

PULBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL
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MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF PULBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY 15th November 2007
AT THE VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: Cllr Mrs Barnett (Vice Chairman), Cllrs Barrett, Mrs Botting (from 7.30pm), Boulton (from 7.24pm), Ellis, Kiverstein, Mrs Lawson, Noble, Qusted, Reeve and Mrs Roberts.

IN ATTENDANCE: Cllrs. Mrs Arculus (County Councillor) (from 7.34pm), Donnelly (District Councillor), Paterson (District Councillor) (from 7.25pm) and Mrs L Hoff (Clerk).

The meeting opened at 7.05pm

97. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. Mrs Black, Denison and Mrs Watson. Mrs Botting had advised she would be late.

98. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

99. PRESENTATION BY PCSO NEVILLE WARNER ON CRIME PREVENTION

The Vice Chairman welcomed PCSO Warner to the meeting.

PCSO Warner handed around ball-bearing guns, which had been confiscated from local youths, to the Councillors, advising these were classed as imitation firearms. He informed members that young people had been targeting houses, cars and individuals in Stane Street Close. One gun had the original plastic ball-bearings showing but these were then replaced with the metal variety, which could do serious injury. Armed Response Officers had recently been called from Lewes to attend an incident in Pulborough. PCSO Warner stated the officers have to make a split second decision as to whether they were facing a real weapon or a toy.

He stated ball-bearing guns are subject to firearms regulations and should not be held by anyone under the age of 18. He asked that anyone seeing somebody carrying one of these guns should ring 999 but advise of the age of the person in possession of the weapon. It is classed as a Grade 1 incident and has a 15 minute response time.

He also reported that Pulborough had suffered on Halloween, due to one supermarket selling eggs, flour and yogurt to young people. The food stores had been offered posters stating these goods would not be on sale to under 18s in the run up to Halloween and all but Tesco had complied, saying it was against company policy. There had been many incidents of houses being bombarded with eggs and flour and it was the more vulnerable that had been

targeted. However, PCSO Warner stated there was a reduction in incidents by 26%.

The Colonnades had been hit with about 30 pots of yogurt and carrier bags containing another 30 unopened were found. In each case, it was Tesco merchandise left on the scene of the crime. Tesco were approached to see whether they could find the transaction showing 60 pots of yogurt being sold but were unable to assist. Likewise, the store was unable to show the police video footage as the CCTV camera was not working at that time.

PCSO Warner told the council of a number of “distraction” burglaries that had taken place in Pulborough, from a team moving in from Worthing. The offenders were targeting the elderly, knocking on doors and telling them the water was about to be turned off and advising them to fill up pans and kettles. Whilst the resident was doing this, an accomplice was ransacking the house.

He then informed the Councillors of a recent success, where a mini-digger had been stolen in Chichester but as it had a tracker device installed, was able to be followed to a property in Pickhurst Lane. Another digger, quadbikes, mowers etc had been found on the premises. He asked that residents call in anything suspicious on the 0845 number, as it may be the final piece of the jigsaw.

Cllr Boulton arrived at 7.24pm

A Councillor asked what could be done about the lack of support from Tesco and was advised that Sgt. Lillywhite had written to Tesco in Pulborough and also to its H.O.

Cllr Paterson arrived at 7.25pm

The Clerk was instructed to write a formal letter to Tesco and to include all the items spoken about by PCSO Warner in the forthcoming newsletter.

The Vice Chairman thanked PCSO Neville Warner for his interesting presentation and for taking the time to attend the meeting.

Cllr Mrs Botting arrived at 7.30pm and took over the Chair.

100. UPDATE FROM MR AMPSTEAD ON THE NEW PAVILION

Mr Ampstead informed members a successful launch party had been hosted by Cllrs Paterson and Mrs Botting, with grateful thanks to Mrs Sue Paterson for all the hard work she had put into arranging the event.

Cllr Mrs Arculus arrived at 7.34pm

Mr Ampstead handed out a copy of the presentation that had been offered to the guests and also a copy of what was required by the four Working Groups to be set up. These would all have one representative on the Steering Group.

The first group that was needed to get started was the Sports & Social Clubs Working Group, as it would need to decide where the pitches should be re-sited due to the slightly different footprint of the new building. The group would also be expected to approach their particular Associations for funding.

The Clerk was instructed to include the Working Groups on the next agenda for full Council.

Mr Ampstead finished by asking Councillors to decide which group they would join. He was thanked by the Chairman for all his hard work to date.

101 REPORT FROM CLLR ROGER PATERSON

As Cllr Paterson had to attend another meeting, The Chairman proposed the agenda should be altered to allow him to speak next. This was seconded by Cllr Mrs Barnett.

Cllr Paterson reported he had attended a meeting of the Traders' Group earlier that evening and eighteen traders had been in attendance. He advised the Aldingbourne Trust were going ahead with a convenience store and Post Office, to include two counter positions, in the former doctors' surgery in Lower Street. It was hoped it would be opened in February 2008.

Posters were being placed in shop windows in Lower Street and the Clerk was informed emails could be expected which would need sending to the architects. Cllr Paterson informed members the Traders were to have a small Christmas event.

The Co-op were still keen to open a pharmacy but this had been delayed due to the application having to go to appeal, as the doctors had lodged an objection.

102. MINUTES

The Council **RESOLVED** to agree and approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 18th October 2007 as a true and accurate record of the proceedings and the Chairman of the meeting signed them.

102.1 FULL COUNCIL

Matters Arising from the Minutes, which are not separate agenda items

Cllr Mrs Arculus advised members she had spoken to Gwen Parr concerning the use of s106 funding to pay for a part-time co-ordinator for the Community Transport and should bring in all volunteer sectors, such as "Dial-a-Ride". The funding would only last for three years and so it was important to find a solution during the first year.

Cllr Mrs Arculus suggested the Parish Council should be the employer but it was agreed she should speak to CTS about the matter of employment.

102.2 PLANNING & SERVICES COMMITTEE

The Council received the Minutes of the Meetings of the Planning & Services Committee held on 18th October 2007 and 1st November 2007.

Matters Arising

The Clerk stated EDF Energy had promised the light in the footpath adjacent to 11 The Moat would be connected that day. A Councillor reported it still had not been done.

102.3 FINANCE & POLICY COMMITTEE

The Council received the Minutes of the Meetings of the Recreation and Open Spaces Committee held on 11th October 2007.

Matters Arising

The Clerk reported that NatWest Bank had sent a letter stating Cllr Boulton was not a signatory, despite having taken the necessary documents into Pulborough branch in 2005 and the Clerk taking them in again in 2006. The

Clerk was instructed to contact NatWest to ask how the Bank had been able to pay the cheques signed by Cllr Boulton for the last two years.

Cllr Kiverstein then reported on the Parish Council discretionary grants, which had been approved by the Finance and Policy Committee and needed the approval of full Council

The Clerk informed members the Purple Bus had not visited Pulborough at all in 2007.

A Councillor advised Councillors the Youth Club was now up to the maximum membership of 30, with a waiting list. The members of the Youth Club ran their own tuck shop and had redecorated the premises themselves.

The Clerk was instructed to contact Robin Charter to request an editorial for the newsletter, asking for volunteers to help at the Club.

Cllr Kiverstein then proposed £4460 should be awarded in grants, with the proviso matched funding was obtained by the Girls' Cricket Team and the Girl Guides. This was seconded by Cllr. Noble and passed unanimously.

Cllrs Ellis and Noble were thanked for their efforts in recommending the levels of funding.

103 ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC SPEAKING

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

104. MEETING WITH PAUL ADDISON, WSCC HIGHWAYS

The Councillors each received a copy of the minutes of the meeting with Paul Addison of WSCC Highways, which had arrived too late to be sent out with the agenda.

It was noted that Cllr Paterson had had a big input at the meeting.

Paul Addison was adamant the improvements outside St Mary's School would be done February half-term.

Cllr Paterson had assured Mr Addison the Parish Council were delighted with the plans for Lower Street.

Residents near the railway station had asked for help concerning the commuters who parked outside their houses and in the lay-by, in order not to pay for parking. This meant the residents could not park near their homes to unload shopping etc.

Paul Addison suggested a polite notice to car owners be provided by the Parish Council. The Clerk was instructed to arrange for the notice to be erected in the lay-by and to write to Lt Col Tex Pemberton to advise him of the difficulties of parking at the railway station.

105. BUDGET AND PRECEPT 2008/2009

Cllr Kiverstein advised members the precept would increase dramatically but the percentage amount increase for taxpayers would only go up by 3%, due to the new houses in Pulborough generating more towards the precept.

Cllr Kiverstein explained the budgeted expenditure for 2008/2009. He stated there was a big problem with the drains at the Sports and Social Club and now the lower roof was leaking. The Parish Council also wanted to expand the allotments into the Cousins Way Recreation ground, due to there being a long waiting list. The Rocking Rocket at the Recreation Ground play area needed replacing and there was also expenditure for new bus shelters to consider.

Cllr Kiverstein proposed the budget should be accepted as amended. This was seconded by Cllr Boulton.

Cllr Kiverstein then proposed acceptance by the Council of the precept. This was seconded by Cllr Ellis and both motions were passed unanimously.

106. COUNCILLORS' CHRISTMAS DINNER

Councillors were reminded to let the Clerk have their menu choices and a £10 deposit per person as soon as possible.

107. MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT

Following the adoption of the Model Code of Conduct on 10 May 2007, the Clerk advised members they must now pass a resolution to adopt paragraph 12(2). This would allow members to speak for two minutes on an agenda item when they declared a prejudicial interest, just as any other member of the public. However, they would have to leave the room when the item was discussed, unlike the members of the public.

This was proposed by Cllr Noble and seconded by Cllr Ellis. The Council RESOLVED to adopt paragraph 12(2) of the Model Code of Conduct.

108. CHRISTMAS LIGHTING QUOTATION

Councillors were asked to approve the recommendation of the Planning and Services Committee to accept the quotation from DJ Flynn Services to erect and maintain the Christmas lights. This was proposed by Cllr Noble and seconded by Cllr Barrett. The motion was ACCEPTED by full Council but Mr Flynn was to be requested to not put the lights quite so high in the fir tree.

109. DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Cllr Donnelly advised members that a member of the Licensing Department had visited Oddfellows on a few occasions, following complaints. It did appear there were fewer problems at Oddfellows in the last few weeks.

He then notified Councillors the funding to the Neighbourhood Watch was to be reduced. He stated PCSO Neville Warner did a good job but more "Bobbies on the beat" were needed.

Cllr Mrs Arculus asked whether the Clerk had received anything from Compass Bus Company about the new route. The Clerk replied in the negative and Cllr Mrs Arculus stated West Chiltington had received nothing either. The Clerk was instructed to place a notice of the new bus service in the newsletter, as soon as it was received from Compass.

She then advised members that WSCC receives the fifth lowest settlement from Government in the country. She stated a high elderly population puts more strain on the Health Service than a deprived neighbourhood and West Sussex had both.

110. REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS

Cllr Ellis, as the Council's representative with Pulborough Local Action Team, advised members that both the Youth Club and the ball-bearing guns had been mentioned at the recent meeting.

He had also had a meeting with the police and had learned there was to be a new Chief Constable of Sussex. The question of putting bobbies back on the beat had been raised but this would increase the precept by £35 per household.

He showed Councillors a leaflet on reporting anti-social driving and advised that since August, 1200 reports of bad driving had been made by telephone or on-line, resulting in 200 prosecutions. The Clerk was instructed to put this in the next newsletter.

Cllr Noble informed members there had been two meetings of the Communications Team. The plans for the Table Top on 1st December 2007 were well underway and there was to be another meeting to finalise these on the 29th November 2007.

In the longer term, the Team had agreed not the right use was being made of either the newsletter or the website.

Cllr Reeve stated that, as the Parish Council wished to be kept advised of plans for the Harvest Fayre, it may wish to give practical help in the way of funding.

It was explained that the grants for this year had already been allocated but the Harvest Fayre Committee could put together an urgent case for backing from the contingency. Cllr Reeve agreed to pass on this information. The Chairman offered free advertising in the newsletter.

111. CORRESPONDENCE

The Correspondence is attached to these Minutes as Appendix 1.

112. URGENT MATTERS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS

There were no urgent matters raised by Councillors.

113. PAYMENTS

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

Candela Consulting	£423.00
Banham Alarms	£368.96
DJ Flynn Services	£881.25
DJ Flynn Services	£310.20
J Botting	£25.00
Mrs A Lawson	£1.60

The meeting closed at 9.50pm

.....Chairman

.....Date