

PULBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL
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MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF PULBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY 20th September 2007
AT THE VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: Cllr Mrs Botting (Chairman), Cllrs Barrett, Mrs Black, Boulton, Denison, Ellis, Mrs Lawson, Noble, Reeve, Mrs Roberts, Mrs Watson.

IN ATTENDANCE: Cllr Donnelly (District Councillor), Mrs L Hoff (Clerk) and 2 members of the public.

The meeting opened at 7.00pm

65. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. Mrs Barnett, Kiverstein, Lee and Cllr Paterson (District Councillor).

66. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

67. PRESENTATION BY PHIL MONTGOMERY, HDC ON EMERGENCY PLANNING

The meeting was adjourned at 7.01pm for a presentation by Phil Montgomery, HDC.

Mr Montgomery gave very good advice on setting up an emergency contingency plan and offered further help when an emergency committee has been elected.

The Chairman thanked Mr Montgomery for giving up his time to advise the Council and assured him he would be called upon for further assistance at a later date.

The meeting reconvened at 7.27pm

The Chairman welcomed new Councillor, Mrs Roberts to the meeting and informed members that regrettably, Cllr Ampstead had resigned, due to the difficulty in being a Councillor and a member of the Community Partnership. The Chairman thanked him, in his absence, for all his hard work and members agreed he would be missed.

The news he was to be a member of the new Pavilion Working Party was received with much relief.

68. MINUTES

The Council **RESOLVED** to agree and approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 16th August 2007 as a true and accurate record of the proceedings and the Chairman signed them.

69.1 FULL COUNCIL

Matters Arising

The Clerk advised that the graffiti had been removed from the bus shelter opposite the White Horse Inn.

Members were informed that Geoff Ponting had been contacted twice since the last meeting and had promised to get the Polycomp engineer to repair the electronic sign. The Chairman recommended the Clerk waste no more time on chasing Polycomp.

The Chairman suggested all Councillors should visit the new play equipment at the Mason's Way play area, as SMP Playgrounds had done a very good job of installing the apparatus.

The Chairman asked when the byelaws signs were to be erected and was advised that some of the notices were up, including the sign for Nutbourne Common Recreation Ground, which had received one complaint.

The Chairman asked for an update on the drains in the car park and was informed they had been jetted and it was found that one was completely broken. Kevin Underwood had been asked to supply a quotation to Cllr Boulton. The Clerk advised three other drainage engineers had been approached but as yet, no quotations had been received.

The Clerk was asked whether the willows overgrowing onto Cousin's way Recreation Ground had been cut back and replied that they had.

The Clerk advised members that a letter of complaint had been sent to Thompsons over the repairing of the ruts on the Recreation Ground, as large stones had been used, which was unacceptable where sports were played. No reply had been received. As HDC had recommended Thompsons, the Clerk was instructed to write to parks Department to advise them of the Council's disappointment.

Cllr Donnelly arrived at 7.42pm

The Chairman gave a brief update on progress with the new pavilion. It was agreed a Working Party comprising Cllrs. Mrs Botting, Mrs Barnett and Cllr Boulton, Mr Ampstead and Mr Cousins should meet with HDC on a monthly basis.

69.2 PLANNING & SERVICES COMMITTEE

The Council received the Minutes of the Meetings of the Planning & Services Committee held on 16th August and 6th September 2007.

Matters Arising

The Clerk reported the pedestrian crossing shown on Tesco's planning application were not part of the agreed plans and so no further action would be taken.

The Clerk advised a meeting had been arranged between Mark Whitwell of WSCC Highways, a representative of EP Clark and Cllr Barrett at Chestnut Walk, to look at the storm drain leading from the Recreation Ground. It is possible that the problem of the blocked storm drain occurs in Chestnut Walk, which may mean WSCC would have to do the work.

The Chairman stated she had put notices all over the village, advising residents of the location of Post Offices in neighbouring villages and the times of buses to get there. Members were informed the Community Bus took passengers to West Chilton Post Office every Tuesday at 11.15am and every Wednesday at 4.15pm. The Clerk was instructed to put up a notice in the Village Hall to that effect.

69.3 FINANCE & POLICY COMMITTEE

The Council received the Minutes of the Meetings of the Finance and Policy Committee held on 12th July and 9th August 2007.

As Cllr Kiverstein, the Chairman of the Finance and Policy Committee, was unable to attend the meeting, the Chairman suggested that any queries regarding the minutes be held over.

The Clerk reported that the work for the periodical inspection on the Pavilion had been completed by AES Electrical and advertisements for an Assistant Clerk had been placed in the newsletter and on noticeboards, with one response so far.

70. ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC SPEAKING

There were no members of the public who had given notice of wishing to speak.

71. MEETING WITH PAUL ADDISON, WSCC HIGHWAYS

The Chairman reported that Paul Addison was annoyed at a letter received by the Parish Council stating the traffic calming measures would be included in the following year's budget. He confirmed the work would go ahead in the October 2007 half-term or by the end of the financial year, at the latest. A new traffic island had been included in the scheme, which would cost an extra £7000.

Members were also advised that those residents living in side roads would be allowed to have a parking space in their front gardens, which should relieve congestion.

72. CO-OPTION OF A NEW COUNCILLOR

The Chairman reminded members there had been two candidates interviewed at the last meeting of full Council. She was pleased to report that Ray Queded had agreed to stand for co-option for the place left by the resignation of Cllr Ampstead. He was duly elected and asked by the Chairman to take his seat at the table. Cllr Queded had expressed a preference for serving on the Finance and Policy Committee. Cllr Mrs Watson asked whether she could resign from the Finance and Policy Committee and Cllr Queded take her place. The Councillors agreed to this request.

It was also RESOLVED to elect an Emergency Planning Committee at the next full Council meeting and all Councillors were asked to bring a list of what they could supply.

73. WISH LIST 2007/2008

The Chairman read out the achievements from the 2007/2008 Wish List, including the traffic calming outside St Mary's School, which was pending; the clearing of Nutbourne Common and the lighting in the footpath adjacent to the Moat, also pending and due for completion by mid October. The new Sports Pavilion was a top priority, as was the resurfacing of the Sports and Social Club car park. It was agreed work to the drains must be done first. The Clerk was instructed to obtain a quotation from Grab and Tip for a lorry to remove

the scrub and other debris, which was now taking up a large part of the car park.

It was reported that there was a gate from a local resident's garden onto the car park. The Clerk was also instructed to bring the land deeds for the Recreation ground to the next meeting, to show whether the gate was on Parish Council land.

It was noted that the cinder path had been resurfaced but a Councillor advised that a small group of volunteers clear the weeds and sweep the path. The Chairman thanked the volunteers and asked if this could continue, following the information given by a Councillor that a team of only four Railtrak staff were responsible for clearing weeds and brambles over a huge area of paths and lines owned by Railtrak.

The footbridge alongside the railway bridge was also thought to be a major priority.

The Chairman asked for any other suggestions and a Councillor asked whether further allotments could be considered. The Clerk reported there was a waiting list of 13, of which the top resident on the list had put their name down in September 2005. Members agreed that some of Cousin's Way recreation ground could be considered for allotments and the Clerk was instructed to ascertain whether planning permission for change of use would be required.

74. CHRISTMAS DINNER

The Councillors were asked to decide a venue for the Christmas Dinner to be held on 13th December 2007. After a brief discussion, it was agreed that the Chequers Hotel would be the choice and the Clerk was instructed to obtain a menu and make a booking for 20-25 guests.

75. COUNCILLORS' TRAINING SESSION

Members were advised that the Clerk was to run a training session for new Councillors on 15th October 2007 at the Parish Meeting room, starting at 7.30pm. Although aimed at new Councillors, all would be welcome. It was requested that the new Code of Conduct and Register of Interests be included, as well as Risk Assessments.

76. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Cllr Donnelly reported that inspectors had found the HDC Sites Specific plan to be sound.

He also reported that Development Control had rejected the planning application for four small retail outlets due to the fact there were empty shops in Lower Street, so it was thought to be unnecessary to build more.

Cllr Donnelly stated the fortnightly amenity truck, which was funded by WSCC, was being withdrawn. This had caused HDC displeasure.

77. REPRESENTATIVES

Cllr Ellis reported on a recent meeting of the Local Action team, which he had attended.

There had been incidences of young people firing ball bearing guns in Stane Street Close. If anyone called 999 to report someone was carrying a gun, an

armed response unit would have to attend and this could have disastrous results. Saxon Weald had agreed to contact all residents to warn of the dangers of children with airguns or Ball-bearing guns.

Cllr Ellis advised members a CCTV camera was to be installed in Lower Street, due to the number of empty shops.

He also advised there was a possible opening of the police station, to be manned by a team of 20 volunteers on a shift basis. The Local Action Team would promote this and Cllr Ellis was asked to provide an article asking for volunteers for the next newsletter.

He went on to report on the PCT proposals and to remind members of the meeting at the Village Hall on 29th October 2007. He asked the Council to put forward its views and was requested to draft a letter. Both Cllr Barrett and Cllr Ellis had attended a meeting of the Horsham Association of Local Councils and the Primary Care Trust, where a video of the new Medical Centre was shown as "the shape of things to come".

Cllr Donnelly said it was an excellent report but reminded Councillors not to lose sight of the fact that a more visible police presence was required.

Cllr Mrs Black reported on a meeting she attended with the Duck Race Committee. She had been the only Councillor to attend and was not even a member of the Recreation and Open Spaces Committee and had felt a disadvantage. They had offered their apologies for the damage caused to the Recreation Ground, caused by the vehicles that erected the scaffolding. It was also mentioned the Village needed an annual event but whether it should be the Duck Race or the Harvest Fayre would remain to be seen. Cllr Mrs Black had suggested a half-marathon as a good way of attracting people to the Village and raising money.

She had also attended the Pulborough Community partnership meeting, concerning the forthcoming Harvest Fayre. The Chairman stated it was a fantastic programme and should be supported by the Council. It was unfortunate that Rob Aylott, Cllr Paterson and Les Ampstead were all away and would miss it.

Cllr Mrs Botting advised members of a meeting she had attended with Les Ampstead and Cllr Paterson and Matthew Gittings and his consultant concerning the relocation of the vets' practice. Many sites had been suggested but it was thought the Toat Café would be the best solution.

78. CORRESPONDENCE

The Correspondence is attached to these Minutes as Appendix 1.

79. URGENT MATTERS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS

There were no urgent matters raised by Councillors.

80. PAYMENTS

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

DJ Flynn	£881.25
DJ Flynn	£323.12
Southern Water	£351.65
Southern Water	£648.32

Viking Direct	£20.27
Viking Direct	£62.44
Pulborough Social Centre	£60.00
JR Sports Turf Contractor	£383.00
Staff Wages	£2333.40
WSCC	£411.10
HMRC	£707.50
SLCC Enterprises	£141.00
FWAG	£42.00
SMP	£10,008.43
Primus	£12.17
Wightman & Parrish	£42.35
Horsham District Council	£265.00

The meeting closed at 9.21pm

.....Chairman

.....Date