

PEMBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Held Wednesday 16th January 2013 in the Parish Hall

Present: Cllr. G. Evans (Chair) Cllr. A. Pace, Cllr. Mrs. C. Evans,
Cllr. Ms. C. Fothergill, Cllr. P. Thomas, Cllr. Mrs. C. Evans
Cllr. T. Bennetto, Cllr. A. Stokes, Cllr. Mrs. J. Mifflin, Cllr. K. Duggan
One parishioner present

G001 Apologies: **ACTION**
Cllr. R. Phillips, Cllr. D. Owens, Cllr. M. Ratcliffe

G002 Announcement of any interests from councillors :
None.

G003 Minutes of last meeting/matters arising from them – 12th December 2012
No matters arising, the Minutes were signed as a true record.

G004 Financial Report: - Clerk
Reconciliation of bank accounts for December has taken place.
A third quarter budget expenditure list was circulated at the meeting.
All magazine advertisers fees have now been received. **HH**

The Budget/Precept requirement for 2013/14 has been drafted at the Finance Meeting, and was discussed and finalised at this meeting, taking into consideration that there will be no capping of parish councils for 2013/14, and the possibility of charge of £4 for each paper copy of planning applications received in the future.

It was acknowledged that there may be an effect on Precepts from the proposed changes to Council Tax Benefits – HALC has warned that if parish councils wish to keep the same level of Precept as last year, they may have to collect considerably more from their residents to achieve the same amount, if a substantial number of their local residents are on benefits. (E mail circulated from HALC).

As no firm information has been received about this, there was a proposal that the Precept should be submitted at £18,000 for the year. This was unanimously agreed. **HH**

There was agreement that the Internal Auditor will again be asked to act for the Parish Council in carrying out the 2012-13 Audit. **HH**

Balances at end December 2012:

Current Account:	£22,384.82
Tracker Account:	£5,931.25
National Savings Account:	£11,393.23

Receipts since last meeting:

4 x Magazine Advertiser's Fee of £50	200.00
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Payments made since last meeting:

Clerk's 3 rd Quarter Salary	846.08
Clerk's 3 rd Quarter Expenses	236.93
Clerk's annual payment for use of a room as an office	150.00

Requests for payment:

Toilet Cleaner & Bins – January	223.20
Toilet Consumables	112.51
Hall Hire	87.00
Lengthsman Invoice no. 2684 Works Order No. 2012-13-4	513.00
SignRite - for producing a sign to go near the recycling bins	54.00
HALC Training fee x 1	12.00
West Mercia electricity charge for public toilets : Sept. to Nov	20.21
Village Green maintenance 2012	210.00

Water Bill payment has been deferred whilst meter efficiency is being checked.

All requests for payment were approved.

G005 Planning

Clerk has followed up the Council's request for continuation of paper planning applications, and confirmation of charges for this service commencing 1st January 2013 will be advised shortly.

G006 Neighbourhood Plan – Cllr. A. Pace

The Steering Group will meet next on 30th January.

Forms inviting residents' input for a questionnaire to go out to all the parish electorate have been distributed around the village, and collected up. A draft Questionnaire will be completed by the Steering Group, and then Herefordshire Council's planning section will be asked for its view on the draft Questionnaire, to ensure that it fits their criteria and correct format for assessing responses on the forms.

G007 River Arrow sewer outlet improvement works – Village Green Compound – Chairman:

A public meeting was recently held at the School, by Welsh Water, to advise the local residents of the intended improvements.

Nine weeks work is proposed, and this will commence on 21st January 2013. The improvements will cut down pollution in the river, and will only operate in storm conditions. Water and waste water services to residents will not be affected.

It was acknowledged that there will inevitably be some inconvenience to local traffic in Bridge Street between 11th February and 1st March, when it will be closed. Temporary traffic lights will be used to control the flow of traffic for the majority of the scheme.

Access may be restricted to residents living near to the working area, but the contractors will endeavour to work with residents and to try and keep disruption to a minimum.

If there are any problems, please contact Laura Charley at Welsh Water: Tel: 01443 452151.

Local Government Ward Boundary Changes – Herefordshire

These changes are ongoing, and it is hoped that more information will be available for the next meeting.

Meeting to be Closed for the next two items**G008 Ward Councillor's Report – Cllr. R. Phillips was not present**

Cllr. Phillips' report has been circulated to all councillors by e mail. However, the following information has been provided by e mail :-

Highways

I reported a stream of potholes the majority and big ones have been done but there are still many more. Can I encourage you as PCs to report to Amey or via Heather. I have reported over the weekend the ones at Weston.

In the Autumn statement the Govt gave more funding for roads with 1.6 million in 2013/14 and 0.8 million in 2014/15. We are lobbying for additional funds for this year. In the meantime we will bring forward the 13/14 money and borrow against our reserves meaning we will lose approx 4k in loss of interest but that is better to get the roads repaired otherwise that will be paid in insurance claims.

As I said in January update there needs to be a discussion with Parish Councils on a more enhanced Lengthsman scheme with more ditching done. HALC did issue some letter about parishes doing potholes but that is not legal.

Budget

The Council received approximately 5.5 million pounds less than in previous years in the settlement announced just before Christmas. Although there was some extra funding for social care and health there is still an estimated increased cost pressure of 3.5 million. In addition slight of hand was done with Education grants causing more problems.

Herefordshire Council has made over 20 million pounds worth of savings in the last two years. In 2013/14 another 10 million will be found with similar reductions in following years. All council budget are reducing and while everyone hears it on television, radio and papers I don't think people quite grasp the impact of this reduction in public expenditure. This is aggravated by the rising pressures of care costs. The Council has over 400 contracts on care packages, some will involve one individual with huge complications, others involve many people.

This year our adult care budget was 67 million and after charges left 50 million to be found from budget. (covering 6,500 people).

The implication of savings will be a rise in charges, cutting of services, staff levels, and new methods and ways of delivering services.

In my area of responsibility we are looking for 20% reduction in service level agreements with Courtyard (currently 261 K) and Visit Herefordshire (currently 174K), reduction in Arts, Sports, Economic and Library services.

CPRE proposal for area of outstanding beauty

I have received a report from the CPRE about designating part of the west Herefordshire as an area of outstanding natural beauty.

While this is merely a proposal of theirs I think you should be aware. Existing elements of the UDP do offer some protection for the landscape but the new planning proposals do raise some issues. These areas do make planning more restricted in their patches and I know there can be some tensions on business expansion and house building including affordable and local provision.

Other issues

Welsh Water will be having their open evening on Thursday at the school.

I have received several complimentary comments about the lights and appearance of the village over Christmas. Well done to everyone involved.

G009 Parishioners Questions

Some concern was raised at the apparent rise in local crime – such as thefts of metal and heating oil.

It was pointed out that Pembridge is considered to be a low crime area.

The Meeting was re-opened

G010 Lengthsman – Cllr. A. Stokes

A good job has been done in Broxwood where water flow has been reduced in the Rose Cottage area. Cllr. Stokes had a meeting with the Lengthsman recently to discuss local issues. The Lengthsman now has a map and he is preparing a schedule of routine maintenance work.

ACTION

G011 Glass Recycling Bins at Village Hall Car Park - problems with rubbish being left there
A sign has been purchased for the site, and presented to a Village Hall Committee representative. The glass banks will continue to be monitored by parish councillors for another month, to see if rubbish is being left there, and if so when. We await to see whether the problem has been resolved.

G012 Training
One training place has been accepted for the 'Roles and Responsibilities' course. A new training schedule for 2013 should be available soon.

G013 Forge Crossing
Request received for a new directional sign here, and a request for the footpath to be cleared.
Cllr. Philips will follow up the footpath issue, whilst the new directional sign will be discussed at the next meeting.

HH

G014 Next Parish Council Meeting Date:
Wednesday 20th February, 2013 at 7.15 pm in the Parish Hall

Meeting Closed at 8.30 pm

Information

*Two new grit bins have been supplied and filled – 1 at Broxwood and the other in West St.

*There has been no feedback from the three companies requested to visit the War Memorial with a view to quoting for cleaning it up. Clerk will follow this up.

HH

* A policy for overseeing hazardous trees has been mentioned by the parish council insurers, and this will be discussed at the next meeting.

HH

* Pride in Pembridge Group would like to discuss the 'Open Gardens' proposal at the next parish council meeting.

* The Police & Crime Commissioner's draft Police and Crime Plan for 2013-17 has been received, and anyone who would like to comment upon it can do so by viewing it on the website: www.westmercia-pcc.gov.uk, and then submitting your views to opcc@westmercia.pcc.gov.uk (Bill Longmore).