

## **PEMBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting  
Held Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March, 2009 in the Parish Hall  
7.15 pm viewing Planning Application, 7.30 pm Main Business

**Present:** Cllr. K. Myers (Acting Chairman), Cllr. D. Owens, Cllr. P. Thomas, Cllr. Mrs. P. Lloyd,  
Cllr. R. Pierce, Cllr. Mrs. J. Mifflin, Cllr. A. Stokes, Cllr. K. Duggan, Cllr. R. Phillips  
+ 5 members of the public

**C29 Apologies and Reasons for Absence**

Cllr. B. Morgan – No reason given                      Cllr. J. Purslow – Away on business  
Cllr. Mrs. S. Smith – Farming duties                      Cllr. G. Evans – On holiday

**C30 Announcement of any interests from councillors** - None Declared

**C31 Guest Speakers Tina Woods (Housing Needs Officer) & Jonathan Brookes (Marches Housing) Recent Housing Needs Survey & Affordable Housing Project**

**ACTION**

Tina Woods confirmed that 722 surveys were sent out and 31 returned, on which 33 householders said that there was a need for affordable housing or that they would like to return to the village.

A need for 26 units was highlighted, broken down as follows:

10 x 1 bedroom, 8 x 2 bedrooms and 5 x 3 bedrooms. 3 were undisclosed.

These came from:    Pembridge: 16,  
Knill 1, Staunton on Arrow 2 and Titley 7 (These don't qualify under the plan and need another catchment area as they are currently designated as being in open countryside).  
General discussion followed regarding the possible arrangements; and whether there might be some cross border arrangements to include parts of Wales (Powys).

The next Housing Needs Survey would be carried out in three years time.

Jonathan Brookes explained that currently 6 affordable properties are planned for Pembridge, but that land surveyors would visit the site to ascertain whether more units are feasible. Also a full topographical survey of the site off Curl View would be carried out.

Funding for the scheme involved continuous market engagement, and Marches Housing is currently funding 2 other schemes in the County for 73 properties. They have a good relationship with the HCA and investment managers. It is estimated that £50,000 is currently allowed per unit by the HCA; but ideally £75,000 is needed. This does cause some difficulties and more funding is needed. They work in conjunction with Herefordshire Council and involve Planners and Highways teams. There was a request by a councillor for consideration to be given to more than the initial six units at the outset, as they appeared to be needed as highlighted by the Housing Needs Survey.

The proposed site off Curl View, Pembridge is acceptable for affordable housing as an 'Exception' site, being just outside the existing development boundary. Negotiations with the landowner are ongoing, together with the building costs and financial parameters.

The next stage to make progress is to involve Planners to enable a planning application to be formulated and to determine a timescale for this, hopefully within two months. If all goes smoothly, planning permission may be possible by Autumn 2009.

The principle of possibly including Staunton-on-Arrow's needs was considered along with others who have a local connection with Pembridge, under a S106 Agreement.

Jonathan Brookes was requested to liaise with the Clerk on progress.

**C32 Minutes of last meeting/matters arising from them – 18<sup>th</sup> February, 2009**

Were read and approved, with no matters arising, and signed.

**C33 Financial Report (Clerk)**

Reconciliation of bank accounts has taken place.  
The Chairman has recently checked the accounts and found all to be in order.  
A VAT reclaim will be made shortly.  
Planning Fee for PC's V.G. Information Boards application will be refunded shortly: £47.50  
(Permitted Development Rights, not requiring an application to be made after all)

**Balances at end February 2009**

<b>Current Account:</b>	<b>£12,442.16</b>
<b>Tracker Account:</b>	<b>£5,918.70</b>
<b>Post Office Savings Account:</b>	<b>£10,949.04</b>

**Receipts since last meeting:**

Repayment by Kingspan (2 Management Reports re Village Green)	£740.00
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**Payments made since last meeting:**

Planning Fee for V.G. Information Boards	£47.50
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**Requests for Payment:**

Toilet cleaner & bins – March	£212.75	
Further Zen Website domain renewal fees	£83.80	S137
Clerk's 4 <sup>th</sup> quarter salary at end of March	£1,047.03	
Clerk's 4 <sup>th</sup> quarter expenses at end of March	£168.45	
Playworld – Playground surface repairs etc.	£747.50	

**All above transactions were approved by all.**

**C34 Planning**

**Applications to be considered this evening:**

Nil

**Applications awaiting a decision:**

DCNW2009/0084/F	The Yeld, Lyonshall, Kington Proposed building to enclose generator
Comment:	No Objection

DCNW2009/0302/F & DCNW2009/0312/L	Plot 1 Barn, Weston Court Farm, Weston New kennels to accommodate 4 no. gun dogs
Comment:	<b>UDP 9.6 Historic Buildings and Areas HBA1 (2) Alterations and extensions to listed buildings</b>

The proposed kennels are considered an unsympathetic addition, which is detrimental to the character of the listed building within the curtilage of Weston Court Farm.

DCNW2009/0302/F & DCNW2009/0290/L	Fig Tree House, East Street, Pembridge Proposed demolition of lean-to and erection of conservatory
Comment:	No Objection

**Planning Application Not Required:-**

DCNW2009/0347/A	Pembridge Village Green, Pembridge Proposed erection of four information boards
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**Planning Application Refused:**

DCNW2009/0002/F                      The Leenfields, Pembridge  
Proposed two-storey extension and alterations  
Reason:                                  The development is considered to be of a scale, design and mass  
that does not reflect the character of the existing building, on which  
it will have an overwhelming affect on its character.

**Treeworks Application:** Passed to Tony Norman to comment upon  
DCNW2009/0326/K                      St. Mary's Church, Pembridge  
Fell 2 Golden Cypress, 5 x Cypress and 1 Western Red Cedar

**Re: CLOVERS, BEARWOOD – The application for which was recently refused.**

The meeting was told that there is some building work being carried out on the site, unexpectedly, and the Clerk was requested to have this investigated by the Planning department.

**Meeting Closed for the next two items**

C35    **Parishioners Questions - None**

C36    **Ward Councillor's Report (Cllr. R. Phillips)**

**Budgets**

The Council has agreed its budgets for 2009/10, and adopted a medium term financial plan for the next three years. The formula grant from government remains 17% below average support to Unitary Councils and our schools remain the third poorest funded per pupil in England. The 08/09 budget is projected to come in with a small underspend after using reserves to meet some of the extra costs of the winter maintenance. The final revenue and capital budgets reflected the dramatic turnaround in the national financial circumstances. Last year we were earning £10,000 a day on our investments and now we are struggling to earn £2,000. From a project surplus for 09/10 the Council has identified an over 2 million pound drop in income. Over £500k in planning fees, car parking etc. and after rescheduling debt a loss of 1.5 million from treasurers management.

In setting this year's budget, efficiency savings are required from all department of 4 million pounds which include a 1.6 million reduction in pay bill. Pressures in safeguarding adult care, homelessness, waste collection, landfill tax and free swimming have been recognised. An increase of 3.9% in Council Tax will bring a balanced budget. The Fire and Police are coming in at 4.9% each.

The Capital budget funding is being used to support Homelessness and Building projects, as well as maintenance of Leisure Centres, Smallholding estate, Legionella work, Rotherwas futures, Disabled facilities grants, schemes for City Shops and Buttermarket, plus the refurbished Library at Ross, the Livestock Market and the Merchant House at Ledbury.

**Bids for Government Funding**

Bids for government funding for infrastructure projects in the West Midlands have been submitted and this includes Edgar Street Grid and the Outer Distributor Road. Funding to improve drainage in the City and the release of a large area of ground for housing development and a new road will be a priority for the ESG. A sum of 60 million pounds has been bid for the ODR, with the remainder coming from developer contributions on the 8,000 houses to be built before 2025.

**World Blind Football Championships 2010 – Royal National College for the Blind**

I met representatives of the Football Association recently at the RNC to inspect the new impressive buildings and facilities, and to discuss the plans for the Championships in August 2010. Once complete, we will have in our County a college not only to support visually disabled people to the highest standards but also a venue for sports which will raise the profile of our City and Council. It is proposed to have some open day, and I recommend anyone to visit and see what an asset we have.

**Local Schools**

Lady Hawkins will be appointing a new Head at the end of the month to replace John Barry who has been there for 12 years. It has 473 pupils with 67 in the sixth form.

The school were County winners in the recent Dragons Den competition, and Mock Trial event held at the Magistrates Court in Hereford. Pembridge and Almeley schools are performing very well, receiving individual awards and recognition.

Applications to attend Pembridge in September are oversubscribed, but hopefully all children in the catchment area and siblings will be accepted. Almeley has recently been Ofsteded and I expect a good result.

I will shortly be meeting with Ed Balls with regard to funding for rural schools.

#### Lynhales Nursing Home

Having attended a presentation to the Home last month of an award for palliative care offered to residents, it was also an opportunity to visit the new extension, and see the special dementia unit which currently has 47 residents. The Nursing Home is the second largest employer in my Ward after Kingspan. In this Ward, 26% of the population is over 60 and the numbers over 80 and 90 are increasing every year.

### **Meeting Reopened**

#### **C37 Commencement of the Mobile Outreach Post Office Service – update - Chairman** **START DATE OF SERVICE: THURSDAY 12<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2009**

Operating times from the Millennium Meadow Car Park will initially be:-

Thursday 3.15pm - 4.15pm

Friday 2pm to 4pm

Saturday 12pm - 1pm

Monday 3pm - 5pm

Tuesday 3.30pm - 4.30pm (May be a slight amendment)

A review of the service will be arranged after 6 months.

The service has commenced, and the parking area for the PO van has been marked out.

#### **C38 Parish Lengthsman Scheme - Chairman**

Training Day for our chosen Lengthsman and Administrator has been arranged for 20<sup>th</sup> April. As there was no volunteer to be the Administrator, it was decided to try and advertise for one, and Clerk was requested to put some notices up for about a month and see whether any one comes forward. Clerk was also requested to get 3 quotes from potential Lengthsmen on their charges.

#### **C39 BT Broxwood Phone Kiosk “Adoption” by Parish Council - Clerk**

Clerk has written to e.on Central Networks as requested, advising that the parish council no longer wishes to have the kiosk lit. Further information awaited.

#### **C40 Village Green Progress Report – Cllr. Pierce**

A slight delay has occurred with the application for grant funding for 4 information boards, as more information was been requested by the decision panel, which has been sent.

A Planning and Conservation application has been submitted for the positioning of the boards on the V. Green; however, the Parish Council has recently been advised that this application was not necessary, as the PC has Permitted Development Rights to carry out minor works such as this without the need for planning approval.

A refund of the application fee will be expected shortly.

About 400 young trees have now been planted on the village green to form the wet woodland. The remaining 100 will be planted by local schoolchildren next week.

#### **C41 New Street Lighting update**

Clerk has written outlining the councillors preferred choice, and asking for one or two lamps to first be trialled in the village to gauge residents comments. Update awaited.

**C42 Parish Matters Arising/Correspondence for Action**

- a) **Parish Council group photograph will be taken at 7pm on Wed. 15<sup>th</sup> April. Please arrive promptly to enable normal business to commence at 7.15 pm**
- b) The annual Rospa playground inspection will take place w/c 14<sup>th</sup> April. Repair work to the playground is now underway, and hopefully will be complete prior to the inspection.
- c) Noise from Shobdon Airfield - Further letter of complaint received.
- d) H. Council is promoting 'No Wrong Door' workshops, which set out the plans to develop multi agency team arrangements for children and young people across the county.  
Clerk has details.
- e) Format for the May Parish Open Meeting – The usual reports will be required.
- f) February copy of 'Town and Parish Standard' issued to all councillors.
- g) Planning Services has sent a questionnaire regarding importance of parish facilities, which was completed this evening, and Clerk will submit it.
- h) 'No Wrong Door' re developing Locality Teams for Children & Young People – Noted.
- i) Review of the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2004-2034 – Noted.
- j) CPRE - Parish Council Toolkit on combating litter & fly tipping – Noted – relevant to next 'Trash Bash'. **AS**
- k) Consultation Form – Dog Control Orders - questionnaire completed at meeting.
- l) Implementation of the Sustainable Communities Act 2007 – To be put on next Agenda.
- m) Litter problem in the High Street – concern by a local resident. Discussed. Clerk to respond **HH**
- n) Parish Plan Review Group – update given by members; problem with lack of grant funding which Clerk will investigate, but review to be completed.
- o) V. Green – school children will be involved in planting programme of wet woodland.
- p) It is legally necessary to introduce a Publication Scheme under the Freedom of Information Act; this will be discussed at the next meeting **HH**
- q) West Mercia Police – New CrimeMapper ; [www.westmercia.police.uk](http://www.westmercia.police.uk). Noted
- r) Hereford Youth Council Presentation – Sat. 4<sup>th</sup> April 10-12am Brockington on how the youth of Herefordshire would like to communicate with Parish/Town Councils.
- s) Sign for Staunton Park request, to be fixed to fence by Almshouses at top of Bridge Street which was discussed. Clerk requested to respond with advice to follow up with H. Council. **HH**
- t) Clerk has now become a Member of the Institute of Local Council Management.
- u) Power of Wellbeing – Will be discussed more at next meeting. Clerk has recently attended a HALC information course, and will shortly need to take a specialist training course.  
One of the criteria to be able to access the new power, states that 80% of a Parish Council's Parish Councillors must have received training on the subject. HALC is therefore offering 'in house training' for members of parishes at a cost of £100 per parish per two hour session.

**C43 LEGAL TOPIC**

**Implementing the Sustainable Communities Act**

Worried about your local community?  
With local shops and pubs closing, pollution and climate change, no affordable housing, no local jobs, a lack of local healthy food?

Now you can make a difference at the heart of government!

A new law gives you, your neighbours and friends power to tell the government how it can help you stop your community declining.

Herefordshire Council is inviting ideas/proposals from local people on what the government can do by changing laws and their policies for the benefit of local communities.

For a proposal to be valid it must reach two criteria:

- It must promote sustainable communities as defined in the Act (i.e. promotion of local economies, environmental protection, social inclusion and democratic participate;
- It must be something that only central government can do (and is not doing already) to help or assist communities and councils promote sustainable communities.

You can get more information on the Sustainable Communities Act by going to this website: [www.suscomms.org.uk](http://www.suscomms.org.uk)

For further information and to submit proposals contact Anthony Bush, SCA co-ordinator, at Herefordshire Council, tel: 01432 260611 [abush@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:abush@herefordshire.gov.uk) or the Clerk.

**Next Meeting**

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2009 at 7.00 pm in the Parish Hall

Meeting Closed at 10.30pm