

PEMBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present: Cllr. G. Evans (Chair) Cllr. A. Pace, Cllr. T. Bennetto, Cllr. A. Stokes,
Cllr. Ms. C. Fothergill, Cllr. P. Rogers, Cllr. P. Thomas, Cllr. R. Phillips (arrived later)
1 parishioner & 3 visitors present

G035 Apologies: Cllr. M. Ratcliffe, Cllr. Mrs. C. Evans, Cllr. D. Owens, Cllr. Mrs. J. Mifflin, Cllr. K. Duggan **ACTION**

G036 Announcement of any interests from councillors :
None.

G037 Minutes of last meeting/matters arising from them – 20th February 2013
Two minor corrections were made to points G017 & G022, by hand, and the Minutes were then signed as a true record.

One matter arising: Point G022 : Cllr. Rogers mentioned that he had written to both the Water board and the contractors who are carrying out the sewage improvement works in Bridge Street, and thanked them. He had received a letter in response. Cllr. Rogers said that the contractors were being most helpful, and have confirmed that once their work is completed, and prior to them leaving the area, they will arrange for a village road sweep to clean up the entire area.

G038 Financial Report: - Clerk

Reconciliation of bank accounts for February has taken place.

A donation request from Leominster Shopmobility was declined.

After discussion, a proposal was made for a £500 donation to the School towards items of seating and planters for the new Spiritual Garden, as discussed at the last meeting. Agreed.

Balances at end February 2013:

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Current Account: | £20,455.27 |
| Tracker Account: | £5,931.25 |
| National Savings Account: | £11,454.54 |

Receipts since last meeting:

| | |
|-------------|------|
| BT Wayleave | 8.82 |
|-------------|------|

Requests for payment:

| | |
|---|----------|
| Toilet Cleaner & Bins – March | 223.20 |
| M.Meadow Mowing (Queried why mowing has started so early) | 55.04 |
| HALC/NALC Annual Affiliation Fee & Subscriptions | 358.60 |
| HALC Training Fee x 1 (Clerk) | 12.00 |
| Parish News Magazine preparation (June/July 2012 payment) | 289.00 |
| Parish News Magazine Feb/March 2013 | 289.00 |
| Zen annual Parish Council website domain name fee | 59.40 |
| Zen annual 'pembridge.org.uk' domain name fee | 63.44 |
| Pembridge Amenity Trust – annual buildings insurance premium | 1,267.60 |
| Clerk's 4 th quarter salary Dec-March | 846.28 |
| Clerk's 4 th quarter expenses Dec - March | 221.89 |
| HMRC Payment – 4 TH Quarter, for staff salary deductions | 211.40 |
| Pembridge School – Donation towards new Spiritual Garden | 500.00 |
| Pembridge 'In Bloom' budgeted donation for the year | 600.00 |

All requests for payment were approved.

- G039** **Planning**
123846/L **1 West End Cottages, West Street, Pembridge. HR6 9DY**
Listed Proposed change of roof covering to north elevation
COMMENT: NO OBJECTION

Treeworks application – sent to Tony Norman (Tree Warden) to comment upon:-
The Stores, Bearwood Lane, Pembridge HR6 9EA
Re-pollard 1 x Ash tree

- G040** **Visitor:- Mr. Simon Evans – Deputy Director – The Wye & Usk Foundation**
The Chairman invited our visitor to address the meeting and give a brief presentation.

The organisation was set up in 1995 to protect rivers. Initially Simon worked in Wales for the first 10 years, and since 2009/10 he has been working in the local catchment area and has carried out a survey of the river Trothy.

90% of streams have their base gravel covered by field wash mud run off, and this affects the number of trout fry – which is a good indicator of the seriousness of the problem. Sediment that runs off roads, and farmland into drains and then into rivers is causing pollution; resulting in salmon eggs dying and phosphate being introduced into the water.

The reduction of agricultural diffuse pollution is being attended to, and in the past 15 months the Foundation bid for and won a project from the Rivers Trust to improve four streams in Herefordshire: The Lodon, Wellington, Cage and Little Lugg. The Foundation secured the £1.6m Wye Herefordshire Improvement Project to work over three years with farmers in west Herefordshire. Work is now taking place in the River Arrow and Curl Brook, by such means as changing scenarios to improve the stability of a river; e.g. dividing grazing land off by 6 feet from river banks to allow vegetation to grow on the banks, rather than allowing animals to graze right to the edge of rivers and pollute them.

Salmon passes are also being fixed to weirs to allow fish to pass easier, by reducing the height of the weir. A lot of work is also being done in conjunction with school children.

Several copies of the Foundation's literature were left for the councillors.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Evans for his most interesting talk, and presentation film.

- G041** **Neighbourhood Planning – Cllr. A. Pace**
Attendees who will attend H. Council's meeting : "Neighbourhood Planning Herefordshire – One Year On". on 25th April in Hereford Town Hall 6 – 8.45 pm, will be Cllrs: Evans, Pace & Rogers. Clerk will arrange this.

HH

Cllr. Pace mentioned that a meeting of the NP Steering Group had taken place on 19th March, and that Jane Wormald from the Planning Department had attended and assisted the Group with their finalisation of the questionnaire that is progressing and to be sent out to all electors soon.

H. Council's 'Core Strategy' has been circulated, and comments are requested by 22nd April. Another matter to be taken into account is the news of the Community Infrastructure Levy (which replaces the previous Section 106 agreement). In the Pembridge area the Levy has been set at £140 per square metre of floor space of new properties, which was acknowledged as a very high sum for developers to pay, and is much higher than the Levy set for surrounding parishes.

Cllr Pace will draft a parish response to the Core Strategy and circulate it before 7th April.

Pride in Pembridge Group – Cllr. A. Stokes – Update on “In Bloom” Competition

Bridge Street has been cleared of all its detritus; weeding has taken place around the Almshouses – with planting, and painting of railings and front doors there proposed for later in the year. Moat clearing has taken place and two mammal houses built there.

A recent meeting took place with the judges, for a walk-around and some advice was received.

The group is still meeting twice weekly for clean ups, and snowdrop planting.

Pembridge is to be the representative in the RHS Village of the Year Competition for the Midlands – which is an important area.

In readiness there will be a Heart of England meeting on 4th July in Pembridge Church at 10 am – at which a brief presentation will be made.

HH

For the campaign to be successful, lots of aspects have to be taken into consideration, such as: involvement of the community, parish council, school, and their support. Also, Neighbourhood Watch. A large banner stating the Pembridge is a RHS Finalist is to be erected. There will be social benefits for the parish of both taking place, and hopefully winning the competition.

Cllr. Stokes requested that the council release the agreed budgeted sum of £600 for the group, to enable them to commence buying essential plants and potting compost etc.

Cllr. Pace proposed that this should go ahead – unanimous agreement.

It was acknowledged that a new picnic bench or two may be needed by the riverside to replace rather ancient ones that are in poor condition. Clerk will arrange for literature.

HH

Meeting to be Closed for the next two items

G042 Parishioners Questions

One parishioner mentioned that he too considered the unfairness of the Community Infrastructure Levy different levels set for local parishes. Noted.

Chariman mentioned that Cllr. Mrs. Julie Mifflin had recently stood down from being a Pembridge School Governor for the last 20 years, and thanked her for her work.

G043 Ward Councillor’s Report – Cllr. R. Phillips

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

Cllr. Phillips gave a time scale for Core Strategy completion: Consultation ends on 22nd April 2013, and then it goes to a Herefordshire Council meeting on 19th July. If all proceeds well, the Inspector should sign it off by Spring 2014, and it then replaces the current Unitary Development Plan. Despite this timing, it would be wise to continue forging ahead with the production of this parish’s Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr. Phillips pointed out that the information in the Core Strategy regarding rural area information has changed, and now gives more flexibility to the level of proposed future building and housing quantities.

The Community Infrastructure Levy was mentioned, and it was pointed out that this parish would receive 25% of the Levy from developers, the Levy is currently suggested at £140 p sq. meter – and this will need to be commented upon, and analysed in relation to the levels in surrounding counties, and indeed other local parishes.

The potholes around the village are a problem – funding of £1.6m is available for resurfacing; but the work cannot be undertaken until after the frosts have passed.

A new lighting pole in Parsons Walk will soon have its lamp illuminated.

The parking problems near the school may be alleviated by the proposed parking use at the New Inn car park after Easter, once the contractors have left the adjacent building site.

The question was raised about the condition of the pavements in High Street and at the rear of The New Inn, and the need for something to be done about them before there was an accident with someone tripping and falling into the road. Cllr. Phillips did discuss these matters with Amey personnel about six months ago when they undertook a village walkaround; he will now follow up on what remedial action is proposed.

RJP

Cllr. P. Rogers mentioned a drainage pipe in Bridge Street that has inadvertently been filled with tarmac, and which has prevented it being able to actually drain water away. He considered that Highways team need to survey and clear it. He has taken a photograph and will send the details to Cllr. Phillips for action.

RJP

Meeting was Re-opened

G044 Parish Council Insurance – Cllr. A. Pace

The full insurance policy has been read through, and certain questions of concern about exclusions and exemptions have been raised through the council's brokers, from Aviva. More information should be available for the next meeting.

AP

G045 Forge Crossing Directional Sign renovation update – Cllr. P. Rogers

A request has been submitted for the directional sign to be renovated.

Clerk was requested to follow up on the council's requested allocation of a place on the P3 Footpath Scheme that is commencing in April.

HH

G046 Lengthsman – Cllr. A. Stokes

All participating parishes have been advised that the Lengthsman Scheme is under review, as the number of parishes wishing to join the scheme has grown considerably, and the funding may be reducing. Further information is awaited.

Most of the current grant money received, has been used. Cllr. Stokes will enquire as to whether the final third of year grant for 2012-13 has been arranged by the Administrator.

AS

G047 Councils' Powers to Discharge their Functions – Legal Topic Note – Clerk

This power is to be found in section 101(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 ('the 1972 Act').

When powers are given by Parliament to a council, they are given to the full council. Unless councils make arrangements to delegate some of their functions to committees or officers, decisions can only be made by the full council. Parliament allows councils to discharge their functions by delegating them to:

- A committee; or
- A sub-committee; or
- An officer of the authority; or
- Another local authority.

An important exemption to this is in respect of levying or issuing a precept; which can only be discharged by the full council.

ACTION

Standing Orders may need to be amended when next reviewed (once Parliament's amendments to Financial Regulations have also been received).

Clerk will provide all councillors with a copy of the details of the full power.

G048 War Memorial clean up.

Clerk has obtained two quotations to date from specialist conservators for this work, as requested at the November meeting.

It was intended that a 50% grant to offset costs would be applied for through the War Memorials Trust, once three quotes have been received.

The quotes received so far were for: £7,600 and £3,600.

On discussion, the councillors considered that these sums (even at 50%) were too high, and the council would look at doing the work itself. Two councillors would look at the Memorial and report back to the next meeting.

PR/AS

G049 Training

Clerk will attend a Finance training course to be held on 25th March, to keep up-to-date with any legal requirements. Trainer will be from the National Association of Local Councils.

G050 Next Parish Council Meeting Date:

Wednesday 17th April, 2013 at 7.30 pm in the Parish Hall

All welcome.

INFORMATION

- * Luntley Bridge coping stones – still being dealt with by Amey.
- * Broadband Project Meeting was held at the Three Counties Hotel yesterday.
- * Diamond Award – Cllr. Phillips has submitted a nomination.
- * Herefordshire Council and Pembridge will have a website link for sharing of Neighbourhood Plan information soon.
- * Clerk has written to Mr. Doug Hughes following his attendance at the last PC meeting.
- * Herefordshire Heartstart are looking for volunteer trainers with First Aid skills: Tel 0845 6060654. Also, you may book a place on a course by calling this number.
- * A Church Tourism Conference is to be held on 25th April at Leominster Priory.
- * The provision of free use of a Speed Indicator device for the village is kindly being arranged through The Kingspan Trust.

Meeting Closed at 9.45pm