

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

Present:

Mrs J Botting (Chairman)	Mrs H Black
Mr D Boulton	Mr J Denison
Mr L Ellis	Mr I Kiverstein
Mrs A Lawson	Mr J Noble
Mrs K Watson	

In attendance: Mr B Donnelly
Mr R Paterson
Mrs L Hoff - Parish Clerk
1 Member of the Public

21. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr L Ampstead and Mrs C Barnett

22. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

23. MINUTES

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 21st June 2007 of the full Council be noted and signed.

23.1 Full Council

Matters Arising

The Clerk reported that a quotation was awaited for fencing Nutbourne Common Recreation Ground from Richard Jones Fencing.

The Clerk informed members that Quaife Woodland only do tree surveys; they do not do tree surgery. Three tree surgeons had been contacted thrice for quotations and the Clerk was awaiting their replies. It was suggested that Storrington Sawmills may be worth contacting.

23.2 Planning & Services Committee

The Council received the minutes of the meetings of the Planning & Services Committee held on 21st June 2007 and 5th July 2007.

Matters Arising

The Clerk informed Councillors that a letter had been sent to the editor of the Horsham and District Guide 2007/2008, complaining about the poor editorial concerning Pulborough. A reply was awaited.

In answer to a question from a member, the District Councillors advised that the planning meeting concerning Church Place had not yet gone ahead but HDC would take note of the Parish Council's request for a full archaeological survey.

23.3 Recreation and Open Spaces Committee

The Council received the minutes of the meetings of the Recreation and Open Spaces Committee held on 12th April 2007 and 31st May 2007.

Matters Arising

The Clerk advised members that a photograph of some Councillors, Parish Council officers and members of the public had been taken by the County Times, to advertise the imminent closure of the Post Office.

The Clerk reported that a quotation had been received from EDF Energy with regard to the erection of a lamppost in the footpath adjacent to 11 The Moat. This was due to be discussed at the next meeting of the Recreation and Open Spaces Committee.

Quotations had also been obtained for railings on the bridge at Pocket Park and these would also be discussed at the next meeting of the Recreation and Open Spaces Committee.

Members were advised there was to be an informal meeting between the Chairman of Recreation and Open Spaces, the Clerk and the allotment holders. The ex-Assistant Clerk had offered to attend and was thanked by the Council.

The Clerk was asked when the concreting at the Sports and Social Club would go ahead. Mr Boulton informed members that Kevin Underwood had promised to do the work but had other commitments cropping up whilst he was waiting for the weather to clear.

The Clerk reported that Public Rights of Way were writing to the owners of Scrase Farms to remind them the large lorries using the bridleway to get to their farms must give way to other users of the lane. Eddie Hughes, the HDC Enforcement Officer had also been approached but was unable to help. The Clerk was instructed to write to Mrs Scrase, requesting that part of the field next to the lane used by the huge lorries, be designated an alternative bridleway.

The Council RESOLVED that the Clerk should sign and return the contract for S106 funding to HDC.

23.4 Finance and Policy Committee

The Council noted that the meeting of the Finance & Policy Committee, due to be held on 14th June 2007, had been cancelled, so there were no minutes to receive.

24. Public Speaking

There were no public speakers.

25. SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB PAVILION UPDATE

Mr Ampstead was unable to attend the meeting, so there was no update on the progress of the rebuilding of the Sports and Social Club.

26. MEETING WITH PAUL ADDISON, WSCC HIGHWAYS

The minutes for the meeting held on 16th July 2007 had only just been emailed to the Parish Office. It was RESOLVED to discuss the meeting even though the item was not on the agenda.

Mr Addison had reported that the Safety Audit had recommended street lighting be installed for safety reasons to show up the proposed new pedestrian crossing, to be sited between the new roundabout and the railway bridge. However, the developers had refused to fund it and s106 monies would be needed. The effect of the additional lighting would be to extend the urbanisation of the village and to be effective, the existing tree canopy would need to be reduced. It appeared that the lighting required would be as on a motorway. The Council AGREED to let Paul Addison know that it was opposed to the pedestrian crossing being sited there and refused to let any s106 funding be used, as it was only due to the development that a crossing was needed.

However, it was noted that new lighting would solve the problem of lighting Sopers Cottages.

27. CO-OPTION OF NEW COUNCILLORS

The Chairman of the Finance and Policy Committee advised members that the co-option of new Councillors had been discussed at their meeting of 12th July 2007. It was found that Councillors had been advised unwisely and the current Standing Orders were correct for the co-opting of new members.

Mr Howard Barrett and Mr Peter Lee were questioned by the Council and then asked to leave the room. After a brief discussion, members voted both gentlemen onto the Council. They were both elected to serve on the Recreation and Open Spaces Committee. Mr Barrett was also asked to represent the Council at meetings of the Horsham Association of Local Councils.

28. APPROVAL OF ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

The Chairman of the Finance and Policy Committee took the Council through the Annual Accounts. He stated that the internal auditor had found no discrepancies. Members were asked to approve the signing of the Accounts. The motion was proposed by Mr Boulton and seconded by Mrs Black and the Accounts were signed by the Chairman of the Parish Council and the Responsible Finance Officer.

The Chairman of Finance and Policy then asked the Council to approve the Annual governance statement, which was then signed by the Chairman of the Council and the Clerk.

A Councillor asked how much work the book-keeper did for the Pulborough partnership and asked whether the Parish Council still needed to pay for the book-keeper's services for the PCP. Mr Kiverstein agreed to speak to the book-keeper to see how much work was involved. Mrs Black stated she would attend their next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8.50pm to ask questions of a member of the public concerning the Duck Race. The motion for adjournment was proposed by Mrs Black and seconded by Mrs Watson.

The meeting was reconvened at 8.53pm.

Mrs Black asked members to join her in showing their appreciation for all the work done by Mr Kiverstein as Responsible Finance Officer.

29. COMPARISON OF FIRST QUARTER EXPENDITURE AGAINST BUDGET

The Chairman of Finance and Policy advised members these figures were not yet ready.

30. BANK RECONCILIATION REPORTS FOR APRIL AND MAY 2007

The Chairman of Finance and Policy advised members these reports were for information only.

31. REPAIRS TO WATER SEWER- RECREATION GROUND

Members received the quotation from CJ Uden for repairs to the surface water sewer and noted that a representative of HDC had an appointment with Mr Leadbeater, the Groundsman to see if the pipes belonged to the District Council. It was agreed to do nothing until the ownership was ascertained.

33. SOCIETY OF LOCAL COUNCIL CLERKS _ REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Members agreed that the Clerk should attend the Regional Conference and suggested the new Councillors may wish to accompany her for training purposes. It was noted the Conference was on the 24th November 2007 and new Councillors were asked to advise the Clerk should they wish to attend.

34. FURTHER CO-OPTION OF A NEW COUNCILLOR

Mr Peter Reeve was invited to join the meeting. He had been delayed whilst travelling.

He was questioned briefly and then asked to leave the room.

After a short discussion, Mr Reeve was voted onto the Council.

35. PULBOROUGH CRICKET CLUB – LICENCE TO PLAY

The Councillors discussed the recommendation of the Recreation and Open Spaces Committee that the Cricket Club should be offered a seven-year rolling lease. This was because there may be a short period when there would be no clubhouse. There were worries it may jeopardise the Cricket Club's ability to acquire grants and so the Clerk was instructed to stress that if there were any problems with external bodies, they could be referred to the Council.

36. HDC – MAKING SCRUTINY AND OVERVIEW WORK

Members received the document and agreed the item they would like to put before the Scrutiny and Overview Panel was the allocation of Section 106 monies.

37. CHOOSING COUNCILLORS TO BE “CHAMPIONS” FOR VARIOUS PROJECTS

Mr. Ampstead had requested that each project have one Councillor nominated to be point of contact for information and it should be their responsibility to pass on any relevant details.

The following members were chosen to be the champions:-

Mr. Ampstead – New Sports Hall

Mr. Denison – Pocket Park and the Pulborough Community Partnership

Mrs. Botting – Lower Street

The Recreation and Open Spaces Committee were asked to choose the champion for Nutbourne Common Recreation Ground.

It was felt that closer links should be built between the Parish Council and the PCP. Mr Denison and Mrs Black agreed to attend the meeting of the PCP on 24th July 2007 to formally put forward the idea of a closer working relationship.

38. ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR FULL COUNCIL

38.1 Cost of Byelaw Signs

The members noted the Recreation and Open Spaces request for five byelaws signs at approximately £110 each.

38.2 Brighton and Hove Albion

Councillors were pleased to agree to Brighton and Hove Albion holding a children's coaching day on the Recreation Ground on Friday 24th August 2007.

38.3 Clerks' Networking Day

Members received the report from the Clerks' networking day and noted this had been discussed at length at the last meeting of the Finance and Policy Committee and would be on the next full Council agenda.

38.4 WSCC Highways

The Council were pleased to agree to an “Ambulances only” lay-by outside Allfrey Platt. The Clerk was instructed to confirm this with Mike Horton of WSCC, Highways Department.

38.5 Request from a Councillor for the Parish Council to support the Appeal concerning the Closure of Local Hospitals

Members agreed to support Mr Ellis with his aim to contact other parish councils, prior to the public meeting with the Primary Care Trust to be held in Pulborough on 1st October 2007. Mr Ellis wanted to see a co-ordinated approach from the Councils. It was suggested this could be organised through the Horsham Association of Local Councils.

38.6 Proposal for a Possible Means of Providing Transport to the Medical Centre

Mr Ellis advised members Gill Boys of Pulborough Community Transport was willing to provide a service to take residents of the Lower Street area to the new medical centre. After a brief discussion, it was agreed to wait until the medical centre had opened to see which would be the best plan to implement.

39. DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Cllr. Paterson advised members that WSCC were preparing a plan to make Lower Street more inviting, which would then attract new shops into the area. There would be a public consultation in September.

Cllr. Donnelly stated that the police in Horsham had not found 24-hour drinking to be a great disaster. Instead there was no longer the peak at 11.00pm when all the public houses closed at the same time. He said it was too early to see if any problems would occur following the smoking ban.

40. REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS

Mr Ellis reported that the Pulborough Local Action Team was looking forward to better co-operation between themselves and the Parish Council now that he was the Council's representative on LAT.

41. CORRESPONDENCE

41.1 Mrs Jean Seagrim

Members receive a letter of thanks from Mrs Seagrim following the Council's congratulations on her recent award.

41.2 Village Hall Trustees

The Council noted the contents of a letter from the Trustees concerning the No Smoking policy in the Village Hall.

41.3 Invitation to attend a seminar to raise awareness of the objectives of the Royal British Legion

Members received an invitation to attend a seminar on 19th September 2007. Unfortunately, although the Council was aware of the splendid work done by the Royal British legion, no one was free to attend the seminar.

41.4 Post Office

Members noted the contents of two letters announcing the temporary closure of the Post Office in Lower Street. Copied to Councillors.

41.5 South Downs Society.

Councillors received a letter from the South Downs Society asking for support in keeping parts of the South Downs designated Areas of Natural Beauty. Copied to Councillors.

42. URGENT MATTER RAISED BY COUNCILLORS

.There were no urgent matters.

43. PAYMENTS

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

NRG Group	£255.03
HALC	£15.00
EDF Energy	£87.54
Baltic	£31.88
Candela	£259.97
WSCC	£339.86
Staff Wages	£2159.57

The meeting closed at 10.19 pm

..... Chairman

..... Date