

PEMBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Held Wednesday 13th February 2008 at 7.30 pm in the Parish Hall
7.15 pm viewing Planning Applications, 7.30 pm Main Business

Present:

Cllr. K. Myers – Acting Chairman
Cllr. Mrs. S. Smith
Cllr. R. Pierce
Cllr. R. Phillips
Cllr. A. Stokes

Cllr. P. Thomas
Cllr. Mrs. J. Mifflin
Cllr. J. Purslow
Cllr. K. Duggan
+ 2 Members of the public

- A46. Apologies & Reasons for Absence:** Cllr. G. Evans – Family Matters **ACTION**
Cllr. Mrs. P. Lloyd – Attending another meeting
Cllr. D. Owens – No reason given
Cllr. B. Morgan – No reason given

- A47. Announcement of any interests from councillors**
Personal interests declared by Cllr. P. Thomas regarding a planning application at Weston Court. Clerk recorded this interest.

- A48. Minutes of last meeting/matters arising from them – 16th January 2008**
These were signed as a true record.

Matters Arising:

Clerk was asked to give an update regarding the Council's endeavour to register the Village Green with the Land Registry, with the aid of a local solicitor. Clerk advised that the situation did not look very positive, judging by feedback to date from the Land Registry, and that this would be further discussed with the solicitor. The Clerk was requested to enquire about the legal costs to date, as it would seem futile to continue with expensive litigation if there was not to be a positive result. Also, it was suggested that perhaps the Council could lodge a request with the Land Registry that it be informed if another party tried to register the V. Green land. **HH**

Clerk was requested to provide a copy of the Council's letter of support that was recently sent to the Headteacher of the village School. This will be sent out with the next agenda. **HH**

Clerk was also requested to write to the Secretary of the Amenity Trust asking for details of the Trust's income received for the financial year. This arose after a member enquired about the recent agreement that the Trust should retain monies from the public toilet donations box. **HH**

- A49. Financial Report (Clerk)**

Reconciliation of bank accounts has taken place.

Advised that cost of last Parish Council elections: 3rd May 2007 will be £26.04.

Confirmation of precept request for 2008/09 has been received : £19,000.

Appointment of a new External Auditor from 2008 onwards for next 5 years:- Mazars LLP.

Clerk requested to purchase 3 new Minute Books at a cost of c£75 each – Agreed. **HH**

Balances at end January 2008:

Current Account at end of December:	£10,255.43
High Interest Account:	£5,775.48
Post Office National Savings Account:	£10,520.11

Receipts since last meeting:

BT Wayleave payment	£8.82
1 x Magazine Advertising Fee	£60.00

Payments made since last meeting:

CAP repayment for printer paper for magazine	£38.98
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Additional Payments Requested:

Pembridge Parish Hall – hire	£50.00
nPower Electricity for public toilets	£40.78
Public Toilets Cleaner – February + Bins	£193.87
HALC – Training places X 3 (1 free place owed)	£70.00
Payment for clearing leaves & rubbish in Playground & Meadow	£40.00
Repayment to Cllr. Mrs. Mifflin for additional Christmas lights purchased	£109.94

All above transactions were approved.

A50. Planning Matters considered this evening:

DCNW2008/0203/F & Plot 1 Annexe Weston Court Farm, Weston
DCNW2008/0204/L Listed Repair and extension of existing detached annexe building to form new studio/workshop

Comment: No Objection

DCNW2008/0287/F Fox Hollow, Turnpike Corner, Pembridge

Proposed conservatory to rear
 Comment: No Objection

DCNW2007/3729/F Brick House, West Street, Pembridge

Replace conservatory with new garden room extension
 Comment: No Objection
 Vote taken: 4 for, 3 against, 2 abstentions, 4 members absent

Treework Application – to be passed to Tony Norman our Tree Warden

DCNW2008/0331/K Bank House, Bridge Street, Pembridge
 Reduce crowns on 5 Leylandii trees.

Meeting Closed for the next 2 items**A51. Parishioners questions:**

2 residents wanted to request that an additional street light be installed in Bridge Street, almost opposite Sandiford Plock, as it is very dark there, and an added danger is that there is a steep drop down to the road, which could present a hazard. Lack of light for 100 metres.

It was agreed that the Clerk would enquire about this with the Street Lighting section.

HH

A52. WARD COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – CLLR. R. PHILIPS

It was confirmed that all draft proposals for school mergers and closures have been withdrawn. However schools with less than 46 pupils must have an action plan for their improvement to pupil numbers. Pembridge school is in a satisfactory situation with 99 pupils and upwards, as is Shobdon with 58 pupils and upwards. The proposed closure of the 6th form at Lady Hawkins school is now cancelled as it provides good 6th form provision, and with pupils being encouraged to stay on at school for longer, the choices of subjects taught will be greater.

There is a new '14-19 Agenda' planned.

The Highways northern team is currently being led by Andrew Middlecote, as Richard Leppard has left.

Cllr. Phillips would like to know of any road improvements required in the area as soon as possible please.

ALL

----- The Clerk agreed to follow up 2 minor outstanding highways issue from 2 years ago which have still not been completed.

HH

Meeting was Reopened

A53. Parish Council Website Improvements Update

Our current ISP is not approved to host .gov.uk domain names and also does not offer some of the facilities required by the new website. It was therefore proposed to transfer hosting to an approved ISP called Zen Internet Ltd. The annual cost would be £47.88 for website hosting, plus £24.99 for each registered domain name. We would need to transfer the existing domain *pembridge.org.uk* and the snappy new *pembridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk*, giving a total annual cost of £97.86.

This expenditure and course of action was approved by all.

Cllr. Mrs. Mifflin requested that the Pembridge Show entry forms for the various classes be placed on the website for easy completion. The possibility of this will be considered.

RP/JM

Please advise Cllr. Pierce of any forthcoming events, to enable them to be advertised on the website.

ALL

A54. Millennium Meadow Progress Report

Missing base part of the waste bin in the playground has been traced and refixed.

It was reported that there has been more vandalism there, with a slat of fencing removed and damage to one of the small pieces of play equipment. Clerk was requested to advise the Community Safety Officer and to request that the CSO reports to the next Parish Council meeting in March.

HH

There has been a 'Private' sign fixed to the meadow gate at the lower end, illegally by a resident. Clerk was advised to request the Amenity Trust Chairman to remedy the situation, as the Trust is the rightful owner of the entranceway into its Meadow, and to report back to the next meeting.

HH/GE

A55. Village Green Report

The one-off tree coppicing exercise by the Environment Agency's Flood Risk Management Team has just begun management work on Pembridge's riverside trees, and resultant lengths of core wood and brushwood chippings are available for residents to help themselves to. Clerk will advertise this in the forthcoming Parish News magazine.

HH

The Environment Agency has advised that approximately one in every 3 stems would be coppiced initially during this exercise by them. Obviously, in addition, any weak or dangerous trees would be removed too.

Thereafter it was suggested that every 5 to 10 years a commercial tree surgeon would be required to remove a further main stem until only 'new growth' remained and all the old wood had been coppiced. This duration between tree works would allow for good new growth to take place from the coppiced trees.

The Chairman thanked the Clerk for negotiating this work with the Environment Agency on a free of charge basis, which has probably saved parish expenditure in the region of £2,000.

With regard to the development of the designated conservation area for which £12,000 has been offered by the Kingspan Trust, a local consultant has been commissioned to present a report on the flora and fauna of the green and how the area should be managed, and made available for public viewing. The report will be made available to the PC for comment before being presented to the Kingspan Trust, but it will not now be possible to meet their deadline date of 31st March as the flora and fauna cannot be surveyed until between May and July, therefore an extension of time within which to submit both the expert report and the detailed design proposals will be requested. A meeting with the arboriculturalist was arranged for 12th February to discuss the draft report. It was planned that two approaches will be put forward:

- 1) A species rich plan - left mainly as meadow to be mown or grazed and allowing wild flowers to grow, or
- 2) A species poor plan - mainly converted to wet woodland and mown

These two proposals were discussed at some length and the Vice Chairman sought the views of the councillors. General approval was given to the two approaches mentioned, and for the next step, which is for the Management Group to produce and submit a detailed design to the Parish Council, and to make it available for parishioners' comments before finalising the design and submitting it with costings to the Kingspan Trust.

All residents with rights of one sort or another upon the Village Green will be advised of the Parish Council's intentions through an article in the Parish Magazine.

KM

The project must be completed by June 2009.

A56. Parish Matters Arising/Correspondence for Action

- a) **Clerk Vacancy** – Despite advertising the post widely on two occasions there was very little interest. The one remaining suitable candidate has just found herself a post with another parish council. **The Clerk therefore agreed that she would stay on in post of Clerk and would be pleased to continue to serve the parish, but requested that her terms and conditions of employment be reviewed.** The Vice Chairman (who is chairing this meeting) agreed that he would discuss this matter with the Chairman shortly, but in the meantime he welcomed the Clerk's decision to remain in post. This was agreed by all.
- b) **School warning signs & 30mph painted road sign** – Signs were now in place, and the road painted speed roundel will be completed imminently, just beyond the Parish Hall in Bearwood Lane.
- c) **Speed Indicator Devices (SID) for village** – Cllr. Phillips reported that the S.I.D's are expensive. He is discussing the issues with Ann Mann in the Road Safety section, and they will be looking at all the options, including legal restrictions etc. Cllr. Phillips will report back to the next meeting.
- d) **Christmas Event for 2008 – Focus Group & community activity** - Cllr. Mrs. Mifflin. This will be placed on the agenda for later in the year.
- e) **Training Courses for Councillors** – **NOTE:** booked for those who requested them.
- f) **Update on Review of Parish Plan** – Cllr. Duggan reported that the group of 3 members had met to discuss this issue and had agreed that the Plan does need **partial** updating of old and new relevant issues. It was suggested that the matter is developed sufficiently by the group to then enable them to present a final suggested route forward to parishioners at the Annual Parish Open Meeting on 7th May 2008.
- g) **Request from a Hereford Builder's company to advertise in our magazine.** It has been advised that the Clerk should check with the magazine's editor as to his views regarding this matter.

RP

JM/HH

KD/PL/JM

HH

h) Village Tidiness issue – the following improvement plans were proposed:

ACTION

1. A litter bin be placed at the "de facto" layby in Bearwood Lane and be included in the emptying round of the other bins.
- 2) A person be employed at least once a month to collect litter on the 4 main thoroughfares into Pembridge within the 30 mph signs.
- 3). A " Trash Bash" be organised in the early Spring to collect litter throughout the village, possibly ending with a lunchtime barbecue for the collectors.

Proposals 1 and 2 were accepted. Proposal 2 was rejected.

A new waste bin will be purchased for the lay-by in Bearwood Lane

An unofficial Village Rubbish Collection would be organised by Cllr. Stokes who agreed to advertise the event in the parish magazine, and to also organise volunteer recruitment and equipment for the event.

AS

Another matter raised was that silt on roads and pavements is building up and allowing weeds to grow, making the village look untidy.

It was also mentioned that another waste bin is required to be sited in West Street, therefore the Clerk was instructed to purchase bins.

HH

i) Kington Area Regeneration Company next meeting – Wed. 20th Feb.2.30 pm
Kington Youth Hostel

PL

j) Age Concern have produced a DVD on "River Tales" which is being circulated around the councillors.

k) A new Grit Bin has recently been positioned on Parsons Walk.

A57. Next Meeting Date

Next Meeting: **Wednesday 19th March 2008** at 7.30 pm in the Parish Hall.

MEETING WAS CLOSED AT 9.15 pm