

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD 21<sup>ST</sup> APRIL 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.S. Watson, L.J. Whittock.

District Councillor for Boyd Valley Cllr. S. Grant.

Mr. Beg opened the meeting with a welcome and thanked Mr. Holder for chairing the March meeting.

**NO 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.** R. Symons, S.E. Turley Parish and District Councillor for Boyd Valley.

**NO 2. PARISH PLAN GROUPS – PRESENTATION.** Mr. Beg invited Ms. Jacki Berry to speak on behalf of the local Sustainability & Environment Group and Mr. M. Stanley to speak on behalf of the Traffic & Transportation Group. Presentations were made outlining the action, scope and objectives of the Parish Plan. Councillors agreed that due to the amount of information and the importance of the document to hold a separate meeting to look at discuss its future adoption.

Mr. Beg thanked Ms. Berry & Mr. Stanley for their presentations.

**NO 3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.** None.

**NO 4. LAW & ORDER.** Mr. Beg reported a fracas on Friday night (16<sup>th</sup>) on the bus stop outside the Fleur de Lys involving three people, two people were arrested and one was taken to hospital and was on a life support machine and very ill.

Mr. Beg also reported seeing drivers on mobile phones on Westerleigh Road by the Coach House Café.

Mr. Watson said P.C. Simon Topps had spoken to him about the speed limit on Westerleigh Rd between the traffic lights at the Westerleigh crossroad and the Crematorium. He confirmed the speed limit as 30mpr as you leave Pucklechurch - going to 40mpr - to the national limit by the motorway bridge - to 40mpr just before the traffic lights on the crossroad.

**NO 5. ARISINGS & TO CHECK & AGREE MINUTES.** It was noted that the graffiti on the Village Hall has not been removed. Clerk to check with S.G.C.

Clerk confirmed Pucklechurch Guides would support National Spring Clean and would litter pick starting at the Scout Hut, going over the zebra crossing into the lane and then left into the estate and across to Becket Court.

Mr. Beg said he was unable to help on the Sunday but would litter pick in the old Congregational Church grounds.

Mr. Holder offered to cover Abson Road between Feltham Rd and Redford Lane.

The minutes of the meeting dated 17<sup>th</sup> March 2010 were agreed a true record and signed.

**NO 6. FINANCE.** Clerk confirmed the balance of accounts to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010 Income of £40,648.94. and Expenditure £41,138.94. add last years b/f figure of £12,383.43. less £490.00. deficit = £11,893.43. carried forward to 2010/11. Clerk confirmed the internal audit would take place on 29<sup>th</sup> April.

Mr. Holder, Mr. Symons and the clerk were arranging a date to review last years budget after which future spending could be discussed.

#### Quotations for consideration.

Clerk said a resident living near the turning circle/playing field at Parkfield Rank had contacted her to report several very large pot holes. Town & Country Services provided a quotation to supply, level and compact tarmac to repair pot holes £283.56. plus V.A.T. Councillors agreed to accept the quotation for the cost of the repair.

A quotation was received from Just Lawns to mow and strim around grave stones £75.00. per cut. Clerk advised the grass would have to be cut at least 12 times equalling £900.00. Councillors agreed to accept Mr. Gay's previous quotation of £585.00. for the season.

It was noted that Clerk had been unable to find a contractor with the right equipment to cut the grass on the recreation field and open space land and Councillors had agreed to accept the quotation from Instant Landscapes as they had been satisfied with the standard of work in the past. Recreation field and strimming front of road side £123.00. Main playing field extra cut (if needed) £72.00. St. Aldams Drive area £111.39. Strimming around posts etc £44.56.

Mr. Watson said that at the Parish Charter Working Group meeting it had been reported that South Gloucestershire Council's Direct Services had increased charges by 4 1/2 % and that at an A.L.C.A. meeting the Secretary had suggested Parish Councils should have a contingency reserve of 60% . Budgeters were urged to think carefully about the contingency reserve and the size of it as Councils may not always be able to rely on getting good rates. Mr. Holder said he disagreed with the need for such a large reserve.

Clerk said Mr. Symons had asked her to propose on his behalf that once the precept payment had been received a cheque for the £3000.00. grant agreed at last months meeting be sent to the Community Association. Mr. Holder confirmed the confusion as to whether or not the C.A. should be regarded as a charity and the level of V.A.T. applicable had been agreed. Mrs. Palmer said she had no objection to the cheque being

raised but objected to it being used to pay the gas bill until the charges had been fully investigated including writing to the M.P. All agreed.

The following cheques were agreed for payment and signed. Tohil Explorer Scout Unit £100.00. grant towards expenses for Duke of Edinburgh expedition for two of the group living in Pucklechurch. Glasdon UK Ltd. £146.69. new dog waste bin for Shortwood. EDF Energy 1 Ltd. £58.30. unmetered supply. Mr. D. Gay £350.00. cutting hedge in Burial Ground. Pucklechurch Community Association £80.50. hire of meeting room for 7 meetings Feb/March 10. N.A.L.C. £105.75. seminar 'Localism in Action' to be attended by Mr. Symons. Mrs. A. Sharpe £128.75. Mrs. D. Bailey £322.54. being salary £319.30. + £3.24. stamps. Mr. R. Cleevely £21.52. expenses relating to Jardin du Pringy.

**NO 7. MEMBERS MATTERS.** Mr. Holder advised two pool tables had been delivered and the Youth Club/Group would be opening soon.

Mr. Whittock said the Parkfield Pit meeting in the Village Hall with Steve Grudgings had been very interesting.

Mr. Smith expressed concern about the amount of land being broken into small parcels for stables and the negative impact it has on biodiversity, access and amenity of the countryside. He would like a letter sent to S.G.C. urging them to adopt 'Best Practice' policy for stables so that the openness of the green belt, biodiversity, access and visual amenity guidance is in place for determining applications. Councillors suggested the villages of Dyrham, Doynton, Wick, Westerleigh & Siston could also be invited to write. Mr. Smith agreed to draft a letter.

Mr. Green reported old wood was starting to accumulate again outside no 47 Shortwood Hill.

Mr. Beg was pleased to advise Street Care had replaced a rusty manhole cover near the bus stop on Shortwood Rd opposite The Poplars within a week of it being reported.

Clerk had received a telephone call from Gary Meddick Highways Officer saying he had received complaints about issues outside no 1 Castle Rd. Parking and rubble left on the verge has caused damage to the kerbs and grass and blocked the drain. S.G.C. is asking if the Parish Council would support their proposal to import top soil, return the verge to grass and erect 12 bollards to prevent parking and further damage. Clerk to confirm Parish Councils support.

**NO 8. REPORTS.** Mr. Holder and Mr. Watson attended the Parish Charter meeting.

The meeting was useful and interesting the following points were discussed:

1. If any documents /consultations with gobble-de-gook wording were received this could be referred to S.G.C..
2. The Chairman of Charfield Parish Council has a very good power point presentation on 'part night switch off' that can be downloaded from the web site.

3. I.T. session may be made available for clerks.

4. S.G. Core Strategy a meeting has been arranged for the 10<sup>th</sup> June at Little Stoke Community Hall. It is an important meeting covering the 'Role of Town & Parish Councils' and begins at 7.15pm.

Mr. Holder for the P.C.A. reported that the PCA was in dispute with British Gas over an invoice of approximately £11,000.00. which had been delivered in 2010.0020v The situation had arisen due to British Gas making estimates of the gas consumption for 1 year and then for the following year sending no invoices. During this period the price of gas rose from 2.9p per unit to 6p per unit. Mr. Holder is in contact with British Gas.

Mr. Whittock attended the Joint Cycle Group meeting reporting that during the coming year the Cycling City team will be looking at cycling infrastructure, for example, routes from Yate to the north fringe, Thornbury to Bristol and how villages such as Westerleigh, Pucklechurch, Wickwar and Iron Acton will feed into routes. The Bus Station in Yate will be moved when the new Tesco is built. The development will start in August with highway works and demolition of the Swan pub to increase car parking provision. Tesco hope to start building the new store in January 11.

Mr. Smith said the Community Plan had given four presentations and the Council should now set a date for a follow up meeting.

Mr. Smith reported that as part of community plan action he arranged a meeting to look at public transport he was encouraged as the meeting room had been full and approximately half of those attending were youths. Outside the scope of the Community Plan, concern had been raised over issues of dangerous driving, buses not running or leaving before the scheduled time and money taken but no ticket issued. The problems seem to have been over the last 12 months and mostly on the 689 bus. It was agreed a letter raising awareness of the concerns should be sent to S.G.C.

Mr. Watson advised he was due to attend the A.L.C.A. meeting.

Mr. Beg advised the Twinning visit had been very successful with a marvelous cultural exchange, guests had been entertained in the Village Hall, visited Kew Gardens and Long Leat and were travelling home via London as there were new members that had not been to the Capital.

**NO 9. PLANNING.** The following applications were considered and observations made. PK10/0679/F internal and external works to facilitate conversion of outbuildings to residential annexe, workshop and storage room, garaging and stable. Laurel Farm, Westerleigh Rd. No objections.

PK10/0791/TCA works to prune bay tree by approximately 5ft situated within the Pucklechurch Conservation area. 4 Parkfield Road. Mr. Beg and Mr. Holder declared an interest as the owner is known to them. No objection.

PK10/0864/F erection of conservatory. 4 Parkfield Road. Councillors noted the conservatory in this application is to replace a smaller existing one. The special circumstances explained why a larger conservatory was needed. No objection.

PK10/0711/F use of land for the siting of 1no gypsy caravan pitch, with associated hardstanding. Erection of 1no ancillary utility/day room. Retention of stable block (part retrospective). The Meadows, Parkfield, Pucklechurch. Councillors objected strongly to this application for the following reasons. 1. Inappropriate development in the Green Belt. 2. No special circumstances have been demonstrated. 3. The site is not one that has been identified in the South Gloucestershire Gypsy & Traveller SPD.

**NO 10. SAFER STRONGER COMMUNITY GROUP.** Mr. Watson explained it was difficult for him or Sarah Turley to raise any requirement for Pucklechurch at the meetings as they were Chair and Vice Chair, there was a need for someone from the floor to raise Pucklechurch issues. Mr. Holder agreed to attend on a regular basis. Mr. Watson advised the meetings were quarterly, the next one being held in the Pucklechurch Sports & Social Club in St. Aldams Drive.

**NO 11. SUPPLY TO MILLENNIUM STONE.** There was discussion as to whether or not the millennium stone should be lit and the need to provide a supply for the Christmas tree lights. It was decided to take out the bulb and look at the cost of installing a solar light but to leave the supply for the Christmas tree lights.

**NO 12. REVIEW OF LOG & CONSULTATIONS EMAILED.** The review was carried out and items outstanding noted.

**NO 13. CORRESPONDENCE.** An email was received from Revel Committee thanking the Parish Council for the generous sponsorship to the 2009 Revel and asking if they would like to sponsor the field event for the 2010 Revel. Councillors agreed a grant of £900.00. towards the cost of the field events.

**NO 14.** An email from S.G.C. advised there was nothing they could do about the hedge on Westerleigh Rd as it was a private hedge. The Parish Councils concern was regarding the state the verge was in following the cutting of the hedge rather than the hedge itself. Clerk to contact S.G.C.

**NO 15.** An email was received from a parishioner expressing concern about the 689 bus service. Clerk had replied that the issue of reliability was being discussed at the Meeting.

**NO 16.** A letter was received from Ian Gething advising he is currently going through responses to the Conservation Area Draft Supplementary Planning Document and one of the comments he feels is more a Parish Council issue than S.G.C. The response said 'I recommend that a decorative 'gate' is placed at each 'entrance point' to the village, so as to clearly demarcate its boundaries. This has been successfully done in other villages, where they have wooden posts either side of the road and flowers/plants etc. It really lifts the area, marks it as something special and costs next to nothing'. Mr. Gething has

replied saying he would forward the comments to the Parish Council, he is happy to forward a response if Councillors want to respond. Councillors agreed to investigate responsibility, look at examples and obtain quotations.

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

Date for next meeting 19<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm. Mr. Watson gave apologies.

Addendum. On Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> April Mr. Watson received a telephone call from Inspector Thatcher to update him on the trouble outside the Fleur de Lys. Inspector Thatcher confirmed the trouble happened outside the Fleur de Lys, but whether the problem started inside is at the moment unknown, and is part of the ongoing investigation. Three people were involved, two arrested, one taken to hospital to intensive care – at the moment the long term prognosis for this person is unknown but not looking very favorable. All three of the people live or lived in Pucklechurch, but one of those arrested cannot do so now as a condition of his bail.