

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD 20TH OCTOBER 2004 IN THE MEETING ROOM, COMMUNITY CENTRE, ABSON RD., PUCKLECHURCH.

PRESENT. O.A. Beg Chairman, L.J. Whittock Vice Chairman, Mrs. J.E. Crispin, P.J. Green, R.C. Lee, Mrs. M.C. Palmer, W.K. Skidmore.

NO 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE. D.A.E. Holder, Cllr. Sandra Grant.

NO 2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION. The Chairman introduced Mr. Simpson. Mr. Simpson said he had attended the P.C.A. meeting on the 7th October, he thought the meeting was very one sided with the youth being blamed for loss of use/revenue of the hall, but it was probably was due to outside competition.

Mr. Simpson said the Parish and County Councils should take some of the blame as erecting a teen shelter near the hall encouraged youth, also he did not think the woodland was a suitable place for the skate park.

Mr. Simpson said that over the years planning applications for a Motorway Service Area and a Motor Cycle Training Centre had been refused he felt they should have been allowed as they may have provided a café - somewhere for the youth to go.

On another matter Mr. Simpson said that at the P.C.A. meeting people had been given a number by the police for non emergency calls 0845 4567000. On Sunday 17th October at approx. 9am he rang the number to report loud music from Batchfield Lane. He had been given a number and asked to telephone Environmental Health as the police do not deal with noise complaints, also they could not log his call.

On ringing Environmental Health he was told there was no out of hours emergency number for S.G.C.

At 5pm with the loud music was still going on, called the police and asked for Staple Hill Station, this time he was given a reference no. and told they would investigate. The Beat Officer attended and the music stopped.

Mr. Simpson raised the following points:

1. What good is it ringing 0845 45677000 if calls are not logged?
2. Why is there no 24hr Environmental Health cover for S.G.C.?
3. Why did one part of the Police force say they don't deal with noise when the local Beat team did?

Mr. Simpson also enquired if the Parish Council was applying for Quality Status.

Mr. Beg thanked Mr. Simpson for coming to the meeting.

Mr. Beg introduced Mr. Williams from HMP Ashfield and a representative of the company carrying out building works at the prison. Mr. Williams explained about problems with cars being damaged/ broken into on a regular basis, they have CCTV but the range is limited and vandals step through the trees, smash windows and go.

To alleviate the problem they propose applying to erect a 2.4mtr high fence around the car park.

Councillors confirmed they had no objection.

Councillors drew to Mr. Williams attention a letter from a resident living in St. Aldams Drive expressing concern about the atrocious way staff and visitors to Ashfield park. Residents know they are from Ashfield as they see them park throughout the week and they arrive and leave in their uniforms. Residents are concerned that due to the ridiculous parking it would be impossible for a fire engine or ambulance to get down the street. There is also concern at the way these people drive as there are over 45 children living in St. Aldams Drive alone, and the street is used as a racecourse. Residents have complained but were informed staff parking was nothing to do with the prison.

Mr. Williams acknowledged there was a problem but said they could not stop people parking on the street as they are legally entitled to do so but notices at the gates advise alternative parking in the village hall car park. It was agreed Councillors would contact S.G.C. and discuss ways of addressing the problem.

NO 3. RESPONSE TO PUBLIC PARTICIPATION. Teen Shelter – It had been agreed that the top of the recreation field by the memorial seat was the best position as it was away from the play equipment, would not interfere with the football or cricket pitches and the young people were already in the habit of gathering there.

Skate Park – although not perfect it was installed at the request of the young people and with the consent of their parents.

Objection to Motorway Service Area and Motorcycle Training Centre – Parish Council is committed to protecting the green belt around the village. It was also thought unlikely that a private company coming into the village would want to provide a facility for young people.

Unfortunately the Parish Council does not qualify for Quality Status as not all members were elected.

NO 4. LAW & ORDER. Clerk advised P.C. Skelton had sent apologies for absence and asked that Councillors be made aware that he has arranged a meeting for the 2nd November at 7pm. Mr. Green agreed to attend.

Mrs. Crispin advised P.C. Skelton was working with the youth and willing to help. Projects in other parishes and the need for a suitable site/coffee bar and leader was discussed. Steve Skidmore could be asked to get involved, he works with the Joint Parishes Meeting, it will cost in the region of £100.00. Clerk to contact Mr. Skidmore.

NO 5. ARISINGS. Reference proposal for 20mph speed restriction outside Pucklechurch School. It was agreed clerk would write to S.G.C.

Mr. Beg asked if clerk had received reply from Mr. Powell. No reply has been received, it was agreed clerk should wait another week and then request a reply.

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed a true record and signed.

NO 6. MEMBERS MATTERS. Mr. Green raised concern that prunings from the burial ground hedge had been left on some graves. Clerk to contact Mr. Gay.

Mr. Whittock has bulbs for planting on verges.

Mr. Whittock attended the public exhibition for the M4 junction 18 Eastbound Diverge Lane. The work will take up to 9months, three gantry signs will be erected, more tree planting will be carried out and wild life relocated.

NO 7. REPORTS. Mr. Whittock read a copy of the consultation on the re-development of Poplar Drive.

NO 8. RISK ASSESSMENT. Mr. Beg confirmed the risk assessment has been carried out.

NO 9. PLANNING APPLICATIONS. PK04/3089/FDI, PK04/3096/FDI, PK04/3087/FDI, PK04/3093/FDI, PK04/3086/FDI, alterations to footpaths, Shortwood Quarry. No objections.

PK04/3247/F conversion of stables to form 1no. dwelling and erection of 2no. stables, Northfield House, Abson Rd. Pucklechurch. Councillors objected to this application as it is in the green belt and outside the development boundary and no special circumstances have been provided.

PK04/3418/F conversion of existing barn to form 1no dwelling with associated access, parking and landscaping (amendment to previously approved scheme PK00/2998.F). Old Court Barn, Westerleigh Rd. No objections.

PK04/3433/LB alterations to previously approved scheme (PK00/3203/LB) for conversion including partial demolition and rebuilding of part of west wall. Old Court Barn, Westerleigh Rd. No objection.

PK04/3369/F erection of two storey rear and single storey side and rear extensions to form additional living accommodation. 19 Shortwood Hill, Shortwood, Mangotsfield. Councillors considered this design to be more acceptable than the previous one.

NO 10. CORRESPONDENCE. A letter of thanks for grant aid was received from the Southwold Young People's Hostel.

NO 11. A letter was received from The Boundary Committee accepting Councillors comments on the Review of Electoral Arrangements for South Gloucestershire.

NO 12. A letter was received advising dates of Public Forum Meetings in connection with the Scrutiny of the Bristol Health Services Plan.

NO 13. An invitation to the Remembrance Service at St. Thomas a Becket Church was received. It was agreed Mr. Whittock and Mr. Whately would lay wreath.

NO 14. A letter from Philippa Isbell the Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator confirmed the Police and S.G.C. Travellers Unit were currently working towards the removal of the encampment in Batchfield Lane.

NO 15. Acknowledgement letters were received from S.G.C. regarding the unauthorised encampment at Batchfield Lane, the request for formal pedestrian crossings and the alleged breach of planning control.

NO 16. An invitation to Westerleigh Village Residents Association AGM followed by a meeting to discuss concerns about extra traffic generated by the proposed new developments in Yate and Emersons Green was received. Mr. Holder had attended the meeting and reported it had been inconclusive.

NO 17. A request was received from Pucklechurch Twinning Association asking for permission to plant spring flowering bulbs around the memorial bench in the new burial ground and Le Jardin du Pringy. Mr. Beg declared an interest as he is a member of Twinning. Councillors were happy to agree to the request.

NO 18. A letter was received from Angela Cobban expressing concern that vehicles are driving between the concrete post and the bollard at the entrance to the allotment gardens. It was agreed clerk should contact S.G.C. to discuss the problem.

NO 19. A letter was received from the Pucklechurch Community Association saying that due to problems with youths and girls in the Village Hall Foyer the Social Club would like to install a key entry system. As this would necessitate the creation of a new door in the external wall they would like to know if permission is required. Clerk to advise Parish Councils consent for the proposal would be needed and probably planning permission for any exterior alterations. Councillors would like to know how the proposal would impinge on the use of the rest of the building and in order that it can be discussed fully would require a copy of the plan.

NO 20. FINANCE. The following cheques were agreed for payment and signed. S.W.E.B. £2.27. for unmetered supply. Lawrence Tree Services £411.25. trimming trees in memorial garden St. Aldams Drive. Wicksteed Leisure £35.25. report on slide Shortwood play area. Mrs. Cobbam £11.96. replacement padlocks for allotment gardens. Instant Landscapes £960.58. grass cutting. Anna Sharpe £110.00. D. Bailey £328.67. being salary £280.00. plus £6.00. stamps and £42.67. stationery. Staple Hill RBL Poppy Appeal £20.00. wreath.

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

Date for next meeting 17th November 04.