

PEMBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Held Wednesday 20th February 2013 in the Parish Hall

Present: Cllr. G. Evans (Chair) Cllr. A. Pace, Cllr. Mrs. C. Evans, Cllr. M. Ratcliffe
Cllr. Ms. C. Fothergill, Cllr. P. Rogers, Cllr. Mrs. C. Evans
Cllr. T. Bennetto, Cllr. A. Stokes, Cllr. Mrs. J. Mifflin, Cllr. K. Duggan
Seven parishioners present

G015 Apologies: **ACTION**
Cllr. R. Phillips, Cllr. P. Thomas

G016 Announcement of any interests from councillors :
One made by Cllr. Ratcliffe regarding his planning application – noted in Interests book.

G017 Guest Speaker – Mr. Doug Hughes (Architect) – Proposed local building project
Mr. Hughes explained some of business background, and how he builds homes in society, and how he collaborates and engages with local councils. He has three businesses, in Newtown, Welshpool and Shrewsbury.

He outlined that he was representing an interested person who wished to develop a piece of land at the end of Sandiford Ploc, Pembridge, and that he present to ask the opinion of the parish council towards such development. It was explained that the site would be suitable for 13 to 15 homes in a mixture of styles and sizes; and that he had funding available for such project. Four proposed layouts of homes on the site had been prepared, and copies of these were handed around the meeting. It was understood that the last Housing Needs Survey undertaken in 2009 has shown there was a need for such properties. All of the properties could be for social housing, or be a mixture of social and private ownership.

Following Mr. Hughes' talk, councillors advised him that the Parish Council was currently preparing a Neighbourhood Plan for the parish, and that this entailed asking all residents for their views on what types of development they wished for. This was in its early stages, and a questionnaire was being prepared to send out to all residents shortly. There were varying stages required afterwards, all of which would take around 1.5 –2 years to complete, or a year at the very minimum. It was suggested to Mr. Hughes that no action should be taken with regard to his proposal until it was clear what the outcomes of the Neighbourhood Plan were.

Clerk was requested to write to Mr. Hughes outlining the above.

HH

G018 Minutes of last meeting/matters arising from them – 16th January 2013
No matters arising, the Minutes were signed as a true record.

G019 Financial Report: - Clerk
Reconciliation of bank accounts for January has taken place.
The agreed Precept request of £18,000 for 2013-14 has been submitted to Herefordshire Council.
Two donation requests were refused (from Citizens Advice & WRVS Transport Service)

Balances at end January 2013:

Current Account:	£21,331.20
Tracker Account:	£5,931.25
National Savings Account:	£11,454.54

(Annual Interest of £84.05 has been added)

Receipts since last meeting:

None.

Payments made since last meeting:

None.

Requests for payment:

Toilet Cleaner & Bins – February	204.60
Lengthsman Invoice No. 2695	729.00
Welsh Water revised bill for water at public toilets following mis-use: (Reduction of £119.04 granted on previous invoice)	465.76
+ new invoice for 6/11/12 to 21/12/12	<u>61.37</u>
=	527.13
Less Grant:	<u>119.04</u> (70 cubic metres)
Balance to pay:	408.09

Signrite (replacement cheque to be made payable to C. Wilson) 54.00

All requests for payment were approved.

G020 Guest Speakers – Mr. R. Anderson & Miss. K. Finney – Funding request for the School's proposed new spiral wall in The Spiritual Garden

Miss Finney explained that a sloped yard at the school is to be transformed into a 'Spiritual Garden' for the children to enjoy quiet times and reflection in. This will fit in with the village ethos of 'Pride in Pembridge' and the religious affiliation of the School.

Bob Anderson explained that the centrepiece had been designed by him in the form of a low spiral wall following the golden ratio, to be used as a seat, which will be rendered and painted white, with a stainless steel sphere raised on three columns at the centre of the spiral. At the end of each year (probably around Easter) the Year 6 leavers will be invited to paint their thoughts of their time in Pembridge on the wall. During the summer holidays it would be painted white again ready for the next year's leavers.

Around the yard it is intended to have some softening flower planters and some seats. Miss Finney wondered whether the Parish Council might like to assist with helping to improve the surroundings in the garden, as the cost of the wall itself has been provided for already.

After discussion, the Chairman invited Miss Finney to let the Council know what types of items the school might be in need of, and these would then be considered.

HH

G021 Parking Problems near School in Bearwood Lane – Miss. K. Finney

Miss Finney wished to highlight the extreme problems with parking around the school that have been occurring for several months. She has written to parents, and had the local Police CSO visit, but all to now avail. Recently a child was almost knocked over by a vehicle, and this has brought the matter to a head. Miss Finney wondered whether the Parish Council could suggest any other means of improving the situation.

There were then some useful suggestions brought forward by both councillors and members of the public present, and Miss. Finney noted these. It was also noted that two local possible parking sites : the New Inn car park and the village hall car park, appear not to be being used. She would be writing again to all parents shortly, asking for their co-operation in considerate parking.

G022 Pride in Pembridge Group – Cllr. A. Stokes

Alan, and Adrian Lomax had recently attended a Royal Horticultural Society Seminar in Harrogate for the UK finalists – those groups that have been selected by the RHS to enter the Britain in Bloom finals for 2013. It was an opportunity to meet the judges, to network with other finalists and to get advice from a number of RHS specialists e.g. horticulture, marketing, funding and to discuss issues in the preparation for, and during the judging day. The theme for this year's RHS events is to be 'Edible Britain', and to follow this through there will be a few table high vegetable troughs appearing around the village and in the school – produce grown will be for the use of the community. The Pride in Pembridge Group continues to meet on Monday and Thursday mornings in the village, for tidying, weeding and litter picking. Most recently the group has concentrated on tidying the Moat area, which is transformed, and will be meeting with Tony Norman shortly to discuss ways of encouraging wildlife to the area.

Ditches on the east side of Bridge Street have been cleared whilst the road is closed for the duration of the sewer improvement works. The Welsh Water contractors have been most helpful in removing the spoil from the ditches, and will arrange for a complete street sweep once the sewage works have been completed.

There was a proposal that the Parish Council should organise an Open Garden event for the parish on the weekend of 8th/9th June.

There was a vote by show of hands and unanimously agreed.

Meeting to be Closed for the next two items**G023 Parishioners Questions**

None.

G024 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 additional information has been provided :-

Local Plan

I sent you all a summary and the section on Rural development in the draft local plan which is coming out for consultation next March.

This plan together with the National Planning Policy Framework (issued by Govt) and the Neighbourhood plan will be the legal basis for the determining of all future planning applications when they are passed for the period 2011 to 2031 .

There is now going to be a special Cabinet meeting next week to discuss this prior to the consultation. I assume that the PC will want to make a submission.

Important that we get the plan moving forward to prevent Developers coming in and forcing developments onto us.

Budget

The Council has unanimously voted for a rise in council Tax of 1.9% in April. This will be the first increase for three years. Given our poor settlement it was the views of all political groups on the council not to take the Government grant (worth equivalent of 1%) for 2 years but put 1.9% in the base for all years in the future to meet the growing demands of Care costs. However none of the other groups provided any alternative budget.

It is highly likely we may move to fortnightly bin collections, reductions to HALO, Courtyard, Visit Herefordshire and many other organisations. After outsourcing many elements of the local authority services, we in addition lost 281 full time jobs from the council with a further 100 plus in the next year.

We did receive an extra half a million to recognise our sparsity and the extra costs of delivering services to a large geographical area.

Highways

Keep reporting the potholes to Amey using the road numbers I gave you. I am pleased that Titley and Pembridge seem to have agreed the use of the SID and I would again like to record my appreciation to Kingspan for their support and concern for the safety and well being of the local population.

I have forwarded a request that diverted Bridge Street traffic is directed away from Marston and onto the Rhyse Lane. Sherrington Lane will be signed as a no through road.

Phosphates

House building and business expansion is still frozen due to Phosphate issue. I was part of a local delegation who met the Minister Owen Patterson and discussed the matter with him. I have also raised the issue with the Chairman of the Environment Agency Lord Smith who is supportive of practical solutions. We should see the situation change in the next couple of months.

Meeting was Re-opened

G025 Planning

Planning applications for consideration at this meeting:

130100/F Ye Olde Steppes Village Shop, High Street, Pembridge HR6 9DS
+ 130188/L Conversion of former bakehouse into holiday let accommodation.

COMMENT: NO OBJECTION.

Treeworks Application: The Stores, Bearwood Lane, Pembridge. HR6 9EA

Re-pollard 1 x Ash tree (Sent to Tony Norman for viewing & comment)

Clerk will contact the Planning Department to request paper copies of all future planning applications, at a cost of £4 per application as agreed.

HH

G026 Neighbourhood Plan – Cllr. A. Pace:

The Steering Group was held on 30th January to meet new members and to discuss the way forward. Following an information gathering exercise within the parish as to what type of questions need to be determined, A draft questionnaire has subsequently now been prepared and circulated to the Steering Group for their comments today. Once this is finalised it will be redrafted, approved by H. Council's N. Planning team, and sent out to all 809 of the local electorate.

The next meeting of the Steering Group is planned for 19th March. Everyone has been circulated the e mail from Cllr. R. Phillips concerning the Local Plan Core Strategy.

Cllr. Pace reiterated that he wishes the N. Plan to be specific to the wishes of the residents of Pembridge, and not purely those of Herefordshire Council.

Cllr Pace and the Clerk will respond to H. Council on the Core Strategy in due course.

AP/HH

It was noted that HALC's Chief Executive is advising all parishes to complete a Neighbourhood Plan as quickly as possible.

G027 River Arrow sewer outlet improvement works – Village Green Compound – Chairman:

Work is continuing well, despite the inconvenience of having Bridge Street closed for a while. The requested terms of agreement between the Parish Council and Welsh Water have been slightly amended. The request by the Parish Council to receive a payment for a minimum 10 weeks work, has been downgraded to a payment for a maximum of 8 weeks work.

ACTION

G028 Lengthsman – Cllr. A. Stokes

There is a minor problem with drainage at Broxwood, and this will be looked into and resolved.

This year's routine work may not all be completed yet, but this will be discussed with the Lengthsman shortly.

A query was raised as to whether the flooding beyond the river bridge could be attended to by the Lengthsman, but it was considered too big a problem for him to deal with.

AS

G029 Recycling Bins at Village Hall – Cllr. Mrs. C. Evans

There is apparently no longer a problem at the site.

The warning sign has now been fixed up there.

G030 Forge Crossing – Footpath clearance and improved directional sign

Cllr. Rogers said that he has forwarded a photograph to Amey for them to look at improving the road sign. The matter of the footpath clearance will be dealt with when the weather improves.

PR

G031 Feedback from Northern Area HALC Meeting – Cllr. T. Bennetto

A brief outline of the meeting was given.

G032 Hazardous Trees Policy – Insurance advice - Clerk

The policy had been e mailed to all councillors. Clerk has ascertained that the policy we currently follow is the right one, but just to ensure that an annual visual inspection of trees on the village green is put in writing and recorded properly. The Tree Warden has been advised of this need.

G033 War Memorial clean up. Clerk is obtaining three quotations from specialists for this work.

If a grant is forthcoming, for 50% of the full cost, from the War Memorials Trust, this could mean that the Parish Council may need to provide £2000 to £3000 for the project.

This will be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting, once the quotes are in.

HH

G034 Next Parish Council Meeting Date:

Wednesday 20th March, 2013 at 7.30 pm in the Parish Hall

Meeting Closed at 9.50pm