

PEMBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Held Wednesday 21st November 2012 in the Parish Hall

Present: Cllr. G. Evan (Chair), Cllr. D. Owens, Cllr. Ms. C. Fothergill, Cllr. P. Thomas,
Cllr. K. Duggan, Cllr. T. Bennetto, Cllr. P. Rogers, Cllr. Mrs. J. Mifflin, Cllr. A. Stokes
Cllr. A. Pace, Cllr. R. Phillips + 1 Resident

- F141 Apologies:** **ACTION**
Cllr. Mrs. C. Evans, Cllr. M. Ratcliffe
- F142 Announcement of any interests from councillors :**
None.
- F143 Police Report – CSO Richard Alford**
Apologies for police non-attendance at the October meeting were given.
The Halloween and Bonfire party evenings both went off quietly. Halloween posters concerning trick or treat warnings were distributed, and the children avoided those properties displaying them.
There was Remembrance Sunday police presence to control traffic in both Elbridge and Kington.
The Police Surgeries continue to be held regularly every 4 weeks on a Thursday in the Steppes Shop between 11am and 1pm. The next one will be on 6th December.
Details will be placed on the website.
The area is a very low risk one for crime. There was a shed broken into, and a theft of fruit and heating oil.
There is now a new Police Counter Clerk at Kington – Sarah, and her presence will make a big difference to the service provided.
- F144 Minutes of last meeting/matters arising from them – 17th October 2012**
No Matters Arising. **The Minutes were then signed as a true record.**
- F145 Financial Report: - Clerk**
Reconciliation of bank accounts for October has taken place.
Half Year VAT reclaim has been received.
HALC Subscription Fees announced for 2013 -14 :-
Affiliation Fee : £130 + HALC Subs. per elector: 15.5p + NALC Subs. per elector: 5.42p.
Precept setting should be completed at the January PC meeting (as HALC should be able to advise parishes in December as to whether the Government intends to commence capping parish councils). Councillors were requested to consider funding needs to be included in budget setting 2013-14.

PAYE requirement changes – a new monthly system commences in April 2013.

Consideration was given to agreement for a Dispensation for all Pembridge Parish Councillors to discuss the setting of the annual precept for the years 2013-14 and 2014-15 (up until the next round of elections in **May 2015**), as it has been deemed that all Cllrs. have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest as local taxpayers.

A Proposal was made by Cllr. T. Bennetto that all councillors be given a dispensation to set the budget/precept for the parish council until May 2015. Unanimous agreement.

Balances at end October

Current Account:	£25,807.23
Tracker Account:	£5,930.51
National Savings Account:	£11,393.23

Receipts since last meeting:

6 x £50 payments from Magazine Advertisers for 2012/13	£300.00	+ 1 by BACS
VAT reclaim received	£626.59	

Requests for payment:

Toilet Cleaner & Bins – November	217.00
Hall Hire	39.00
HALC training Fee x 1 (Cllr. Bennetto)	30.00
Lengthsman Administrator 2 nd half year salary	211.50
Lengthsman payment Inv. 2674	502.20
Hire of Digger for Moorcourt Lane drainage	200.00
Welsh Water payment for public toilets May to Nov	465.76 to be confirmed

F146 Planning Applications considered at this meeting:-

N122660/FH	The Cottage, Broxwood. HR6 9JQ Erection of extension to provide ground floor dining room and first floor en suite.
COMMENT:	NO OBJECTION
N122774/FH	Pembridge School, Pembridge HR6 9EA Extension to existing hard play area and provision of gazebo.
COMMENT:	NO OBJECTION
N123005/FH	Barrow Farm, Bearwood, Pembridge. HR6 9EQ Proposed two-storey extension.
COMMENT:	NO OBJECTION
N123007/F	Home Paddock, Lyonshall, Kington. HR5 3JD Replacement of extant planning permission DMNW/092266/F for demolition of existing house and outbuildings and erection of a replacement dwelling and ancillary garage.
COMMENT:	NO OBJECTION
N123001/F	Verge to Bridge Street, Pembridge. HR6 9EU Proposed erection of a GRP control kiosk 2400 x 1000 x 2000 mm
COMMENT:	NO OBJECTION, BUT A REQUEST THAT THE KIOSK SHOULD BE SET INTO THE BANK, AND SHOULD BE PAINTED A COLOUR CONSISTENT WITH BEING IN A CONSERVATION AREA.

Treework application sent to Tony Norman (Tree Warden):

Fletchers Leap, Parson Walk, Pembridge HR6 9EP
Fell 1 x Cherry, 1 x Chestnut and 1 x Larch tree. Remove 3 x limbs from 1 x Ash tree which are overhanging a Weeping Ash tree.

F147 Children's Playground Annual Rospa Report – Cllr. A. Stokes:

The Annual Inspection Report highlighted mainly low-risk items, with one or two minor medium risk items. There is some barbed wire loose in the fence which needs to be removed. Monthly inspections of the playground equipment take place, and it was confirmed that the top bar of the swings has been welded.

The report mentioned that the large Multiplay piece of equipment should be dismantled for checking its structural integrity, but this cannot easily be achieved. However, it has been examined for 'pinch points' and for any 'play' in it, and is considered safe for use.

There are one or two minor areas of the wet pour surface which may need repair in due course, but which aren't hazardous.

The playground leaves will need sweeping up once all the leaves have fallen, and this will be carried out shortly.

Thanks were passed to Cllr. Stokes for his work in looking after the playground.

F148 Neighbourhood Plan – Cllr. A. Pace

A public meeting took place on 24th October to explain the Neighbourhood Planning system to local residents, and the follow-up stages that will take place. This information has also been placed in the parish magazine.

A questionnaire will be formulated to go out to all residents on the electoral roll, and to help formulate the questions to go in suggestion forms will be placed at various locations in the village, which will then be collected up at the end of December or early January, and will then be reviewed by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. Afterwards the results will be talked through with the Herefordshire Council Planning Officer delegated to work with this parish, and advice will be taken as to how to analyse the answers and suggestions received. Following up from the first questionnaire results, there may be a need to send out a second questionnaire.

A further six volunteers from the parish have come forward to help in various ways, and they will be approached shortly.

F149 West Midlands 2013 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies – Cllr. R. Phillips

Proposed: reduction in the number of English constituencies from 533 to 502, and making sure that each constituency has similar numbers of registered electors. In many cases this means redrawing the existing boundaries.

Proposed reduction in local constituencies from 13 to 12 (includes : Herefordshire, Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin and Worcestershire).

Throughout Herefordshire there are three new Constituency seats proposed, which are subject to a successful Parliamentary vote:-

Hereford and South Herefordshire

Leominster and Ludlow

Malvern and rest of Herefordshire

With regard to Kingsland Parish Council's request for Pembridge and other local parishes to join with them in a joint response to the Boundary Commission on its proposal for a new Ludlow and Leominster parliamentary constituency, on the grounds that the Herefordshire county boundary has been ignored, Cllr. Phillips advised that the Labour and Liberal Democrat parties indicated they will not support the changes in parliament, and that means that the proposal will fail.

F150 Communities Right to Bid – Clerk

The Community Right to Bid is now a legal power for communities to use. It means that communities can apply to get a range of local assets registered as 'assets of community value'.

Clerk will attend a course shortly, and advise back at next meeting with further information.

F151 Millennium Meadow – Cllr. Mrs. J. Mifflin

The Bonfire party was very well attended and was an enjoyable evening for families. There was good income for provision of a party next year.

The bonfire area may be fenced off in future until all nails from wooden pallets burnt have been collected; but this is still under discussion at the moment.

It is proposed that one large goal post should be removed, and replaced with two sets of junior sized ones.

The field is to be rolled in the Spring and all holes are to be filled-in.

Hedges are to be trimmed.

All the Millennium Meadow Committee members are very keen, and thanks is passed to them.

Meeting Closed for next two items

F152 Parishioners Questions

A resident wished to state that the crumbling pavements edges are all becoming very dangerous for pedestrians. Some of the edging stones have become displaced and could easily cause a tripping hazard.

Also, there is rather long grass in the road surface of Suckley Lane, and it was suggested that this be cut by the Lengthsman.

F153 Ward Councillor's Report – Cllr. R. Phillips

The main report for November has been e mailed to all councillors in advance.

In addition Cllr. Phillips mentioned that the cost of Social Care services is set to rise for the rest of the decade. For those people needing care, and who have lower than £23,500 savings, then H. Council will pay for their care. There is a higher mature population in this county, and approximately one third of a £60M budget is currently spent on Care services.

The recent poor Ofsted inspection report received on Children's care will present a big challenge.

The county's phosphates issue and water purity considerations are of importance for the future.

Highways – a parish walk-around with Amey representatives took place in October and information was supplied; however certain issues are awaiting news updates – including the filling-in of one set of steps behind the New Inn, and the poor pavement edges along the village. These will be followed up.

The Nutfield to Sherrington Lane is so little used and is in need of clearing , that consideration to the erection of 'No through road' signs at each end of the lane is being made.

Boundary Commission changes in the area mean that currently 58 Herefordshire Wards will be reduced to 53 – all of them single member wards. This ward will have Eardisland added to it, with a suggestion of ward name change to 'Arrow Ward' to simplify and reflect that the River Arrow runs through all the parishes within it.

A new Housing Strategy for letting is being introduced for short term tenancies (6-12 mths).

School funding for Primary schools is under new proposals, with a possible reduction in funding – in favour of higher education establishments.

Meeting Reopened

F154 Standing Orders Update – Clerk/Chairman Cllr. G. Evans:

Clerk advised that the current Standing Orders are out of date and need to be updated to include the changes to councillors' Interests etc. There will be a need to further update them in the New Year once proposed changes to the Financial Regulations are received.

Following this the Chairman proposed that it would therefore be better to defer updating the Standing Orders until all the new relevant information on financial changes was received and this could be incorporated at the same time as updated the body of the information. This was agreed unanimously.

F155 General Power of Competence – Suggested Adoption by the Parish Council – Clerk

Clerk briefly explained the benefit of adopting the General Power of Competence, however there was concern that the Council may not qualify, with regard to the number of qualifying 'elected' councillors who remain since the last election, as several councillors have subsequently been Co-opted. This will be looked into and fed back at the next meeting.

HH

F156 Root and Branch Changes re Localism Opportunities & Support to Parishes – Clerk

Herefordshire Council is looking at ways of supporting Clerks and Councils throughout this process, which is taking place across H. Council to rationalise services and to save money. There may well be opportunities for parish and town councils to take over some local services. More information will follow in due course.

F157 Lengthsman – Cllr. Stokes

Budget of £4,230 for year : to date £1,693 has been spent, of which £1,500-£1,800 was on routine work, leaving a balance to be allocated of £2,607.

There has been a request to attend to two tree issues in Suckley Lane, one is an Ash tree that badly needs pollarding, and the other is for an Ash tree in a hedge to be felled as it is leaning into the road and could obstruct flow through of traffic. This was discussed, and it was decided to invite H. Council's Arboriculturalist to make a site visit and to help with a decision. Also mentioned was the fact that there is some lower level greenery overhanging into the lane from two properties, and the Clerk was requested to contact the residents and request them to cut this back.

HH

There has been an offer from a resident of Moor Court Lane to provide the labour to clear out the culverts along the lane, if the parish council would pay for the hire of a mini digger.

It was decided that this was a generous offer by the resident, and that the parish council should consider it favourably. There was a proposal for a one-off payment of £200 to be made for the digger hire without setting a precedent, and this was agreed unanimously. It was noted that this funding would be made by the parish council, and not taken from the Lengthsman grant.

HH

Clerk was requested to arrange this.

F158 Christmas Trees for the Village – Cllr. Mrs. Mifflin:

The cost of the 30 trees has risen slightly this year to £12 each; £60 total increase.

It was proposed that this increase should be agreed. Unanimous decision.

The trees and lights will be put up on 1st December.

The village social event and lights switch on will take place on Friday 7th December at 6.30 pm. There will be the usual mince pies, raffle, and Father Christmas for the children in The New Inn.

F159 Village Green – River Arrow Pollution Control Measures to take place in January 2013 for 10 weeks - Chairman

Welsh Water has contacted the council stating that they wish to resolve pollution via an uncontrolled discharge from a combined sewer outlet into the River Arrow, following various campaigning for this to be done.

The work involves up-grading of the existing outlet, on Bridge Street, which will include a new CSO chamber and screen, with a new control panel.

There will also be a new inlet and continuation pipework. The old CSO and Macerator will be decommissioned.

Start date for the scheme is currently programmed for 21st January 2013 with a duration of 8 to 10 weeks. To enable this work to proceed an essential works compound and storage area nearby will be decided upon. This may regrettably mean some inconvenience for the duration.

F160 Training Requests – Clerk

Please advise the Clerk if you wish to undertake any of the training courses – details have been circulated.

Cllr. Pace would undertake training on Insurance matters on 6th December.

Clerk will undertake training on Bids for Assets on 28th November.

F161 Next Parish Council Meeting Dates:

Wednesday 5th December, Finance Meeting only – for all Parish Councillors at 7.30 pm

Wednesday 12th December Parish Council Meeting at 7.30 pm in the Parish Hall.

All welcome.

INFORMATION SHEET

- Sandbags stock – delivery will be in 2 weeks' time.
- Quotations for cleaning the War Memorial are being sought from specialist firms.

