

## **PEMBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting  
Held Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> 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 – 18<sup>th</sup> 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

<b>Current Account:</b>	<b>£12,150.88</b>	
<b>Tracker Account:</b>	<b>£5,920.06</b>	(Annual interest added)
<b>Post Office Savings Account:</b>	<b>£11,315.01</b>	(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 4<sup>th</sup> year Running. A music day on the 7<sup>th</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 Lengthsman and enquire whether they would be interested in helping out the parish.

**C53 Village Green Progress Report – Cllr. Myers**

Grant funding for the information boards has been successful, of around £1,300.  
All 500 trees have now been planted in the wet woodland area. It is planned to commence constructing the boardwalk on 16<sup>th</sup> April, and the work should take four weeks to complete.

**C54 Introduction of the Proposed pedestrian crossing and S.I.D.s - Update**

Some fresh vehicle speed monitoring must first be carried out.  
Cllr. Phillips will follow up on this with Highways.

**C55 Introduction of a Freedom of Information Act Policy - Clerk**

A simple policy was put into place by the Parish Council in 2006, which now needs to be updated and aligned to the new Model policy, the full text of which may be viewed on the website: [www.ico.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk). Some information had been circulated to all councillors. It is a legal requirement for this to be done, therefore after discussion, it was agreed to accept the Model Policy for this parish, with minor modifications and the addition of appropriate charges for supplying information, and then to place the details on the website.

**C56 Parish Matters Arising/Correspondence for Action**

- a) CAP printer – decision to be taken soon on what to do with it, as it needs to be moved.  
This matter will be discussed shortly at the CAP AGM, and reported back.
- b) Individuals have been requested to prepare their reports for the May Parish Open Meeting.
- c) Village Trash Bash – Cllr. A. Stokes to arrange this for Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May – meet in Market Sq.
- d) Parish Plan Review – Cllr. Mrs. Lloyd confirmed that there is no funding available which is a disappointment. The original Parish Plan has been supplied on a disc, which has had to be reformatted in order to edit it. It is proposed to add into the Parish Plan. Then the new data could be provided free to residents on a disc, or at a fee of £5 for a hard copy, as well as placing it on the website. A presentation of the reviewed Plan will be made at The Pembridge Show, but beforehand the Parish Council will approve it in early July.
- e) Another letter from a resident has been received about village untidiness, and that something should be done about it, which was noted.
- f) Request for Parish Council help from a resident of Parsons Walk whose rear garden backs onto the v. green, for replacement of lost soil, and shrubs to prevent complete erosion of rear hedge, following water damage to a bank just outside the garden boundary. This will be followed up.
- g) Mobile Outreach Post Office Service - The original hatch marked space for the Van proved to be too small, and it will be enlarged. Also a complaint has been received that the rear ramp to the van is too steep to climb easily. It was suggested that this comment should be placed in writing to the Parish Council for follow up. Comments were also made that sometimes there is insufficient signal to allow electronic transactions to take place on the PO van, which has stopped card dealings/transfers/withdrawals, causing inconvenience.
- h) New Street Lighting - No further available at the moment.

**LEGAL TOPICS    Implementing the Sustainable Communities Act 2007    &    Local Government & Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (Power of Well Being)**

These will be discussed in more detail at the Parish Council's Annual Meeting in May.

**C57 Next Meetings at 7.30 pm in the Parish Hall:**

May 6 <sup>th</sup> 2009	<b>Annual Parish Open Meeting – To which all Residents are invited.</b>
May 20 <sup>th</sup> 2009	<b>Annual Meeting of the Parish Council (Election of Officers)</b> <b>Nominations should be sent to the Clerk</b>

Meeting closed at 9.45 pm