

PEMBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present: Cllr. G. Evans (Chair) Cllr. T. Bennetto, Cllr. D. Owens,
Cllr. Mrs. C. Evans, Cllr. P. Thomas, Cllr. P. Rogers,
Cllr. A. Pace, Cllr. A. Stokes, Cllr. Mrs. J. Mifflin
+ 1 member of the public

G147 Apologies:

Cllr. M. Ratcliffe, Cllr. Ms. C. Fothergill, Cllr. R. Phillips, Cllr. K. Duggan

G148 Announcement of any interests from councillors :

None.

G149 Minutes of last meeting/matters arising from them – 16th October 2013

ACTION

There was one minor typographical error in Para G130, which was corrected, the Minutes were then signed as a true record.

G150 Police Report

There was no Police representative present, but a written report was supplied, highlighting two incidents that had recently occurred in Bearwood:

- 1) Theft of the post pillar box on 5th November 2013.
- 2) Theft of staddle stone on 13th November 2013.

G151 Financial Report - Clerk

Reconciliation of bank accounts for October has taken place.

Parish Magazine : additional £15 charge next edition for professional collating Agreed.

Clerk requested that all councillors consider any spending needs for 2014 -15, as the budget/precept requirement will be set next month – meeting to be held on Wed. 4th December.

Balances at end October 2013:

Current Account:	£31,626.89
Tracker Account:	£5,933.47
National Savings Account:	£11,454.54

Receipts since last meeting:

Lengthsman Grant	£1,057.50
5 x £50 Magazine Advertiser's payments for 2013-14	£250.00
HMRC VAT Repayments (x 2)	£386.45
Kingspan Grant for magazine features for 2013-14	£500.00

Payments made since last meeting: None

Requests for payment:

Toilet Cleaner & Bins – November	£227.50
Payment to Agent's company re W. Water compound use on V.Green (VAT element only, which can be reclaimed later).	£176.00
Welsh Water – public toilets	£380.30 (Interim reading)
Parish Magazine Production – Oct/Nov	£220.00

There was some discussion concerning the high amount of the 6 monthly water bill (following a meter reading) and one councillor offered to read the meter on a monthly basis for a few months in order to monitor the usage.

Approval was given for all necessary payments.

G152 Planning applications for consideration :

132729/F Townsend Farm, East Street, Pembridge. HR6 9HB
Erection of oak framed building to restore onsite cider mill, cider presses, scratcher and storage.

COMMENT: Pembridge Parish Council supports this application.

G153 Planning application recently considered : on 31.10.2013

132736/N Old Court, Staunton on Arrow, Leominster. HR6 9HR
250kW on farm anaerobic digester including feeder, digester tanks, digestate storage tanks, gas holder, process building (containing 250kW CHP), digestate separator, feedstock and digestate fibre storage clamps and associated equipment.

COMMENT: Pembridge Parish Council supports this application, but it wishes to have written in to the conditions that both during development and operation that no traffic movements will be allowed off or on to the A44 through Pembridge village, to or from the site.

Planning Application Recently Withdrawn:

The Yeld Farm – New anaerobic digester.

G154 Vote of Thanks to Pride in Pembridge Group for bringing success to the village in the RHS 'In Bloom' National Competition & Pride of Herefordshire Competition – Chairman

The Chairman gave a Vote of Thanks to the Pride in Pembridge Group on behalf of the whole parish, for their recent RHS In Bloom, and Pride of Herefordshire Gold Award successes, and how the Group has brought the parish together with a sense of pride.

All of the councillors wholeheartedly agreed.

A parish social event has been arranged in celebration, and following discussion there was a proposal that the sum of £100 should be donated for the event.

This was agreed by all.

HH**G155 Village Christmas Lights Switch – On & Social Event at Market Hall - Cllr. Mrs. J. Mifflin**

Cllr. Mrs. Mifflin wished to thank those individuals and organisations that have given donations to help maintain the stock of Christmas tree lights.

The Christmas trees will be purchased shortly, and they will be positioned and decorated on 30th November and 1st December. Cllr. Stokes offered the assistance of the Pride in Pembridge team if required, which was appreciated. The official evening social event at the Market Square and Switch On of the Lights will be at 6.15pm on Friday 6th December.

There will be some stalls under the Market Hall, Father Christmas, Carol Singers, Mulled Wine & Mince Pies etc.

A bucket collection will be made as usual on the night.

G156 Fire Service Restructure & Consultation

Information had previously e mailed to all councillors for their consideration and response. There is currently a 12 week public Consultation running until early January on major proposed changes to the way in which H & W Fire Services are provided, which could mean the closure of Kingsland Fire Station and/or the loss of one fully manned fire engine over 24 hrs at Leominster Fire Station. The aim is to save £4.7 million over 3 years.

There was discussion about the importance of endeavouring to maintain Kingsland Fire Station remaining open, as it is fully manned over 24 hrs by retained fire fighters; and it was acknowledged that on past call outs a Kingsland fire engine has arrived before the Kinton fire engine. Also, with having Shobdon Airfield nearby, this need is an additionally important reason to maintain Kingsland Fire Station. The Clerk was requested to draft a letter outlining these concerns, in response to this current Consultation.

HH

G157 Neighbourhood Planning – Cllr. A. Pace

ACTION

The new Herefordshire Council contact for this parish in the Neighbourhood Planning team is now in place, and Cllr. Pace will be meeting with him tomorrow.
Grant applications for the Neighbourhood Plan are progressing well, and a quotation for producing the Questionnaire from a local firm will be available next week.

The parish council wishes to acknowledge the important and helpful professional contribution that Mrs. Merry Albright is making to the development of the parish's Neighbourhood Plan.

G158 Children's Playground Equipment Repairs + Ground Remediation to entrance : Clerk & Cllr. Mrs. J. Mifflin

The original company that provided a quotation and whose office is now in Northern Ireland has quoted as follows:

All repairs to the play equipment including multi-play unit, handles on rocker, swing shackles and chains = £1,696.66.

Extra checking of multi-play unit bridge (partial removal and re-assemble = £210.00.

Wetpour safety surface extension to rockers to comply with fall distance regulations = £416.67.

Wetpour patch repairs = £112.00

43.4m² wetpour repair under swings = £2,100 if to needs repairing only or £3,220 if top and base needs to be redone.

All prices exclude VAT, and work to be completed in one day.

Another company has been approached with a view to providing an identical work quotation, for comparison, in a few weeks' time.

The councillors wondered whether as a first step at least the safety surface repairs could be undertaken separately by a firm that had quoted much earlier, and who are locally based (Redlynch Leisure) and they have confirmed that they will hold the price quoted in June. Other repairs needed would be considered afterwards.

The quote was as follows:

£675 to repair the 2 damaged areas by the swings
£2064 to repair and recover the total surface (42.8sq m)

This was proposed and all were in agreement. Cllr. Stokes will arrange this.

AS

As a separate matter Cllr. Mrs. Mifflin raised the need to improve the entranceway into the Millennium Meadow, as the ground gets churned up with mud when used by lots of people (such as at the recent bonfire party), as it is a narrow bottleneck.

Labour to carry out the work is available, it was just a question of whether the Parish Council would fund the materials.

Following discussion it was decided that an 'Expression of Interest' by the Parish Council would be noted, until after a site visit has been carried out by the Pembridge Amenity Trustees.

GE

G159 Housing Needs Survey – Clerk

ACTION

The Clerk mentioned that notification has been received that a parish Housing Needs Survey questionnaire is planned to be sent to all households in the parish, requesting people's views on a range of topics, and that it is proposed that this will be distributed between November and April next year.

In view of the fact that this parish's own questionnaire will be sent out to all households shortly with a view to obtaining parishioners views on a range of subjects to help formulate the Neighbourhood Plan, the Clerk was asked to see if the Housing Needs Survey could be cancelled.

HH

G160 Previously Unseen Vintage Photographs of Village – Cllr. G. Evans

The photographs have now been digitised.

Mr. John Bulmer has expressed an interest in having a meeting to discuss the display of his photographs, and the Chairman will arrange this, together with Mr. Bob Anderson, two Parish Councillors and Mr. Glyn Owens.

There may be some funding available to assist in preparing the old photographs for display in the parish.

GE

Meeting to be Closed for the next two items

G161 Residents Questions:

None.

G162 Ward Councillors Report – Cllr. R. Phillips

Cllr. Phillip's report has been circulated to all councillors in advance of this meeting.

Additional information received from Cllr. Phillips included:

Balfour Beatty

I have had a meeting in Shobdon concerning a very bad road surface with the cabinet member and Bill Wiggin which was attended by 24 local residents and I followed this up with a meeting with Andy Williams from Balfour Beatty head of their services in Herefordshire.

I took the opportunity to raise all my current concerns across my parishes. For some reason emails I sent in September were not recorded although some work has been carried out. There are nine orders in Pembridge for defect repairs that I have numbers for and are awaiting attention including Broxwood, Lower Green, Weston, Marston, Rhyse Lane junction, Kingspan, Parsons Walk entrance, Curl View and bollard at the top of bridge street. I understand that a couple of those have been done.

When you report potholes or concerns can you copy me in please.

Bridge Street

I am getting several complaints about HGVs going down Bridge Street and damage to infrastructure. I haven't inspected but I was told the Almshouse wall was knocked.

I think we need to keep a monitoring of this.

The PC in the past has been reluctant to support a sign at the bottom of the Steppes stating 'Kingspan straight on' but given the parking around that area it might be something we need to consider. Grateful to know your thoughts.

Budget consultation

I included the website address of the budget consultation in Nov update please go and make your views known.

Your support on Highway maintenance and public toilets would be helpful.

Fire service reductions

As you are aware all public services are subject to reductions. Hereford and Worcester Fire service have their consultation out and can be viewed on their website under recent Press Releases.

Locally the concern is the proposal for Kingsland closure or reduction in Leominster teams.

Pembridge Surgery

I have forwarded residents concerns about the surgery to the local health watch body. Ken Wheeler is raising his concerns with them and I had indicated the PC and myself supported them. Will keep an eye on this and update you.

War Memorial

On behalf of the school governors I held a site visit with Tony Norman to look at the trees in front of the old school building. The tree nearest to Mrs Boosey needs taking down as the root damage is going to get problematic similarly the tree on the Suckley Lane side needs attention as it has split. The two large conifers are at their maximum and the governors will consider if they should be taken out and replaced as part of the marking of the centenary of WW1. This will go to the governors to discuss and will need a planning application as it is in a conservation area. I would be keen to hear your views.

Meeting Re-opened**G163 Good Neighbour Scheme Saturday Coffee Mornings in 2014 – Clerk**

It has been agreed that this council will host a Coffee Morning in August 2014.

G164 1st World War Centenary Events – Clerk

Nothing further to report at this moment. The Pride in Pembridge group will be planting red poppies around the village to mark the occasion.

G165 Glass Recycling Bins – possible problems with overflowing (over filled bins)

The Village Hall Committee is very concerned about the problems with the bins being overfilled, which may result in them not being able to be emptied by the contractor on a fortnightly basis. This overfilling is leading to excess glass is being left lying around, and the committee no longer wish to keep tidying this up, and bagging it into orange trade bags so that it can be collected. There is the suspicion that many of the glass bottles are coming from a commercial source, and not from residents. The Committee therefore request the Parish Council to have the bins removed. Following discussion it was decided that an article would be placed in the next Parish News Magazine explaining the problem, and requesting that no Trade waste is left there. This is in an endeavour to retain the service for the benefit of local residents who have no other means of disposing of their glass bottles and jars etc.

HH

G166 New Parish Warden needed – Cllr. G. Evans

Following the recent sad loss of the Parish Warden, Mr. Chris Buchan, there was discussion as to whether a replacement Warden should be sought.

Cllr. Stokes offered to first discuss this at the next Neighbourhood Watch group meeting, and to report back to the next parish council meeting in December.

AS

G167 Damage to a static traffic bollard on corner of Bridge Street with High Street

This damage was caused by a large foreign owned and driven vehicle which had come from Kingspan and was trying to turn left out of Bridge Street, and was witnessed causing the damage.

G168 Other Items for discussion:-

New Entry Signs for Village

Plaque for Village

Pembridge Doctor's Surgery opening times

Meeting with Balfour Beatty – 26th November 7- 8.30pm at Brockington

Herefordshire Council's Budget meeting – 5th December 7pm at Brockington

G169 Next Meeting Dates:

Wednesday 4th December 2013 at 7.30 pm in the Parish Hall **BUDGET MEETING ONLY**

Wednesday 11th December 2013 at 7.30 pm in the Parish Hall **FULL COUNCIL MEETING**

All Welcome