

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD 20TH OCTOBER 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, R. Symons, M.S. Watson, L.J. Whittock.

Inspector Kevin Thatcher, P.C.S.O's Hugh Barnes and Sam Paterson.

Mr. Beg opened the meeting with a welcome.

NO 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE. S.E. Turley Cllr. for Parish and Boyd Valley.
S. Grant Cllr. for Boyd Valley. P.C. Simon Topps.

NO 2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST. None.

NO 3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION. Mr. Hiles was invited to speak. He raised concern that since the shrubs on the border between his property and the car park had been removed he had been disturbed by cars screeching around the car park often until 1 – 2 o'clock in the morning. He also raised concern about the teen shelter on the recreation field and thought it should be removed. He was also annoyed that grass cuttings had been dumped against his boundary wall. Mr. Whittock advised it was the Cricket Club that had left the grass by the wall when they were working on the wicket. Mr. Beg thanked Mr. Hiles confirming Councillors would reply a little later in the meeting.

NO 4. LAW & ORDER. Inspector Thatcher advised there was nothing major to report that he was aware of, it had been a fairly quiet period with low crime figures. Councillors said there had been three burglaries during the month. Inspector Thatcher replied this is still quite low. PCSO Hugh Barnes said there had been a repeat burglary in Westerleigh Road and they have increased patrol in the area.

Mr. Watson said there had been significant vandalism to the memorial seat on Shortwood Road on two consecutive nights and the millennium light had been completely smashed. Hugh Barnes advised he had picked up information from the log and carried out a house-to-house investigation, youths are suspected but leads are slim.

Mrs. Palmer expressed concern that parking was significantly worse in Castle Road at school time with cars parking across people's driveways. Hugh Barnes said the School was trying to help and had organised a 'walking bus' but there had been no children. Hugh Barnes confirmed the Beat Team have visited and spoken to parents, he suggested that residents call them if there is a problem again and they will deal with it and Inspector Thatcher confirmed the Police did seriously intend issuing tickets.

Mr. Whittock reported concern that people from 11 Lansdown Road were running a Valeting Service which was causing a congestion problem as they were parking cars on both sides of the road.

NO 5. PARK NIGHT SWITCH OFF. Mr. Smith explained that as part of the investigation into part night switch off it had transpired that there had been 13 crime incidents recorded in a 12 month period on Hawkrige Drive. If there are 10 incidents or more in a street the advice is to leave lights on. Inspector Thatcher confirmed there had been more than 10 incidents in Hawkrige Drive also on Shortwood Road and 9 in Cedar Way. He said in these circumstances the Police were not saying don't turn the lights off but look into the incidents. He mentioned that during the pilot scheme in Charfield crime had decreased. Mr. Smith asked if the Police recorded the time of day that a crime was committed as this would be useful information to have. Inspector Thatcher confirmed their reports should have this information.

NO 6. ARISINGS & TO AGREE AND SIGN MINUTES.

10) Mr. Holder advised he needed more time to investigate the provision of a new Notice Board but he thought the Notice Board outside Pucklechurch Primary School was good - it cost approximately £900.00.

Mr. Smith confirmed he was working with Jackie Sexton on replacing the map in the bus shelter.

12) Clerk confirmed she has written to SEGRO but has not yet received a reply.

13) Allotments – Mr. Holder advised a meeting had been held with the gardener, the lady did not want to give up the plot and was now working on it. She agreed she would ask for the plot to be divided into two if it proved to be more than she could cope with. It was agreed the plot would be reviewed next March before the rent is due.

Clerk confirmed P.C.A. had provided a breakdown of expenditure for the £3000.00. grant as requested.

Mr. Holder confirmed two groups had expressed an interest regarding a wireless connection for the Community Centre and they were now looking into the best price.

Mr. Holder confirmed the Leylandii hedge between the car park and the recreation field had been pruned.

Councillors asked if the leaves from the Horse Chestnut Tree on the recreation field had been collected and removed. It was agreed there were too many leaves for them to be collected voluntarily, clerk to arrange for a Contractor to carry out the work.

The minutes of the meeting dated 15th September 2010 were agreed a true record and signed.

NO 7. RESPONSE TO PUBLIC PARTICIPATION. Mr. Watson advised the thinning of the hedge between the bungalow and the Community Centre car park had been carried out on the advice of the Crime Prevention Officer. Councillors were concerned that grass had been left and also disappointed that the site screens had not been put away. Clerk to contact the Cricket Club and ask them to clear the area. Clerk also to contact the Football Club and remind them of the need to remove the goal posts after matches. Regarding problems with the youth shelter and cars screeching around the car park Councillors suggested that if the problems continued they should be reported to the Police as it was important to report every issue of anti social behaviour. Mr. Holder said the possibility of locking the gates on the car park had been discussed in the past but unfortunately there were very few people prepared to do this.

NO 8. COMMUNITY PLAN. Mr. Smith recommended Councillors take a formal approach to the Community Plan and over the next three months look at the future of the Steering Group, objectives that can be implement quickly and implications for funding. Mr. Holder enquired what stage the plan was now at. Mr. Smith advised they were working on the 2nd draft. He said the original intention had been to produce a 32 page document and an 8 page document for distribution. To reduce the document to 8 pages they would have to cut out vital information so it has been agreed that as there is sufficient money within the existing budget, to distribute the 32 page document.

NO 9. THE CALENDAR. Councillors had received a copy of the proposed calendar Councillors agreed to monitor and update the calendar regularly.

NO 10. FINANCE. Mr. Symons gave an update advising to date an under spend against budget of £48.00. Clerk confirmed the Bonus Saver Accounts had been closed and the money transferred into a new Business Direct Reserve Account.

Mr. Smith and Mr. Beg declared an interest and advised an estimate had been obtained to repair the damage caused by vandalism to the memorial seat near the Millennium Stone. The cost of replacing the slats on the seat is £52.00. and £94.00. for the back of the seat. Part of the funding for the memorial seat was provided by members of Twinning and Mr. Smith wondered if because of the Civic link between the Parish Council and the Marie in Pringy a donation could be given. Mr. Holder proposed a grant of £50.00. be offered towards the cost of the repair, seconded by Mr. Whittock, all agreed.

A letter was read from Pucklechurch Revel explaining that this year the Committee when deciding the beneficiaries of Revel funds could only meet 50% of requests. They wanted to ensure all groups received some monies and to make the decisions easier chose to donate to groups for members, rather than to the upkeep of buildings. However, they felt strongly that the PCA needed all the help and support it could get and would have liked to help with their request. They wondered if the Parish Council could consider the request particularly as the car park was used by the local and wider community. Mr. Holder, declaring an interest, explained that PCA had requested help with repairing the

tarmac and installing a speed hump, he would also like the Parish Council to seriously consider adopting the car park.

An email was read from Angela Hallett asking that the Parish Council when agreeing its budget for 2011 would consider giving a grant of £200.00. towards the 'Heartstart' initiative. The next stage of the project will require careful planning to mount an advertising/PR campaign and will need support with finance; any money not used in advertising would be used towards the £2,500.00. needed to fund a Defibrillator for the village. It was agreed Councillors would discuss this at another meeting.

A request was received from Victim Support asking for a small grant to help facilitate their work. Victim Support provides emotional and practical support to victims and witnesses of crime. After discussion Mrs. Palmer proposed a grant of £50.00. seconded by Mr. Holder, all agreed.

The following cheques were agreed for payment and signed. Ensign Print £249.00. printing Pucklechurch News. E.D.F. Energy Ltd. £58.50. unmetered supply to millennium light. Town & Country Services £162.15. supply rails and repair fence on steps to St. Aldams Drive and supply posts and rails and fit new fence in gateway of woodland. P.C.A. £120.00. use of meeting room for Parish Council and Youth meetings. Mrs. A. Sharpe £128.75. Mrs. D. Bailey. £332.27. being salary £319.97.+ stamps £4.32. + litter picker £7.98. Victim Support £50.00. grant.

NO 11. MEMBERS MATTERS. Mr. Watson mentioned that the dead trees on Eagle Crescent had not been felled. Clerk confirmed they would be removed when the tree work on St. Aldams Drive was undertaken.

a) Mr. Watson said he had received a complaint that the signs on Eagle Crescent Play Area were confusing. The signs clearly say 'No ball games except basketball' he has taken a photograph to show the person concerned.

b) Mr. Watson said that at the S.S.C.G. meeting it had been noted that the local Speed Watch team had recommenced monitoring. Clerk confirmed she has received a letter from Mr. Rogers confirming the team had recommenced monitoring. It was agreed clerk would thank Mr. Rogers and his team for their important contribution towards controlling speed in the village.

c) Mr. Green expressed concern that some signs in the village needed cleaning.

d) Mr. Symons asked what progress had been made by the Make Over Team as the £1000.00. ring fenced has not been used. Mr. Holder said the PCA had not heard from the Make Over Team for some time. Mr. Holder was asked to contact them as Councillors had agreed that contact should be through the P.C.A.

e) Mr. Symons drew attention to a cycling sign that was confusing.

f) Mr. Smith confirmed he had made the suggestion that dates entered on the calendar needed to be in advance so that it served as a reminder particularly for things that needed to be advertised in Pucklechurch News like the village clean up.

g) Mr. Smith said the Tower Play Group has been offered 30 trees and would like suggestions as to where they could be planted. Mr. Holder suggested that if they were native trees they could plant 4 in the car park. Clerk to email Councillors for suggestions.

h) Mr. Smith had received a concern from a local person that the cost of a bus pass from Pucklechurch to Fishponds has risen from £300.00. to £770.00. a year making it 5% cheaper for him to use his car. Mr. Smith suggested Councillors look into and publicise a 'car share scheme' and write expressing concern at the increase to the Bus Company. All agreed.

i) Mr. Smith confirmed a meeting had been held with Bristol Water at the allotments but providing a water supply was not a realistic option. The Council could contact the owner of the farm on the other side of Westerleigh Road and ask if he would allow us to tap into his supply or perhaps look at water harvesting.

j) Mr. Beg advised a resident had raised concern that trees had been cut down at the back of the Fleur de Lys and excavation work being undertaken. He contacted South Gloucestershire Planning and was told they had no record of receiving an application. The Conservation Officer has visited regarding the trees and spoken to the owner under caution as the trees should not have been cut down without permission.

NO 12. REPORTS. Mr. Whittock and Mr. Green attend the Boyd Link Group.

Mr. Smith, Mr. Holder and Mr Watson attended the Working together Group Meeting which they agreed was very useful. The following recommendations were noted:
Parish Councils should consider tripling their budget by way of precept and grants.
Community Groups should engage with the youth.
Where appropriate there is a greater chance for voluntary organisations to contract for service provision.

Mr. Green expressed concern that at the A.L.C.A. meeting he had attended the Chairperson could not speak loud enough for all to hear and it had not been very well organised.

Mr. Watson attended the following meetings.

S.G. Strategic Partnership - this was a good meeting.

The West of England Partnership Enterprise - the transport plan was updated.

Link Core Management Group.

The North Bristol Trust at the BAWA Club for an update.

A.L.C.A. Planning meeting reference planning for the future.

Parish Charter Meeting – minutes have been distributed by email.

P.C.A. 30th birthday celebration which was interesting and worth doing.

Impact Assessment Meeting.
Wick Parish Council Meeting as Chair of S.S.C.G.

A.L.C.A. AGM Mr. Watson confirmed ALCA had insufficient funds to carry on after 1st April in the current form unless there were substantial increases in fees. He advised a working group had been formed (of which he is a member) they will put forward three suggestions for consideration and all Councils will be asked to attend and vote.

Suggestion 1. BANES & North Somerset become Somerset Association, South Gloucestershire goes into Gloucester and ALCA ceases to exist.

Suggestion 2. As 1st but BANES & North Somerset join Somerset, South Gloucestershire is large enough to have its own.

Suggestion 3. West of England Local Council Association with the secretary working from home.

A 4th proposal was put forward by the Treasurer - Increase the fees. Mr. Watson had advised Pucklechurch would not continue if the fees increased as the training offered was low level and inferior to S.G.C.

Mr. Holder advised that at the Networking meeting Pucklechurch had been praised for its Good Neighbour Scheme. He had attended the following workshops: Planning Permission, Why Initiatives Fail and How to get young people to be Parish Councillors. He confirmed it had been a good day.

Mr. Holder reported the PCA 30th birthday week-end had been fantastic with lots of people attending the family disco. He advised new gas and water meters had been installed in the changing rooms to record usage by the Football and Cricket Clubs and the system changed to reduce water in the gent's toilets.

Mr. Beg said that at the 30th celebration Mr. Holder had thanked past Chairman and lots of other people for their help and he would like thanks recorded to him for all his work and the way he has enthused people over the last 2years.

NO 13. CYCLE RACKS. Clerk advised the owners of the Village Store and the Bakery did not for various reasons want Cycle Racks installed at the front of their properties. After discussion it was agreed clerk would write to the Fleur de Lys for permission and contact S.G.C. to ask if one could be installed on the pavement near the Hairdressers on Westerleigh Rd.

NO 14. PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION. PK10/2405/F erection of single storey side extension to form additional living accommodation. Robin Cottage, 112 Parkfield Road. No objection.

Reference the Hearing into the appeal – Sloes Well Paddock, Mr. Watson agreed to attend and represent the Parish Council.

NO 15. A review of the log was undertaken – it was noted that the hedge on 48 Shortwood Road had not been trimmed. Clerk to contact S.G.C. for help.

NO 16. CORRESPONDENCE. A letter from PCA advising how the 2009/10 grant had been spent was received.

NO 17. A letter was read from Mr. Humphrey regarding movement of soil in his front garden and expressing concern that a reply had not been received. Clerk said she contacted S.G.C. they have now replied and she has been given a copy. After discussion it was agreed clerk would write to Mr. & Mrs. Humphrey advising they note S.G.C. suggests it may be appropriate for them to seek professional advice and ask to please be advised of the outcome if they decide to take this action.

NO 18. Information was received from S.G.C. regarding the 2011 Census.

NO 19. An invitation was received from St. Thomas a Becket Church to attend the Remembrance Day Service Sunday 14th Nov. at 10.45am. Mr. Whittock agreed to present the Parish Council wreath.

NO 20. An update reference The Stables, Redford Lane, Pucklechurch was received from S.G.C. Enforcement Team.

NO 21. A letter was read from the Planning Investigating Officer regarding the Councils complaint about the condition of the land to the south of Redford Lane. The letter advises that although it is accepted that the appearance of the land is undesirable, it is considered that the condition of the land has a limited impact on the amenity of the wider area and it is not possible for the Planning Enforcement Team to justify formal enforcement action. As there are no grounds to take this matter further the file will be closed. They have however, taken the opportunity of writing to the owner of the property identifying the concern raised and have asked them to take action to improve the lands appearance.

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

Date of next meeting. 17th November at 7.30pm.