

PULBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

An ordinary meeting of Pulborough Parish Council was held at the Village Hall (Pulborough Social Centre) on Thursday 24 June 2004 at 7.30 pm

Present:

Mrs J Botting (Chairman)	Mrs C Barnett
Mrs H Black	Mrs H Grey
Mrs N Hompstead	Mr L Ampstead
Mr D Boulton	Mr N Bransden
Mr J Denison	Mr I Kiverstein
Mr M Longridge	Mr N Ryan

District Councillors

Mr B Donnelly
Mr R Paterson

In attendance: Councillor E Kitchen, Leader of Horsham District Council
for item 3 Mr M Pearson, Chief Executive of Horsham District Council
Mr S Kidman, West Sussex County Times
15 members of the public

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mr M Foster

Mr B Vincent

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN AGENDA ITEMS

Mrs Black declared an interest in Pulborough Village Hall as Chairman of the Trustees

3 THE LEADER AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF HORSHAM DISTRICT COUNCIL ACTION

Mrs Botting welcomed Councillor Elizabeth Kitchen, the Leader of Horsham District Council, and Mr Martin Pearson, Chief Executive and thanked them very much for attending the meeting.

Councillor Kitchen said that she recognised the Council's problems because she was a Parish Councillor herself. She hoped that the Council was content with the District Council's negotiation of plans for the Spiro Gills site. She conceded that the removal of the public conveniences in Pulborough was a problem for residents but said that they had cost taxpayers a lot of money.

Mr Pearson said that the Tesco and Pulborough Medical Group development would bring many benefits to Pulborough but also create some problems. The removal of the pharmacy would have an impact on the village centre and £150,000 had been set aside for community support in Pulborough and Storrington. He hoped that further funds would be available from the Government.

On the question of public conveniences, Mr Pearson said that the **ACTION**

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10 year contract for APCs had been set up because stand alone facilities such as those at Rivermead could not be maintained. The contract had expired despite efforts by the District Council to secure an extension. The renewal of the contract would not only be prohibitively expensive but also inappropriate because people with disabilities could not access APCs.

Mr Pearson said that he had looked for alternative provision in Pulborough. He had tried to encourage the Village Hall to allow public access to the toilets but had met a negative response from the Trustees. The District Council had contributed about £500,000 to the cost of building the Hall and opening the Hall's facilities to the public would be a better use of the capital investment. Mr Pearson hoped that the Trustees would reconsider this issue and that the Parish Council might be able to exert some influence.

On recycling, Mr Pearson said that the District Council had just issued a consultation document. Car parking would be an issue too. The District Council would welcome comments by the end of July.

Mr Pearson congratulated Pulborough on the Healthcheck Project and praised the people involved. He said that the District Council had just published its Community Strategy to 2016 and that the SEERA plan would extend to 2026. The Local Development Framework could bring these plans together.

Mrs Botting thanked Councillor Kitchen and Mr Pearson for attending the meeting to address current concerns in Pulborough and invited questions.

Councillor Kitchen and Mr Pearson answered a variety of questions. Apart from the issue of public conveniences, the majority of the discussion was about why Storrington should benefit from a Section 106 payment for a development in Pulborough. Mr Pearson said that the development would have an economic impact on Storrington. He pledged that the District Council would work together with the Parish Councils to decide how the funds should be spent but said that the Healthcheck Project provided opportunities to secure two or three times as much funding from the Government Office for the South East.

Mr Paterson added that an independent retail consultant had concluded that the Tesco development would have a considerable impact on Storrington. He said that he was concerned about the loss of shopping facilities in the village centre. The local traders' group PAVE had a vital role but was not very active of late. He asked everyone to think of other people to involve from the business community. Mr Pearson said that he would be happy to attend a meeting of businesses.

Mrs Botting thanked Councillor Kitchen and Mr Pearson again. The

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members of the public left the meeting.

4 VACANCIES FOR PARISH COUNCILLORS

Mrs Botting asked Mr Longridge to leave the meeting and then invited Mr Denison to present himself to the Council, and to say why he had applied to become a Parish Councillor. After a brief presentation and questions from Members, Mr Denison retired and Mr Longridge was invited to return.

Mrs Botting invited Mr Longridge to present himself to the Council, and to say why he had applied to become a Parish Councillor. After a brief presentation and questions from Members, Mr Longridge retired to enable members of the Council to vote.

Mr Kiverstein suggested that the candidates should be informed in writing of the Council's decision. It was agreed that this would be appropriate in the event that one or both of the candidates was unsuccessful.

Mrs Hompstead proposed that Mr Denison should be co-opted as a Member of the Parish Council. Mr Bransden seconded and the proposal was agreed by a majority.

Mrs Hompstead proposed that Mr Longridge should be co-opted as a Member of the Parish Council. Mrs Barnett seconded and the proposal was agreed by a majority.

Mr Denison and Mr Longridge were invited to return and were informed of the Council's decision.

STATUTORY DECLARATION

Mrs Botting invited Mr Denison and Mr Longridge to sign the Statutory Declaration of Acceptance of Office. The Clerk witnessed the signatures.

5 MINUTES

Mrs Botting proposed – and it was agreed – that the minutes of all meetings should be taken as read. She said that Members would be welcome to raise matters for clarification.

5.1 ANNUAL MEETING

The minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 20 May 2004 were amended to show that Mr Kiverstein had been present and then agreed and signed as a correct record.

5.2 FULL COUNCIL

The minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 20 May 2004 were amended to show that Mr Kiverstein had been present and then agreed and signed as a correct record.

Matters Arising

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There were no matters arising.

5.3 FINANCE & POLICY

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 June 2004 were received.

Matters Arising

(i) **Pension Arrangements for the Clerk**

Mr Kiverstein reported that there had been no need for a loan to the Clerk because the County Council had agreed to accept her payments over a two year period.

(ii) **Communications**

Mr Kiverstein said that the Committee was concerned that the Communications Group had not met recently. There were important issues for the Group to discuss, notably the Newsletter and the website.

Mr Bransden said that he would be happy to chair the Communications Group. Mrs Grey undertook to arrange a meeting of the Group in time to produce copy for the next edition of the Newsletter by the end of July.

**NB
HG**

(iii) **Recruitment of Assistant Parish Clerk**

Mr Kiverstein said that five candidates for the vacancy had been invited for interview the following day.

(iv) **Sports Pavilion**

Mr Kiverstein said that this was a big issue. The Parish Council would need to decide whether to undertake short term repairs or to pursue a more radical development. The Committee would recommend that the Council should not give formal backing to any major development until more information was available about the cost of the project and funding sources. Mr Kiverstein suggested that a planning application would raise questions from the community about funding.

Mr Boulton said that Pulborough Sports & Social Club provided a service to a large number of people in the community. The Club's finances were sound. The Club took the view that a planning application – at least in outline – would be needed in order to secure funding.

Mr Ampstead said that he would be happy to help in exploring possible sources of funding. There were plenty of funds available if the project could be linked to boosting the economy and/or tourism.

Mr Boulton said that he would like to involve young people in the plans for a new pavilion. Youth workshops could be provided. The project might also include public toilets.

It was agreed that the various ideas should be put on paper.

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Mrs Botting said that Mr Vincent had agreed to present proposals to the next meeting of Full Council.

BV

(v) Annual Accounts

Mr Kiverstein commended the Clerk on the preparation of the annual accounts. He said that the Internal Auditor was happy with the accounts.

5.4 PLANNING & SERVICES COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 June 2004 were received.

Matters Arising

(i) PL/78/03 Land adjoining Wilhaven, The Street, Nutbourne

Mr Donnelly said that he and Tony Stevens had spent an afternoon with Nutbourne Conservation Group. The majority of District Councillors could see no planning grounds for rejecting the application.

5.5 RECREATION & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meetings held on 27 May 2004 were received.

Matters Arising

(i) Basketball Practice Area

Mrs Barnett said that she was unhappy about the location of the area. The Committee had agreed to consider alternative sites over the winter months but to install posts and chains in the meantime to inhibit parking.

(ii) Quotations for Replacement Floodlights for the MSF

Mrs Barnett proposed that the Parish Council should accept quotations from Floodlighting Limited of £2,580.00 + VAT for replacing the floodlights and £264.00 + VAT for plastic guards for the floodlights. Mr Kiverstein seconded and the proposal was agreed unanimously.

Clerk

6 ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2003/04

Mr Ampstead expressed concern that the increase in the Precept did not cover the increase in wages and salaries. Mr Kiverstein responded that the Parish Council had made exceptional payments during the year and that there was a budget and a plan.

Mr Kiverstein proposed that the Parish Council should approve the Annual Accounts and the Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2004. Mrs Grey seconded and the proposal was agreed unanimously. The Chairman and Responsible Financial Officer signed the Annual Return. It was agreed that the statutory notice of audit should be displayed with effect from 2 July 2004.

Clerk

7 BYELAWS

It was agreed to consult Horsham District Council about provision to prohibit dog fouling and dumping. Mrs Botting proposed that the Parish Council should approve the proposed revised Byelaws for submission to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister subject to any

Clerk

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additional provisions suggested by Horsham District Council. Mr Bransden seconded and the proposal was agreed unanimously.

Clerk

8 VILLAGE WALK

It was agreed that a Village familiarisation walk for Councillors should be arranged at 6.30 pm on Thursday 15 July 2004. Mrs Botting invited Members back to her house for refreshments.

Clerk

9 REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS

1) Pulborough Healthcheck Project

Mr Ampstead said he was pleased that Mr Pearson had recognised the importance of the Healthcheck. He asked Members to attend the next meeting of Pulborough Community Partnership at 7.30 pm on Monday 5 July at the Village Hall. Martin Pearson was hosting an all day meeting at Horsham District Council on 14 July on the management of projects. Mrs Botting said that she would try to attend. There was also a half day workshop for the four towns at Horsham on 14 September.

Members

JB

2) Community Care

Mrs Grey said that there was a Community Care meeting at 7.30 pm on Monday 28 June. Mr Longridge said that he would like to attend.

HG/ML

10 PAYMENTS

		£
RBS Auditing	Internal Audit	376.00
P Lewis	Nutcroft Access	890.00
Allianz Cornhill	Tractor Insurance	99.81
NRG GROUP	Photocopier	215.63
Kevin Soal	Footpaths	75.00
Primus	Telephone	53.47
HDC	Village Sweeping	342.71
PSSC	Survey	847.80
B Vincent	Mileage	80.00

11 CORRESPONDENCE

1) Tourism

Members received the report of the Tourism South East Market Town Visitor Experience Check.

12 URGENT MATTERS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS

1) Local Development Framework

Members were encouraged to comment on the Issues and Options Document.

Members

The meeting closed at 10.30 pm.

..... Chairman

..... Date