

PEMBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Held Wednesday 18th June 2008 at 7.30 pm in the Parish Hall
7.15 pm viewing Planning Applications, 7.30 pm Main Business

Present:

Cllr. G. Evans – Chairman
Cllr. P. Thomas
Cllr. R. Pierce
Cllr. R. Phillips

Cllr. K. Duggan
Cllr. Mrs. J. Mifflin
Cllr. J. Purslow
Cllr. A. Stokes

- B30. Apologies and Reasons for Absence -**
- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| Cllr. K. Myers | - On Holiday |
| Cllr. D. Owens | - - |
| Cllr. B. Morgan | - - |
| Cllr. Mrs. S. Smith | - - |
| Cllr. Mrs. P. Lloyd | - Family Matter |

- B31. Announcement of any interests from councillors -** None

- B32. Guest Speaker – Ray Wallace (Highways Engineer) – to discuss Speed Activated Devices ACTION**

Ray explained how his team could help with giving advice with individual traffic situations, and as he was aware that the Parish Council and School are considering the introduction of some speed activated traffic warning devices, he commenced by explaining the pros and cons of them.

Prior to these large signs being introduced as hazard or speed warnings, a minimum history of 4 serious injuries and 1 fatality in the area are the starting point for them to be considered, as well as proven speeding traffic. They are only used in accident cluster sites and as a last resort. It was acknowledged that thankfully there had been none of these, just three incidents that were not speed factors, they were freak accidents, therefore on this basis Pembridge would not qualify for the introduction of Speed Activated devices.

The cost for 2 Speed Activated Devices which are hooked into the mains power of lamp standards is around £9,000. The solar powered variety cost between £12,000 -£15,000 for 2. They are usually only effective for a short period of time, and are therefore more suited for a hazard situation.

Ray went on to explain that there was no hard evidence to say that anything here is a problem, but he accepted that the road is dangerous for children and that the visibility is poor, and thought that it would be just as effective to have 2 of the smaller Speed Indicator Devices (SID's), in situ for one month in every three. The Vehicle Activated Signs are definitely not suitable here. These 2 x SID's would cost £350 each initially, then £100 each for every time they are inserted into the base fixing points and used (probably 4 times a year = £800)

There followed some general discussion about the actual problems that the school children and residents are experiencing. The school needs to get children across the road. Residents also need to cross the road in the High Street to get to the Shop – pedestrian warning signs or a pedestrian crossing are needed. Traffic is bad continuously throughout the day, it's not just a question of early morning and mid afternoon busy periods when the children are going to school. Perhaps some school flashing warning signs might be useful.

Ray advised that following on from the recent School Travel Plan that Pembridge School had been positioned 25th in the ranking list out of a total of 62 schools.

It was noted that there is a lot of evidence available of traffic flowing through the village, but with not much showing speeding. One of the major problems here is that with the very narrow road and pavements, that many properties were literally only 3 ft from the roadway. Police speed checking is very poor and currently Pembridge is one of three wards in the County showing its views of the Police in a bad light, owing to the very low level of policing that actually takes place here. Many small children in pushchairs were literally only inches away from terrifying thundering heavy lorries passing, many speeding, and the situation was considered unacceptable – we just can't wait for a fatality to occur.

The question was asked of Ray as to whether a pedestrian crossing could be introduced? It was explained that if the School was prepared to introduce a 'Walking Bus' for getting the children to school, then that would assist the decision positively towards a crossing. It was then explained that this had already been looked into, and dismissed, because the pavement is too narrow to safely operate a 'Walking Bus' apparently. It was pointed out that a crossing is needed not just for children to cross over, but for all other residents who currently take their life in their hands in crossing to the PO/Shop.

Ray explained that prior to crossings being permitted a detailed assessment would have to be carried out on the numbers of people trying to cross the road etc. If the parish council could contribute to the cost that would be favourable. Cllr Phillips pointed out that there is currently around £25,00 in a highways fund to be shared between 4 villages, Pembridge being one of them. There is also some funding available under the 'Safe Routes to School' scheme.

Could a 20 mph traffic calming be introduced? What is the policy and could we move it here? Pembridge has issues of numbers and volume of traffic, with lots of HGV's passing through. Ray explained that the only problem would be that 20 mph zones have to have a self regulating means of slowing the traffic to that speed, such as 'white dragons teeth' painted on the road and/or raised 'speed humps'. If the traffic speeds were proven higher then perhaps some other form of traffic calming could be introduced. Some councillors are of the view that some traffic is constantly speeding.

Ray asked whether any police speed checks on traffic had taken place, and it was explained that this had not occurred for a long time. Also, Ray commented that the existing speed limit signs are not well positioned, being partially obscured under the trees at the western end. Perhaps they could be moved out and made more visible. Other councillors suggestions were to have countdown markers erected: 3, 2, 1 as traffic approaches the 30 mph sign, also that the Parish Council writes to Tarmac to request that all their drivers are made aware of the speed limit through the village and that they take particular care when passing through.

HH

Clerk was requested to submit a request to the Highways Team outlining the basic requirements but allowing some flexibility, thus allowing for advice on what would prove the best solutions for this village. Primarily: a) Pedestrian crossing b) 2 SID's c) look at a 20pmh zone (also ask Police to undertake speed monitoring). Clerk will also liaise with the School Headteacher on progress with their School Travel Plan Review, as we have been advised that if the Parish Council works closely with the School on road safety issues, there is more likelihood of faster tracking of any outcomes by hopefully raising the Schools ranked position on the list of priorities from its current 25th place. **Note:** the Headteacher had recently submitted a request for consideration of 2 temporary warning 'Children' signs, and this will be considered at an Extraordinary meeting arranged for 25th July 2008.

HH

B33. Minutes of last Meeting & Matters Arising – 21st May, 2008

None.

The Minutes were then agreed and signed as a true record.

B34. Financial Report (Clerk)

Reconciliation of bank accounts has taken place.

Request from Mencap for a donation (help for people with learning disabilities) - No

Request from Vitalise for donation (provide breaks for disabled people and their carers) - No

A handout of expenditure for 1st quarter will be given out next month.

Balances at end May 2008:

Current Account:	£11,019.95
Tracker Account:	£5,817.80
Post Office Savings Account:	£10,949.04

Receipts since last meeting:

Magazine Advert Fee x 1 edition	£10.00
Magazine Advert Fee x 2 editions	£20.00
Donation by resident towards V.Green car park	£867.80
Donation from local company to advertise in mag.	£500.00 for 1 year from July 2008

Payments made since last meeting:

None

Further Requests for Payment:

Toilet Cleaner & Bin emptying for June	£217.37
Annual Insurance Premium	£901.69
(+ 2 new purchased picnic tables & a bench added)	
which will incur an additional £32.76 to be invoiced later	
Amey – M. Meadow Mowing May	£94.00

Clerk's Salary–1st quarter at new rate SCP 22 and an increase from 6 to 8 hours work p wk:
£1,022.00

Clerk's Expenses 1st quarter expenses: £101.68

Clerk's first payment for petrol to offset travelling costs:£50 for the year – to be reviewed next year (unleaded petrol rate of £1.13 per litre when agreed by Council in March 2008)

All above transactions were agreed by all.

CLOSE OF MEETING

B35. Parishioners Questions

No parishioners present.

B36. Ward Councillor's Report

Pembridge Travellers Site

Tenants have been identified and the site will be reopened in the next few weeks. The repairs will then take place once it is occupied.

Kingspan

Kingspan have won the Hereford and Worcester Chamber of Commerce Award for the best business in Herefordshire. Employing over 400 people they are one of north Herefordshire's biggest employers.

Broxwood Payphone

BT have identified this payphone for removal. The last time this issue came up we had the boxes at Bearwood and Marston removed, with Broxwood box staying, but only able to take phone cards and emergency calls (no coinbox). I have circulated the proposal to residents in Broxwood.

Future Housing in Herefordshire

The Council has published a Local Development Framework paper looking at options for future house building in the County. Between 2001 and 2021 13,200 houses should be built in the County.

While the majority will be built in Hereford and the Market Towns the provision of housing in rural area is a particular issue for debate. The need to met local housing needs and support local services is important. I believe that if we are to have sustainable communities in the future, homes for economically active people as well as mature citizens must be provided. Where those houses are placed and what size of villages and hamlets should have building sites needs proper discussion. I would like to explore some partnership working with the local charities and landowners to provide local housing schemes for local people. The development of this strategy will take place over the next 18 months.

West Mercia Crime Survey

In a recent survey on our local Police 33% of Herefordshire residents said that the Police were doing a good job, 35% believed they were doing a fair job and 14% believed they were performing poorly. My ward, which includes Pembridge was one of three wards which felt least positive about the Police and complained they didn't see uniformed officers.

Pembridge was also high in identifying speeding traffic as a community priority. I have written to the Chief Constable and the Divisional Commander to ask what they are going to do to improve the situation.

On a more positive note, levels of crime are very low in the County with a reduction in household burglaries of over 50% in the past three years. Anti social behaviour, criminal damage, and drug use and dealing are identified as some of the main priorities to tackle in the future.

GP Practices in Herefordshire

The Council's scrutiny committee has received a report on the county's GP surgeries. The 2007 patient survey showed that the vast majority of patients were happy with current access to GPs with current 24 hr and 48 hr access considered very good. Those who were not happy would like to see additional evening hours and Saturday opening.

The retendering of the Out of Hours service should allow Herefordshire PCT (Primary Care Trust) to increase the opening hours as well as providing an improved service at the County Hospital. There is general concern that the Government's proposals (Darzi report) for major Health Centres or Polyclinics are not best suited for rural area and our local GP surgeries, Community and Acute Hospitals are a better basis for responding to local health needs.

MEETING REOPENED**B37. Planning Matters****Applications which were considered this evening:****DCNW2008/1352/F****Hedgehog Barn, Weston Court, Weston, Pembridge**

Provide glazed doors on four bay carport to provide hobby Workshop and secure storage. Balanced flue through Stone wall for sitting room gas fire

Comment:

The glazed doors on the carport are satisfactory, however, the balanced flue routing through the stone wall is unacceptable. Instead the flue should be routed through the roof if possible.

DCNW2008/1323/F **Julian House, Suckley Lane, Pembridge**
Proposed single storey sun room extension
Comment: **No objections**

DCNW2008/1456/L **Court of Noke, Pembridge, Leominster**
Listed Installation of conservation roof lights
Comment: **No Objections**

Prior Approval not required: Agricultural & Forestry Buildings & Operations
DCNW2008/1092/S **New House Farm, Cabal, Lyonshall**
Proposed agricultural building

B38. Parish Magazine Report

A local company has paid £500 to advertise in 6 editions of the Parish News Magazine. The Magazine Editorial Board has decided that only one advertising flyer sheet will be allowed, but that the number of advertisers will increase to 12 (6 each side of the page) as Advertising space will be reduced to 1/6th page from the Nov/Dec edition (more advertisers are waiting). The magazine will continue to be printed in colour, with the insert in black and white. The Editor will print the next 2 editions, i.e. July/Aug & Sept/Oct and the inserts for £180 per edition. Folding and collating will be carried out in-house. The remaining issues (approximately half) which the Editor cannot print will be printed by an outside printer at a cost of £419.00 for 600 copies and inserts, to include the printing and collating.

It was decided that provided the new printer can be of use to the CAP group then it will not be sold. Cllr. Duggan to look into this and report back. It has become too expensive for the Parish Council to run, mainly because of the purchase cost of replacement coloured ink cartridges.

KD

It was agreed that as a 'one-off' exercise an additional flyer would be inserted in the next magazine to advertise the Pembridge Show.

The Editor has requested that more interesting Parish Council items for insertion are required, together with photographs of local interest.

Theatre Group outings would continue to be advertised.

B39. Millennium Meadow Report – linked to the Amenity Trust not the Parish Council

A successful public meeting to gain more members for the Millennium Meadow Group was held on 10th June, at 7.30 pm at the Parish Hall. A brainstorming session was held to try and find out just what facilities are required there. The suggestions that arose included:

- 'Play' facilities but for older children, such as zip wires.
- Bandstand style youth shelter if insurance cover could be obtained
- Annual Bonfire Party
- Concrete tables for table tennis + bats and balls

Another meeting will be held in July – when specific job responsibilities will be determined. One person present said that they did not think it was the Group's role to get involved in organising such events as a bonfire party, and it is their responsibility to manage only.

B40. Village Green Update

The Parish Council's most recent application to the Kingspan Trust for funding for the village green car parking area improvement has received a partial offer only, with a suggestion that the PC carries out the rest of the work on a phased basis over several years, which would entail several subsequent smaller applications for more funding to complete the work. Whilst the Parish Council is grateful to receive the offer, on full consideration of what it would entail in the way making the completion of the project extremely long and drawn-out with probably 5 engineering episodes, and with no guarantee that further applications for funding to complete the work would be successful, the Parish Council decided not to accept the kind offer from Kingspan, and the Clerk was requested to reply in this way.

It was proposed that the current surfacing, carried out on as a temporary measure, should now be visually improved by the addition of a soil surfacing and then grass seeding, to allow a final finished green effect which would lend itself more environmentally with the v. green. This will be considered at the next meeting.

B41. Parish Matters Arising/Correspondence for action

Reminder: Please come along to next week's Special Meeting of the Parish Council concerning the proposed changes to the Parish Conservation Area Boundary – Wed. 25th June, 7.30pm. Please put the date in your diary. Housing Needs Survey will also be discussed.

- a) **Training** – Could all the newer councillors who have not already attended a basic training course please consider attending on Tuesday 8th July 7 – 9 pm 'Leading Lights' *How to be an effective Parish Councillor – understanding the role of your Parish Council.* Clerk will arrange. Other courses are available are listed on the attached Information Sheet.
- b) Update on the 2 footpaths which have been reported as needing remedial action.
- c) ROSPA Annual Inspection Report on Children's Playground and equipment has been received, and there were no 'high risk' situations needing urgent attention raised. Cllr. Stokes will attend to some of the minor items of repair raised.
- d) Minor highway defects – please report any to the Clerk as soon as possible please, as the list needs to be submitted shortly.
- e) Unauthorised entry into the Bell Tower has occurred – new window grille being fitted.
- f) Proposed Christmas Fair on the date the Village Christmas Tree Lights are switched on. To be discussed again, after the Show.
- g) Speaker on proposed Housing Needs Survey for the parish, Tina Wood, will attend the special meeting on Wed. 25th June.
- h) **Draft Archaeology and Development Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)**
Can be viewed on: www.herefordshire.gov.uk/ldf
This draft document is out to consultation between 12th June and 25th July 2008 – you can forward your comments by post or e mail: wmb@herefordshire.gov.uk
Herefordshire Council, Conservation, PO Box 4, Plough Lane, Hereford. HR4 0XH
- i) A replacement lamp post will be installed in Manley Lane this year (not a new one).
- j) BT have advised about the possible loss of the Broxwood telephone box – as well as many others in the County. Cllr. Phillips is following this up. Short time in which to respond.
- k) Shobdon – 3 R's Air Race – Saturday & Sunday 28th & 29th June – increased noise level.

- l) Congratulations to Kingspan Insulation who have just won the coveted Business of the Year award for 2008 by the Chamber of Commerce for enterprises in Worcestershire and Herefordshire.
- m) CPRE Herefordshire Branch AGM 21st June 2pm WRVS, Vicarage Rd., Hereford
- n) **Local Development Strategy – Core Strategy: Developing Options Paper – June 2008**
Available from the Clerk if anyone would like to look at it. It gives a vision, set of objectives and range of options for the future development of the County until 2026, and will be subject to public consultation between 16th June until 8th August 2008. Pembridge's unique reference number is **872** – please quote this if responding to Herefordshire Council.
- o) Minor Highways repairs – You may either e mail to: streets@herefordshire.gov.uk (copying in Clerk please) or pass details to the Clerk to deal with. Repairs will be carried out in this area during July and October.
- p) The Parish Plan Review is ongoing.

B42. Next Meetings:

Special Meeting: – Re: Conservation Area Boundary Changes – Wed. 25th June, 7.30 pm.

Then Wednesday 16th July 2008 at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall

There will be a guest speaker from Marches Housing Assn. attending to talk about the parish's Affordable Housing project.

Meeting ended at 9.50 pm