

PEMBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Held Wednesday 19th March 2008 at 7.30 pm in the Parish Hall
7.15 pm viewing Planning Applications, 7.30 pm Main Business

Present:

Cllr. G. Evans
Cllr. K. Myers
Cllr. R. Pierce
Cllr. Mrs. P. Lloyd

Cllr. A. Stokes
Cllr. Mrs. J. Mifflin
Cllr. J. Purslow
Cllr. K. Duggan
+ 3 Members of the public

- A58. Apologies & Reasons for Absence:** Cllr. R. Phillips – Attending a meeting in London
Cllr. Mrs. S. Smith – Farming matters
Cllr. P. Thomas – Farming matters
Cllr. D. Owens – Farming matters
Cllr. B. Morgan – No reason given
- A59. Announcement of any interests from councillors – New Ledger for recording interests**
Written Interest declared by Cllr. J. Purslow regarding a planning application at Manley Field.
Cllr. Purslow was not present at the meeting. Clerk recorded this interest.

ACTION

A60. Guest Speaker – Police Sergeant Smith from Kington Police Station

Sgt. Smith generally updated the meeting by stating that over the last 6 months there had only been 9 crimes reported, some of which related to the Turnpike Site. One had been recently logged regarding minor vandalism at the children's playground.

Sgt. Smith explained that there had been a problem at the gypsy site with a vehicle which was left outside the site on the verge, but which had recently moved onto the site illegally. This vehicle was to be treated as abandoned. Another vehicle there was being vandalised and stripped. At the moment only 2 of the 6 plots have been taken, so it is an underused site. With regard to the higher prices being paid for scrap metal, the meeting was advised that heightened vigilance is needed, and that items of value should be kept out of site. Thefts of garden implements may well follow later in the year.

The 'Smartwater Trap' – which is a property marking solution which is almost invisible to the eye and which provides a unique DNA code, so that items of equipment marked with it are traceable to the specific owner, is a very good method by which to protect your items and implements of value. It works by showing up on skin/clothing etc. only under UV light, so those items marked with it cannot be stolen without the microdots transferring onto a thief. Sgt. Smith explained that one of the police Community Support Officers could give a presentation on this if required. The meeting agreed to take up this offer.

HH

There has been a minimal rise in drink driving cases, and crime generally in this area is low, however, vigilance is always needed. Remember that there is a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme in operation locally.

A61. Minutes of last meeting/matters arising from them – 13th February 2008

These were signed as a true record.

A62. Matters Arising:

Following a recent request by 2 residents, and subsequent discussions with the Street Lighting team it has been agreed that an extra street light near the top end of Bridge Street will hopefully be installed later in the summer, when other lamp posts along the A44 are replaced and upgraded.

Clerk has met with Highways Technician in Pembridge to discuss two minor repair issues:-

To alleviate the problem of the very narrow stretch of pavement by the ancient step into the road opposite the New Inn, the Highways Technician explained that it cannot be covered over, it would have to be filled in – that is if it is allowed, as the area is a Conservation Area and the step in question is an ancient one and may have to be preserved just as it is. After discussion the councillors agreed to make no changes, and to leave the step just as it is. The narrow pavement is one of the minor difficulties of living in a medieval village in the 21st century. Clerk to advise Highways.

HH

The request for a 20m length extension of pavement in Bridge Street along the boundary wall of the Old Vicarage and leading down to the village green entrance has been added to the Highways Footpath List; this may take some time to be considered.

The Amenity Trust's income for the year has been requested and details will be provided later. A new Treasurer has recently taken over the role.

A request from a Hereford Builder's company to advertise in our magazine was considered, but it was decided not to follow this up at this time.

The Village Clean-up or 'Trash Bash' will be held on Sunday March 30th between 11am and 12 noon – meet outside The New Inn. Equipment will be distributed. Do help if you can.

A63. Financial Report (Clerk)

Reconciliation of bank accounts has taken place.

A second half-year VAT reclaim will be submitted shortly.

Post Office Savings Account Book will be sent off for annual interest to be added shortly.

A councillor's 'in-house' accounts-check is required soon, prior to the end of year accounts check by the official Internal Auditor, and then the External Auditor. Clerk to arrange this.

Clerk's terms and conditions of employment are currently being reviewed. The Chairman requested that all councillors remain behind once the meeting had been closed to discuss this item in private, where it was decided that:

HH/GE

As from 1st April 2008 the Clerk will be allowed an increase in hours worked from 6 to 8 per week, plus an increase of hourly rate of pay by one scale point on the National Scale to SCP 22, and a one-off annual fuel payment of £50, to be reviewed in one year's time.

Balances at end February 2008:

Current Account at end of December:	£9,545.06
High Interest Account:	£5,775.48
Post Office National Savings Account:	£10,520.11

Receipts since last meeting:

Nil

There may be some donations to parish magazine coming in.

Payments made since last meeting:

Nil

Additional Payments Requested:

Glasdon UK Ltd. : 3 waste bins, 2 fixing poles and fitments:	£474.80
Shaw & Sons Ltd. : 3 Minute Books with locking systems:	£255.74
Toilet Cleaner + Bins – March	£205.62

2007 Parish Council Election Costs (Nomination Process)	£26.04
T.A. Matthews, Solicitors re Village Green Registration attempt	£564.00
Fitment of bins and a pole, & repair work to 2 bins on V. Green	TBA quote awaited
Clerk's 4 th quarter salary & expenses due at end of March	£747.16 + £132.63
Toilet Consumables	£104.74
Agreement sought to pay H. Council's contractors to place a pole for a new bin on the corner of Sandiford Plock – this is too dangerous for the PC workman to do this because of the position of underground services and power cables nearby. c £74.00 + VAT	

All above transactions were approved.

A64. Planning

There was an Extraordinary meeting of the Council held on Thursday 28th February 2008 to reconsider the Brick House, West Street, Pembridge application for a new garden room to replace the existing conservatory. The application was objected to by the Council.

Treework Applications/Information which have been forwarded to the Tree Warden:

The Menders Cottage, West Street, Pembridge

Pollard 1 Hawthorn and fell 1 Ash and 1 Willow

(Trees fouling overhead power lines. 3 new smaller trees will be replanted)

Felling licence application received from the Forestry Commission - notification only, not consultation. To fell 0.75 ha broadleaf trees along River Arrow riverside by Mowley Wood.

Planning Applications considered this evening:

DCNW2008/0491/F

Manley Field, Pembridge

Proposed erection of a poly-tunnel and storage building/shed for bee keeping use

Comment: Pembridge Parish Council objects to this reapplication on the same grounds as it objected to the original application (DCNW2007/3053/F in October 2007):

- 1) It opposes development of a Greenfield site.
- 2) The installation of a poly tunnel and storage building would cause a detrimental change to the visual impact at the entrance to the village, and would be contrary to the Parish Plan Pg.10 which states:
"The most attractive entrance to the village is probably from the western edge, arriving from Kington..."
- 3) The development is contrary to UDP Policy S1 – Sustainable development, para. 1

DCNW2008/0567/F

Plot Barn 1, Weston Court Farm, Weston, Pembridge

Proposed amendments to previously approved barn conversion.

No comment made – Clerk requested to gather more information as it is difficult to interpret the amendments to this application, thereafter a further extraordinary meeting would be held to discuss this application.

Meeting Closed for the next 2 items

A65. Parishioners questions:

One parishioner wanted to express his firm objection to the Manley Field planning application; and he stated that some work was already taking place on site prior to approval being given by the Planning Authority. This parishioner was told that he should contact the Planning Enforcement section of the Hereford Planning Authority whose role it is to monitor such matters.

The CAP Chairman was present and he wanted to express his understanding of why printing/production costs of the new Parish Council printer which produces the Parish News Magazine were running rather high. He felt that there is a need to balance colour levels used in the printing so that they are used more evenly, as some cartridges were being used up faster than others.

The Parish Council Chairman requested that a meeting is called between those parties who assist with the magazine's production, to enable improvements to be made to the cost of printing the magazine in the long-term, and to report back to the next meeting.

RP/SS**A66. WARD COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – CLLR. R. PHILIPS**

The Ward Councillor was unavailable, therefore no report submitted to this meeting.

Meeting was Reopened**A67. Parish Council Website – New ISP – Cllr. Pierce**

A grant application has been submitted to HALC for some funding for the website under the 'Parish Talk' projects scheme, and a decision is awaited.

The new ISP is now in place with the new website. The website is now up and running at: pembriidgeparishcouncil.gov.uk

There has been a minor increase of £25 per annum in charge made by Zen for changing over the .gov domain to them, which they had previously overlooked.

The site has now got to be registered with a Government Agency, which Cllr. Pierce will undertake.

The site does not fulfil all the criteria of a .gov domain name for accessibility by disabled people, but improvements will be made.

The dates that the mobile library visits will be added to the calendar of events, and that any information from community groups could also be added if this information is passed to Cllr. Pierce please.

Cllr. Pierce said that he was still awaiting information about annual events etc. from the W.I.

RP**PL****A68. Millennium Meadow**

Clarification of the right of access at the lower entrance to the Meadow was made by the Amenity Trust Chairman, who said that the Amenity Trust owns the gate, but that anyone has a right of access from Parsons Walk across the strip of land into the Meadow. The A.T. Chairman will therefore write to local residents and ask for the 'Private' sign which has been placed on the inside of the gate to be removed forthwith.

ROSPA Annual safety inspection of the children's playground: – w/c 14th April 2008.

GE**A69. Village Green Report – Cllr. K. Myers**

With regard to the current project for a designated conservation area, a local Consultant has produced a draft report. It has however been necessary to extend the Kingspan Trust's initial deadline date of 31st March by which to produce a detailed report, as the flora and fauna cannot be surveyed until between May and July, and this has been approved by Kingspan. Detailed costings will be submitted by the end of September to the Parish Council and to residents for approval. All work is still on target to be completed by the end of June 2009.

It has been noted that the top third of the track leading over the Village Green near to the Long Meadow where the annual Show is held, is in a poor state of repair with some deep potholes etc. Clerk was requested to enquire whether Welsh Water would carry out some remedial works to the track, as they are regular users of it whilst accessing the pumping station.

HH

ACTION

Subsequent to the recent tree coppicing on the riverside, the parish Tree Warden, Tony Norman and his team of helpers have made and positioned 2 badger holts and a riverside seat from a large tree trunk, as well as having a general clear up of rubbish from around the area. Many thanks are due to them all.

It has been noted that there is some erosion of the riverbank on the SE corner of the Village Green, and this is to be monitored by the Village Green Working Group.

KM/RP

A new yellow grit bin has been positioned on one corner of the Green by the river bridge, and Clerk was requested to enquire why the Council had put it there.

HH

A further application is shortly to be submitted to the Kingspan Trust for funding towards improving the state of the car parking area on the Village Green. This project was deferred from last year. In the meantime, it is intended to carry out some temporary repairs to the area.

HH/RP

KM

A70. Parish Matters Arising/Correspondence for Action

a) Speed Indicator Devices (SID) for village – Cllr. Phillips to report back on findings.

b) Village Tidiness Proposals:

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. New bin has been received.

2. A "Trash Bash" has been organised to collect litter throughout the village.

Sunday 30th March between 11 am and 12 am. Meet in Market Square.

Equipment will be handed out. Many helpers needed please.

Two further waste bins have been received – one for West Street, and one by Sandiford Plock entrance (as the bin by the bottom of Curl View on the right of the entrance is broken and will be removed).

The school children wait for the bus by Sandiford Plock so there is a need there.

c) Flower Baskets for the railings by the Shop/PO & Gallery. Clerk requested that 5 or 6 planted flower baskets to be installed on the railings this summer, and managed by the firm with a summer then winter planting. These baskets can either be purchased or rented. A Cultivation licence would be required from Highways to allow this. This suggestion was discussed and turned down. It was decided instead that a councillor would provide planted baskets for the railings for this year, and situation would be reviewed for next year.

ALL

JM

d) Museum on the Move (Climate Change Exhibition). This will be requested to attend the Summer Show in July.

HH

e) Affordable Housing Project Update – awaited. Clerk has written to Marches Housing Association and a response is awaited.

f) Repairs needed to track down to Long Meadow across Village Green. See above

g) Cost of Printing the Parish News Magazine – to be followed up at April's meeting.

h) A local person is checking up on overweight lorries travelling into the village center – to be followed up at April's meeting.

i) Proposed £25 increase in annual charge to existing magazine advertisers – to be followed up at April's meeting.

j) Kington Area Regeneration Group have awarded a tender to 'Marches Access Point' to maintain Kington's website. Pembridge is mentioned on this site and they would like more information to put on our "home" page, and possibly some photographs – required by 2nd April please: This will be arranged.

RP

www.kington.org.uk

A71. Next Meeting Date

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

MEETING WAS CLOSED AT 10.15 pm

