

An ordinary meeting of Pulborough Parish Council was held at the Village Hall on Thursday 15th February 2007 at 7.30 p.m.

Present:

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

In attendance: Mr B Donnelly (from 9.05pm)
Mrs L Hoff - Parish Clerk
Miss C Ebers (County Times)
7 members of the public

16. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mr J Denison
Mrs A Lawson
Mrs P Arculus
Mr R Paterson
(Mr Donnelly had sent apologies, advising he would be late)

17. MINUTES

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 18th January 2007 of the full Council be noted and signed.

17.1 Full Council

Matters Arising

The Clerk advised members that Bryn Evans, HDC had visited the Parish Office and taken away the byelaws for completion.

The Clerk informed Councillors a letter had been sent to three pharmacies regarding the opening of a new outlet in Lower Street and had received no reply. A chasing letter had been sent to each of them and that will be followed with a telephone call next week.

Members were advised the missing barriers on the railway bridge were to be repaired by Network rail and the Clerk had the job number for reference.

The Clerk informed members she had copies of the invoices from Saunders and AES Electrical stating they were unable to find any fault with the wiring in the showers.

The Clerk advised Councillors that work had begun on the roof of the Sports and Social Club and CJ Uden were due to start repairing the drains that day.

Members were informed that following a new quotation from AON, which showed a large increase, the insurance for the Sports and Social Club was to be with Allianz Cornhill

The Clerk advised the Council that a reply to a letter was awaited from the new owners of Lane End requesting particulars of their contractors, who had caused damage to the bridleway and removed a bollard, allowing cars to use this as a short cut. A reply was also awaited from WSCC as damage had also been done to the drain in the bridleway, causing flooding.

The Clerk reported that Jim Leadbeatter, the Groundsman was repairing the damage done to the Recreation Ground by the Rugby Club driving vehicles onto it, which then became stuck. The Clerk had sent a letter to Barrie Feest of the Cricket Club, asking for names of whom he uses for such work, in order to obtain quotations but as yet, had received no reply. Mr Boulton suggested ringing Mr Feest at work and gave the contact details.

It was also reported the Rugby Club had been seen throwing goalposts out of their way, which had broken a goalpost. The Council decided the Rugby Club should be sent a bill for the repair, as it had been witnessed that there were enough players on hand to have lifted them out of the way. The Clerk was instructed to speak to Mr Leadbeatter to ascertain if they had had permission to play on that day.

17.2 Planning & Services Committee

The Council received the minutes of the meeting of the Planning & Services Committee held on 1st February 2007.

Matters Arising

Mrs Black stated she would raise the only matter arising under agenda item number 8.

Mr Kiverstein asked what had occurred with regard to the Indian bean tree, which had been felled. Mrs Black advised the Council the tree had not been in either a Conservation Area or an Area of Natural Beauty and therefore nothing could be done. There had not been a Tree Preservation Order on the tree, as it was so beautiful, it had been thought no one would want to cut it down.

THE Clerk was instructed to commission Phil Williams, the tree warden, to do a survey of the big trees in Lower Street, to suggest which ones needed a Tree Preservation Order placed on them.

17.3 Recreation and Open Spaces

The Council received the minutes of the meeting of the Recreation and Open Spaces Committee held on 25th January 2007.

Matters Arising

The Clerk reported that the signs for the Sports and Social Club Car Park, the MSF and the dog fouling notices for Nutbourne Common had been ordered from Storrington Signs.

Councillors were advised that Mark Weston, the sign designer had taken the old Nutbourne Recreation Sign to replicate and would supply a post.

The Clerk informed the Council BT had been contacted regarding the rent due for placing two of their telegraph poles on Parish Council land by Nutbourne Common but as yet, no reply had been received.

Mrs Barnett reported the first meeting of the Nutbourne Common Recreation Ground sub-Committee had taken place and had been interesting.

Mr Ampstead asked if, in future, the Minutes could give reference to what a public speaker had said, even though they were not minuted, due to the meeting being adjourned for public speaking. It had been difficult on this occasion, as the public speaking usually refers to an agenda item and there had been no agenda for the sub-Committee meeting. The Clerk agreed this would be done in future.

Mr Kiverstein advised members the gates for both recreation grounds were now awaiting collection from his property. The Clerk confirmed that Shane Keen, the gate erector, had been contacted by the Assistant Clerk and would be installing them the following week. Mrs Barnett instructed the Assistant Clerk to ask Shane Keen to erect some fencing to close the gaps on either side of the gate at Nutbourne Common Recreation Ground.

She also asked the Clerk to ascertain from HDC how much a dog bin would cost to install. Mrs Botting stated one was required in Old Rectory Lane and Mrs Barnett informed the Council the dog bin near the Bowling Green had disappeared.

Mrs Botting told Councillors there was a green rubbish bin in the bushes down Barnhouse Lane and Mr Boulton informed them the green bin, which had been thrown in the stream next to Harwoods, had been rescued by Staff at Harwoods and was awaiting collection. The Clerk was instructed to inform HDC accordingly.

18. Public Speaking

There were no public speakers.

19. Presentation by Cllr. Ampstead on the meetings held with the Sports Clubs.

Cllr Ampstead told Councillors that a report of his presentation to the Recreation and Open Spaces Committee was in the Minutes for that

Committee dated 25th January 2007 and so he would only give a brief summary.

He stated the present complex was a series of “add-ons” and nowhere near the standard required for a 21st century sports facility.

All Clubs had agreed that improved bar facilities were required, with a separate entrance so that sportsmen did not have to walk through the bar. They had all wanted to see improved toilet and shower facilities, male and female changing rooms and better amenities for the officials. The Bowls Club had requested a separate room for entertaining visiting teams and this would also be used by the Cricket Club.

Mrs Botting stated that Mr Boulton had done a brilliant job running the Social Club under difficult circumstances.

The Council backed Mr Ampstead who stated the best option was to demolish and rebuild. He expected this to cost in the region of £1.5 million.

After a lengthy discussion, it was agreed that Mr Ampstead should approach some Sports Hall designers for quotations. Mrs Botting proposed some of the funds set aside for the Sports Hall should be used for this purpose and this was seconded by Mr Noble. The Council RESOLVED any spending should first go through the Finance and Policy Committee for approval.

Mrs Black asked Councillors if she could approach HDC to have the ceiling lowered in the Arun Hall to save money on the electricity used heating the roof void and the Clerk was instructed to add this to the Planning and Services Committee agenda for 1st March.

20. “Becoming a Councillor”

Members discussed the issue at length and asked the Clerk to investigate how they could reduce the number of Councillors required from 15 to 12.

Mr Ampstead questioned how they could inspire residents to become Councillors. Mrs Botting stated she would approach two people she knew who had, in the past, expressed an interest and Mr Ampstead and Mrs Watson said they would be happy to attend the Farmers market to hand out leaflets and speak to shoppers.

Mr Noble reminded members they needed 80% of Councillors to stand for election before they could become a Quality Council. As of 2011, it would be 100%.

Mrs Botting suggested this item be raised on the next agenda to give Councillors time to (come up with) more ideas on this topic.

21. Concreting the Ground outside the Sports and Social Club

Members were asked to accept the recommendation of the Recreation and Open Spaces Committee that the quotation of KJ Plastering be accepted for concreting the ground outside the Sports and Social Club.

It was proposed by Mr Ampstead and seconded by Mr Kiverstein.

The motion was carried unanimously.

22. Planning and Services Meetings

Mrs Black explained to the Council that any planning applications received after the agenda had been posted on the noticeboards but before the meeting the following week were being held over until the next agenda, so that members of the public would have the opportunity to speak about them. HDC were advised they were to be held over but it had come to the notice of Mrs Black that this were being ignored and in many instances, HDC was making decisions without receiving the comments of Pulborough Parish Council. This was causing the Planning and Services Committee members some anxiety and so she proposed that an extra meeting be held each month immediately before full Council, to discuss just these applications. It was agreed unanimously that this was a good idea and Mrs Botting asked that the envelopes containing details of an early meeting should be marked in red to alert Committee members.

Mrs Black then informed Council that the Committee had previously made a strong objection against the demolition of 60 Lower Street, which is a Conservation Area and yet HDC had recommended approval. The Clerk was instructed to complain directly to Tom Crowley, the Chief Executive at HDC concerning the fact the Planning and Services Committee's recommendations were so often ignored when it was a contentious issue. Mr Kiverstein reminded members that Quality Council status would let the Committee have delegated powers for uncontentious planning and would raise the standing of the Council with regard to other decisions.

23. Revised Model Code of Conduct for Local Authority Members

Mr Ampstead took the document to study and informed members the Society of Local Councils felt there was nothing unreasonable in the document. The Clerk was also instructed to read the document to be able to advise Councillors. Mr Ampstead pointed out it was the responsibility of individual Councillors to declare interests and it was agreed to ensure the Register of Interests book was updated annually.

24. Annual Parish Meeting

The Council was asked to discuss who should be approached to be a guest speaker at the Parish Meeting. After a brief debate, it was decided the Clerk should approach Beverley Turner to ascertain whether she would speak about the HDC Community Strategy. If she

was unable to attend, the Clerk would ask for a representative of the RSPB to do a presentation.

25. Additional Items for the Full Council

Nick Herbert MP

Members were asked to note that Nick Herbert MP would like to hold regular meetings with the Chairman of Parish Councils within his constituency. Mrs Botting agreed to attend a meeting if it was a group of Parish Council Chairmen and not one-to-one. The Clerk was instructed to arrange this.

Pulborough Police Station

Mrs Botting informed members that a friend of hers had gone to the police station to make a report about trouble with children misbehaving in Nuthatch and had been turned away and sternly told not to knock on the door. Councillors were asked to note the police station is not open to the public but there is a yellow phone on the front wall, which will take people directly through to Control Centre. Anyone wishing to show documents must attend either Horsham or Steyning police stations.

26. Payments

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

Viking Direct	£116.93
SLCC	£223.25
L Hoff	£26.00
Sussex Sheds	£259.80
Southern Water	£241.28
Southern Water	£17.31

It was agreed that in future, payments would be the last item on the agenda.

27. DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Mr Donnelly arrived at 9.05pm, just in time to give the District Councillors' report, as he had come straight from a meeting with Coldwaltham Parish Council.

He reported the budget was the biggest issue at HDC at the moment and the District Council were hoping to keep it as low as possible.

Mr Donnelly then advised members he had attended the Planning Obligations Panel Meeting on 13th February 2007. Pulborough Traders request for £2036 for signage had been approved. Pulborough Cricket Club had asked for £8106 for covers, which had been approved and £3000 for a sightscreen, which was declined.

The Pulborough Local Action Team had met on 14th February 2007 and there had been 15 attendees including Neville Warner, the PCSO. Mr

Donnelly reported there had been complaints about the usual youths in Rectory lane and the "rat run" traffic counting device had not been installed due to a nervous lady, who was afraid they would be torn up and thrown through her window. He also advised members that the Youth Club was going well and the Neighbourhood Warden Scheme had been mentioned. He had informed the LAT members that Billingshurst had dropped the idea and for Pulborough, it would increase the precept considerably. He had also told the LAT group to report all street lighting that was not working, to the Parish Office.

28. REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

Mrs Barnett reported she had met with Phil Williams, the tree warden, as he had received a grant from Shady Places, for the Parish Council, to enable them to plant some extra trees on their land. It had been suggested the trees should be planted on the Cousins Way Recreation Ground and Mr Williams had negotiated a special rate with New Place Nurseries. The Council was asked to fund the purchase of the stakes and this was RESOLVED unanimously.

Mrs Botting informed members she had represented the Parish Council when a delegation from the French village of Claville had visited Pulborough on Saturday 10th February 2007. It had been arranged by Pulborough Community Partnership through Action in Rural Sussex and the agenda for the day had been organised by Rob Aylott. Mrs Botting stated he had done a very good job.

Mr Ampstead said it was to try to understand the issues of small rural towns in the UK and France but it was going no further as Pulborough was to big a community. He advised members the group who the delegates had met were all invited to the Annual Farmers market in Claville, which was a large affair.

29. CORRESPONDENCE

29.1 St Mary's Bellringers

Members received a letter of thanks from the bellringers.

29.2 Willmers of Pulborough

Members noted the reply from Mr Willmer to the Clerk's letter advising him the Parish Council were not responsible for the choice of Christmas lights or the date of the Open Evening. Copied to Councillors.

29.3 Mrs Biddy Hutcheson

Councillors were pleased to receive a letter from Mrs Hutcheson thanking them for the payment for her electricity, used to light the large Fir tree during December 2006 and stating this service could be used next Christmas.

29.4 HDC – LDF Core Strategy: Adoption

Members noted the final document was to be held in the Parish Office.

29.5 Paul Addison – WSCC Highways

Councillors noted Mr Addison was concerned about other parties being invited along to meetings between himself and Councillors.

29.6 Standards Board

Members noted the request for the Clerk and one Councillor to complete a survey for the Standards Board. Mrs Watson volunteered to complete the form on behalf of the Council.

29.7 Pulborough Bowling Club

The Council was pleased to receive a letter of thanks for the grant aid given to the Bowling Club towards the purchase of three sets of woods for use by young people.

30. URGENT MATTERS

There were no urgent matters raised by Councillors.

The meeting closed at 9.42 pm

..... Chairman

..... Date