

PUCKLECHURCH PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 20TH DECEMBER 2006 IN THE MEETING ROOM, COMMUNITY CENTRE, ABSON ROAD.

PRESENT. O.A. Beg Chairman, L.J. Whittock Vice Chairman, Mrs. J.E. Crispin, P.J. Green, D.A.E. Holder, R.C. Lee, Mrs. M.C. Palmer, M.C. Smith.

Cllr. S.Grant.

NO 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE. W.K. Skidmore.

NO 2. PUCKLECHURCH FOOTBALL CLUB. Mr. Malcolm Grainger represented the Football Club explaining that the new goal posts were necessary due to health and safety. The old goal posts had been replaced with a grant and to secure the grant the manufacturer and construction had been specified. They were not aware before they were erected that they were a permanent fixture. Mr. Grainger said the football club was now in the Gloucester League and that to enable them to remain at the same level they had to look to improve the facilities. They have to discuss the need for some type of permanent barrier around the pitch; there are also issues they need to discuss with the Community Association about the dressing rooms.

Mr. Grainger said that a permanent barrier would need to be in place during the season 1st Sept. to end of April. Councillors asked if the Football Club wanted a permanent barrier and how would it be of benefit. Mr. Grainger said members had mixed feelings and a permanent barrier would define the pitch and help improve crowd control. The barrier would be approximately 1mt high around the perimeter of the existing pitch.

Councillors asked what would happen if they were not allowed a permanent barrier. Mr. Grainger said nothing in the short term but ultimately they could be demoted. Councillors asked if the F.A. would make an exception if Parish Council wrote to them explaining. Mr. Grainger said he thought that would be acceptable in the short term.

Councillors asked what type of permanent barrier would be required, who would pay and maintain it and would it affect their insurance. Mr. Grainger said the fence would be similar to scaffolding posts, the Football Club would pay for and maintain it and yes it would affect their insurance.

Mr. Beg asked if the Football Club had considered getting a field of their own, Mr. Grainger said negotiations had taken place but they had only a limited amount of funding.

Mr. Beg suggested they might like to investigate the possibility of hiring the new dedicated football pitches being constructed on Phomfrey Hill owned by S.G.C.

Mr. Holder said one the new goal posts is perilously close to Castle Road, it is a permanent fixture used by young people and a potential hazard. He questioned who shared the risk and believes it to be Parish Council as they have allowed them to remain.

Mr. Grainger said they had to replace the old posts because they were wooden and dangerous. The profile was square and wood breaks whereas aluminium bends.

Mr. Beg thanked Mr. Grainger saying a decision would be made at next months meeting.

NO 3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION. None.

NO 4. LAW & ORDER. None.

NO 5. ARISINGS. Clerk confirmed the signs to prohibit the playing of hard ball games, except basketball, had been erected on the play area at Eagle Crescent.

Twinning - Mr. Beg confirmed arrangements were underway for the return visit.

Mrs. Palmer confirmed she had been re-elected chairperson of the local group of C.P.R.E.

Reference 1st Pucklechurch Scout Group clerk was still awaiting a report about the Oak tree from the Tree Surgeon. Mr. Whittock confirmed he had checked the drain cover and did not consider it to be dangerous.

The minutes of the meeting held 15th November 06 were agreed a true record and signed.

NO 6. MEMBERS MATTERS. Councillors were pleased to note the retrospective planning application for change of use of agricultural land to stationing of 3 gypsy caravans on Shortwood Road had been refused. Mrs. Palmer proposed a letter be sent to S.G.C. asking when we can expect enforcement action to be taken. Councillors were concerned about the report in the newspaper that the police had raided the site and found stolen goods.

Mr. Green said a three-piece suite had been dumped on the verge on Shortwood Hill. Clerk to contact S.G.C.

Mr. Lee raised concern about clay on the road near the ring road.

Mr. Whittock said he thought the new Village Directory was very good. Mr. Green mentioned it did not give the contact number of the S.G. Bus Company and Mrs. Palmer said Steve Webb was M.P. for North Avon.

Mr. Whittock said the 'slow' sign on Westerleigh Road opposite the café needed repainting.

NO 7. REPORTS. Mr. Holder had attended the Parish Charter Meeting it had been interesting and informative.

Clerk confirmed Mr. Skidmore had attended the Waste Management meeting.

NO 8. PLANNING APPLICATIONS. PK06/3615/TCA works to reduce and reshape by 33% 1no Robinia tree situated within the Pucklechurch Conservation Area. 17 Westerleigh Rd. No objections.

NO 9. CORRESPONDENCE. A letter from S.G.C. advised the Schools organisation plan 2006-11 was finalised and could be downloaded in sections from the web site.

NO 10. A letter from S.G.C. confirmed that as requested all Councils had responded to the offer of free IT equipment and the project would go ahead.

NO 11. A letter from Central Networks advised Councils application for funding for Christmas lights and decorations had unfortunately been unsuccessful.

NO 12. A letter from the Traffic Commissioner advised Section 30 of the Goods Vehicles (Licensing of Operators) Act 1995 allows for a specific operating centre to be reviewed where complaints have been received in the preceding 5year period leading up to the renewal date of the licence. The issues raised by Councillors were not against the operating centre and the legislation does not allow a review on any other grounds. They suggest that if Councillors believe Crews Transport Ltd is in breach of any weight limit as they travel through Pucklechurch the matter should be raised with the Local Council as they have jurisdiction. It was agreed clerk write to S.G.C. Highways Department enclosing copies of the last two replies from the Traffic Commissioner.

NO 13. A letter was received from Forest of Avon advising a second meeting, probably at Ashton Court, in January 07, would be arranged to review activity and aspirations for integrated improvements in the Forest of Avon East of Bristol.

NO 14. A letter from S.G.C. regarding the problem of Heavy Goods Vehicles parking in Becket Court advised the Road Traffic Act requires all HGV's to be parked in a base off the highway overnight. Details (registration number, vehicle operator) of lorries should be sent to the Vehicle Licensing Authority.

NO 15. An email was received from another resident expressing concern about HGV's parking overnight in Becket Court and asking if something could be done to stop them. It was agreed clerk would pass on advice from S.G.C. and write to the Managers of the Estate about the continuing overnight parking problems.

NO 16. A letter was read from S.G.C. confirming their Area Inspector would arrange to carry out appropriate remedial works to the wooden posts on the verge on Abson Rd.

NO 17. A letter was read from Mr. Glasson S.G.C. confirming Parish Council comments relating to the gap in serving the Notices to stop the unauthorised development on land at Westerleigh Rd. had been noted.

NO 18. An email from Ben McGee confirmed Cabinet has approved the Statement of Community Involvement for public consultation and that two copies of the document will be sent to Parish/Town clerks.

NO 19. A letter was read from S.G.C. advising the West of England Waste & Planning Partnership is holding an important consultation exercise running from 25th January to 23rd March 07 aiming to reach as many people as possible in order to find out what they would like done with 'residual' waste (all the black bin waste left over after recycling and composting). They will be sending copies of their survey 'Issues and Options for Waste in the West of England' in January and would appreciate feedback.

NO 20. A request was received from South Gloucestershire Citizens Advice Bureau requesting help with funding. It was proposed by Mr. Beg that the grant be increased to £200.00. for the next two years, seconded by Mrs. Palmer, all agreed.

NO 21. A letter was read from St. Thomas a Becket Church requesting a grant towards the upkeep of the Churchyard. Mr. Beg and Mr. Holder declared an interest. A grant of £800.00. was proposed by Mrs. Palmer - voting unanimous.

NO 22. FINANCE. Mr. Holder and clerk had carried out a Review and Projection of expenditure to end March 07 (copy attached). Projected figures suggest £6626.00. will be carried forward which includes £2128.31. 10% reserve for emergencies.

The following cheques were agreed for payment and signed. Stroke Association £30.00. donation in memory of Cllr K.W. Whatley. W.K. Skidmore £25.67. expenses. S.G.C. £105.40. emptying and maintenance of dog bin April 06 – Sept 06. Ensign Print £450.00. being £250.00. village directory and £200.00. Pucklechurch News. Pucklechurch Community Association £44.00. use of meeting room for four sessions. Mr. D. Gay £525.00. maintenance of Burial Ground. Town & Country Services £126.90. skip changeover in Burial Ground. Mrs. A. Sharpe £119.88. salary £115.50 plus £4.38. exps. Mrs. D. Bailey £303.84. salary £294.00. plus £9.84. stamps.

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

Date of next meeting 17th January 2007.