

PEMBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Held Wednesday 15th April, 2009 in the Parish Hall
7.15 pm viewing Planning Application, 7.30 pm Main Business

Present: , Cllr. G. Evans, Cllr. P. Thomas, Cllr. Mrs. P. Lloyd, Cllr. R. Phillips
Cllr. R. Pierce, Cllr. Mrs. J. Mifflin, Cllr. A. Stokes, Cllr. K. Duggan,
Cllr. K. Myers, Cllr. B. Morgan (briefly, but left early as unwell)
Cllr. Mrs. S. Smith + 3 members of the public

ANNUAL GROUP PHOTOGRAPH WAS TAKEN

C44 Apologies and Reasons for Absence

Cllr. J. Purslow – Away on business

Cllr. D. Owens

C45 Announcement of any interests from councillors

A prejudicial interest was declared by Cllr. Pierce with regard to his planning application which will be considered this evening.

C46 Minutes of last meeting/Matters Arising from them – 18th March, 2009

Were read and approved. There were 7 matters arising:

- 1) There was a question as to whether the building work at the property 'Clovers', Bearwood had been permitted, following the refusal of the application. Clerk explained that she had alerted a Planning Officer, who would check this and advise back.
- 2) It was explained that the application to kennel 4 dogs at Weston Court, Plot 1 had been approved. However, there was the issue of some dangerous stones having been placed on the highway there.
- 3) An update regarding Affordable Housing was requested. Clerk confirmed that she had emailed Marches Housing following the last meeting, requesting details of any progress with the affordable properties, as it was understood that a planning application would be submitted within 2 months. To date there was no further news.
- 4) An update was requested regarding the retention of the old phone kiosk at Broxwood. Clerk advised that no further information had been received.
- 5) An update was requested regarding the proposed new street lighting for the village. Clerk advised that no further information had been received.
- 6) It was brought to the meeting's attention that following last year's bonfire party on the Millennium Meadow, that the area on which the fire was, had still not been tidied up. It was agreed that this would be actioned by the Amenity Trust.
- 7) It was noted there were some minor defects in the new safety surface to the playground, and also some minor equipment defects – these should have been completed prior to payment being made for the work. The remaining issues would be dealt with as a matter of urgency.

The Minutes were then signed.

C47 Financial Report (Clerk)

Reconciliation of bank accounts has taken place. A VAT reclaim has been made.

2 suppliers of goods for the V. Green project have been chosen.

HALC membership fees will rise for 2009/10 : £100 Affiliation fee, plus 11.5p per elector

(no increase from 2008/09. NALC element to increase from 4.93p to 5.14p per elector.

Internal Auditor invited to the PC Annual meeting in May, a formal letter of request for him to carry out this role will be sent to him.

Balances of Accounts at end March 2009

Current Account:	£12,150.88	
Tracker Account:	£5,920.06	(Annual interest added)
Post Office Savings Account:	£11,315.01	(Annual interest added)

Receipts since last meeting:

Nil

Payments made since last meeting:

NPower Electricity – public toilets £118.23

Requests for Payment:

Toilet cleaner & bins – April £245.73

Supply and delivery of trees & guards
For V. Green project £667.00

Toilet consumables £83.77

New Governance & Accountability issue £22.00

A question was raised as to whether the Parish Council should receive the monetary donations made at the public toilets. This was agreed, and Clerk will follow up.

Clerk will now request repayment from Kingspan Trust, for the invoice the parish council has paid for the trees and guards for the Village Green project.

All above transactions were approved by all.

C48 Planning

Applications to be considered this evening: Note: Cllr. Pierce left the room temporarily

DCNW2009/0524/F

The Green, Pembridge

Construction of a new highway access from the property and change of use of land from Agricultural to residential.

Comments:

No Objection

C49 Treeworks Application – Sent to Tony Norman

St. Mary's Church, Pembridge – Fell x 2 Weeping Ash Trees

Meeting Closed for the next two items

C50 Parishioners Questions

- 1) 2 Residents were concerned that someone had recently camped for one night in a tent on the NE side of the village green and had had a bonfire. There was a request for notices to be erected stating that No Overnight Staying is allowed. It was confirmed that as part of the current Village Green improvement project, that 4 Information noticeboards are to be erected, and they will state that no staying overnight or fires, is allowed.
- 2) A resident of Parsons Walk is concerned that the bank at the rear of her garden (part of Village Green) is falling away due to water erosion, and this is undermining her rear garden hedge. There was a request for the Parish Council to maintain this bank and to secure the resident's garden hedge with some topsoil. It was confirmed that the Parish Council will need to take legal advice about this matter.

C51 Ward Councillor's Report (Cllr. R. Phillips)

Schools

John Barry is retiring as Headmaster of Lady Hawkins this summer after 12 years. His successor is Mr. Gary House (currently deputy head at Tenbury Wells). Originally from Dorset he has taught in Somerset, Essex and Herefordshire. He is married with two grown up sons. The school won the Dragon's Den competition, and Mock Trials event in Hereford Magistrates Court for the 4th year Running. A music day on the 7th March was attended by all the feeder primary schools. There are 473 pupils attending the school with 57 in the sixth form.

The local primary schools feeding into Lady Hawkins continue to thrive. Eardisley and Almeley Have just had good Ofsted reports and Pembridge is being considered as an international Baccalaureate school. The first and major part of a refurbishing of the Pembridge school took Place this year, which included a new performance hall and an additional £300k will be spent Remodeling the old hall to provide a new classroom, conference/ICT room, Library and cloakroom.

There will be 16 children entering Reception year in September, taking the total number of pupils To 102. The number of rising 5's registering for primary schools places in the council this year is 140 less than last year, with 93% of children able to attend their first choice of school.

Highways

I am in correspondence with Highways department on the subject of the SIDs and the crossing. They seem to have adopted an attitude that I will be informed via the Clerk of the Parish Council on these matters. I have arranged a meeting with the Head of Service to discuss these issues, as well as Highways Safety.

Local NHS

The annual Public Health report has been published and contains information on all GP surgeries In the county. Kington Group has a high proportion of people over 65 years old with 17% of those registered living outside the county. There is a relatively high prevalence of coronary heart disease, Stroke and diabetes, with the highest figures of atrial fibrillation in the County. The practice has the lowest uptake of MMR in the county and the highest death rate from strokes.

Welsh Borders

I attended a cross border meeting last week on joint arrangements between England and Wales. While the Police, Health and Councils have joint working, there was little evidence of the Welsh Assembly and Government taking the matter seriously. I made the point about the 13% of patients that come from Wales to Hereford Hospital and the need to maintain that flow. Also, more sensible arrangements need to be made on transport and public funding. I also raised the matter of TB as over 200 cattle in my ward have been identified in the last 5 weeks to be destroyed.

Both Welsh and English By Pass schemes should be considered equally and fairly.

Meeting Reopened

C52 Parish Lengthsman Scheme – Cllr. Myers

The Parish Council has been accepted onto the Lengthsman Scheme, and a sum of c£5,000 has been granted. It has been confirmed that twice-yearly verge cutting will still be maintained by H. Council.

Cllr. P. Thomas has volunteered to be a temporary Administrator and will attend the training day on 20th April. Clerk passed the Agenda for that meeting to Cllr. Thomas, and will advise H. Council. There will be a need to find a permanent Administrator.

Interest has been received from only one Lengthsman who would be willing to assist this parish so far, therefore the Clerk was requested to approach another two Lengthsmen and enquire whether they would be interested in helping out the parish.

