

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD 20TH JANUARY 2010
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, M.J. Watson, L.J. Whittock.

Cllr. Sandra Grant, Inspector Kevin Thatcher, PCSO Hugh Barns.

The Chairman opened the meeting with a welcome.

NO 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE. Mrs. S.E. Turley, R. Symons.

NO 2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION. None.

NO 3. LAW & ORDER. Inspector Thatcher introduced Hugh Barns explaining Hugh was under going extra training and would be our new PCSO, Simon Topps was being recruited as Beat Manager, he was also hoping to recruit another PCSO and was confident that with a new team Councillors would see improvements. Regarding crime figures – 3 dwellings broken into, 3 reports of rowdy behaviour and damage to 4 motor vehicles. Inspector Thatcher said 7 dwelling and shed burglaries had recently taken place in Wick over 2 nights, he suggested residents need to be warned to be extra careful. Mrs. Palmer said a car had been damaged in Hawkridge Drive and Mr. Beg advised that on Saturday night a neighbour had been disturbed by rowdy behaviour from The Fleur Public House and he wondered if the police could speak to the new landlord. Inspector Thatcher was not aware there was a new landlord but said he would visit. Mr. Beg thanked Inspector Thatcher and PCSO Hugh Barns for coming to the meeting.

NO 4. ARISINGS. 5) Clerk confirmed a written formal request had been received from the Community Association and a cheque for the £3000.00. grant raised.

6) Clerk confirmed she had been in contact with S.G.C. as she had been contacted by a resident who was concerned about graffiti on a wall and garages in Hawkridge Drive. S.G.C. have a team that can remove graffiti for a small charge. Councillors advised there was graffiti on bus shelters on Abson Rd, Shortwood Rd and Oaktree Avenue and the Village Hall. Clerk to contact S.G.C. for a quotation.

6a) Clerk confirmed she has written to The Manager of The Poplars Retirement Flats about the number of 'For Sale' signs. It was agreed that if no reply was received within two weeks S.G.C. would be contacted for help.

6f) Clerk confirmed she has written to the owner of The Coach House Café about the signs. A reply has not yet been received.

6i) Clerk confirmed she has written to Crews Transport at Doynton about the inconsiderate use of country lanes by their drivers. A reply has not yet been received.

10) It was agreed clerk would provide a list of emailed consultation documents/invitations for the minutes so that comments could be recorded.

13) Clerk had list of available dates for visit to HMP & YOI Ashfield. It was agreed clerk would arrange visit for Tuesday 9th February at 10.30am.

15) Clerk confirmed she has registered and received an application form for this years National Spring Clean event. It was agreed clerk would email Councillors to arrange the date for the event so that the details could be put in Pucklechurch News.

The minutes of the meeting dated 16th December 2009 were agreed a true record and signed.

NO 5. FINANCE. Mr. Holder said he, Mr. Symons and the clerk had discussed the budget in preparation for agreeing precept for 2010/11. Mr. Symons had prepared an overview of the forecasted income and expenditure to the end of this financial year.

The overview proposed 1. Precept for 2010/11 could be reduced by 3%. 2. Salaries for the clerk and Mrs Sharpe should increase by 1.5% and the clerks expenses increase to £800.00. per annum. 3. A priority list of proposed expenditure for next year be discussed and agreed at the March meeting.

Mr. Watson reminded Councillors that advice from N.A.L.C. recommended Parish Councils had a much larger contingency fund than we had. He was also concerned money from central Government would be scarce and that the role of the Parish Council was changing. After further discussion Mr. Watson proposed precept should increase by 1% seconded by Mr. Holder, all agreed.

It was proposed by Mr. Watson and seconded by Mr. Holder that spending for the next 11 months should be an agenda item.

Mr. Smith apologised that he would have to leave the meeting saying he would email his report on the Green Infrastructure and the Community Bus meetings he had attended.

Salaries. Mr. Holder said salaries had not been discussed for two years but that this would not happen in the future as the clerks contract of employment states 'annual review of salary.' Mr. Holder proposed clerk and Mrs Sharpe should receive an increase of 2 ½%. Mr. Watson suggested that as there had been no increase for 2 years the increase should be amended to 3%. Voting for the amendment was unanimous. Mr. Holder further proposed that the clerks expenses should be increased to £800.00. all agreed.

Mr. Watson raised concern that Councillors attending meetings on behalf of the Council did not claim expenses. It was agreed this should be discussed as an agenda item.

A letter was received from Lord Darling of Norft Ltd advising he had recently acquired the rights of the Manor of Westerleigh that included the freehold of Lyde Green Common which he believes is in the parish of Pucklechurch. The Parish Council minutes dated 20th February 2008 confirmed wayleave payments for the electricity tower and the HG3 mast on Lyde Green were received. Lord Darling believes that if this is still the case the payments should now go to his Company and he would be grateful to receive full details. It was agreed clerk would write advising that since this was public money full written justification for the claim was needed before it could be considered.

A request for grant funding towards the upkeep of the churchyard at St. Thomas a Becket was received. Mr. Beg and Mr Holder declared an interest and took no part in the voting. A grant of £800.00. was proposed by Mr. Watson seconded by Mr. Whittock, all agreed.

The following cheques were agreed for payment and signed. B.T.C.V. £686.55. for work in the woodland. S.G.C. £56.81. emptying and maintenance of dog bin on St. Aldams Drive. Roy Preddy £546.25. work to level headstones in Burial Ground. Mrs. A. Sharpe £125.00. Mrs. D. Bailey £313.90. being £310.66. + stamps £3.24. St. Thomas a Becket Church £800.00. grant towards upkeep of churchyard. E.D.F. Energy £24.03. unmetered supply to millennium stone. (Clerk advised she was in communication with E.D.F. as they are introducing a standing charge that will increase the cost of the supply).

It was agreed clerk would ask contractors for quotations for grass cutting for the coming season.

NO 6 MEMBERS MATTERS. Mr. Whittock suggested that the Parish Map in the bus shelter on the corner of Abson Rd/Shortwood Rd should be removed as it is damaged.

6a) Mr. Holder expressed concern about the amount of mud the contractor going in and out of the Windmill Leisure site at Henfield was leaving on the road. He believes a wheel wash should be installed as the road sweeper being used is totally inadequate.

6b) Mr. Watson reported severe damage to the verge on Abson Road and 6c) concern about the hedges being cut down around the Gypsy site on Shortwood Road.

6d) Mrs. Palmer advised the dog waste bin at Parkfield had been overflowing, the clerk had offered to empty it. Mrs. Palmer said it was not the clerks job to empty the dog bins and suggested the services of S.G.C. be employed. Clerk to obtain quotation.

6e) Mrs Palmer reported pot holes on Westerleigh Road and 6f) concern that only part of the pavement between Pucklechurch and Parkfield Rank had been cleared.

6g) Mr. Beg advised the Head Teacher of Mangotsfield School had during the snow/icy weather conditions kept parents informed by updating the school web site.

NO 7. REPORTS. Mr. Whittock had attended the Cycle Group meeting there was nothing relative to Pucklechurch to report.

Mr. Holder had attended the Parish Charter Meeting, it was a very interesting meeting and he had mentioned the lack of progress with the proposed new doctors surgery.

Mr. Watson advised the A.L.C.A. South Gloucestershire meeting had been cancelled due to the snow.

Mr. Watson said he had been unable to attend the S.G.C. meeting regarding the proposed cricket pitch on Lyde Green Common. Councillors were concerned the letter from Lord Darling could impact on the proposed cricket pitch. Clerk to contact S.G.C. Legal team with a copy of the proposed reply.

Mr. Watson advised he had been contacted by S.G.C. and asked to complete a questionnaire reference interaction between parishes and Safer Stronger Community Groups.

NO 8. PLANNING APPLICATIONS. None.

NO 9. RISK ASSESSMENT. Mr. Holder advised he had discussed introducing a risk assessment register with Mr. Symons and they had agreed a framework needed to be established. It was agreed this should be included on next months agenda and that in the meantime Mr. Holder would ask for guidance at Parish Charter.

NO 10. CONSULTATION REVIEW. West of England Joint Waste Core Strategy Consultation – Councillors did not feel qualified to comment.

Invitation to A.S.B. conference – Mr Watson agreed to attend.

Invitation to Strategic Green Infrastructure Meeting.

Spring into Life Festival – No interest.

Open Spaces Consultation Workshop – Mr. Smith to attend.

Consultation Children & Young People, Education and early years – No comment.

S.G.C. Spatial Planning Team – Mrs. Palmer on behalf of Councillors completed the questionnaire reference ‘Local views on open space, sport and recreation facilities’.

NO 11. CORRESPONDENCE. A letter of thanks was received for the £75.00. contribution towards the running of the Fromevale Play/Youth Scheme 2010 from Children’s Playlink.

NO 12. A letter from RoSPA advised their automatic order system has booked the 2010 annual inspection of children’s play equipment.

NO 13. An invitation was received to ‘Transforming Lives Congress’ 5th February at the B.A.W.A. Club. Mr. Watson to attend.

NO 14. A letter was received from S.G.C. regarding the proposed Oaktree Avenue Development and Doctors Surgery advising they have been working with Sovereign Housing Association and various departments within the Council to help enable development on the site. They apologise that the Parish Council has not received an update since the Public Meeting. Unfortunately, over the last 18 months they have had to resolve several issues concerning the land. Sovereign Housing recently met with the Councils planning department for pre-application advice and are finally in a position to work up a scheme which takes into account the consultation responses and the land issues. They are liaising with the Doctors agent and awaiting contact to arrange a meeting so that actions can be agreed to swiftly move towards a joint application.

NO 15. A letter from Wicksteed Leisure Ltd advised their engineers have replaced the damaged ‘T’ section on the twin double arch swings on the recreation field under the guarantee.

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

Date of Next Meeting – 17th February 2010 at 7.15pm.