

PEMBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Held Wednesday 18th 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 – 18th 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

Current Account:	£12,442.16
Tracker Account:	£5,918.70
Post Office Savings Account:	£10,949.04

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 th quarter salary at end of March	£1,047.03	
Clerk's 4 th 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:	UDP 9.6 Historic Buildings and Areas HBA1 (2) Alterations and extensions to listed buildings

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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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 12th 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 20th 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. 15th 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 14th 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. Noted
- r) Hereford Youth Council Presentation – Sat. 4th 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

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

Next Meeting

Wednesday 15th April 2009 at 7.00 pm in the Parish Hall

Meeting Closed at 10.30pm