

## **PEMBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting  
Held Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2010 in the Parish Hall  
7.15 pm viewing Planning Application, 7.30 pm Main Business

**Present:** Cllr. G. Evans, Cllr. K. Myers , Cllr. D. Owens, Cllr. P. Thomas, Cllr. Mrs. P. Lloyd,  
Cllr. Mrs. J. Mifflin, Cllr. A. Stokes, Cllr. K. Duggan, Cllr. R. Phillips  
+ 3 members of the public

**D018 Apologies and Reasons for Absence**

Cllr. J. Purslow – Ill      Cllr. R. Pierce – On Holiday      Cllr. Mrs. S. Smith – No reason given

**D019**

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

**D020 Vacancy for a Parish Councillor – The Parish Council is now able to Co-opt a member**

The Chairman welcomed Mr. Philip Rogers who is interested in joining as a Parish Councillor this evening. Mr. Rogers was invited to give a brief talk about why he would like to join the Parish Council, and a little about his background.

After this there was a proposal by Cllr. Mrs. Mifflin that Philip Rogers join the Council, which was Seconded by Cllr. Myers – this was approved by all.

Mr. Rogers was then asked to sign his Code of Conduct, and Financial Interests forms and return them to the Clerk this evening. Mr. Rogers then joined in the meeting.

**D021 Minutes of last meeting/matters arising from them – 20<sup>th</sup> January, 2010**

**ACTION**

**One matter arising:**

Cllr. Myers asked whether there had been any progress on the playground remedial works. Clerk confirmed that the work would be completed on 24<sup>th</sup> February.  
The Minutes were then approved and signed.

**D022 Financial Report (Clerk)**

Reconciliation of bank accounts has taken place for January.

Sheet showing expenditure to the end of the third quarter (December 2009) distributed.

Precept receipt dates in 2010 will be 20<sup>th</sup> April & 14<sup>th</sup> September.

Agreed that the Internal Auditor would be requested to act again for 2009/10.

**Balances at end January 2010**

**Current Account:** £18,048.62

**Tracker Account:** £5,921.63

**Post Office Savings Account:** £10,949.04

(The current account is boosted by the remaining Lengthsman grant money of £3,883.08 to end of March)

**Receipts since last meeting:**

BT Wayleave payment £8.82

**Payments made since last meeting:**

Nil

**Requests for Payment:**

Toilet Cleaner + Bins February £236.69

Deployment of S.I.D. in December 2009 £117.50

Lengthsman Invoice No. 2409 £331.05

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

**Planning**

**D023**

**Application considered this evening:**

**DMNW/100248/FH St. Huberts, Broxwood, HR6 9JQ**

First floor extension, small single storey lean-to extension, new porch and two new bay windows

**COMMENT: The protruding bay windows detract from the east elevation of the property**

**D024**

**Parish Lengthsman Scheme Work Update – Cllr. K. Myers**

The area around the Millennium Meadow gateway, and the Play area are next to be tidied up.

In addition, cutting of drainage grips in Bearwood Lane will be attended to, as well as cleaning of road signs.

It is proposed that a survey is to be requested of the Lengthsman to provide a map showing existing drainage grips and determine their condition, and the suggested location of any additional ones, as well as a record of road safety signs, in order to put in place a plan of action for the Autumn. Any grips in need of attention will be included in works orders to be issued before the end of March.

**D025**

**Affordable Housing Project Update – Cllr. Phillips**

There are currently problems with purchasing the land required, as well as gaining funding. There was a lot of discussion on this topic and many councillors voiced their disappointment that after 2 years or so, the project had not progressed satisfactorily at all. However, it seems that there is nothing that can be done by the Parish Council to speed things up. The Clerk has been invited by Marches Chairman to get regular monthly updates from them prior to each meeting.

**HH**

**D026**

**Completion of Parish Plan Review – Plan of Action – Cllr. Mrs. P. Lloyd**

Cllr. Mrs. Lloyd stated that only one councillor had responded to her request to make any comments upon the Review by 3<sup>rd</sup> February. There is still concern as to who is going to produce it without any available funding.

Cllr. Mrs. Lloyd is of the opinion that the original complete Plan should be updated, as well as producing a short version of the changes to the original Plan.

There was some uncertainty about the best way to proceed to complete the Plan Review.

Cllr. Phillips suggested that certain matters currently under consultation in the ‘Shaping Our Place 2026’ project, should be considered for placing into the Plan Review, and that perhaps these should be determined first. These are:

- \* The status of Pembridge in future – possibly as one of 19 Rural Service Centres, which would include additional housebuilding and the attendant S106 gain possibilities for the parish. Is this status to be agreed? If so it needs to be incorporated into the Plan Review.
- \* The A44 traffic measures/improvements that have taken place.
- \* The role and importance of the village school
- \* The possibility of additional Affordable Housing / Sheltered bungalows for the elderly.

**HH**

Further discussion is necessary, and it was decided to cancel the planned Extraordinary Parish Council meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> February, in favour of a Public Meeting. A date was then set for a Public Meeting of Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March at the School Hall. Clerk will arrange this.

**D027**

**New Street Lighting update – Clerk**

The project commenced on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2010. There had been some concern about The galvanised poles; however Russell Pryce has confirmed that they will all be painted black once in position.

The Chairman invited any residents present to speak on this topic if they wished.

**ACTION**

One resident was most unhappy about the position of a lamp pole very close to one of his properties in Bearwood Lane, and stated that the contractors were damaging the foundations of that property during their work. He also stated that there are three new lamps being positioned, which he considered was far too many, and that the whole area was over illuminated. He wanted one/two of the lamps removed.

The Chairman then explained that all throughout the process of introducing new lighting, that the Parish Council had taken advice of the specialists – The County Conservation Officer as well as the Street Lighting Engineer. Those specialists had given their advice about all aspects of the project at Parish Council meetings, to which any local residents were welcome to attend, and that they did not do so.

Two lamps have been trialled for a few months in the village, for all residents to see.

The task of the Engineer was to improve the existing lighting to a more evenly distributed scheme, by altering positions of some of the existing lamp poles, and removing the wall mounted lamps altogether.

The positions of the three new lamps in Bearwood Lane to improve pedestrian safety near to the school entrance were specifically arranged to provide the legal level of light required in such a situation. This was in no way a decision left up to the Parish Council, but entirely one made by the Lighting Engineer, who is a specialist in his field.

The matter then arose about whether some additional lighting could be installed between the School and the Market Hall where it is also very dark; although it was acknowledged that this would not be possible as part of the current lighting scheme. Clerk will speak to the Lighting Engineer about this.

**HH**

**D028 Parish Hall Proposed Developments – Mr. Chris Thomas (VHMC Chairman invited)**

The PC Chairman commenced by explaining that the Parish Council as Custodian Trustees of the Village Hall do not make decisions, but do of course oversee matters that could have an impact on the parish. He then invited Mr. Thomas to explain the plans of the Village Hall Management Committee.

These will take 2 approaches:

- 1) To develop a playground at the front with a French door and porch, and a play area on the front green.
- 2) Tarmac over the grass at the side of the hall to increase parking space, and incorporate a hedgerow around the boundary instead of having a fence.

The reasons for (2 above) are to provide additional parking for vehicles coming to the Monday Auctions held at the Hall, thus reducing on street parking, and to allow coaches to park somewhere in the village, which will bring tourists and visitors here to the benefit of the village.

The suggested cost of this work is estimated to be in the region of £17,000 - £25,000. This can be financed from existing funds held. Planning permission would be needed. There was no intention of charging for parking, but to allow it to be used 'by courtesy', so it would not become an official car park.

The PC Chairman enquired as to whether the Village Hall Management Committee may thus be acting outside of the Charitable Status, which required that events at the Hall should be for the sole good of the local community. He suggested that Mr. Thomas should check the Hall's Terms of Reference.

The PC Chairman then invited Mr. Thomas to attend a future Parish council meeting once definite plans had been considered, in order for the Councillors to be aware of the proposals prior to any action being taken.

**D029 Shaping Our Place 2026**

Already discussed above.

**ACTION**

**Meeting Closed for the next two items**

**D030 Parishioners Questions**

No further questions.

**D031 Ward Councillor's Report (Cllr. R. Phillips)**

Edgar Street Grid – Inner Ring Road – Plans were distributed.

If there are any highways issues needed to be discussed at the forthcoming meeting with Amey on 15<sup>th</sup> March, please advise Cllr. Phillips. He has a list of 5/6 items to date.

The School will be interviewing for a new Head Teacher on 17<sup>th</sup> March. The School is also due for an Ofsted visit shortly.

The School's latest building phase is coming to an end, so two main areas are completed, which just leave some minor completions.

It is intended that the School will have an Open Day in May to allow as many people as possible to view the developments there. Cllr. Phillips proposed that perhaps this event could be combined with the Annual Parish Open Meeting there on 5<sup>th</sup> May.

**RJP/  
HH**

Herefordshire Council's budget for next year will see cuts. This will have an inevitable impact on some council job losses – hopefully through natural wastage.

Childrens social care needs have high costs, with £1.2m needed in adult social care.

Road costs will be £1m higher this year, reaching £18m in the next year.

**Meeting to be Reopened**

**D032 Parish Matters Arising/Correspondence for Action**

- a) Central Networks refurbishment of existing electricity pole & line on village green. To take place in 2011. Cllr. Myers to follow up.
- b) St. Mary's Church seeking ideas for the future use of the Church for a community project. Invitations extended to councillors – 18<sup>th</sup> Feb at School.
- c) Village Hall Energy Challenge. Details to be placed in Parish Magazine.
- d) Proposed Community Shop. To be followed up by Cllr. G. Evans.
- e) Parish magazine advertising flyer – there is still one empty space available. Noted.
- f) Revision to Clerk's Contract and Terms of Employment – Agreed & Signed.
- g) Special Meeting of the Parish Council on 24<sup>th</sup> February to discuss 'Shaping our Place 2026' – Cancelled in favour of a Public Meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> March.
- h) Marking out of the PO van area and putting up a no parking sign is ongoing.
- i) SID speed data analysis – being carried out by Traffic Police, in conjunction with some further speed enforcement of the western end of Pembridge assisted by the Safer Roads Partnership.
- j) New Salt Bins – 3 or 4 proposed sites would be requested by the Clerk.
- k) NSPCC information will be placed in the Parish Magazine.
- l) S.I.D. – Insurance cover is provided by H. Council whilst equipment on hire from them.

**KM**

**HH  
GE**

**KM**

**HH**

**D033 Next Meeting**

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2010 at 7.15 pm in the Parish Hall.

Meeting Closed at 9.55 pm

