

PEMBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Held Thursday 22nd March, 2007 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall

Present:

Cllr. G. Whiting - Chairman
Cllr. A. Stokes
Cllr. R. Pierce
Cllr. R. Phillips
Cllr. Mrs. S. Smith
Cllr. Mrs. P. Lloyd

Cllr. P. Thomas
Cllr. Mrs. J. Mifflin
Cllr. K. Duggan
Cllr. B. Morgan – part time only
Cllr. K. Myers

1. Apologies & Reasons for Absence

Cllr. G. Evans – Family matters to attend to
Cllr. D. Owens

ACTION

2. Announcement of any interests from councillors

None received.

3. Police Representative –PC Sharon Wilson

Sharon explained that although she has only recently been covering Kington Rural area, she has previously worked around Leominster and knows the NW of the county very well. She works with the new Community Safety Officer Donna Jones. Donna spends 85% of her working time on visible patrol. Either Sharon or Donna would be the first contact for any community issues unless they were of an urgent nature, and only then should a 999 call be made. Posters advertising the contact numbers will be put on noticeboards. Sharon suggested that half hour 'surgeries' could be held before parish council meetings if required. It was decided to take this offer up on a bi-monthly arrangement, commencing in May at the Open Parish Meeting on 9th May at 7pm.

HH

4. Minutes of last meeting/matters arising from them – 22nd February 2007

Item 16g - Cllr. Myers was unsure whether it had been agreed to go ahead with making the Presteigne/Shobdon sign by the shop more visible on a heightened pole. Cllr. Phillips will discuss this with Highways and feedback at the next meeting.

RJP

5. Forthcoming Elections in May

Clerk will distribute the nominations papers to all current councillors as soon as she has them.

6. Financial Report (Clerk)

A cheque for £181 offered by Kingspan for assisting them with delivering a leaflet to residents together with the 'Messenger' and our Parish Magazine is awaited.

Annual Donation requests from the following organisations were denied:

Citizens Advice Bureaux
Voluntary Action Community Wheels
The County Air Ambulance

Reconciliation of bank accounts has taken place.

Current Account at end of February:	c £6,289.32
Tracker Account:	£5,607.55
Post Office National Savings Account:	£10,176.06

Payments made since last meeting:

Toilet Cleaner – February	£164.50
Village Cleaner – February (last payment as cleaner has moved)	£80.00
John Amos for Valuing the Village Green (£28,840: 1.459 hectares in 3 lots) Fee:	£125.02
nPower electricity for public toilets	£17.18

Receipts since last meeting:

None

Additional payments requested:

20 x £10 payments to residents who used their electricity to light Christmas Trees:	£200.00
Land Registry Telford to officially register Village Green	£30.00
Casual Worker – Children’s playground repairs	£40.00
Toilet Cleaner – March	£182.12
Local Council Review magazine annual subscription	£13.50
Jan/Feb Parish Magazine production costs	£80.00
March/April Parish Magazine production costs	£80.00
Glasdon UK Ltd., New Waste Bin	£186.89
Mr. D. Morgan – Hedge laying in M. Meadow	£104.50
Clerk’s 4 th Quarter Salary	£729.14
Clerk’s 4 th Quarter Expenses	£177.14

All above transactions were approved**THERE WERE NO PARISHIONERS PRESENT TO ASK QUESTIONS****7. Parish Magazine Report**

The Chairman said that he would no longer be able to continue with the printing of the magazine after the May/June edition. He requested that all items should be submitted to him by 15th of the month prior to publication, regularly, if possible. After discussion it was agreed that the CAP Steering Group would be able to print the magazine, but that they would need help with the folding of them.

**SS/KD
ALL****8. Parish Website**

Cllr. Pierce explained that he has been in discussions with the website manager concerning various aspects for the site’s improvement and compliance with the accessibility conditions which were now developing, although there is no date known yet for when it would go live, but it did seem that the use of the .gov domain is becoming feasible. An approach has been made to the Cabinet Office who oversee .gov domain names to see whether some of the rather stringent management requirements could be avoided for a small council such as this, and a response is awaited. New rules to ensure Parish websites are compatible with Herefordshire Council’s website when we link in – handouts passed to Cllr. Pierce with a copy for the website manager.

RP**9. Community Access Point**

The meeting was told that a list of equipment required has been submitted, and this equipment should be delivered next week. It will be stored at the School in a special locked cupboard.

Equipment will comprise of : 6 laptops, webcams, photocopiers, printers, digital cameras, screens etc. Broadband facility has been made available at the Village Hall.

The proposed hours of opening have had to be cut back to just 2 evenings: 1 at the Village Hall and 1 at the School.

A formal opening ceremony will be arranged.

It was decided that a CAP report to the PC will only be required on a quarterly basis in future.

10. Millennium Meadow

Nil to report – date for start of work to move the overhead power cable is awaited.

11. Amenity Trust

Belfry ladder rungs repairs – neither of the two blacksmiths who have been requested by the Clerk to quote for this work have responded to the Amenity Trust. The Amenity Trust has been requested to follow this up please with obtaining some quotes.

GE

Toilet Repairs – neither of the two people contacted by the Amenity Trust to quote for this work have responded.

Clerk will endeavour to find someone else to do this work as it is becoming urgent, and if an agreeable quote is obtained, similar to the first one, then the work will be carried out without further discussion, as previously agreed.

HH**12. Village Hall**

After discussion it was decided that a firm agreement be sought first in writing from Mr. & Mrs. Akle with regard to their verbal agreement to provide 2 outdoor tennis courts, to explain exactly what they are offering the parish. The Amenity Trust has expressed some concern about the unknown costs for the maintenance of these courts, and who should be responsible for their ongoing upkeep and maintenance if they are based at the Village Hall site.

HH**13. Village Green****Reinforcing of Car Parking area:**

2 quotes have been sought for reinforcing the car parking area with Grasscrete blocks, regrettably one of the builders contacted has subsequently pulled out.

The remaining quote will need to be considered with a view to submitting a grant application to Kingspan's Environmental Fund towards the costs prior to the end of March. This quote is for £14,500 + VAT (VAT can be reclaimed, therefore amount of funding applied to Kingspan for is £13,500 with the remaining £1,000 being kindly contributed by a local resident.)

Moving on Illegal stayers on the Village Green:

Following the talk given at the last meeting by Geoff Hardy a local solicitor, consideration was given to his suggestion that the Village Green ownership could be made over to the Amenity Trust, as if it remains in the ownership of the Parish Council the matter of moving on Travellers or other parties who might choose to stay over on the village green illegally would be much more difficult, and time consuming. This is because there is a higher burden of proof on public authorities, particularly with regard to domestic possession rights and family rights of those staying illegally. However, the Amenity Trust met this week, where the Village Green was mentioned. The Trustees were unanimous that they would not wish to take on responsibility for the Village Green. Therefore no further action will be taken on this matter, and if the situation arises, then the Parish Council will be responsible for taking legal action.

14. Pembridge Show Update – Saturday 28th July

The main dilemma for the organisers is that there are too few of them, and more volunteer helpers are sought. It was agreed that a separate flyer on this topic would go into the next parish magazine. The theme for this year's show will be green issues/energy saving etc.

GW**15. Reintroduction of the Cowslip and Woodcock Fairs in Pembridge:– starting November '07**

This is following up a request by residents that came out of the 2002 Parish Plan.

At the last meeting it was agreed to reintroduce these fairs, with an entirely different purpose to that which they were originally intended, but as more of a way of bringing the community together in a purely social way, and making it an interesting day based perhaps on local arts & crafts, and a food and drink themed market, utilising local products as far as possible.

The headmaster of the school is very happy to let the school grounds be used as an extension to the Market Hall area. Perhaps therefore morning coffees, and lunches, and additional food stalls could be based there.

The first fair, the Woodcock Fair, has been provisionally arranged for **Saturday 10th November 2007** to operate between 10 am and 4pm. The Leominster Morris Dancers have been booked - they are happy to pass a bucket round for collections, and any shortfall in rate would be made up by the Parish Council – rate is £200 for 2 dances (1 late morning and again after lunch). A small team of volunteers will be needed to organise this event.

It was decided to put off a decision on whether to go ahead with this until the matter is further discussed at the 9th May Parish Open Meeting to gauge the level of interest.

ALL

16. Parish Matters Arising/Correspondence for action

a) Community First – Celebration of parish/town planning – This was held on Wed. 21st March. Cllr. P. Lloyd and the Clerk attended. Cllr. Lloyd received a certificate presented for completion of our Parish Plan, on behalf of the Parish. This was shown to the meeting.

b) ‘Discovering Lost Ways Project’ update - Cllr. Myers reported that it had been decided by the Parish Council that the process of resurrecting old footpaths for the future use of parishioners and visitors would not be proceeded with.

c) Society of Local Council Clerks – West Midlands Regional Conference – Fri. 30th March 10 – 3.45pm Clerk to attend.

d) Herefordshire Youth Council Elections 2007 – to be held during week 19th – 25th March.

e) Assistance for Travellers on static site – Cllr. Stokes gave an update to the consideration of a parish befriending policy of the local Travellers families, once they come on site. Cllr. Stokes has spoken to the Gypsy Liaison officer who has told him that when the travellers have arrived on site then she will arrange for a Tenants Association to be set up, to which a Parish Council representative would be welcome.

f) P. Council & Amenity Trust Land Ownership Check – Ongoing by Cllr. A. Stokes.

g) Another Highway Concern from a local resident: Enquiry as to whether it would be possible to have a much needed road crossing installed somewhere near to the Shop to allow mothers with pushchairs and small children walking to the school to be able to cross in safety. Cllr. Mrs. Mifflin provided a letter from the school requesting the Parish Council to support this in their Travel Plan, and stated that the school has arranged for a Highways Officer to attend to see if there are any suitable sites for a road crossing near the centre of the village.

A School’s representative will be invited to the Open Meeting 6th May to discuss this issue.

HH

h) Northwest Herefordshire Freight Quality Partnership – Clerk responded by completing their questionnaire. Cllr. Myers attended their 2nd meeting held on 8th March. A handout was given to everyone explaining that the NWFQP was formed to generate a dialogue between H. Council, freight operators and parish councils (on behalf of parishioners) on traffic, and in particular, freight issues. Short and medium term action plans..... will contain nothing of immediate or significant impact for Pembridge parish. Future meetings of the NWFQP will take place six monthly. Please contact Cllr. Myers if you have queries.

HH

i) The Conservation Foundation O2 – the recent grant application was refused for replacements for the vandalised picnic table and waste bin to go on the grassed area near the public toilets. Clerk has arranged to purchase these, as was agreed, so that they can be positioned fairly soon before the Spring visitors start to arrive.

HH

j) New home sought for a central visitors information centre within the village – Ideas were discussed as to a suitable central place for visitors to gain local information & literature. No particular venue was decided upon, but the meeting was told that Townsend Farm are to increase the amount of leaflets available there.

- k) A boost to visitor numbers** – It has been reported that visitor and tourist numbers seem to be diminishing, but after discussing the matter it was decided that no action to encourage more visitors would be taken.
- l) Central Village Summer floral Display** – Clerk asked whether the parish council would like to purchase or rent 4 good sized planters and some hanging baskets to be attached to the railings for a colourful summer plant display, and some hanging baskets for the opposite corner, as it is a high profile area. It was decided that a few planters previously used by the Shop would be utilised again if possible. Cllr. Mifflin to follow up. Clerk said that she would look at grant funding opportunities also. **JM
HH**
- m) Training – Clerks and Chairpersons Informal Evening** – Was held at Brockington on Wed. 21st March 7 – 9.30 pm No-one available to attend – Clerk at another meeting.
- n) A request has been received** to enquire whether if the existing houses in Curl View were to come up for reoccupation, whether it could be arranged that they would be offered to the local community first. Cllr. Phillips explained that such vacant housing would be offered to the most vulnerable or needy person/s within Herefordshire who are registered with the Home Point housing scheme, and they may not be local to Pembridge. It was mentioned that such new residents could be those who have been evicted from elsewhere on ASBO's, which was an obvious concern to all.
- o) No further information has been received from Marches Housing Association** regarding another Affordable Housing site proposed for the village, despite the Clerk enquiring on councillors' behalf.
- p) Update on Parish Highway concerns from last meeting::** 'Road Narrows' signs & narrowing of western entrance to the village to reduce speeding of traffic. These matter have previously been discussed and concern had been raised about the number of signs appearing in the village, and it was therefore agreed that consideration would not be given to any further road signs being introduced nor was it considered that there was any need to make changes to the western entrance to the village. **HH/RJP**
Clerk will supply resident's letter to Cllr. Phillips for his reply to them to this effect. The matter of the possible introduction of a road crossing was discussed earlier.
- q) Thank you letter received from CAP Steering Group for PC support.** Noted
- r) Revised terms of contract re Bell Tower Clock Annual Servicing:**
Discount for booking ahead for 3/4/ or 5 years Service if purchased now. It was agreed to purchase this 5 year service at the discounted rates, but to ensure that 7 days notice is given prior to attending to carry out the work each year. **HH**
- s) Clerk has submitted an application for £300 grant funding** towards website development.
- t) Sat. 28th April – Museum on the Move at Parish Hall (Abolishment of Slavery)**
- u) Calor Village of the Year competition** details received. Noted.
- v) Invitation for 2 members** to attend key regional briefing meeting in Birmingham - Wed. 27th June.
- w) Bus service nos. 493 & 496 – contracts due to expire 1st September 2007** – Suggestions sought on any improvement to local services and any particular journeys which are particularly important to local people. Clerk requested to write giving support for these services and requesting that they are maintained.
- x) Community Empowerment Awards of up to £1000 available** for projects which include: Young People, Older People, Housing, Gypsies, Travellers and Migrant Workers.
- y) Village Cleaner – replacement sought urgently.** It is not known of anyone interested.

17. Planning Matters**Application for tree works – passed to Tony Norman**

Dunelm, West Street, Pembridge – Reduce mature Ash tree by 30% and thin by 10%

Applications recently Permitted:

DCNW2007/0221/F Land to the rear of Walcote Bungalow, High Street, Pembridge
Proposed variation to allow the provision of single storey annexes
(Now have a small first floor area which will be used as a shower room)

Applications currently awaiting decisions:

DCNW2006/3978/F Kingspan Insulation Ltd., Torvale Ind. Estate, Pembridge
steel portal framed production and storage buildings,
lorry park, alterations to internal roadways and new access.

Comments:

Pembridge Parish Council has no objection to this application
Provided that:

- a) any additional security lighting is angled downwards.
- b) That all drivers of HGV traffic entering and leaving the site
are made aware of using the agreed route, and are
not to travel through Pembridge village.

DCNW2007/0072/L Church House, Bearwood Lane, Pembridge No objection
Listed Renovation of timber frame on south elevation.

18. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting date will be Wednesday 18th April 2007 at 7.30 pm

Parishioners Open Meeting: Wed. 9th May & P.Council Annual Meeting: Wed. 16th May

MEETING CLOSED

19. Ward Councillor's Report

Future Burial Ground

The existing burial ground in use behind the Church has 2 years before it is full. The Vicar has set up a working party to look at the matter which included Julie Mifflin and myself. We have looked at adjoining sites but the owners will not sell, and sites outside the village which raise access and planning issues. We also felt that to rebury on the churchyard in front of the Church would spoil the approach to the Church and Belfry. The conclusion we have come to is to rebury on a part of the Churchyard behind the Belfry on the extreme left of the existing ground and cut down the conifers and several trees which now overhang several graves. All graves are over 100 years old. This part of the Churchyard was laid out in the 1890's and the intention is to restore it to the original plan which included existing yew trees. This will provide about 10 years of ground.

I have arranged a meeting with Tony Norman (Parish Tree Officer) and the Herefordshire Council Tree and Conservation Officers. We need to consult the community on this possibly in the next newsletter and put an item on the Annual Parish Meeting.

Your support in this matter would be appreciated.

Polytunnels

A report came to Environment Scrutiny today which will go to Cabinet on 22nd March. Our policy will be:-

All new polytunnel developments within this County will require planning permission.

Enforcement proceedings be continued or initiated on all growers with existing polytunnels.

This means that applications will come to planning committees for decisions. Our decision follows the recent High Court Judgement on the Waverly planning application in Surrey. The Judge's decision was not only do the tunnels, but also the caravans need Planning Permission.

We still await the Minister decision on Brierley Court 's Planning Application which we refused in June 2004!! This however was about the building of amenity buildings rather than tunnels.

Rotherwas Access Road

We formally cut the first sod and started this road at a low-key event. There is considerable opposition to building roads in the County and protestors would have tried to disrupt the proceedings. The road will provide better access to the large industrial estate, which provides 2,000 jobs and potentially could create another 1,000 jobs.

Planning Gain Consultations

We are consulting on our Planning Gain proposals, which aim to raise a considerable amount of funding for infrastructure in the County. We are proposing that every non-affordable house built in the County over the next 20 years pays a sum of money to the local authority ranging on size of house from £5,000 – £15,000. The Government expects over 15,000 houses to be built in the County and if 7,500 of those were non-affordable and we received £10,000 each then we could borrow money over this period knowing that some £75 million pounds was coming in. This funding could be used to build further roads and a bridge crossing in Hereford, and East/West by pass in Leominster, or Leisure Centres.

A percentage would also go to the Parish Council to fund community infrastructure.

Schools

From 2008 all of Pembridge Parish will fall within Pembridge School's catchment area.

2007 Herefordshire Council Elections

I have had the privilege and pleasure of being your local representative on the Council for the past 10 years and it is my intention to stand again in May. To those members who will not be standing can I thank them for their support to both the Parish and myself. With the support of the local community I would wish to continue to work with and on behalf of the Parish in the future.

Meeting ended at 10.15 pm