

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD 19<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2012  
IN THE MEETING ROOM, PUCKLECHURCH COMMUNITY CENTRE, ABSON  
ROAD.**

**PRESENT.** R. Symons Chairman, Mrs. G. Boyle Vice Chairperson, E. Aze, Mrs. L. English, P.J. Green, Mrs. J. Hawkins, Ms. Lori-anne Scantlebury, M.C. Smith, M.S. Watson.

The Chairman opened the meeting with a welcome.

**NO 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.** Stephen Reade, Ben Stokes Councillors for Boyd Valley.

**NO 2. SIGN THE MINUTES.** The previously circulated minutes of the meeting dated 5<sup>th</sup> December 2012 were agreed a true record and signed.

**NO 3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.** The Chairman invited Mrs Georgina Winter to speak. Mrs Winter is the leader of the Pucklechurch Play Group, they meet in the Community Centre and have had a problem with the local youth congregating on the seat on the recreation field. The seat is between the shrubs and the outdoor area and drug packets and capsules have been coming over the fence. The police have been made aware of the problem but they are concerned this could happen again in the summer and would like to ask if the shrubs could be cut down to a lower level so that the seat is more visible.

Play Group has been fund raising to purchase a canopy to be fixed on the end wall of the Community Centre. The cost of a standard canopy is £3000.00. but they would prefer to buy one with a secure metal housing as it would be vandal proof and costs an extra £1000.00. Mrs Winter said the Play Group has raised £3000.00. themselves and she wondered if the Parish Council would consider giving them a grant for the difference. Planning permission is not required as the canopy is a temporary structure. Mrs Winter said they could provide photograph of the canopy and a quotation if required.

Mr. Symons thanked Mrs Winter for coming and advised the Council would include the request on the agenda for discussion at next month's meeting.

**Action: Clerk to include as an agenda item for January 2013 meeting.**

**NO 4. LAW & ORDER.** P.C. Joanne Kille and Sarg.. Stephanie Green were welcomed. Stephanie Green is the new Beat Supervisor, temporary at the moment but hoping the position will be permanent. She can be contacted on mobile no 07789752682 and by email [stephanie.green@avonandsomerset.police.uk](mailto:stephanie.green@avonandsomerset.police.uk). Sarg. Green gave the following updates: The conifer fire situation - there are suspects but this type of crime is very difficult to prove as there is no evidence.

Increase in number plate theft – vehicles at petrol stations are filled with fuel they drive off without paying and then ditch the number plate.

Regarding the barn fires in the area - there is nothing to report.

Sarg. Green said residents may notice a police presence in Pucklechurch towards the middle of January - this is a planned 'operation' associated to HMP & YOI Ashfield.

Cllr. Smith mentioned that in the community Plan residents had identified a lack of police presence. He suggested it would be helpful if they were to publicise what they do in Pucklechurch News – the deadline for the next issue being 10<sup>th</sup> January 2013.

The chairman thanked the Police Officers for attending.

**NO 5. LOG.** A review of the log was undertaken and following actions agreed.

Training – ALCA training for new Councillors 12<sup>th</sup> January Cllr Hawkins to attend.

Cllr Watson confirmed he is available for one to one training.

Twinning Gift – Agenda item for January 2013 meeting.

Mast Heads – Clerk to undertake audit.

Tree report being undertaken by Arboricultural Consultant to include recommendation for first fell in woodland. Clerk to request report on ‘Managing the Woodland’.

**Action: Clerk to request report for ‘Managing the Woodland’**

Report of accidents on Westerleigh Road – Clerk to request update.

**Action: Clerk to request update.**

Fly posting clerk confirmed the Parish Orderly has been asked to remove signs which do not relate to village events – Cllr Smith suggested a charge be introduced for removing out of date signs.

**Action: Clerk to include as an agenda item for future meeting.**

New Clerk – Cllr Symons has draft application form and job description and will advertise position in Pucklechurch News and on the Pucklechurch and A.L.C.A web sites.

**NO 6. FINANCE.** Participatory Budgeting. Cllr Scantlebury has prepared a briefing for Councillors to consider together with an application form that organisations, groups and individuals can use to apply/bid for funding. The proposed closing date for applications for this financial year is 28<sup>th</sup> February 2013. Cllr Scantlebury suggested a date for a public meeting to advertise participatory budgeting should be agreed at this meeting. A letter outlining the principle of Participatory Budgeting will need to be drafted to go into Pucklechurch News, on the Website and to Parish Groups. The project would be facilitated by the Parish Council but a separate group of volunteers and one or two Councillors would oversee. Project criteria should be for schemes that are in the community’s interest, practical and affordable and legal for the Parish Council to fund.

Cllr Boyle expressed concern that this could not be achieved by the end of this financial year. It was proposed by Cllr Watson that the £8000.00. should be held over for next year and that Cllr Scantlebury moves the project forward for next year. All agreed.

The following cheques were agreed for payment and Cllr English & Cllr Boyle instructed to sign. Lawrence Tree Services £360.00. fell and grind out roots of 6 Ash trees on the edge of the allotments. Ensign Print £161.50. printing Pucklechurch News. A.L.C.A. £30.00. for chairing skills training. P.C.A. £85.00. two P.C. meetings one Parish Surgery and 4 sessions of youth club. Recresco Ltd £84.00. emptying of plastics re-cycling bank. Autocross

Euroshel Ltd £360.00. replacement panels for bus shelter. Mrs. Anna Sharpe £178.00. Mrs. D. Bailey £822.08. including salary £640.00. being the new agreed rate plus £1.80. stamps + £15.59. paper + £75.59. all weather jacket for Parish Orderly +£89.10. for 2010 package. Cllr Symons explained that the laptop only came with a 2010 starter and it had been necessary to purchase a package. Mr. D. Gay £630.00. maintenance of the Burial Ground for 2012 season. Mr. G. Ashby £1303.20. Clerk explained this included 5 weeks salary plus a sizeable tax refund. A letter has been sent to the Inland Revenue requesting payment of the refund.

**NO 7. AGENDA ITEMS. Community Plan.** Cllr Smith confirmed he has provided a wish list derived from the previous Parish Council suggestions as well as from the Community Plan list for discussion. Cllr Symons advised this would be included in the precept discussions at the Budget Meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> January. Cllr Smith advised he was unable to attend on the 2<sup>nd</sup> January and was concerned members may not understand the mechanics of some of the items and in particular 'Community Car Plan'. It was agreed that Cllr Smith could provide additional information if required at the meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> January. Cllr Smith confirmed the Community Plan ranking was complete there were approximately 6 things which could be done and a lot of items which should have already been done.

Letter to Steve Webb M.P. in response to email from C.P.R.E. Cllr Smith said the Parish Council should comment to the M.P. and S.G.C. to draw their attention to the strength of view of the community for the protection of the green belt. Cllr Boyle commented that the email from CPRE provided information based on its own interpretation of the possible consequences of the Growth and Infrastructure Bill and in spite of reading all the Parliamentary debate documents could find no specific reference to building on green belt. Cllr Watson pointed out that work on the Community Plan was carried out 5yrs ago and that the planning and economic situation was now totally different. He agrees it is critical to preserve the identity of Pucklechurch but the reality may be that we will be told to increase building in rural areas, we may have hard choices to make. Cllr Scantlebury said she thought a lot of people were opposed to building on the green belt and would have a problem with new building. Cllr Hawkins accepts there could be new build but only if carried out in the right way. Cllr Green was opposed to building on the green belt but thought small ribbon development was acceptable. Cllr English was opposed to building on the green belt. Cllr Boyle would prefer not to see building on the green belt. Cllr Aze did not want to see building on the green belt and sincerely hoped it would not happen.

Cllr Smith proposed an email be sent to all agencies M.P., S.G.C. Planning, C.P.R.E., National England, English Heritage and Cllrs Steve Reade and Ben Stokes to make them aware of the strength of view our community has for the protection of the green belt. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Cllr Boyle, all agreed.

Funding for Youth Club. Clerk advised she has confirmation from S.G.C. that funding for Youth Clubs will cease at the end of March 2013 and that on the 5<sup>th</sup> December a decision will be made with regards to the positive activity funding reference the amount and how it will be distributed. Cllr Boyle has read the report and suggested that the current situation is that we are not sure what will happen to rural youth clubs. The Positive Activities Fund will be split between the Area Forums, they will decide how the money is spent but it is not clear whether Parish Councils will be able to bid for funding. Cllr Smith said we have an active youth group in our community, we have something that is working and we don't want to lose it, we see the youth as part of our community. Cllr Watson suggested the Council should decide

how much in financial terms it could allocate to support the youth. Cllr Boyle said the Youth Club is not the only group to work with young people and the Council doesn't fund any of the other youth groups. Cllr Smith said the Youth Club catered for the less able and if considering youth activities the Council needed to be careful. It was agreed that Councillors did not have sufficient information available to make a decision and would need to wait for the minutes of the S.G.C. meeting. It was suggested that Cllrs Reade & Stokes could be asked for the minutes and a representative from S.G.C. invited to a Parish Council meeting. Clerk to reply to Jason Prewitt the Youth Leader that the Parish Council cannot help at this time but that there are other options available and we are looking into ways to help them.

**Actions: Contact Cllr Reade & Stokes for the minutes. Invite S.G.C. to a Parish Council meeting. Write to Youth Leader.**

Proposal to amend Standing Orders. Cllr Smith proposed the Standing Orders be amended as follows: 'The Council may only take decisions on items clearly specified on the agenda; if agreed by the chairman, any urgent items which are not on the agenda may be discussed, but no decision may be made at that meeting'. Cllr Boyle said she could not support the proposal as technically decision making powers cannot be devolved to a single Councillor so it was not possible for the Chairman to decide what is urgent should a definition of that be forthcoming. Cllr Watson said Parish Council meetings should be about making decisions and that nothing is likely to be so urgent that it could not wait for 2 weeks. Cllr Watson said he could not support the wording in Cllr Smith's proposal. There was no seconder for the proposal and the proposal was not carried.

**Action: Cllr Watson to look at a different style of agenda.**

To discuss information received regarding Y.O.I. Ashfield. Cllr Scantlebury declared an interest and took no part. Cllr Symons advised he had contacted the Governor at Ashfield who confirmed a number of options were being considered but no decision has been made, therefore there is nothing to report at this time.

**NO 8. CORRESPONDENCE.** Notification of a temporary closure of footpath PMR8 and PMR11 at Emerson's Green was received and noted.

A consultation letter was received regarding the relocation of the Pucklechurch Post Office to the local Newsagents Shop. Councillors were pleased that an alternative agent had been identified as the Post Office is very important to the local community and they would not want to lose it.

**Action: Clerk to include as an agenda item at next meeting.**

An email was received from Planning Enforcement regarding the obstruction of Public Footpath LWA26. It confirmed an Enforcement Officer had visited the site on the 27<sup>th</sup> November 2012 he noted the building appeared to be complete and the access surfaced. Regarding the Public Right of Way he did not consider the works were in breach of the planning permission but did seek to secure some improvement to the access. Rights of Way advised they could provide a steel self-closing gate but also said a loose tie would be sufficient to provide access to LWA26 & 27. The land subject to the application can be accessed from the road via a swing gate and from LWA26, via the road, or through the main gates which at the time of the Officers visit was secured by a loose tie. Pictures and details have been referred for further consideration but the works around the PROW do not contravene the planning permission which confirmed in the design and access statement that

no alterations would be made to the access arrangements. Enforcement has sought to get these improved but is not in a position to require this by formal action. Cllr Smith expressed concern that a meeting was still outstanding to discuss matters associated with material and non material change.

**Action: Clerk to contact James Cooke the Enforcement Officer to arrange dates for a meeting.**

An email was received from Dawn Russell the Enforcement Officer regarding the gates at Meadow View on Shortwood Rd. It was initially hoped that the gates could be added to the recent planning application but unfortunately this did not happen. The issue has been discussed with the Case Officer in order to determine whether it is expedient for enforcement action to be taken. Whilst the gates are over 2m high and within Enforcement control they are considered to be sufficiently set back to remove any access/egress issues and it is not considered expedient to pursue the matter further.

A letter was received from the P.C.A. expressing thanks for their grant.

A letter was received from Wessex Water regarding pollution entering Feltham Brook from the combined sewer overflow. They are not aware of pollution downstream of the combined sewer overflow in Feltham Road and they have no plans to carry out improvement works to the overflow as it is functioning correctly.

**Action: Clerk to send copy of letter to Wick & Abson Parish Council.**

**NO 9. PLANNING APPLICATIONS.** The following applications were considered and observations made. PK12/3991/F installation of 1 front dormer window. 32 Parkfield Rank. No objection.

PK12/4066/F erection of single storey front extension to provide additional living accommodation. 43 Homefield Rd. No objection.

PK12/4134/F erection of front porch and single garage with storage area. Lamorna Cottage, 1 Hodden Lane. Cllr Smith declared an interest. Cllr Boyle confirmed the application had only that day become available to view on line and it was agreed clerk would contact S.G.C. and request time to comment.

**Action: Clerk to contact S.G.C. for time to comment.**

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

Date of next meeting. 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2013.