

PULBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

An ordinary meeting of Pulborough Parish Council was held at Pulborough Social Centre on Thursday 11 December 2003 at 7.30 pm

Present:

Mrs J Botting (Chairman)	Mrs C Barnett
Mrs H Black	Mrs N Hompstead
Mr L Ampstead	Mr N Bransden
Mr M Foster	Mr N Ryan
Mr B Vincent	

District Councillor
Mr B Donnelly

In attendance: Mr Stuart Kidman, West Sussex County Times

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mrs P Arculus	Mrs H Grey
Mrs L Speer	Mr I Kiverstein
Mr R Paterson	

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations

3 MINUTES

ACTION

3.1 FULL COUNCIL

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 October 2003 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

Matters Arising

(i) Festival of Christmas Trees

Mr Donnelly said that the Festival had been excellent.

3.2 FINANCE & POLICY

In the absence of Mr Kiverstein, Mrs Black presented the minutes of the meetings held on 23 October 2003 and 20 November 2003.

Matters Arising

(i) Grants

Mrs Black drew attention to the level of grants paid in 2003 and said that grants would probably have to be reduced in 2004. Mrs Hompstead suggested that there was scope to reduce the grants to St Mary's Parochial Church Council, St Mary's Primary School and Pulborough Youth Club in 2004.

3.3 PLANNING & SERVICES COMMITTEE

Mrs Botting presented the minutes of the meetings held on 30 October 2003 and 27 November 2003.

Matters Arising

(i) A Housing Needs Survey for Pulborough

Mrs Botting drew attention to arrangements for the survey and pointed out the Members would have to deliver some of the questionnaires.

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- (ii) **Proposed Developments at Oddstones and Riverside Concrete** **ACTION**
Members questioned the apparent willingness of Horsham District Council to consider development of the green field site at Oddstones and shared the Committee's concern about the proposed access through Stane Street Close.
- (iii) **Street Cleansing**
Mrs Barnett reported that a new schedule based on a three week rota had been given to the Warden. She had offered to walk round with the Warden if there were problems. Mrs Botting thanked Mrs Barnett and Mrs Speer for their work on the schedule.
- (iv) **Christmas Decorations**
Members agreed that the lights were looking good. Mr Bransden regretted that he had been unable to arrange additional lights.
- (v) **Review of Public Conveniences**
Mr Donnelly said that there was no legal requirement and it was uneconomic to provide public conveniences. Mrs Barnett, Mrs Botting and Mr Ryan expressed interest in attending a meeting with the District Council's Director of Environmental Services together with Mr Donnelly. **CB/JB/
NR/BD**
- (vi) **Village Signs**
Members noted that it might be necessary to find a different site at Swan Bridge if there were underlying pipes.
- (vii) **Planning Applications**
Mr Donnelly said that consideration of the plans for the Spiro Gills site had been deferred again, probably until February.

Mr Ampstead questioned what had happened to the bus shelters included in Section 106 agreements for two developments. Mr Donnelly undertook to check the position. **BD**
It was agreed that the Planning & Services Committee should produce a list of potential projects for Section 106 agreements. **P&S**
- (viii) **Traffic on the A29**
Mr Donnelly said that the battle over the plans for 56 Lower Street had been won, but not the war. He also said that the Rose & Crown would probably go to housing and wondered whether the Parish Council should have a policy. **PA**
It was reported that Mrs Arculus had offered to discuss the A29 with Members and to advise on appropriate contacts with County Council Officers.
- (ix) **Pulborough Community Partnership**
Mrs Hompstead expressed concern that an area of land South West of Swan Bridge had apparently been classified as leisure land and might eventually be developed for housing. She said that Mr Rob Aylott had approached The National Trust for assistance in acquiring the land.

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(x) **Highways**

Mrs Botting said that the Committee was really pleased with the Assistant Highway Superintendent's work on behalf of Pulborough.

ACTION

3.3 RECREATION & OPEN SPACES

In the absence of Mrs Speer, Mrs Botting presented the minutes of the meeting held on 6 November 2003.

Matters Arising

(i) **Bollards**

It was suggested that it might be necessary to erect bollards all round the recreation ground to prevent vehicle access.

(ii) **Byelaws**

Mrs Botting said that Mrs Barnett and Mrs Speer had kindly offered to review the Parish Council's Byelaws.

(iii) **Sports Pavilion**

It was reported that the roof over the Sports & Social Club was leaking.

(iv) **Tree**

Members noted that one of the newly planted trees on the recreation ground had been uprooted. It was agreed to ask the Tree Warden whether the tree could be saved.

Clerk

4 PRECEPT 2004/05

Members received the draft budget prepared by the Finance & Policy Committee for 2003/04. Mr Ampstead declared an interest in the budget as an employee of AIRS and withdrew from the discussion of this item.

Mr Vincent proposed that the Parish Council should accept the Finance & Policy Committee's recommendation that the Precept for 2004/05 should be set at £110,000. Mr Foster seconded and the proposal was agreed unanimously.

Clerk

5 MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

Mrs Hompstead proposed that the Parish Council should accept the Finance & Policy Committee's recommendation for a Scheme of Members' Allowances following receipt of the recommendations of the Parish Remuneration Panel. She proposed:

- 1) That Parish Councillors should not be paid a basic allowance
- 2) That the Parish Council's Chairman should not be paid an allowance
- 3) That, with effect from 1 January 2004, a travelling and subsistence allowance should be paid in respect of agreed parish duties outside the parish - such allowance to be in accordance with the Local Government Staff Scheme of Travel and Subsistence Allowances adopted by Horsham District Council but the level of travel allowance not to exceed the level at which payments would be liable for income tax (currently 40p per mile)

Clerk

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Mrs Black seconded and the proposal was agreed unanimously. **ACTION**

6 VACANCY FOR A PARISH COUNCILLOR

Members noted that there had been no response to the advertisement on the notice board for a Councillor to replace Dr Tilbrook. They also noted that Mr Barclay had not attended a meeting since July. Mr Vincent undertook to speak to Mr Barclay. Mr Vincent suggested that previous candidates might be approached. Mrs Botting asked Mr Kidman if he could mention the vacancy in the County Times.

BV

7 PENSIONS

Mrs Botting proposed that the Parish Council should accept the Finance & Policy Committee's recommendation that the Parish Council should join the Local Government Pension Scheme so that the Council was able to nominate individual staff to join the Scheme. Mr Ampstead seconded and the proposal was agreed unanimously.

F&P

8 PULBOROUGH SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB LICENCE

Mrs Botting said that the Sports & Social Club had held an Extraordinary Meeting which had been brilliant. Mr Boulton had been re-elected as Chairman and Mrs Botting congratulated Mr Vincent on his election as Treasurer. Mr Barstow had been re-elected as Secretary and the new constitution had been agreed.

Mr Vincent declared an interest in the draft Licence and rent as Treasurer of the Sports & Social Club and withdrew from the meeting. The draft Licence was agreed subject to minor amendments. Mr Ryan proposed that the rent should be £5,000 payable quarterly in advance as recommended by the Parish Council's surveyors. Mr Foster seconded and the proposal was agreed unanimously. Mr Donnelly congratulated the Parish Council on achieving so much with the Club.

Clerk

9 REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS

1) Pulborough Healthcheck

Mr Ampstead said that Mr Charter had withdrawn from the project for health reasons. Pulborough had fallen behind the other towns and had not yet managed to complete the details of individual projects. There had been 7 volunteers at the last meeting in Pulborough. He would arrange for the draft constitution for the Pulborough Partnership to be circulated to Members.

LA

10 PAYMENTS

		£
HDC	Council Tax	342.00
SEEBOARD	Maintenance	102.01
Mark Weston	Village Signs	750.00
K Pearson	Xmas Lights	1,175.00
Rupert Cleaver	Tree Surgery	490.00

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PAYMENTS (continued)		£	ACTION
Burgess&Randall	Blower Service	53.23	
Burgess&Randall	Gloves	10.00	
Ash Reid Design	Playground Repairs	129.25	
Mazars	Audit Fees	763.75	
HDC	Village Sweeping	342.71	
Viking Direct	Stationery	103.87	
Kew Electrical	Xmas Lamps	106.76	
OLC	Xmas Timers/Cable	150.02	
DMH Solutions	Software	52.87	

11 CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

12 URGENT MATTERS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS

1) Hedge

Mrs Hompstead reported that the hedge by Downview was overgrown.

2) Acorn Scheme

Mr Ampstead drew attention to the Acorn Scheme.

3) Christmas

Mrs Black wished everyone a Happy Christmas and thanked Mrs Botting for her Chairmanship during a happy half year.

The meeting closed at 10.00 pm.

..... Chairman

..... Date