

PEMBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Held Wednesday 18th June 2014 in the Parish Hall

Present: Cllr. G. Evans (Chair) Cllr. T. Bennetto, Cllr. R. Phillips, Cllr. A. Stokes,
Cllr. P. Thomas, Cllr. P. Rogers, Ms. C. Fothergill,
Cllr. Mrs. J. Mifflin, Cllr. D. Owens, Cllr. A. Pace
+ 15 Members of the public.

H088 Apologies: Cllr. M. Ratcliffe, Cllr. K. Duggan

H089 Vacancy for a Parish Councillor: Chairman

The official Notice of Vacancy is being displayed on the parish noticeboard and expires on 20th June 2014.

ACTION

H090 Police Report – CSO Richard Alford

No crimes have been reported in Pembridge over the last month.

The next PACT meeting will be held tomorrow, 19th June 2014 in The Steppes Shop between 11 – 11.30am.

Every year a ‘Young Good Citizen’ award is made by the Police, for which candidates up to the age of 18 years are currently being sought. If you would like to nominate someone, please advise the Clerk.

A good Neighbourhood Watch meeting was held in Pembridge last week.

CSO Alford said that he is aware of issues with lorries travelling to and from Kingspan. Dave Chillery from H. Council’s Transport team has met with Kingspan and the Neighbourhood Watch Team to try to resolve the problems. CSO Allford thought that it would be a good idea for the Parish Council to invite Mr. Chillery to come along to the next Parish Council meeting in July as well. The Clerk was asked to arrange this.

HH

It was suggested that perhaps local improved signage could also be arranged.

Cllr. Phillips suggested that if local residents witness accidents occurring on the corner of Bridge Street and High Street, that they take photographs with their ‘phones, recording date, time, and vehicle registration number, offence, damage caused etc, then these could be sent to the Police for potential prosecutions.

H091 Announcement of Interests from Councillors:

None

H092 Minutes of last meeting/matters arising from them – 21st May 2014

The Minutes were signed as a true record.

There was one Matter Arising: Para H073 There was a query about the response received from Hereford Healthwatch and whether the information could be placed on the website to let concerned parishioners know the latest information/feedback. This will be done by Cllr. P. Rogers, who will also write again to H. Healthwatch with the parish’s concerns. The Clerk had already written a second letter and enclosed the excerpt of the previous Minutes which listed all the points that were raised by residents at the earlier public meeting, and which had been acknowledged by H. Healthwatch.

H093 Financial Report - Clerk

Reconciliation of bank accounts for May has taken place.

Balances at end May 2014:

Current Account:	£31,893.54
Tracker Account:	£5,934.95
National Savings Account:	£11,540.45

Receipts since last meeting:

Lengthsman grant – final payment for 2013-14	£1,057.50
Lengthsman grant – first payment 2014-15 to December	£3,172.50
P3 Footpaths Annual Grant for 2014-15	£1,000.00

Payments made since last meeting:

None.

Requests for payment:

Toilet Cleaner & Bins – June	£ TBA
Water charge – public toilets	£ 12.26
Clerk's 2 nd quarter salary due at end of June	£854.67
Clerk's 2 nd quarter expenses due at end of June	£179.06
Electricity – public toilets - May	£13.41
Revised payment for PC Insurance Premium 2014-15 (1 st year of a new 3 year Agreement)	£672.00

Agreement given to pay all necessary outgoings.

H094 Planning applications for consideration :

P141578/FH Lower House, Bearwood, Leominster. HR6 9EQ

Proposed two bay detached garage
COMMENT: SUPPORT – NO OBJECTIONS

P141574/N Yeld Farm, Yeld Lane, Lyonshall. HR5 3LY

Proposed 500Kw Agricultural Digester and ancillary development to produce renewable energy from spent poultry litter and energy crops
COMMENT: REFUSE:-

“Pembridge Parish Council refers back to the comments that were made for the previous application at this site for an Anaerobic Digester in October 2013 (132589/N) when it recommended Refusal.

In considering this new application, we comment that The Yeld Farm still does not conform to what the government recommends for an Agricultural Anaerobic Digester enterprise.

AD's are intended to be entirely self-sufficient, converting poultry litter into a fertiliser digestate by burning it with energy crops, all of which should be produced on the holding, and the digestate should be fed back into the land on that holding. This application does neither. All the energy crops needed, maize and beet, will be imported onto the farm by means of tractors and trailers. The digestate produced will be exported from the farm again by tractors and trailers. It is estimated that an extra 300 acres plus of land will be needed to produce the energy crops plus extra land for spreading the digestate. This makes this AD plant unsustainable.

There is still concern about the sheer volume of traffic, with heavy agricultural machinery and lorries needed to import the crops and export the digestate. The Traffic Report attached to the application estimates nearly 2000 loads a year will travel along a single-track farm road, which joins the main A44 just yards ahead of the Cotmore Corner. The Report also says that several accidents have already occurred in recent years on this corner. These heavy agricultural machines, mainly tractors and trailers could cause hold-ups at the farm junction where exit vision is poor, causing tail backs up to Cotmore Corner. Indeed 1 resident has been forced to back her vehicle up the single carriage lane to the A44 to allow Yeld Farm vehicles to exit. This application also seems to be contrary to at least 5 of the Herefordshire Council's strategies for traffic (Report page 6), and these tractors and trailers will certainly increase the traffic passing through the village of Pembridge (Note that in all previous applications for Anaerobic Digesters that have been considered by Pembridge Parish Council we have specifically requested that no transport to or from the sites should be allowed through the village, or on or off the main roads leading to it; and that this should be mentioned in the Conditions). It is also felt that the minor roads, within a radius of 6 miles of the site from where the energy crops will be gathered, are already in an indifferent state of repair and will not be able to withstand the pounding inflicted by the increased number of heavy vehicle movements generated by this proposal.

The two houses situated along the farm road will also be somewhat devalued and probably not be a safe place for children to live. Those residents have expressed their strong fears about personal safety issues for their families relating to the heavy increase of traffic movements proposed with this application, and their ability to be able to leave and access their properties when the crops are being imported and the digestate is being exported.

Increased noise relating to the application has also been a major concern to the nearby residents.

This application site covers the size of a football pitch and when taken into consideration with the 10 poultry houses, it increases the size of what is now an industrial estate standing on concrete and containing large black shiny sheds. This is total over development on a holding of this size. The application states that trees and hedges and wild flowers will be planted around the digester, but no amount of landscaping will screen this plant as it sits on the brow of a hill and will remain a blot on our landscape.

This Parish Council would like the heritage assets of the area conserved for their contribution to the quality of life to both existing residents and the future generations.

We therefore propose Refusal of this application.”

CLOSE OF MEETING

ACTION

H095 Ward Councillor's Report – Cllr. R. Phillips:

Cllr. Phillips' full report has been circulated to all councillors.

In addition it was noted that the pothole at the crossroads of Noke Lane has still not been repaired, but the pothole in Rhyse Lane has been repaired.

Potholes in Cabal Lane have still not been done.

Nole Lane drainage clearance issues that were attended to in April 2013 still give concern, as landowners and farmers using the lane with large machinery have pushed the spoil back into the ditches. They will be asked to resolve this, and the Lengthsman must open up the slits again. It must be noted that this soil, which is classified as 'contaminated' cannot be dumped on agricultural land, but has to go to a specified site (this is National Policy) and Cllr. Phillips intends to try and alter this policy.

AS

The traffic tubing across the road at the entrance to the village were requested by a private individual.

The Millennium Meadow grass has still not been cut by Balfour Beatty despite several requests, which will be followed up.

RJP/HH

Court Cottage is being renovated and the land opposite is being used by the developer for storage etc. and it has been noted that it is rather untidy. This is a temporary situation.

Herefordshire Council will be issuing all households that have a green wheelie waste bin, with a black one also, later in the year, and thereafter bins will be emptied on alternate weeks.

Balfour Beatty are reducing the number of verge cuts by junctions, which is leading to problems, and some landowners have assisted and cut these areas themselves.

H096 Resident's Questions:

None.

THE MEETING WAS THEN REOPENED

H097 Entrance to the Village New Signs – Cllr. A. Stokes:

These have now been approved by The Ministry of Transport and will be fitted shortly.

The cost of these will be £500 for the two. The invoice for these and a new noticeboard for The Pride in Pembridge Group will be sent to the Parsih Council for payment.

AS

H098 Sharing of a traffic Speed Indicator Device with Shobdon & Titley Parish Councils – Chairman:

A letter has been received from the Clerk of Shobdon Parish Council requesting discussion with Pembridge Parish Council and Titley Parish Council on this topic, and suggesting a payment of £100 per month to be ring-fenced by each of the 3 parish councils to cover costs of maintenance etc.

Following discussion there were various concerns raised relating to the sharing of the equipment, and it was proposed that the Clerk should arrange a meeting between the three parish council's Chairmen and Clerks to try and reach a satisfactory agreement.

HH

H099 Neighbourhood Planning – Cllr. A. Pace

The final version of the Questionnaire is now ready, and will be discussed one final time with the Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group prior to being sent out to all residents, and to arrange the best way to accomplish this.

AP**H100 Pride in Pembridge Report – Cllr. A. Stokes:**

The Group has been working feverishly in readiness for The Heart of England Judging Day on 4th July 2014. New planters have been made and planted up, and all is going well. A village sweep has been arranged for 2nd or 3rd July.

H101 Parish Council Representative on the Village Hall Committee:

Cllr. Ms. Catherine Fothergill has kindly offered to be the new representative.

H102 Glass Recycling Bins – problems with misuse of bins 0 Cllr. A. Pace/Cllr. P. Rogers

Two councillors have been monitoring the situation at the site for several weeks, and have personally removed large quantities of glass bottles and taken them to Leominster recycling sites, in order to keep the fill level down to an acceptable one for emptying. Another problem seems to have been that other items of glass, such as some broken plate glass, have been put into the bins, and contaminating the contents, thus making it useless for recycling. It should be noted that only glass bottles and jars should be put into the bins. There are now 6 smaller bins at the site, which will make it easier for emptying.

No trade waste or other rubbish should be placed into or around the bins, and the Clerk was requested to have some more signs made for the site which state these matters.

It was noted that Balfour Beatty staff have been most helpful in attending the site to advise on how things could be improved for the benefit of the residents; and they will continue to monitor.

H103 P3 Parish Footpath Scheme – Clerk:

A paper copy of an Agreement has been sent to the parish for completion, in order that a grant of £1,000 can be arranged. The Agreement was signed by both the Chairman and the Footpath's Officer – Cllr. P. Rogers. Cllr. Rogers will return the completed Agreement to Balfour Beatty.

PR**H104 Water Meter reading for end of May at Public Toilets: Clerk**

Reading for May is: 890.9

Reading for April was: 883.5

Reading for March was: 872.1

Reading for February was: 864.5 Monitoring to continue for one year.

Reading for January was: 861.4

Reading for December was: 858.4 These have been advised to Welsh Water.

H105 Next Meeting Dates:

Wednesday 23rd July at 7.30 pm in the Parish Hall.

All Welcome

INFORMATION

- All Councillors and the Clerk are invited to attend Miss Finney's leaving party at the School on Monday 14th July 2014 between 3.30 and 6 pm.
- All Councillors and the Clerk are invited to attend a Community Meeting at St. Mary's Church, Pembridge to look at and comment upon the plans for the future development of the Church in readiness for application for planning permission and funding. This is to ensure that the Church meets the needs of a modern community and to prevent its decline. Monday 7th July at 7pm. In the Church.