

An ordinary meeting of Pulborough Parish Council was held at the Village Hall on Thursday 27th July 2006 at 7.30 p.m.

Present:

Mrs J Botting (Chairman)	Mr J Denison
Mr L Ampstead	Mr I Kiverstein
Mrs C Barnett	Mrs A Lawson
Mrs H Black	Mr M Longridge
Mr D Boulton	Mr J Noble

District Councillors

Mr B Donnelly
Mr R Paterson

County Councillor

Mrs P Arculus

In attendance:

Mrs Jean Seagrim
Mr F Riddle, Nutbourne Village Design Group
Mrs L Hoff - Parish Clerk

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mr B Vincent
Miss C Ebers – The County Times

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mrs Black declared an interest in items relating to Pulborough Village Hall in her capacity as Chairman of the Trustees.

Mr Boulton declared his interest as Chairman of the Sports & Social Club.

Mr J Noble declared an interest as a member of Nutbourne Village Design Group and in items relating to Pulborough Village Hall as a Trustee.

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 22nd June 2006 of the full Council be noted and signed.

3.1 Full Council

Matters Arising

Mr Ampstead and Mr Paterson reported on Pulborough Traders' Group, stating that Miss Kerry Quested was doing a terrific job but no traders had attended their last meeting. Mr Paterson asked all members to actively promote the Traders' Group when calling into local shops. Mr Ampstead commented on the fact that the relocation of the doctors' surgery and the chemist will mean a drop in footfall of 300 a day to Lower Street, which will have a great impact on trade but that the shop keepers did not seem to realise this. They have shown no interest in suggestions put forward by the Parish Council, such as a

shopping guide or Christmas lights. Mr Paterson has the paperwork for s106 monies (Tesco), which he will forward to the Clerk.

Mr Paterson also agreed to set up a meeting between Chris Dyer and members of the Council to discuss parking in the village.

The Clerk reported that she had been in contact with Stuart Slater at HDC concerning the signage in Lower Street Car Park. Mr Slater is willing to erect whatever signs are required. It was agreed that four large new signs were needed. Mr Ampstead said he would ask traders to display notices stating that they supplied parking discs and that these should be kept on hand for shoppers.

Mrs Botting enquired whether anyone had seen Danny Flynn, the litter picker, at work in the village. Whereas no one had noticed him, Mrs Black said that the steps leaving the car park looked cleaner. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact Mr Flynn for a weekly update and his daily list of duties is posted on the Parish Noticeboard.

Mrs Botting reported on a meeting held with Mr John McArthur, the Environmental Services Manager, who had been most helpful and agreed all outstanding accounts would be waived for the street cleaning service that Pulborough had not received. He also mentioned that a member of his staff lived in Pulborough and wished to help the Parish on a voluntary basis. He would approach the staff member to see if they would be willing to clear the Recreation ground on a Saturday and a Sunday. He also advised that the staff member already had all the kit required to do litter picking. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact Mr McArthur to see how this progressed. Mrs Botting stated that Jim Leadbetter cleared the Recreation ground during the week and was doing an excellent job. Members agreed it should be suggested to Mr Kiverstein that Mr Leadbetter be paid for this work.

Mrs Botting reported that the Assistant Clerk had contacted the Council's solicitors concerning the P Unit undertaking litter picking on the Recreation ground. They had advised that the Council should not be seen to employ children in this climate of litigation. Members agreed that the P Unit was doing a sterling job and the Council should support them in other ways wherever possible. The Clerk was instructed to write to Mrs Dana explaining the situation and confirming the Council's support.

The Clerk reported that she had started clearing the "Wendy House" and had found some interesting documents that could be inspected at the Council Office. She had been in contact with the County Archivist, who advised that the Archives Department would take all Minute books, accounts and any other items of interest. It was agreed that Minutes and accounts should be retained in the office for five years.

Mr Boulton reported that he would start work on the car park at the Sports Pavilion as soon as he had checked the boundary plans to ascertain how much was Council land. He could then work out what skips were required for the clearance. Members agreed that it was imperative that the new light for the car park was erected before winter. The Assistant Clerk had already put the wheels in motion.

Mr Noble reported that the electronic noticeboard was still out of action. Mr Paterson was asked to harry the supplier.

The Clerk reported that the handrails were ready but had been unable to contact Mr Michael Jones of Charlton Ironworks for a date when work would begin in installing them. Mr Paterson agreed to speak to him, as he is a neighbour.

The new bus shelters were greatly admired by members. It was noted that there is a void behind the bus shelter near the railway station where rubbish could accumulate. This would then cause a fire hazard. The Clerk was instructed to ensure that the litter picker cleared that area.

The Clerk reported that Coldwaltham Parish Council was in favour of a bench being sited on their side of the river. A discussion then followed concerning the upkeep of the nearby car park.

Mrs P Arculus reported that application forms were now available for SLC funding for community projects. Closing date is the second week of September for the first applications.

The Clerk was instructed to check with Shirley Stone (Highways) when work would be carried out on the pothole between the reservoir and Redfold Farm in Nutbourne Lane, which is a main highway.

Mr Kiverstein offered his apologies for arriving late.

4. Planning & Services Committee

The Council received the minutes of the meeting of the Planning & Services Committee held on 29th June 2006.

4.1 Matters Arising

Mrs Black showed members photographs of Old Bank Building and advised them that there were two of only three rare Pulborough apple trees at the back of the property and these would be lost if the planning application went ahead. Mr Kiverstein agreed to check the trees.

5. Recreation and Open Spaces Committee

The Council received the minutes of the meeting of the Recreation & Open Spaces Committee held on 13th July 2006.

5.1 Matters Arising

Mrs Barnett reported on the importance of the funding for two new screens for the Cricket Club, as they would automatically drop down a league if they only had one. It was agreed to write to the Chief Executive of HDC with copies to Councillors Donnelly and Paterson.

The Clerk advised members that the disclaimer signs for the MSF had now been collected and would be installed early next week. The Assistant Clerk was still chasing the contractor to arrange for the motor cycle signs to be erected.

Mrs Barnett reported that a meeting with the Sussex Downland Conservation Officer was arranged at Nutbourne Common Recreation ground for 12th September at 10a.m. The Clerk advised that Will Jones, HDC Arboriculturist, was unable to visit the site to advise which trees were unsafe, as he did not have the resource to offer this service. He had given details of three contractors approved by the Arboricultural Association, who would give price and advice free. It was agreed that the Clerk should arrange for the local contractor to visit the site when the Conservation Officer was there.

Mrs Barnett advised that the football posts for the green at Stane Street Close had arrived but were too large for the nets and must be returned. The mini-football posts were on wheels to make it easier for the contractors to move them to cut the grass. Mr Boulton said he would check the ones on the Recreation ground to ascertain exactly what was needed.

Mrs Lawson raised the question of the byelaws as no grounds were mentioned to which they referred. It was agreed that one notice should go at Pocket Park, two at Cousins Way, four at the Main Recreation Ground and two at Nutbourne Common Recreation Ground. The Clerk was to ensure this was done within the next few months.

6. Finance and Policy Committee

The Council received the minutes of the meeting of the Finance & Policy Committee held on 15th June 2006.

6.1 Matters Arising

The Clerk reported that she had spoken to the Bowls Club Treasurer, Mr Ray Quedsted who had agreed that there were some outstanding issues that needed to be discussed with the Parish Council and, he and the Club Secretary would be happy to meet members. He had given the Clerk some dates when both gentlemen were free so that a meeting could be arranged. Mr Kiverstein advised members that the rental being charged the Bowls Club were nowhere near the maintenance costs. Mr Boulton stated that the water for the greens came from the meter unit at the Sports and Social Club and there had been many complaints from local residents, concerning the amount of

water used on the bowling green. Mr Kiverstein stated that nothing could really be done until after the meeting.

It was confirmed also that the Bowls Evening with the Parish Council would commence at 7.00 pm on 13th September 2006.

7. Public Speaking

There were no public speakers.

8. Pulborough and District Community Care Association – Accommodation Survey

Mrs J Seagrim reported that the survey was carried out amongst 50 older residents who attend Village Hall functions and that Pulborough partnership, Saxon Weald, Horsham District Council and the Parish Council would all be given the results of the survey. She said Pulborough needed accommodation such as Ormond Court in Billingshurst where residents could buy in care and cleaning. She stated that Bus 4 U was popular, and although Storrington was not keen on the scheme, people visiting the Village Hall did make use of it. Mr Denison said he has reservations as he knew a man of 95 who had been unable to travel on the bus as it was always fully booked.

Mrs Botting thanked Mrs Seagrim for attending the meeting and for the information she had imparted.

9. Nutbourne Village Design Statement (Final Draft)

Mr Noble introduced the updated version of the draft, which had now had the grammar corrected. It was noted that a copy is held in the Council Office or could be looked at on the Nutbourne Village website. He advised that the next step would be to work with HDC if the Parish Council was happy with the draft. Mrs Arculus advised that the Parish Council should not be involved, as it was a local community matter. It was an advisory document, which would then go to planning to be adopted by HDC.

10. Travel and Subsistence Allowances

Mr Ampstead advised members that the maximum travel allowance that the Inland Revenue would agree was 40p a mile. Anything above this was taxable and it was the individual's responsibility to pay this, not the Council's. It was agreed to make staff and Councillors aware.

11. Redevelopment of Pulborough Sports and Social Club

Copies of plans of the Sports and Social Club, drawn up by Bayley and Willmer, were circulated to members. Mr Ampstead advised that the architects had presented the Council with a large bill, which included the original meetings for which it was agreed that no charge should be levied. It was resolved that any future work should go out for tender and a letter advising Bayley and Willmer of the decision would be sent.

Mr Ampstead informed members that there were four options to consider.

- i) Do nothing and close the Social Club.
- ii) Refurbish the existing premises and rebuild the Social Club.
- iii) Carry out a major refurbishment of the existing complex.
- iv) The existing building be razed to the ground and rebuilt

It was agreed that the Clerk should write again to all groups to ask for their input and follow the letter with a telephone call to endeavour to get a firm date for a meeting with councillors.

Mr Boulton advised members that the Social Club will lose £2000 per annum in lost membership revenue when the Rugby Club moves out. It was noted that Alex Steele of the Rugby Club had stated that it is very likely that they will be using the pitch during the forthcoming season.

12. Pulborough Bowling Club

It was noted that this item had been discussed earlier in the meeting.

13. Royal Mail New Postal Prices

Councillors noted the new postal prices and agreed that agendas and Minutes should be folded and A5 envelopes used. Mrs Arculus and Mr Paterson requested that their agendas be emailed in future.

14. Horsham District Council's Local Performance Plan 2006

A copy of the Local Performance Plan was received by the Council.

15. Pulborough Neighbourhood Warden Scheme

The Clerk reported that 76 replies had been received from over 2700 households, which had been sent newsletter. It was agreed an item should go in the next newsletter asking residents to either write or email the Clerk with their views.

It was suggested that the Local Action Team be given another year to get a firm decision from the public and the Clerk should send a copy of the figures to Peter Jones.

16. Payments

RESOLVED: that the payments of the following cheques be approved and signed:

Primus	£19.94
EDF Energy	£32.48
NRG Group Ltd	£267.96
Viking Direct	£31.96
EDF Energy	£52.16
Inland Revenue	£1049.30
Staff Wages	£2688.65

17. DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Mrs P Arculus reported her attendance at the launch of the West Chiltington Responders Unit, which has taken only five months to go live. The Responders Unit trains volunteers to use defibrillators in villages so heart attack patients can receive attention within the first crucial ten minutes. It was agreed that volunteers for such a scheme should be recruited locally and it should be included in the next newsletter.

Mrs Arculus requested that the Parish Council confirm that they are for the Nutbourne speed limit, if with reservations as WSCC will not continue without the Council's backing. It was agreed a letter should be sent offering support in principal with the proviso that all Nutbourne residents are consulted and that Mrs Arculus is to be involved.

Mrs Arculus confirmed she would feed back the problems with Buses 4 U to Highways Department.

Mr Donnelly reported that the Licensing Committee were disappointed with the level of underage drinkers, although not in the Pulborough area. Mrs Barnett stated that she had seen local youngsters with alcohol within an hour of speaking to the PCSO. The Clerk was instructed to advise the local PCSO.

Mr Paterson reported that an Audit Commission had surveyed 238 District Councils and Horsham had come top.

18. CORRESPONDENCE/ADDITIONAL ITEMS

18.1 Horsham District Council's Statement of Licensing Policy in respect of the Gambling Act 2005

The Council received the policy, which Mr Boulton took to study.

18.2 Mr Ampstead advised that Arun Valley Rail Partnership were running trains on Sunday, 13th August 2006 between Bognor Regis and Three Bridges for £1 to travel all day. Some of the trains would have jazz musicians playing and it was hoped use would be made of the service to attend the West Sussex Water Festival at Arundel. Parking in the station car park would be free all day.

18.3 Mr Ampstead asked whether it was in order for traders to use the Sports and Social Club car park during the day. The Council did not feel this would be a problem.

- 18.4 Mr Ampstead also advised that the launch of “Your Community Needs You” would take place in November and the Clerk was instructed to promote this to encourage local residents to become Parish Councillors.
- 18.5 Mrs Barnett advised that the Local Action Team had been discussing the fact that Mr Leadbetter had not been using a guard on the mower. She agreed to speak to him, as it was possible there was not a guard for that model of machine.
- 18.6 Mrs Barnett advised members that Bellway Homes were starting work on the Riverside Concrete site by demolishing the bungalow Downview immediately. The Clerk was instructed to ensure that information had been passed to them from Rydon Homes concerning certain obligations that had been agreed, such as cutting back the bushes on the footpath.
- 18.7 Mrs Lawson advised of a pothole in Stream Lane.
- 18.8 Mrs Botting told members of a day out in her official capacity as Chairman of the Council to the opening of the extension to the track owned by Sussex Light Railway. She urged members to visit, as it was most enjoyable.

The meeting closed at 10.20 pm

..... Chairman

..... Date