

An ordinary meeting of Pulborough Parish Council was held at the Village Hall on Thursday 7th December 2006 at 8.00 p.m.

Present:

Mrs J Botting (Chairman)	Mr J Denison
Mr L Ampstead	Mr I Kiverstein
Mrs C Barnett	Mr J Noble
Mrs H Black	Mrs K Watson

District Councillors

Mr B Donnelly
Mr R Paterson

County Councillor

Mrs P Arculus (left at start of meeting due to ill health)

In attendance: Mrs L Hoff - Parish Clerk
Mr H Barrett – Assistant Clerk

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. PRESENTATION BY GERALD BATT, PULBOROUGH FAIRTRADE GROUP

Mrs Botting welcomed three members of Pulborough Fair Trade to the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8.06pm for a presentation by Mr Gerald Batt on Fairtrade in Pulborough.

The Chairman reconvened the meeting at 8.21pm.

Mrs Botting thanked Mr Batt for his most interesting presentation.

It was agreed that the Clerk should be the intermediary between the Council and the Fair Trade group and the group would be welcome to put articles in the Parish Newsletter on a regular basis. Only Fair Trade tea and coffee would be used in the Parish Office.

4. BYELAWS

The Clerk advised that Mr Bryn Evans, HDC would not be attending the meeting, as he must wait until the registration of the Recreation Grounds at Land Registry was complete. Members RESOLVED to adopt the byelaws as recommended by the Recreation & Open Spaces Committee on 2nd November 2006. Mr Kiverstein proposed the motion;

it was seconded by Mrs Black and passed unanimously. The Clerk was instructed to include this item on the next agenda for sealing.

5. MINUTES

5.1 Full Council

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 9th November 2006 of the full Council be noted and signed.

Matters Arising

Mr Paterson advised members Nick Herbert, MP was moving forward with regard to train horns but stressed it was a very slow process.

The Clerk asked for volunteers amongst the Councillors to complete a survey, to help her with the Working With Your Council course for which she is studying.

Mr Donnelly stated he was glad to see the Council had reservations concerning the 2Wheels+ initiative, as he was also worried. He agreed to pass on the comments to HDC.

5.2 Planning and Services Committee

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meetings held on 26th October 2006 and 23rd November 2006 of the Planning and Services Committee be noted and signed.

Matters Arising

Mrs Watson asked where Mare Hill Lane was situated, as mentioned on a planning application. Members agreed it was probably a typing error by HDC Planning Dept.

5.3 Recreation and Open Spaces Committee

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meetings held on 2nd November 2006 of the Recreation and Open Spaces Committee be noted and signed.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

5.4 Finance and Policy Committee

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meetings held on 19th October 2006 of the Finance and Policy Committee be noted and signed.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

6. Public Speaking

There were no public speakers.

7. Update of Risk Register

Mr Kiverstein advised members the completion of the risk register was an annual audit requirement.

The Clerk had removed all duplications and members RESOLVED to approve the current risk register. Mr Noble proposed the motion and it was seconded by Mrs Black and passed unanimously.

8. Budget 2007/2008

Mr Kiverstein advised members that the Finance & Policy Committee had approved the budget and asked full Council to now approve the figures. The motion was proposed by Mrs Botting and seconded by Mr Ampstead and passed by all members.

Mrs Botting stated that Mr Kiverstein and Maria Hearn, the bookkeeper had done brilliantly and were given the thanks of the Council.

9. Precept 2007

Mr Kiverstein advised members the Finance & Policy Committee had considered the precept with, on one hand the funds that would be needed for the community and on the other, the impact of setting anything over the rate of inflation. He suggested an increase of 4% and this was proposed by Mr Denison and seconded by Mr Ampstead. The Councillors RESOLVED to pass the motion that the precept should be increased by 4% for the year 2007/2008.

10. Earmarking of Reserves for Pavilion Rebuild Project

Mr Kiverstein advised members there was a surplus projected until 31st March 2007 and suggested it would be prudent to set the sum aside for specific use for the Sports Pavilion.

The Assistant Clerk advised he had been on the roof of the building with a contractor and it was not as bad as first feared. The water was not covering all of the roof and the pool was only an inch or two deep. The contractor, and one who had called in earlier during the day, were both to take a "plug" from the roof to see what the damage was beneath the surface. The reports and quotations would follow in the New Year.

Mr Ampstead suggested using the earmarked money to get a good design for the new building as that would help when applying for grants. Mrs Botting stated the Council should look for matching funding.

Mr Kiverstein advised members that once the funds were earmarked, they could not be used for any other purpose. There were already reserves set aside for play equipment in Mason's Way and members agreed they would not get involved with supplying public toilets as it was not only the initial outlay but the maintenance that was so costly.

The motion to earmark £20,000 for the Sports Pavilion was proposed by Mrs Black and seconded by Mrs Barnett. It was RESOLVED by the Council to pass the resolution.

Mrs Botting asked the Clerk to pass on the thanks of the Council to Miss Charlie Ebers of the County Times, for her very fair reporting on Council meetings.

11. Training weekend for Experienced Councillors

The Clerk advised members the date of the next course at Dunford House was the weekend 9-11 February 2007. Mr Ampstead and Mr Noble both expressed a wish to attend and Mrs Watson stated she was interested and would confirm her availability to the Clerk.

12. Playground Equipment Repairs and Maintenance Quotation

The Clerk apologised to members, as this item did not need full Council approval.

13. Quotations for Gates for the Recreation Ground and Nutbourne Common Recreation Ground

The Clerk advised that the third requested quote, from RGH Supplies was never received, despite daily telephone calls from the Parish Office. It was agreed to just look at the other two quotations, received from McVeigh Parker & W L West & Sons Ltd. It was decided to accept the quotation from McVeigh Parker and to approach Shane Keen to erect the gates. Mr Kiverstein and Mrs Botting both offered to store the gates until erection.

14. Payments

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

D J Flynn Services	£2185.50
J.Randall	£450.03
Candela Consulting Ltd	£374.54
C J Uden & Co	£264.38
Sussex Internet	£176.25
Viking Direct	£38.72
Blachere	£401.85

15. DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Mr Paterson advised members he was going to sit with the S106 panel on 11th December 2006 and would ask them to explain what is happening to the Tesco monies. It was stated that £20,000 had been promised for improvements to the road outside the school approximately 3 – 4 years ago. The Clerk was instructed to find the paperwork on the Tesco application for Mr Paterson to peruse.

Mr Donnelly reported that he had been on the Local Government seminar in London, when the White Paper was discussed. He feels the Government is removed from reality as the Paper gives more

responsibility to parishes but without any extra funding. He also feared that, without leadership from the Government, County and District Councils will be in competition.

Mr Donnelly advised members of the next Pulborough LAT meeting on 10th January 2007 at the Sports and Social Club. At their last meeting, only six people had attended, as it appears that, once their problem is solved, they do not return. He stated Neville Warner, the PCSO, was a great asset and all Councillors agreed with him. He also informed members that Mrs Dana, who had instigated the P Unit, was leaving the village and so the future of the Unit was in doubt.

He finished by advising members of a meeting between HDC and the Parish Council on 6th December 2006. It was a high level meeting concerning parking issues but was confidential and could not be discussed as yet.

16. REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs Botting reported she had attended an interesting evening as a guest of FWAG, which was principally for farmers and the owners of woodland. The speaker was Ben Law, who built his house from wood and straw bales and gave an excellent talk.

Mr Ampstead stated he had visited the new rugby club and informed members it was an outstanding building with changing rooms and other very good facilities

He also advised members that the Pulborough Partnership wanted to agree the expenditure of £3500 to advertise in a local guide concerning the five market towns, in the hopes it would attract Horsham residents to Pulborough.

17. CORRESPONDENCE

17.1 NHS Litigation Authority

Members noted the Council had no right of appeal concerning the relocation of Cordens pharmacy. Mr Paterson stated he had never felt the relocation could be stopped. The Co-op had been approached but had declined stating it was too expensive. Members were advised there is actually no charge for an application or a licence.

The Clerk was instructed to obtain a list of Pharmacies who may be persuaded to open an outlet in Pulborough. Mr Denison stated the Council must issue a press release to show their concern in the relocation. Mr Ampstead was worried on the impact for both residents and traders in Lower Street. Mr Denison agreed to ask Anne Ball to draft a letter to the newspaper.

- 17.2 West Sussex Mediation Service – 5th Annual Report**
Members noted the report would be held in the Parish Office for their perusal.
- 17.3 Countryside Access Forum for West Sussex – Annual Report (April 2005 – March 2006)**
Members noted the report would be held in the Parish Office for their perusal.
- 17.4 NALC – Shaping Communities Conference – Delegate Booking Form**
Members noted the Conference was to be held on Tuesday 13th February 2007 in London. It was agreed the Conference should prove interesting and anyone who wished to attend would need to advise the Clerk.
- 17.5 Action in Rural Sussex – Request for contribution to the West Sussex Rural Mobile Youth Trust – The Purple Bus 2007/08**
Members agreed the Assistant Clerk should send out a grant aid application form.
- 17.6 Pulborough Community Partnership – Invitation to a Social Evening on Tuesday 12th December at the Sports and Social Club.**
Members received the invitation.
- 17.7 John Denison – Report on Train Horns & Footpaths plus Mr E Coles Reply**
Members received the report and Mr Denison was thanked for his hard work.
- 17.8 10 Letters of Thanks from Recipients of Discretionary Grants 2006**
Councillors were pleased to note the receipt of the letters of thanks.
- 17.9 Pulborough Duck Race**
Mrs Botting advised members of a request she had received from Mr Rob Aylott to hold the Duck Race on the Recreation Ground. After a brief discussion, it was agreed that permission should be granted.
- 18. URGENT MATTERS**
- 18.1** Mr Kiverstein referred to the letter all Councillors had received from Mr Leaver of the Mary Howe Trust concerning parking facilities for them on the Sports and Social car park. As the item had already been discussed at length, the Clerk was instructed to write to Mr Leaver, advising him that the Council regretted they were unable to allow parking for his staff.
- 18.2** Mrs Watson advised members the White Horse car park lights were on all night and were very bright. Mrs Barnett stated they shone straight in the eyes of motorists. The Clerk informed members that a letter had

already been sent to the landlord of the White Horse, who had not responded. It was agreed the Clerk should contact WSCC Highways and also check the original planning application to see whether there was any restriction on lighting in the car park.

- 18.3** Mr Denison reported that there were holes in the pedestrian railings on the bridge crossing the railway line on the A29. The Clerk was instructed to see that they were repaired.
- 18.4** Mr Denison asked whether the Council wished to save £190 by manning the closure of Nutbourne Common Recreation Ground footpath themselves. Mrs Botting stated she would prefer it done legally and Mr Kiverstein advised it would be a horrendous liability. It was agreed to pay WSCC for the closure.
- 18.5** Mrs Botting reported on the drainage work that needed doing at the Sports and Social Club. It was agreed the quotation from CJ Uden should be accepted and the work should go ahead as soon as possible.
- 18.6** Mrs Botting informed members that she had told the Social Club to go ahead with replacing three doors over three months ago and was not happy to see in their latest minutes that the Council were being blamed for not giving the go-ahead to install the new doors. Mrs Barnett agreed to speak to the Committee and instruct them to get the work done.

The meeting closed at 10.01 pm

..... Chairman

..... Date