

PEMBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Held Wednesday 17th March 2010 in the Parish Hall
7.15 pm viewing Planning Application, 7.30 pm Main Business

Present: Cllr. G. Evans, Cllr. K. Myers , Cllr. J. Purslow, Cllr. P. Thomas, Cllr. Mrs. P. Lloyd,
Cllr. Mrs. J. Mifflin, Cllr. A. Stokes, Cllr. K. Duggan, Cllr. R. Phillips
Cllr. R. Pierce, Cllr. Mrs. S. Smith + several members of the public

D034 Apologies and Reasons for Absence

Cllr. D. Owens – No reason given Cllr. Mrs. J. Mifflin- Attended another meeting today

D035 Announcement of any interests from councillors - None Declared

D036 Minutes of last meeting/matters arising from them – 17th February 2010

ACTION

Three matters arising:

Attendance list was requested to be amended to include Cllr. R. Pierce.

There was a query as to any progress about a community shop – ongoing.

Request for an update about the problem of Saturday parking of the PO van – ongoing.

D037 Guest Speakers on new Kington Doctors Surgery – Joy Boyles & Practice Manager
Jacqueline Rudge

Jacqueline opened the meeting by explaining that 16 possible sites had been considered and all had been rejected.

This current site, opposite Arrow Plant Hire and before the cemetery on the left-hand-side, is the last possible option as there is no further funding available to look at any other sites. 8,500 patients would be contacted for their views, with 5,000 still to be contacted, including 3 residential homes and 4 nursing homes. By January 2012 the current surgery would be unfit for purpose

Plans of the proposed new surgery were made available. It is hoped that a planning application combining a public access footpath and road crossing and 52 parking spaces, will be submitted in April, for completion of the new building by November 2011.

The new medical surgery would encompass:-

An NHS dental service – a Ludlow dentist has already been secured.

Day case area for monitoring of patients.

A mobile hook-up for X ray, Scanners and Mammography.

A meeting room which will be hired out during out of hours use.

A school counselling room.

A room for district nurses and midwives etc.

More clinical staff.

Modern staff facilities.

Minor surgery facilities.

A large dispensary.

A prescription collection and delivery service.

A registry of births and deaths room.

Full disabled access with ramp.

A lift to the second floor.

Funding for a patient transport service.

An ambulance bay.

A room for consultants.

Jacqueline encouraged everyone to support this project.

The aim is to improve all aspects of healthcare.

There have been objections received concerning the proposed new surgery, such as that the dispensary will be too big, that the surgery is out of town, and that the dentist will be upstairs, etc. etc.

Joy Boyles was then introduced, and she explained that she represents the Patient Participation Group as a volunteer and how she primarily liaises between patients and medical staff.

Joy helps to publish a regular practice newsletter, and deals with the current questionnaires. Her group also decide how fund-donated money from patients should be spent.

Therefore if anyone has any queries they may contact her on tel: 01544 388145.

Joy went on to explain about Pembridge surgery, and that currently negotiations are ongoing with the Primary Care Trust to secure services in Pembridge for a further 30 years, as it is the general wish that Pembridge should continue to have a surgery of its own.

The surgery is owned by the partners, and they get paid on their patient list size.

Cllr. Phillips explained that the money for the new surgery is available now, and it is important not to miss this good opportunity. There is one issue of concern about road safety following a recent accident. However, Cllr. Phillips requested that when/if planning permission is given, please remember to give your support. Also to keep in mind that customer focussed support is needed.

Guest Speaker – Mrs. Angela Pembleton – Heart of England in Bloom Campaign

Angela outlined the scheme with much encouragement for a Pembridge entry this year, although the closing date for entries is 30th April. She described Pembridge as such a beautiful village with so much to offer. An entry does not just have to be about having masses of flowers on show, but more about appropriate planting of a variety of horticultural and environmental achievements. Bio-diversity is also very good, and we have an exceptional example with our recently completed riverside/village green improvement project with boardwalk and information boards.

It's all about a community coming together, and should not be Parish Council led, but have a variety of other parish helpers. It makes a great marketing tool for tourism too.

It's all about a journey to include wildlife, resource management, local heritage, community spirit etc and needs people to steer it forward. Angela said that she would help a committee, and meet up once a month. Cllr. Mrs. S. Smith agreed to make a start with this.

SS

Last year there were 45 main bloom entries and 74 entries for the your neighbourhood section.

This year it is hoped to have 52 main bloom entries and more than 100 for 'your neighbourhood'.

The entry fee is £50 and judging takes place in July, with a final decision being made in September. Prize giving will take place at Newcastle under Lyme.

D038 Financial Report (Clerk)

Reconciliation of bank accounts has taken place for February.

Balances at end February 2010

Current Account: £17,372.20
Tracker Account: £5,921.63
Post Office Savings Account: £10,949.04
(It is anticipated that the Lengthsman grant funding will be utilised by the end of March 2010)

Receipts since last meeting:

Nil

Payments made since last meeting:

Zen Internet - PC Website domain name renewal fee £58.16

Requests for Payment:

Toilet cleaner + bins, March £258.27
Zen Internet annual charge for 'pembridge.org.uk' £62.12
School Hall hire payment £24.00
HALC – New Standing Orders £25.00
V. Green Maintenance 2009 £205.63

All above transactions were approved by all.

D039 Planning

DMNW/093097/F Weston House Farm, Weston, Pembridge. HR6 9JE
Proposed change of use from holiday let to residential
COMMENT: NO OBJECTIONS

DMNW/093215/F Grange House School, Marston, Leominster. HR6 9JA
Conversion of existing school premises to residential dwelling.
COMMENT: NO OBJECTIONS

DMNW/100274/L The Garth, West Street, Pembridge. HR6 9DX
Proposed replacement front windows
COMMENT: NO OBJECTIONS

DMNW/100431/FH Yew Tree House, Marston, Pembridge. HR6 9JA
Erection of replacement single storey garage and log store
COMMENT: NO OBJECTIONS

D040 Shaping Our Place 2026

Following the recent meeting held at Shobdon School, and the Public Meeting held on 3rd March 2010 in the School Hall, the Parish Council needs to response to the options contained within the document circulated, and to complete the Rural Areas Questionnaire. This was done this evening - as follows:-

Q26 Are there any additional issues in the rural areas that should be addressed?

Parish Council's Answer * Infrastructure and Sewerage investment should be made before any new properties built, or, any new properties should have their own sewerage disposal system i.e. biodisc etc. Electricity and Water supplies also need improving.
* There is insufficient emphasis on affordable housing for the elderly. The existing supply is no longer suitable for the elderly.
* A statement should include social facilities available for the youth.

Rural Jobs & Shops

ACTION

Q27a is the preferred approach for new jobs and shops in the rural areas the right one? (p.71)

Parish Council's Answer **YES**

Rural Service Centres

Q28a Is the preferred approach for defining Rural Service Centres and Hubs (Tier 1) the right one? (p.72)

Parish Council's Answer **YES with minor changes:-**

- * The final say should rest with the Community. The opportunity is needed to confirm whether the parish wishes to be a Rural Service Centre.
- * An autumn decision could be reached following limited further consultation, prior to a decision by Planning Officers about whether the parish will be a Rural Service Centre.
- * The Parish Council wants to be involved in total consultation, as it wishes to remain in control and able to influence decisions.

Q29a Is the level of housing proposed in the Rural Service Centres and Hubs about right? (p.73)

Parish Council's Answer **YES with minor changes:-**

- * Should reflect historic growth patterns and not exceed them.
- * It is thought that up to 100 additional smaller properties could be included by year 2026 across the whole parish. This figure is around the same as over a similar previous period.
- * Parish Council wishes to have an input as to where development will occur in Pembridge, and that this is not just left to a developer to decide.

Q30a Which option for local centres (Tier 2) do you prefer, Option 1 or 2? (p.73)

Parish Council's Answer **LEAVE ANSWER BLANK**

Q31a Do you agree with the preferred approach for restricting new development in area outside Tiers 1 and 2? (p.75)

Parish Council's Answer **YES**

D041 Affordable Housing Project update - Clerk

Nothing heard back from Marches Housing, despite Clerk requesting the agreed monthly update. Hopefully there will be some news for next month.

D042 Street Lighting Project update - Clerk

All is progressing well. However, completion may take a little longer than originally planned owing to the fact the ground holes for the lamp standards are having to be hand dug because of uncertainty as to the positions of BT's underground fibreoptic connections, as they had omitted to add these to the general shared plan of underground services.

Additional lighting for the lower part of Bearwood Lane between the School and The Market Hall was discussed as being beneficial, although the Parish Council would have to fund this as H. Council's general replacement scheme budget had been utilised. Costs would probably be between £5-£6,000. Cllr. Phillips would discuss this with the Highways team.

RJP

D043 Allotments Update – Cllr. Purslow

Cllr. Purslow handed out his report which stated that he has been unable to secure any land for this project to date. One potential landowner had changed his mind owing to how unsightly allotments become, another was not willing to assist, and a third option was on land which it had been discovered floods and is not therefore suitable. Cllr. Purslow thanked. Discussions are ongoing with Nick Read to see whether the Arrowvale Group could provide any other suggestions for suitable land.

Clerk mentioned that the Parish Council has the option of compulsorily leasing or purchasing land. It was also thought wise to first advertise to see whether there are any other potential land opportunities that might be available.

After prolonged discussion it was decided to advertise in the next Parish News Magazine for suitable land. Clerk to arrange this.

HH

Meeting Closed for the next two items**D044 Ward Councillor's Report (Cllr. R. Phillips)**

The H. Council budget for 2010/11 has now been set. Council Tax will have a very small increase of just 2½%.

£4.5M of efficiency savings have got to be made.

There will be increases in Adult Social Care of £1.2M and in Childrens Care Services of £1M, as well as a 10% increase in the Highways maintenance budget.

Savings will be made of £5M by the combining of the 3 organisations: Primary Care Trust, NHS and the Council. This will mean that there will be some job losses however.

D045 Parishioners Questions

None.

Meeting to be Reopened**D046****Parish Matters Arising/Correspondence for Action**

a) **Insurance of the Belfry** - the lease between the Parish Council and the Pembridge Amenity Trust (P.A.T.) (dated 31st March, 1999), requires that the belfry is insured "to the satisfaction of the council". The P.A.T. have received the details of the renewal premium for the coming year, which is in excess of £3,000, and if the Parish Council does not insure the Belfry there will be a reduction in premium of more than £2,000. The Chairman advises:

The belfry is very low risk and we have previously been advised by none other than English Heritage that there is no point insuring it. However, it is currently a stipulation in the lease between the P.A.T. and the Parish Council that the building is insured. I am sure that, with the approval of the PC, this term could be rescinded and thus an annual saving of around £2000 made.

I conclude that the PC can if they so wish, decide that they do not want the building insured, particularly as there were no specific conditions imposed on the PC when the belfry was gifted by the church according to the original Deed of transfer which has been studied.

Cllrs. Evans and Phillips declared a non prejudicial Interest as they are trustees of the Pembridge Amenity Trust which oversees the management of the Belfry.

A proposal was then put by Cllr. Stokes that the P.A.T. should cancel buildings insurance on the Belfry.

By a majority show of hands in agreement, this proposal was carried.

GE

- b) **Village Hall Energy Challenge** – all requested to complete the online questionnaire that was advertised in the recent Parish News magazine. If winners, the parish hall could have £5000 towards energy saving measures there.
- c) **New NALC Model Standing Orders** – in 2 parts – Clerk has requested one hard copy at a cost of £25.00. A small group of councillors is needed to check through these new Orders shortly, to then present any necessary changes to the full Parish Council.
- d) **Parish Emergency Co-Ordinator required**, to attend a county meeting on 22nd March. A volunteer is needed, and Cllr. Rogers agreed to attend and report back. **PR**
- e) **Reduced opening times of the local Doctor's Surgery:** causing concern and inconvenience. This was covered above.
- f) **Public Toilets** energy saving plans. Cllr. Myers is following this up with the Property section of H. Council and will report back when more information is available. Confirmation is needed that the PC will not have to fund improvements first. **KM**
- g) **Parish Plan Review** – possible grant funding available. Details were passed to Cllr. Mrs. Lloyd for consideration of an application being made. **PL**
- h) **RoSPA Annual Play Ground Inspection** will take place during April 2010.
- i) **Village Green Water Main renewal in 2008** – Welsh Water are seeking the PC's confirmation that the work has been completed to its satisfaction. Confirmed. **KM**
- j) **Invitation to St. Mary's Church Community Project** – Fri. 26th March 12.30 – 9 pm Cllr. Myers to attend and provide feedback later.

D047 Next Meeting

Wednesday 21st April 2010 at 7.15pm in the Parish Hall
Meeting Closed at 10.15 pm