to this area, although they have not as yet caught the offender. Insp. Krouwel advised he had emailed an article to the editor of Pucklechurch News using the address given, he heard nothing and had presumed it was okay. Mr. Smith said unfortunately Insp. Krouwel had miss-spelt the address but confirmed the article has been received and will be include it in the next edition.

NO 21. A reply was received from S.G.C. advising they share Parish Councils disappointment that the Appeal on the site The Meadows, Shortwood Road was successful and confirmed they will ensure the conditions imposed by the Inspector are monitored and will investigate and take any action appropriate should they become aware of any breach.

NO 22. A request was received from Pucklechurch Sport A.F.C. for the use of the recreation field for the coming 2007/8 season. The 1st and reserve teams would use the main pitch on Saturday afternoons and for some evening fixtures and the youth teams would use the pitch on Sunday afternoons. The younger teams would use the small pitch by the Oak Tree on Sunday mornings. Councillors were happy to grant permission, Mr. Holder proposed £400.00. rent for this season. Seconded by Mr. Green, all agreed.

NO 23. A letter from Cornhill Insurance Plc acknowledging receipt of the first Tree Report said they trust any necessary remedial work will be carried out and trees monitored in line with the report.

NO 24. An invitation was received to CVS South Gloucestershire AGM on 10th Oct. 9.45 – 10.15m at Turnberrie's, Bath Rd., Thornbury.

NO 25. A copy of South Gloucestershire Councils reply to Mr. Mail was received.

NO 26. A request for funding was received from St. Thomas a Becket Church to help with the cost of thinning the canopy by 25% and cutting back overhanging branches of Horse Chestnut and Sycamore trees adjacent to and overhanging the neighbouring garage. Quotations have been obtained and the cost of the work is £320.00. plus VAT per tree. Mr. Beg and Mr Holder declared an interest and took no part in the discussions. After discussion it was proposed by Mrs. Palmer that the annual grant towards the upkeep of the Churchyard be increased due the extra expenditure to

£1000.00. seconded by Mr. Watson. It was further agreed that the grant should be paid 1st November 07 rather than end of January 08. All that voted agreed.

NO 27. FINANCE. Mr. Holder said the clerk with the help of Mr. Symons now has finance on excel and he explained the projected figures to end of March 2008.

The following cheques were agreed for payment and signed. Town & Country Services £133.95. skip changeover in Burial Ground. Pucklechurch Community Association £33.00. use of meeting room for 2 Parish Council meetings and 1 Parish Plan meeting. S.G.C. £105.40 maintenance of dog bins St. Aldams Drive 1st April – 31st Sept. Glasdon UK Ltd. £79.27. 3 boxes of black bags. Instant Landscapes £1297.20. grass cutting. Mrs. A. Sharpe £115.50. D. Bailey £299.10. being salary £294.00. + £5.10. stamps. Ensign Print £220.00. Pucklechurch News. D.W. Parsons £3986.00. being balance owing for supply and installation of Railings on Recreation Field and repairs to post and rail fencing (this figure includes £966.00. VAT as Contractor has reached threshold and has had to register). Clerk confirmed two cheques were paid on 30th August The Brandon Trust £135.60. British Telecom £77.51. broadband connection.

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

Date of next meeting 17th October 2007 at 7.30pm.