

PEMBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Held Wednesday 21st November, 2007 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall
7.15 pm viewing Planning Applications, 7.30 pm Main Business

Present:

Cllr. G. Evans - Chairman
Cllr. Mrs. P. Lloyd
Cllr. R. Pierce
Cllr. R. Phillips – Part Time
Cllr. A. Stokes
Cllr. D. Owens – Part Time

Cllr. P. Thomas
Cllr. Mrs. J. Mifflin
Cllr. J. Purslow
Cllr. K. Duggan
Cllr. B. Morgan – Part Time
Cllr. Mrs. S. Smith

A16. Apologies & Reasons for Absence: : Cllr. K. Myers – Family Business

ACTION

Heather Harding, Clerk, has submitted her resignation from her post as of 31st January 2008

A17. Announcement of any interests from councillors

Personal Interests declared by Cllr. R. Phillips & Cllr. Mrs. J. Mifflin regarding a planning application for the School, to which they are Governors. Clerk recorded these interests.

A18. Minutes of last meeting/matters arising from them – 17th October 2007

These were signed as a true record. No matters arising.

A19. Financial Report (Clerk)

Reconciliation of bank accounts has taken place. VAT reclaim of £610.41 has been made. An administrative charge for the handling of nominations for the May 2007 election is expected.

Precept was set at £19,000 for 2008/2009. Approved by majority vote.

HH

Balances at end October 2007:

Current Account at end of October:	£14,515.87
High Interest Account:	£5,729.06
Post Office National Savings Account:	£10,520.11

Receipts since last meeting:

1 x Magazine Advertising Fee	£60.00
1 X Magazine Advertising Fee (- 1 edition)	£50.00

Payments made since last meeting:

Toilet Cleaner + Bins October	£205.62
HALC – 6 copies of Standing Orders Booklet	£36.00
Fixing of new seat on Village Green	£45.00
Computacenter – New Printer	£2,067.38

Additional Payments Requested:

Strimming M. Meadow	£35.00
Mowing of M. Meadow October	£94.00
Toilet Cleaner + Bins November	£199.75
Mowing of Village Green, car park etc. 2007	£310.00
Parish Freighter X 3 bookings for 2008	£116.34
NPower electricity for toilets	£47.07
Village Green mowing & maintenance – 2007	£176.25
Bell Tower Ladder Repair	£527.06

All above transactions were approved.

A20. Planning Matters considered this evening:

- 1) **DCNW2007/3354/F Bearwood Cottage, Lower Bearwood, Pembridge**
Proposed removal of rear porch and erection of a single storey extension
Comment: No Objection
- 2) **DCNW2007/2897/F Pembridge C of E Primary School, West St., Pembridge**
Proposed extension to form new hall, admin & heads room, internal remodelling and provision of enclosed link with Associated works
Comment:
Pembridge Parish Council is in favour of this application, and would not like to see its progress delayed, however it would like the following points to be taken into consideration:
- 1) If at all possible the mature Willow tree should remain; or, an alternative tree planting be made if it is considered that the Willow tree's roots may damage the building.
 - 2) The selection of roofing materials should be made carefully, to ensure that they blend with the surrounding buildings.
 - 3) It is disappointed that no eco-friendly design aspects appear to have been incorporated into the scheme, and would like this matter to be considered if at all possible and within the limited funding available. As such a large improvement project is unlikely to be carried out again for many years, it would be a pity to miss this opportunity to teach the children at first hand the importance of considering the environment.
- 3) **DCNW2007/3305/L Weston Court Farm, Weston, Pembridge**
Listed
Retention of unauthorised works Plot 4
Comment: No Objection (Breaches of planning control)
- 4) **DCNW2007/3304/F Weston Court Farm, Weston, Pembridge**
Retention of unauthorised works Plot 4
(Breaches of planning control)
Comment: No Objection
- 5) **DCNW2007/3312/L Hazeldene, West Street, Pembridge**
Listed
Proposed conversion of cottage into two dwelling
Each with a garden area and car parking facility
Comment: No Objection
- 6) **DCNW2007/2211/F Hazeldene, West Street, Pembridge**
Proposed conversion of cottage into two dwelling
Each with a garden area and car parking facility
Comment: No Objection
- 7) **DCNW2007/3413/F Sunnybank, Bearwood, Leominster**
Proposed extension to front of existing garage
Comment: No Objection
- 8) **DCNW2007/3435/F Acorn Cottage, East Street, Pembridge**
Proposed conservatory, new dormer window and internal Alterations
Comment: No Objection

Cllr. Owens & Cllr. Phillips left at 8.15 pm to attend another meeting.

Discussion on best way to handle planning applications – very time consuming. Clerk to check whether they are available to view in advance of meetings on H. Council's website.

HH

A21. **No Parishioners present to ask questions**

A22. **WARD COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – CLLR. R. PHILIPS**

Crookall Report

Following a report from internal auditors on the finances of the IT department of the Council I requested the National Local Government Association to appoint an Inspector to look into these matters. In particular he examined two ICT contracts. He concluded that procedures were not properly followed and that insufficient information was placed before elected Members on the contracts. He was sharply critical of the senior staff of the Council and recommended further actions. He concluded that one of the contracts had too much duplication to represent good value for money, but the second and more substantial contract had brought considerable benefit to the Authority.

Mr. Crookall confirmed the problem was only in the one section of one department of the Council and highlighted the need to have a sense of proportion on these matters. Copies of his report are on the Council website.

Highways

I have had a meeting with our new contractors Amey Wye Valley, who are keen to receive a list of any priorities that the Parish Council may have for inclusion in the 2008/09 work programme. The Milton works have now been completed but you will be aware of the fatal accident in the Parish at Cotmore.

I have received a request from a resident about extending the yellow lines in Bridge Street, plus opposite the junction, and a lamppost on the right hand side of Bridge Street going towards the river. I said I would raise these matters although I did say we had talked about the yellow lines before and that in the past, whilst recognising the safety issues, there was also the success of the village shop and Post Office to consider.

Shobdon Aerodrome

A new flight line coming out of Shobdon following the Towe Ditch has been agreed and will be implemented next year to relieve noise over Noke Lane and Marston.

Meeting to Reopened

A23. **Proposed Tennis Courts for the Parish - Update**

Following an article in the recent parish magazine inviting comments from interested parties, only 3 responses were received, which together with a previous 3, gives a total of only 6 people in the parish who would be interested in forming a tennis club. The actual number needed to run a successful club is around 30 people; these would need to pay in the region of £50 each per annum to bring in sufficient money to cover the running costs. Funding would be available to assist in the building of the courts, together with the generous offer from a private resident, but it seemed doubtful that there is in fact sufficient local interest to form or keep a tennis club running.

On this basis there was a Proposal not to go ahead with the project, and a vote taken. Majority were in favour of the proposal.

Clerk will write to and explain, and thank, the private resident for his offer of assistance with the formation of 2 tennis courts.

HH

- A24. Amenity Trust Report** **ACTION**
 Public toilets repairs are completed.
 Repairs to the bell tower ladder are completed.
 Trees overhanging the entrance to the Millennium Meadow need cutting back.
 Fallen leaves in the children's playground need to be swept up.
- A25. Parish Council Website Improvements Update** **GE**
 Links have been made to H. Council's website. The parish newsletter will soon be put on the website. Personal telephone numbers of councillors will be removed; however comments may be made by e mail to 4 contacts, general enquiries will be passed to the Clerk to deal with.
 The grant application to HALC will be refused as it is not now needed.
Website address is: www.pembridge.org.uk
- A26. Parish Magazine**
 The first copy of the magazine for Nov/Dec has been printed using the new printer.
 More copies need to be printed – at least 600.
- A27. Millennium Meadow Progress Report**
 A Public Meeting is to be held on 22nd November to discuss the way forward.
- A28. Village Green Report**
 The application made to Kingspan's Trust for the development of the Green on the NE side has been approved with very generous funding offered to complete the works.
 The following people will be involved in the project: Cllr. K. Myers, Cllr. R. Pierce, Doreen Furber and Tony Norman.
- A29. Parish Matters Arising/Correspondence for Action**
- a) **Speed Indicator Device (SID)** – Cllr. Phillips will speak to the Highways Team and report back at next meeting. **RP**
 - b) **Adoption of Standing Order Amendments – Agreed.**
 - c) **Adoption of Financial Regulations Amendments – Agreed.**
 - d) **Christmas Village Lighting update** – Cllr. Mrs. Mifflin is speaking to persons interested in having a Christmas tree on their frontage. Clerk to check insurance policy cover for external electrical equipment. Individuals must have their own indoor insurance cover. **HH**
 - e) **Training Courses for Councillors** – names will be collated in January.
 - f) **Update on Review of Parish Plan** – Delayed decision until next meeting.
 - g) **The private land agents for Welsh Water wish to advise of planned water mains refurbishment in this area.** Clerk to write and advise that the work should proceed. **PL**
 - h) **Telford Land Registry has not accepted a second application for the parish council to Register itself as the owner of the village green.** More evidence needs to be supplied with regard to maintenance of the green over several years. **HH**
 - i) **Volunteer needed to carry out a monthly safety inspection of the play equipment** - Cllr. Stokes agreed to do this. Clerk to supply a check list to complete, completed copies of this need to be returned to the Clerk. **HH**
 - j) **Letter received from School Headmaster** concerning proposed new signage in the village. No change from previous decision – only 2 signs agreed for Bearwood Lane. Highways Team and the Headmaster have been advised accordingly. **AS**
 - k) **Parish Freighter** – 3 dates booked for 2008: 26/4 & 9/8 between 11am-1pm + 8/11 between 8am and 10am. **PT**
 - l) **Highways and Transportation have advised of changes to their management roles.** The North Team which covers Pembridge will be managed by Richard Leppard: E Mail RLeppard@herefordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01432 383217

- m) **Herefordshire NHS Primary Care Trust is holding a 'drop-in' session** for anyone to attend and give their views on how money is to be spent on healthcare in Herefordshire. **Leominster Community Hospital Mon. 26th Nov. 3pm – 7.45pm**
- n) **Funding Lunch** – to learn about grants that are available & tips for making an application is being held by Herefordshire Voluntary Action on Wed. 21st Nov. 12noon – 2pm at Kington Resource Centre

A30. Next Meeting Date

Next Meeting: **Wednesday 16th January 2008** at 7.30 pm in the Parish Hall.

MEETING WAS CLOSED AT 10.15 pm