

PEMBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Held Wednesday 15th June 2011 in the Parish Hall
7.15 pm viewing Planning Application, 7.30 pm Main Business

Present: Cllr. G. Evans (Chair), Cllr. P. Thomas, Cllr. R. Pierce, Cllr. A. Stokes
Cllr. Mrs. J. Mifflin, Cllr. D. Owens, Cllr. R. Phillips, Cllr. P. Rogers + 6 Residents

E066 Apologies and Reasons for Absence

Cllr. K. Myers – On holiday

E067 Announcement of any interests from councillors - None Declared

E068 Police Representative – CSO Dick Alford

ACTION

Since 1st April this year there has been only one recorded crime, which was resolved.

The Police had a meeting in May with the Neighbourhood Watch group and continue to work closely with them.

Police Surgeries will be held on 16th June (tomorrow) and 14th July – both between 11-12am. There are now 4/5 village surgeries that are all proving useful to residents.

The Police have received a complaint from a resident concerning the lower end of Bearwood Lane being blocked to through traffic occasionally. Dick asked the meeting about the situation regarding the introduction of yellow road lines a few years ago and whether Bearwood Lane had been considered at that time. There was general discussion about how yellow lines were introduced at the top end of Bridge Street, to allow vehicles to turn into and out of Bridge Street more easily. It was explained that at that time the Parish Council took the stance that no further yellow lines would be introduced. Firstly, the area outside the shop was needed as a stop off for people needing to call in there to make purchases; and there is a no-parking hatched area near the Market Square which was considered adequate to alleviate the problem there. However, it was acknowledged that occasionally residents may park their vehicles outside their homes close to the bottom end of Bearwood Lane in a relatively unsafe manner.

Dick told the meeting that he had asked the complainant to report each incident of blockage of Bearwood Lane to the Police, as it occurred, and that they would keep a log to determine the best way forward, and would report back to the parish council on this topic later in the year.

E069 Vacancy for 4 Parish Councillors to be Co-opted this evening

Five candidates were present this evening, and there are four parish councillor vacancies, therefore a short selection interview of all the candidates was held and then a paper vote was taken by all members present.

The result of the vote, which was counted by the Chairman and the Clerk, was for the following four new councillors to sign their Acceptance and Interests Forms, and then join in this meeting. They were then invited to join the table :-

Cllr. Ms. C. Fothergill, Cllr. A. Pace, Cllr. K. Duggan & Cllr. A. Mizrahi

E070 Minutes of last meetings/matters arising from them – 18th May 2011

ACTION

There were five matters arising:

- a) The situation regarding Marston Lane signage – had there been any decisions. The Chairman said that this is ongoing.
- b) Had there been any response from the Arrowvale Group regarding the parish council's refusal of a donation because of lack of information – none to date.
- c) A44 promised road improvements – was there any information as to what this entailed – no detailed information received.
- d) The meeting was told that the broken barriers previously reported on the road towards Shobdon had been inspected, and that the exposed parts were set-back sufficiently not to cause an accident to passing motorists/cyclists and that as they are made of concrete it was not possible to adapt them in any way.
- e) The village green grass mowing criteria were discussed near the river edge as it was thought not possible to walk between the river bank and the green as the foliage was rather dense there.
The Village Green group would consider this and report back.

E071 Financial Report (Clerk)

Reconciliation of bank accounts for May has taken place.

Balances at end May 2011

Current Account:	£21,706.56
Tracker Account:	£5,926.07
Post Office Savings Account:	£11,347.79

Receipts since last meeting:

None.

Requests for payment:

Subscription to Local Council Review magazine	£15.50
Millennium Meadow mowing – May	£53.10
Public Toilet Cleaner & Bins – June (PAYE deductions to HMRC by PC for 1 st ¼ yr)	£173.60
Clerk's salary for 1 st quarter year (PAYE deductions to HMRC by PC for 1 st ¼ yr)	£846.48
Clerk's expenses for 1 st quarter year	£195.62
Annual Insurance Premium to new company, Came & Co. (3-year term agreed)	£853.23

All payments approved

E072 Parish Plan Review – Cllr. Mrs. Mifflin

No decision appears to have been made about printing the reviewed Plan despite this originally being agreed to happen by the parish council, which was disappointing, following the years of hard work that had been put in by the three councillors who had agreed to review the Plan.

It was suggested that in view of the Localism Bill that is currently going through Parliament, that it was important to consider including in the Review of the Plan the fact that there would be future housing requirements in the parish and possibly a boundary change, and that also Section 106 requirements could be requested at that time.

Cllr. Mifflin highlighted the fact that the Group had carried out their remit to review the Plan after much hard work and many meetings, and that she felt that a line on changes to the review had to be drawn at what had been achieved to date, and that the action plans produced should be published once they have been 'tidied up' as agreed. It was acknowledged that other changes were inevitably going to take place in the parish in the future, but that the Review for the time being was completed.

Cllr. Pierce offered to tidy up and format the Action Plans produced by the Group jointly with the whole Parish Council, if it could be e mailed to him. He would then make it available to all councillors to see, prior to it being placed on the Website.

It was acknowledged that at the Special Meeting held on 14th April 2011 that a Statement would be placed at the front of the current revision of the Plan, and that no further changes to the revision would be made at this time. This was unanimously agreed.

The Statement would read:

"The Parish Plan Review of 2010 will be handed over to the Parish Council, who will carry out an ongoing review by Working Groups to be established."

E073 Lengthsman Scheme update – Cllr. A. Stokes

The following planned work for 2011-12 includes:

Clearing of grips and culverts and ditches and road signs on C & U roads.

Clearing of weeds twice a year in Bridge Street and spraying once a year.

Clearing the overhanging branches in Suckley Lane.

Replacing of an excess grit bin – new position to be confirmed, but one is needed at the junction of Manley Lane and the A44 – West Street, which had been requested 18 mths ago.

A new administrator will be appointed, as the current administrator will finish at the end of September 2011.

Flooding after heavy rain in the central car park near the Millennium Meadow is a problem. The drain on one side appears to be blocked. It is unsure of who is responsible for maintaining the drain, and the Chairman would look at the lease and report back.

E074 Localism update – Cllr. P. Rogers

Information had been e mailed around to all councillors by the Clerk. Cllr. Rogers had attended a meeting some months ago, and it was thought that Pembridge would be grouped either in the Weobley or Mortimer areas. If the parish did not want to accept being included in either of these areas, it could remain outside as an individual parish. All groups are targeting key areas together.

The Localism Bill should be completed and details made known in November this year.

E075 Provision of Public Toilet Cleaning and Waste Bin emptying service – Cllr. G. Evans

The offer of the post has been accepted by Mr. D. Hemuss.

This is for 1 hour's work per day cleaning plus 5 hours work a month for bin emptying.

The Contract is for 28 hours holiday a year (equivalent to full time 28 days).

A PAYE scheme is in place and notice periods have been agreed.

Meeting closed for next two items

E076 Parishioners Questions

A resident thought that parts of Pembridge Parish do fall into Weobley area, as they do for the school catchment area.

E077 Ward Councillor's Report – Cllr. R. Phillips

The last Hereford Livestock Market took place today on the city centre site. The new Livestock Market will open next week, and will be able to manage 8,000 sheep and 500 cattle.

The county has won Marches Bid for an Enterprise Zone to support the local economy (for Rotherwas bid). In the bid, fifty local defence and security related sectors of businesses were highlighted as being of importance to Hereford. There are good enterprise opportunities for the future.

The mobile library service is due to end in September; although the Schools libraries and service to the housebound will be retained.

Cllr. Phillips stated that he has been following up complaints that vibrations from HGV's etc. through the village are causing damage to properties.

Linked to this, Air Quality monitoring has been carried out at the rear of The New Inn, but nothing of significance was found. In c1990 Leominster District Council carried out noise monitoring and it was found not to be excessive then.

Cllr. Phillips will request more evidence from residents in the next Parish News Magazine.

A member asked Cllr. Phillips whether the forthcoming planned improvements to the through road in July could take account of this concern about vibrations and damage to properties, and maybe a deeper level of surface replacement could be carried out to alleviate the vibrations. Cllr. Phillips will follow this matter up with highways.

Another member asked Cllr. Phillips whether any progress was being made on a new bridge. Cllr. Phillips replied no, but that various other options are being considered and local money will need to be raised via Localism.

Also, poor rail links to London were a concern; and the meeting was told that various considerations are currently being made towards improvements.

Meeting Reopened

E078 Affordable Housing Project update – Clerk

I have received the following response from Marches Housing Association in the last week:-

“We have applied for grant funding for all our schemes, following the change of regime for affordable housing. All housing associations are now waiting to hear whether they have been successful in their bids to the Homes and Communities Agency, and we should hear officially by the middle of July. Pembridge was on the list of schemes that this association put forward. I have put a note in my diary to update you before your meeting in July.”

There followed some general discussion regarding the fact that despite assurances, that a 'local connection' by applicants for local social housing would mean they were given priority when a local property becomes available, and this did not appear to be happening. Everyone was aware of the Homepoint Scheme, and the need for interested persons to get their name down on the waiting list for consideration; and that thereafter the selection criteria also included the degree of 'need' of a family (based on a points system, and not solely local connection). The Clerk was requested, along with other concerned Members, to write to both Marches Housing Association and Kemble Housing Association and Councillor Roger Hunt, to voice the Parish Council's concern that young local families were still not getting the opportunity to remain in the village of their birth, and that somehow it was always an 'outside' family that has been selected for vacant social housing opportunities that have recently arisen. It was felt that there is a definite need to stress that a strong local connection should be paramount to a successful application, and not merely dependent upon 'who was most socially in need'. It was also considered that this current criteria for selection is 'diluting' the close ties of those in the parish/village and will continue to do so in the future because of ill conceived policy, and that this will possibly change the whole social structure which underlies the uniqueness of a small parish; possibly changing it forever.

E079 Parish Matters Arising/Correspondence for Action:

- a) Data Protection Act – all councillors have been e-mailed information regarding their responsibilities in holding data on individual residents. This was noted.
- b) The Parish Councils' Charter with Herefordshire Council has also been circulated by e-mail. The Clerk will need to respond on behalf of the Parish Council in the next few weeks therefore councillors are requested to read through the document and pass their comments upon it to the Clerk by the first week in July.

Next Meetings:

Wed. 20th July 2011 at 7.15pm in the Parish Hall

NO MEETING IN AUGUST

Wednesday 21st September 2011 at 7.15pm in the Parish Hall