

An ordinary meeting of Pulborough Parish Council was held at the Village Hall on Thursday 19th April 2007 at 7.30 p.m.

Present:

Mrs J Botting (Chairman)	Mr L Ampstead
Mrs C Barnett	Mr D Boulton
Mr J Denison	Mr I Kiverstein
Mrs A Lawson	Mr J Noble
Mrs K Watson	

In attendance: Mrs P Arculus
Mr B Donnelly
Mr R Paterson
Mrs L Hoff - Parish Clerk

45. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mrs H Black

46. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

47. MINUTES

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 15th March 2007 of the full Council be noted and signed.

47.1 Full Council

Matters Arising

The Clerk advised that WSCC Highways have allocated job number 251636 to the work to be done on the ditch in the bridleway outside Lane End. They intend to do "rodding and draining" but are unable to start until EDF Energy complete their work on that site.

The Clerk informed members that the agreement for any pay increase for officers was likely to take a few months. As it had been resolved to give all staff the same wage percent increase, Mr Ampstead proposed a 2% interim rise. This was seconded by Mr Kiverstein and passed unanimously.

Mr Kiverstein asked whether there was any progress in replacing Cordens with another pharmacy. The Clerk informed the Council that Ann Hart from Lloyds Pharmacy was to attend the Parish Meeting on 17 May 2007, to tell the public of their plans to open a pharmacy in Lower Street. They were unable to apply for a licence until Cordens had a definite moving date. Mr Paterson advised members that the Co-op was also interested.

47.2 Planning & Services Committee

The Council received the minutes of the meetings of the Planning & Services Committee held on 15th March and 29th March 2007.

Matters Arising

The Clerk informed Councillors of the damage done to the surface of the play area at the Recreation Ground and advised that ARD Ltd were to treat the repair as an emergency. The Clerk had also reported the vandalism to the Police and had a crime number allocated. It was agreed an insurance claim should be made on completion of the work.

The Clerk was instructed to contact the Enforcement Officer at HDC, following Mrs Black's comments on the living arrangements at 89 Lower Street. Parsons Field, Pickhurst Lane was also to be mentioned as there was now definite evidence that someone was living on the property.

47.3 Recreation and Open Spaces

The Council received the minutes of the meeting of the Recreation and Open Spaces Committee held on 22nd March 2007.

Matters Arising

The Clerk advised she has met Mark Whitwell, who replaced Shirley Stone at WSCC Highways, two weeks ago. He has visited Nutbourne and is treating the repair of the potholes in that area as top priority. He had also arranged that the Highway Rangers should come to repair the bridge in Pocket Park and remove the silt from the stream. It was noted they had already done some work to the verges in Glebelands.

Mrs Barnett reported from the Advisory Committee that all the clubs were doing well.

The Clerk informed Councillors that a letter had been sent to Margaret Halliwell at Saxon Weald concerning the lighting in the footpath behind the Moat, stating there was an electricity supply nearby and was awaiting a response.

Mrs Barnett advised members the trees had been planted in Cousins Way Recreation Ground.

The ownership of F2432 leading to Nutbourne Common Recreation Ground was discussed at length and it was agreed the Clerk should write to the 6th Marquess of Abergavenny, requesting permission for maintenance vehicles to have access to the Common.

48. Public Speaking

There were no public speakers.

49. SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB PAVILION UPDATE

Mr Ampstead passed around plans drawn up by Jerram Falkus based on the requirements of the Sports and Social Club users, advising members that he had received no costings as yet. He suggested that more would be known after the meeting three Councillors were having

with Paul Rowley and Chris Carey at HDC on Tuesday 24th April 2007, concerning positioning of the new building and whether any Parish Council owned land could be used to help fund the project.

He also advised members that he was close to forming a sub-Committee, which would be a working group and must be prepared to do more than just decision-making. It was noted that Nick Cousins from the Cricket Club had volunteered to be on the sub-Committee.

50. MEETING WITH PAUL ADDISON, WSCC HIGHWAYS

Mrs Botting reported she had met with Paul Addison on 16th April 2007 and he had agreed to attend the Parish Meeting to listen to the public's concerns over traffic issues. He was to bring comment sheets along to the meeting for residents to complete.

He had also informed Mrs Botting that designs for slowing traffic near the school entrance were underway.

Councillors then discussed the new roundabout near Sainsbury's, which had opened earlier that day, having taken 5 months to construct. It was reported that a Dutch lorry had already become stuck there and it had taken the driver 10 minutes to get out of difficulty. Mr Ampstead stated it was proving dangerous for pedestrians trying to cross. Mrs Arculus agreed to check whether the correct measurements had been used in building the roundabout.

51. ANNUAL MEETINGS

The proposed agenda for the forthcoming Annual Meeting of the Council on 10th May 2007 was discussed and it was agreed to add the adoption of the new Code of Conduct.

The contents of the forthcoming Annual Parish Meeting on 17th May 2007 were then discussed. It was noted that Ann Hart from Lloyds Pharmacy and John Mills from WSCC Historic Environment Department were guest speakers. The Clerk was instructed to ask Neville Warner, the PCSO to give a presentation. Parking issues were also to be included on the agenda.

52. VACANCIES ON THE PARISH COUNCIL

Members were disappointed to note that no new nominees had stood for election, despite there often being criticism aimed at the Parish Council from residents and other local groups.

The Clerk was instructed to contact Charlie Ebers at the County Times to request she include an editorial on the apathy of Pulborough residents, to see whether anyone would come forward to serve on the Parish Council.

53. ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR THE FULL COUNCIL

53.1 Snack Wagon

Members noted that the Snack wagon will be in Pulborough every Thursday from 7pm for three hours, for the next seven weeks. Posters were distributed and Councillors agreed to display them in various locations.

53.2 SEERA Regional Housing Strategy

Members studied the document and agreed they were not qualified to complete the review.

53.3 Pulborough Traders' Group

Councillors received a copy of the summary of the application of s106 funding that the Traders' Group were discussing with HDC. This required endorsement from the Parish Council and after a lengthy discussion, Mr Kiverstein proposed that the Council should back the traders' application and this was seconded by Mrs Botting. The Councillors voted unanimously to pass the motion.

53.4 The New Gate at the Recreation Ground

Mrs Botting had previously seen two young boys swinging on the new gate at the Recreation Ground. The Clerk had investigated and found it to be bolted and padlocked but it was possible to lift it open, as the concrete holding in the bolt was well worn. It was suggested that John Dudman, a semi-retired builder might be willing to do the repairs.

53.5 Hole in the Fence in Wire Netting on the Recreation Ground

The Clerk reported a hole in the fence backing onto Chestnut Walk. It was again suggested that John Dudman may be willing to do the repairs.

53.6 Damaged stile – Land behind Rivermead

The Clerk advised that the stile behind Rivermead had the top wooden bar sawn through to allow bicycles through. It was large enough to allow cows through the other way. Mr Boulton informed members he would be seeing John Dudman at the weekend and would ask him to contact the Clerk to see whether he would be able to undertake all these repairs to Parish Council property.

54. DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Mrs Arculus reported on a recent meeting of the Chanctonbury (LC) and advised members the Parish Plans were always taken into consideration when making any decisions. She also informed the Council that the Nutbourne speed limits, as requested by residents, would come into force in the summer. She stated the next round was to install a speed limit on the road from Dyke Farm to Nutbourne.

Mrs Botting asked Mrs Watson if she would be the Council's representative for the Pulborough Design Statement, which was being led by the Pulborough Community Partnership. Mrs Watson agreed.

Mr Donnelly stated he had been unable to attend the recent Local Action Team meeting but was disappointed to see how tactless the minutes were with regard to the work of the Parish Council and had found three points of misrepresentation. Mrs Botting and Mrs Barnett stated they no longer attend LAT meetings for this reason.

The Clerk was instructed to write to Mr Jones, inviting members of the LAT to join the Parish Council, as their interest in Pulborough had now passed that of an action group.

55. REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

No representatives had anything to report.

56. CORRESPONDENCE

56.1 Copy of letter from Laurie Ellis to the Editor, County Times

The Councillors were pleased to note the comments of Mr Ellis, thanking them for their support in persuading WSCC to have the footpath between the Railway Station and Church Place resurfaced.

56.2 Rydon Homes

Members received a letter from Rydon Homes, advising they had submitted their plans for Oddstones and would welcome the opportunity to revisit the Council in order to run through their proposals and answer any questions. The Clerk was instructed to arrange this and request that up-to-date plans were produced for the Council's perusal.

56.3 Copy of Danny Flynn's £10,000,000 Public Liability Insurance

Councillors noted Mr Flynn's Public Liability Insurance.

56.4 Letter to the Clerk from Mr & Mrs G Reed and Mr A Leach of Swan View, complaining about the Chairman's behaviour and the Clerk's reply.

Members noted the contents of the letter from Mr & Mrs Reed and Mr Leach of Swan View, wrongly accusing the Council of "corrupt misuse of Parish funds" and the Chairman of various misdemeanours, all unfounded. They also noted the Clerk's reply, setting the record straight and requesting an apology on behalf of the Chairman, as yet, not received. Copied to Councillors.

56.5 HDC Solicitor's Department s106 contribution for 60 Lower Street

Members received notification of a memorandum from the Solicitor's Department concerning the Community Facilities Contribution in respect of 60 Lower Street. Copied to Councillors.

56.6 Freda Fowler, HDC

Councillors received copies of the letter and illustrations sent to WSCC for consent to erect four signs that Cllr. Roger Paterson had designed for the village.

57. URGENT MATTERS

Mr Ampstead requested WSCC be instructed to remove the various Cobbetts Mews signs from around the village as this development was completed five years ago. The Clerk was instructed to notify WSCC and copy in Mrs Arculus.

Mr Denison noted that Neville Warner, PCSO had decided to cancel his future surgeries due to lack of interest. Mr Denison felt he should go ahead with those in April and May, as they had been advertised in the Parish Council newsletter. This would mean residents could not complain that they could never speak to a policeman, if they did not take this opportunity.

Mrs Barnett was disappointed that the hedges outside Court House and the property at the end of Potts Lane had still not been cut back. The Clerk was instructed to request that WSCC Highways contact the owners to get his done. The Clerk was also to ascertain when the signs for Monkey Hill and the Twitten would be erected by HDC.

58. Payments

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

DJ Flynn	£881.25
Mark Weston	£205.00
Maudesport	£29.96
Wightman & Parrish	£25.94
Travis Perkins	£21.41
WSCC	£362.08
Staff Wages	£1811.39

The meeting closed at 10.03 pm

..... Chairman

..... Date

