

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 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, M.S. Watson, L.J. Whittock.

Mr. Holder chaired the meeting in the absence of the Chairman.

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

Cllr S. Grant.

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

**NO 3. LAW & ORDER.** Mr. Watson confirmed numerous complaints about the problems on the play area at Eagle Crescent had been made to the Police by residents of Partridge Road. He was surprised by P.C. Skelton, with his local knowledge as Beat Manager, had not made the connection and disappointed nothing has been followed up. It was agreed clerk would write to P.C. Skelton expressing concern.

**NO 4. ARISINGS.** Street light on Shortwood Road clerk said S.G.C. had checked the light and advised there was nothing wrong with it. Councillors were still receiving complaints because of the brightness.

Mr. Holder, Mr. Whittock and the clerk carried out an inspection of the allotments. The gardens with the exception of one or two plots (the owners of these have contacted) are tidy and productive.

We are awaiting a reply from Wessex Water regarding the problem with the CSO in Feltham Rd. Clerk to contact them and also ask how many times the CSO has worked.

The minutes of the meeting dated 16<sup>th</sup> July 08 were agreed a true record and signed.

**NO 5. MEMBERS MATTERS.** Mr. Smith said he had identified two companies offering pay-as-you-go internet access that may suitable for Parish Council use.

Mr. Smith has received positive feed back regarding the Bow Top Railings on the recreation field.

The Revel was well attended and has also received positive feed back.

The sewer still has no protection but the possibility of anyone being injured is unlikely.

Mr. Green advised rubbish had been dumped twice in a week at the top of Shortwood Hill.

Mrs. Palmer advised the deadline for commenting on the revised Rural Spatial Strategy document has been extended to 24<sup>th</sup> October 08. The Secretary of State has increased the proposed number of houses from 6000 to 8000 which means they will be coming closer to Pucklechurch and we need to communicate the information to residents. Steve Webb M.P. has booked the Village Hall for a Public Meeting 23<sup>rd</sup> September at 7.30pm, it is important that Councillors are at the meeting.

Mrs. Palmer asked for feed back from the Shortwood Landfill Site liaison meeting. Clerk confirmed she had spoken to the resident concerned about seagulls and passed on contact details for the Site Manager. Mr. Green and clerk had attended the liaison meeting in May and the next one is in September.

Mr. Holder reported a rotten fence post on Hill View, he was also concerned that the grass cutting on the verges etc. is not being carried out very well.

**NO 6. REPORTS.** None.

**NO 7. QUALITY STATUS.** Mr. holder said he and the clerk have agreed to go page by page through the handbook, quality status rests on the clerk and the extra amount of work required needs to be checked.

**NO 8. PLANNING APPLICATIONS.** PK08/2261/F change of use of land from agricultural to land for the keeping of horses. Erection of stables, manure bins and associated works, 19 Shortwood Hill. Councillors objected to this application as there is insufficient land to support the number of horses.

PK08/2304/F installation of 2no. conservation roof windows to south east elevation, Old School House, Westerleigh Rd. Mr. Holder and Mr. Smith declared an interest. There were no objections raised.

PK08/2278/F demolition of existing buildings and redevelopment of the site to provide two blocks for commercial/industrial use (Class B1 (c), B2, B8) with ancillary office space, car parking, landscaping and associated works. Erection of 5.24m high boundary fence. (Resubmission of PK08/0418/F). Units 22-27 (formerly known as Units 4A-5) Pucklechurch Trading Estate. Councillors had no objection to his application considering it to be better for the community than the existing permission. However, they felt there should be a restriction on the number of hours worked on Saturdays and Bank Holidays and that reversing vehicles should be fitted with lower effect audible warning systems.

**NO 9. CORRESPONDENCE.** A letter of thanks was received from Mrs Goodchild for the grant towards the Summer Play Scheme.

**NO 10.** A reply was received from the Planning Inspectorate regarding the Gypsy Site at Shortwood Road. The content of our letter has been noted, but the Inspectors decision is

final, the decision could only have been reviewed following a successful High Court challenge. The Inspector's role at the time was to consider the evidence submitted by all the parties, in writing and at the inquiry, and reach his decision based purely on planning grounds and in accordance with local and national policy. The Inspector accepted that the development was inappropriate in the green belt but he was required to consider whether there were any very special circumstances applicable. The absence of a suitable alternative site and the Council's shortfall in gypsy site provision were crucial factors in the decision, along with the fact that a private site would ease the pressure on the Council.

**NO 11.** An invitation was received to the Biodiversity Topic Group Meeting 23<sup>rd</sup> September at 7.30pm in the Jubilee Centre, Bradley Stoke.

**NO 12.** A letter was received from S.G. Senior Citizens Forum requesting grant aid to help support their work on behalf of older people. Mrs. Palmer proposed a grant of £50.00., seconded by Mr. Whittock, all agreed.

**NO 13.** An email from Yate Town Council advised they had expressed an interest in serving on the Public Rights of Way Liaison Group and, with agreement, would be willing to represent all Town and Parish Councils within South Gloucestershire. Clerk has confirmed agreement.

**NO 14.** A letter was received from Mrs. S. Hall regarding the problems she has with flooding at the Post Office. Over the last three to four years she has been in contact with S.G.C. and although they have listened and acted upon her requests, the measures taken have either not been enough or in the case of the floodguard they provided, not entirely practical. The whole problem has made life for her and her husband very difficult, the floodguard does work, providing they are in the property at the time. When they are away of holiday they have to arrange with friends or staff to cover the situation. She was told by Council Officials two years ago that the main problem, apart from the size of the drainage pipework, was the lack of suitable drainage outlets in Shortwood Road being able to cope with all the infill building over the last twenty five years or so. Their property including the Post Office is up for sale, as a private property the problem could be easily solved by blocking up the front door but as a commercial property it is regulated by Health & Safety rules and regulations and they are unable to proceed in this direction. Mrs. Hall is asking the Parish Council for help in lobbying S.G.C. to try to resolve the problem. Councillors are very concerned about flooding in the centre of the village, on several occasions water has been gushing from a manhole in the pavement on Abson Road also the Fleur de Lys recently experienced flooding. It was agreed clerk would write to S.G.C. highlighting the problems and asking for them to be investigated.

**NO 15.** A letter was read from Pucklechurch Sports Football Club asking for permission to use the pitches on the recreation field for matches for this coming season 08/09. Councillors were happy to grant permission, the rent to be £416.00.

**NO 16. FINANCE.** To discuss funding for disabled ramp to Scout Hut. Concern was raised that sufficient information has not been provided as to what standard the path will be finished ie. gradient and surface material. It was agreed clerk would contact Mr. Dennehy advising Councillors are sympathetic but require more detail.

To discuss quotation for repairs to play equipment following RoSPA Safety Report. Clerk had looked at recommended repairs with S.J. Aplin and asked them to provide a quotation. During the site visit to Castle Road Mr. Aplin noticed vandalism had been caused to the top bar on the new 2bay swing unit. Mr. Aplin has repaired the top bar but recommends all three joints are welded to prevent further damage. The RoSPA report recommended replacing the bolt and pear drop fittings on the 12ft swing with shackles. Mr. Aplin suggests that as sections have already been cut out and replaced on two of the legs provision should be made to replace them. The Roller Barrel needs monitoring and the Seesaw is identified as 'High Risk' because of the open mechanism and concrete base. Mr. Aplin has quoted to refurbish the Roller Barrel but recommends the seesaw is removed as it would be very difficult to fit an adaptive skirt to cover the mechanism. It was agreed to accept Mr. Aplin's quotation as follows: Castle Road – Rebond loose safety tiles and fill gaps on roundabout and slide bases. Supply and fit new shackles and high tensile bolts to 12' swing unit. Supply and fit new fitting to centre support of 2 bay swing unit, allowing for repositioning due to vandalism. Parkfield Play Area – Rebond loose safety tiles and fill gaps on roundabout and slide bases. Supply and fit new chains, shackles and olite bushes (new seats to be supplied by Parish Council). Cattybrook Road – Rebond loose safety tiles and fill gaps on slide and swing bases. Total cost £792.00. plus V.A.T. Cost of replacement swings to be obtained for consideration when agreeing precept January 2009.

To discuss quotations for cutting Leylandii hedge bordering open space land and St. Aldams Drive. Greenman Environmental Management Ltd. To reduce conifer hedge by 30% and remove debris from site £856.00. plus VAT. Lawrence Tree Services. To reduce conifer hedge by 30/40% and remove debris from site £1100.00. plus V.A.T. Mr. Holder suggested that it may be better to cut down the Leylandii as it would open up the area for residents and improve conditions for the indigenous trees. After discussion it was agreed clerk would obtain quotation for felling Leylandii and if acceptable contact local residents for their views.

South Gloucestershire Council received a complaint that the trees in Rebekka's memorial garden were interfering with residents T.V. reception. They arranged for their Tree Officer to look at the trees and make recommendations but enclose them for Parish Council to consider as they own the land. It was agreed clerk would write to Mrs. Hudd enclosing a copy of the recommendations.

The following cheques were agreed for payment and signed. Instant Landscapes £711.85. grass cutting. B.T. Payment Services £77.51. internet connection. Town & Country Services £1617.09. Supply and fit drop kerbs to entrance of recreation field, supply and fit new gate posts and re-hang gates to Burial Ground and skip changeover in Burial Ground. Mrs. A. Sharpe £125.00. Mrs. D. Bailey £349.46. being salary £310.66.

stamps £8.80. and Tel £30.00. Town & Country Services £152.75. skip changeover.  
South Gloucestershire Senior Citizens Forum £50.00. grant.

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

Date of next meeting 17<sup>th</sup> September at 6.45pm Pre Meeting to discuss action to mobilise  
people to respond to Regional Spatial Strategy Consultation followed by the Parish  
Council Meeting at 7.30pm.