

PEMBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Held Wednesday 21st September 2011 in the Parish Hall
7.15 pm viewing Planning Applications, 7.30 pm Main Business

Present: Cllr. G. Evans (Chair), Cllr. R. Pierce, Cllr. Mrs. J. Mifflin, Cllr. D. Owens, Cllr. P. Rogers,
Cllr. K. Myers, Cllr. A. Mizrahi, Cllr. Ms. C. Fothergill, Cllr. A. Pace
+ 3 Members of the public

E096 Apologies and Reasons for Absence

Cllr. P. Thomas, Cllr. A. Stokes – On holiday, Cllr. R. Phillips – At a meeting with the Bishop

E097 Announcement of any interests from councillors

One from Cllr. P. Rogers regarding his treework planning application.

E098 Minutes of last meeting/matters arising from them – 20th July 2011

ACTION

1) Clerk advised the meeting of the written replies that had been received from Kemble Housing Association, and Bill Wiggin MP, following her letter concerning the parish council's unhappiness at the way in which local social housing vacancies were being filled, and that the local contact was seemingly no being given a priority in selection.

2) Affordable Housing update – Clerk has e mailed Cllr. Phillips to request that when he next meets with Marches Housing Association, that he can check with them regarding their policy in filling their social housing properties also.

If there should be any funding forthcoming to Marches Housing Assn. to enable Pembridge's Affordable Housing project to move forward, that would be pleasing news – Cllr. Phillips requested to follow this up too. Are the garages to be removed ?

RJP

E099 Pembridge Allotments – Cllr. G. Evans

Cllr. Evans read out a letter that had been received from the Arrowvale Environment Group, in which further information was supplied about their allotment start-up costs, and requesting a donation to offset these for the supply of piped water and fencing to the area.

Cllr. Evans then invited guest visitor Rev. Nick Read of the Arrowvale Environment Group, and his two colleagues, to outline the work that had been carried out to date.

After some following discussion, a proposal was made by Cllr. D. Owens that the Parish Council agrees to fund the request. On a vote by show of hands that was the majority agreement.

The Clerk will arrange the payment in due course.

HH

The guests thanked the Parish Council and left the meeting.

E100 Ye Olde Steppes Shop – Cllr. G. Evans

Cllr. Evans read out a letter that he had received from the 2 purchasers of the Shop. They hoped to have the Shop open again before Christmas this year. Their ideas seemed very pleasing, ranging from having wi-fi available, as well as open fires, snack meals, tea and cake, and a willingness to supply the top 100 choices of villagers' products in the shop.

Clerk was requested to place a small advertisement in the magazine to inform the parishioners of these plans.

HH

E101 Financial Report (Clerk)

Reconciliation of bank accounts for July & August has taken place.
Annual External Audit for 2010/11 has been completed successfully.

Balances at end August 2011

Current Account:	£17,107.62
Tracker Account:	£5,926.81
Post Office Savings Account:	£11,347.79

Receipts since last meeting:

BT Wayleave payment	£26.32
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Payments made since last meeting:

Toilet Cleaner & Bins – August	£185.40
Millennium Meadow mowing – July	£53.10
Millennium meadow mowing – August	£53.10
Herefordshire Council – Annual ROSPA playground inspection	£53.06
WMS Electricity Supply – March (adjustment)	£1.46
WMS Electricity Supply – May	£20.17
Mazars – Annual External Audit Fee – 2010/11 Audit	£162.00
Information Commissioner fee for FOI security registration	£35.00
Toilet Consumables	£8.58

Requests for payment:

Toilet Cleaner and Bins – September	£180.60
May election expenses for this Parish (mainly printing and postage)	£70.13
Lengthsman Invoice No. 2554	£1,007.40
HMRC payment for 2 nd Quarter (Tax for 2 employees)	£316.20
Clerk's Salary 2 nd Quarter	£846.48
Clerk's Expenses 2 nd Quarter	£241.15
Lengthsman Administrator – Half Year & Final Salary	£258.50
Magazine Printing Oct/Nov	£260.00
Flower/Show Floral Prizes (best frontage & hanging baskets)	£60.00

All above payments approved

E102 Planning Applications – Electronic equipment update – Cllr. Duggan

Cllr. Duggan brought along to the meeting the equipment that is needed to show planning applications to the meeting in the hall, via laptop and projector, directly onto the wall.
Clerk is to enquire through the Planning Department when we can commence.

HH

Treeworks Application – sent to Tony Norman (Tree Warden):

DMN/112429/K Victoria Place. East Street, Pembridge. HR6 9HB
Crown reduce 1 x Apple tree by 30%. Fell 1 x Goat Willow.
Reduce the height of 1 x Oak tree to 3m. Pollard 1 x Weeping Willow at 5m.

All OK except that the apple tree was thought to be a rather rare variety, and Tony Norman is investigating ways of getting it propagated, and properly pruned, rather than allowing just a crown reduction to it. Also, the fruit variety is to be professionally analysed for clarification of type. Tony is discussing all this with H. Council's arboriculturalist.

Planning Applications for consideration this evening:

DMN/112112/FH 1 Leen Cottages, Pembridge. HR6 9HN
Proposed two storey and single storey extensions together with detached garage.

COMMENT: NO OBJECTIONS

DMN/112214/E Land east of Hunton Farm, Lyonshall, Kington
The construction of new 66,000 volt overhead line (Kington to Presteigne)

COMMENT: NO OBJECTIONS

DMN/112191/F Land adjacent to New Inn, Pembridge. HR6 9DZ
Proposed one and half storey 3 bedroomed dwelling

COMMENT: NO OBJECTIONS

DMN/112329/F Land to the rear of Pump House, West Street, Pembridge. HR69DX
Proposed new dwelling

COMMENT: The Parish Council considers that this proposed development would lead to a detrimental loss of a medieval footprint from the village, as the land is currently a burgage plot to the existing property known as The Pump House.

We would query whether The Pump House is a Listed Building, and therefore whether its land too should be protected from any proposed development ?

The style of the proposed new dwelling is considered to be inappropriate for such a prominent position amongst other mainly medieval dwellings.

We wish to point out that the proposed, and only possible access, to and from the property would be at the narrowest part of an ancient historic sunken lane dating back to the 17thC which should be protected, and of which the villagers are very proud, and that such an accessway would destroy the character of the lane forever, as well as presenting a traffic hazard.

E103 Parish Plan Review – Cllr. R. Pierce

Details of the original version and the revision are both now on the website, and this will be advertised in the Parish Magazine.

After discussion there was a proposal to set up an Overseeing Group to arrange for the Action Plans in the Revision to be progressed, that would have four volunteers, which was agreed by all. Those who volunteered were: Cllr. Rogers, Cllr. Myers, Cllr. A. Pace and Cllr. R. Pierce. These four members would arrange meetings between themselves and report back to the full Parish Council on their recommendations on a regular basis.

RP

PR, KM,
AP & RP

E104 Herefordshire Broadband Pilot – Cllr. R. Pierce

Cllr. Pierce and Cllr. Phillips had recently attended a meeting on this topic, entitled Borders Broadband Project, at Titley Village Hall. The scheme is being jointly run by Herefordshire and Gloucestershire to promote better broadband provision. Currently many areas have no, or limited service, which is detrimental for many reasons. The aim is to improve the service over the two areas.

Phase 1 South Herefordshire and the Forest of Dean
100% 2 mb/s by 2013 Superfast by 2015

Phase 2 The remainder areas
100% 2mb/s by 2015 Superfast by 2018

Funding of £50M is the estimated cost of delivering broadband.

The initial need is to demonstrate that there is indeed a large demand for such improvements, and to assist, Broadband Champions for different areas are being invited as representatives, to encourage people to complete a questionnaire on-line or by mail. Details are to be mailed out to all households with the questionnaire.

Procurement of equipment is being arranged currently. Feature in magazine.

Meeting closed for next 2 items

E105 Parishioners Questions – None.

E106 Ward Councillor's Report – Cllr. R. Phillips

SUCCESS FOR OUR LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

On the 31st August the police received calls from Pembridge with information about a suspicious vehicle in the area believed to be stealing drain covers.

Down the Rhyse lane 14 metal drain covers had disappeared leaving potential very dangerous exposed holes for vehicles and cycles to go into. Officers went to find the vehicle and a pursuit followed and three individuals were arrested. The success of this is due to the information and intelligence of the Neighbourhood Watch and Pembridge Buyers Group who provided the information.

Our local policing team of PC Jo Ellis, CSO Dick Alford and CSO Dave Boden were nominated for Local Policing team of the year although they did not win I think no one local will be surprised that their work is so highly regarded.

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

On the 19th we have the meeting on future planning which will explain the background to the consultation with communities, which start later this month. For our Parish we need to will need to come to some decisions on future housing provision which we have discussed before. The other elements are the more Countywide policies and proposals included in which are future Transport and Economic plans. The Council will be proposing that a bypass/relief road is built from the A49 in the south to the A49 in the north on an inner western route.

The reason the west is chosen is that it is impossible to build a complete road to the east as the Lugg meadows are protected by not only UK and also European environmental legislation and therefore you could only build to the A438 (Ledbury road) and not be able to link up to the Worcester road let alone join the A49.

Opposition to the road is strong but it is the view of the administration that failure to build the road will mean Hereford and the County will condemn itself to no new jobs, continued low wage levels, severe lack of housing and infrastructure deadlock.

No Poll will be held as only one side is possible and the cost of holding a poll this autumn would be over £80.000.

KINGSPAN

Employing over 350 people Kingspan is the largest local employer and I visited them recently to discuss a range of issues. I raised the problem of foreign drivers coming on the A44 and we agreed we would look at a sign at Marston turn. The downturn in the building industry affects them greatly but recently they have provided the insulation for both the Handball and Basketball Arenas on the Olympic park.

LADY HAWKINS SCHOOL

Our local High School enjoyed good examination results at both A level and GCSE. Over 83% of the year 11 leavers gained 5A*- C grades with the English and Maths result showing a 16% improvement from two years ago. The school, due to its good Ofsted rating has requested to become an Academy School in November. I shall be attending the annual Founders day service later this month.

BROADBAND REGISTERING

Bob and I attended a meeting at Titley last week on Broadband.

In October every household and business will receive a leaflet asking them to return and register an interest in high speed broadband. Over the next six months a massive contract to bring high speed broadband to both Herefordshire and Gloucestershire is due to agreed and as part of that we need to know the potential size of demand to ensure we get the right levels of investment. If you are resident who uses a computer, have children in the house or a local business please ensure you register with www.fastbroadband4herefordshire.org.uk

HIGHWAYS

I have arranged for Amey to come to my ward to discuss highway matters on Wednesday 28th at 10.00am. The purpose is to do a village walk or parish drive as we have done in the past. Can the PC send some representatives and agree what are the issues to be discussed.

Next Saturday the road will be closed in the village for work on the main road. It is not a complete resurfacing. As many of you will recall 10 years ago we had the whole road in the village closed for a week and it was dug up, and approx 6 to 8 inches removed and then rebuilt and resurfaced with the quiet surfacing.

I shall send out a monthly report as I have done in the last two months at the end of the month to all email contacts. If for some reason you are not receiving it please let me know.

Meeting Re-opened

E107 Parish Resilience Co-Ordinator role – Cllr. A. Pace

Cllr. Pace attended at meeting on 12th September regarding this topic, and gave a report:

He explained that there were three parts to the scheme:

- 1) Ian Baker – who explained that a parish resilience co-ordinator would act as an information partner and point of contact; and their role would encompass collecting data on the skill base in the parish. Parishes cannot incur costs to assist parishioners when necessary, without the prior approval of The Emergency Planning Team.
- 2) Vicky Hamilton – who is the ‘Reach’ representative and Hannah Jones from Community Voluntary Action said that they do have some funding available.
- 3) Environment Agency – has an involvement with regard to flood warnings when river levels are high etc.

Cllr. Pace had a copy of the Draft Version of the Plan, which he passed around the meeting. The Chairman thanked Cllr. Pace for his report. No further action required on this topic.

E108 Local Development Forum Meeting – Feedback – Cllr. K. Myers

Following a meeting on this topic on 19th September.

The proposed new housing target for Pembridge parish over c20 years is c100 or a potential annual target of up to 5 new homes.

ACTION

Suggested policy for the Rural Areas (outside Market Towns)

- To help meet the housing needs of Herefordshire approximately 5,300 new dwellings will be provided in rural areas
- Development of affordable housing is a priority
- The regeneration of the rural economy will be encouraged
- Unique local environment will be protected, and where possible enhanced.

Please read handout circulated and e mailed for further information.

This information will be included in the Parish Plan and Local Plan.

E109 Lengthsman – Cllr. K. Myers

Cllr. Myers wished to raise three matters .

- 1) It had been brought to his attention that some of the pillars which support the bridge over the River Arrow were beginning to erode, and that these need to be properly assessed by the Amey Highways Team to ensure the structural soundness of the bridge.
- 2) Pollution in the river has been noted on the south side of the village green, and the Clerk was requested to write to the Environment Agency highlighting this matter of sewage and surface water photographed there.
- 3) Cllr. Myers wished to purchase and spray some herbicide along the edges of the walkways, and to clean the signs.
On a show of hands this expenditure was agreed.

Cllr. Myers confirmed that all the work to repair last year's winter damage had been carried out and completed. Carrie Pierce is to be Administrator from 1st October.

E110 Training Courses for Councillors – Cllr. G. Evans

Proposed rota/volunteers for attendance at main training courses to give feedback to councillors on a variety of topics, and to keep everyone updated. Clerk will arrange attendance at training courses of those members who are interested in them. Please let Clerk know as soon as possible your choices, so that these can be arranged.

ALL

E111 Parish Matters Arising/Correspondence for Action

- a) Grit Bin requirement for 2011/12 + replenishment of salt. The suggested new Winter Scheme, may provide alternative means of ensuring that salt is available within the parish. Further details on this scheme to be discussed at the next meeting.
- b) Obstruction of pavements by business Advertising Boards complaint received. After discussion it was decided that there are two main difficulties raised – that some large 'A' boards are blocking pavements and causing hazards to pedestrians; and that they are sometimes left in places which obscure the sight line for traffic at junctions. Two councillors agreed they would speak to the publicans, and clerk offered to speak to other businesses. Also, a short article would be placed in the next magazine.
- c) Community Orchards – as per e-mail from Cllr. R. Phillips. It was considered that there is insufficient land to dedicate to an orchard in the village.
- d) Obstructions to local footpaths complaint received. Followed up by Cllr. Rogers.
- e) Obstruction to local footpath by overhanging vegetation – complaint received. It was considered that this is not a matter for the Lengthsman, and that the individual property owners should be alerted to cut back their hedges & vegetation. Noted.
- f) Apple Tree application (6 trees) – May need some volunteers to plant them if Pembridge PC is successful in its request.
- g) Parish Council Group Photograph – November 16th meeting at 7 pm beforehand.

HH

ALL

ALL

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| | <u>ACTION</u> |
| i) S. 106 Agreement for Curl View properties. Cllr. Phillips will discuss this when he next meets with Marches Housing Assn. | RJP |
| J) Untidiness around the Market Hall has been noticed. Hopefully this will be attended to once the publican has been alerted to the problem. | AM |
| k) Clerk handed around to all councillors some details about their individual and collective responsibilities regarding handling personal information, under the Data Protection Act. Please retain this document. | |
| l) Locality Working throughout Herefordshire
Clerk attended a recent meeting, where it was explained that Herefordshire will be divided into 9 'Localities'.
Pembridge parish will be within the Kington Locality Group , along with Almeley, Brilley, Eardisley Group, Huntington, Kington Rural & Lower Harpton Group, Lyonshall, & Titley District Group.
The aim for the future is that two Locality Lead Officers will be allocated to each Locality Group, and this group will have Andrew Ashcroft and Chris Chapman from Herefordshire Council. They will meet with our Ward Councillor to develop an understanding of the locality and begin to map key issues and identify key partners.
It is hoped that all the parishes within their Group (Kington etc) will work closely together, and share facilities etc, to make overall cost savings . | |
| m) Amey ward round to discuss any local issues, such as potholes and other highway matters is planned for Wed. 28 th September. Any one can come along with Cllr. Phillips. | ALL |
| o) PC IRIS Scheme is being introduced so that all parishes are able to view online their logged road repair jobs with Amey, and to add new ones too. It was decided that the Clerk will apply for this information to be made accessible to the parish. | HH |

**E112 Next Meeting:
Wednesday 19th October, 2011 – 7.15 pm in the Parish Hall.**

Wednesday 26th October at 7pm – Public Meeting to discuss village/parish requested improvements as items to be planned into budge/precept for 2012/13, as requested by local parishioners. Suggestions may also be mailed to the Clerk or e mailed to her. As wide a range of consultation methods as possible will be used. Venue: Parish Hall