

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 6 JULY 2004 IN THE JUBILEE ROOM OF THE VILLAGE HALL

Present: Councillors J Hobson, (Chairman), C Dickinson, L. Bryant, L Wilcox, C Prout, D Poole, D Chalmers. H Targett (Clerk)

REF

**OPEN FORUM**

**ACTION**

Ms K. Everett of Danesway, Far Green spoke regarding her planning application for a double detached garage. She explained that they had a large area of lawn to the front of their property where it was proposed the garage would be built. Other areas of the garden would then be re-landscaped. She would welcome the Council's comments on the application.

Mr D. Hunt, immediate neighbour of Danesway, Far Green commented that he was concerned about the site of the proposed garage, as it was in front of the current building line. He considered it would be a visual detraction and a dangerous precedent for other similar development. He also felt the proposed size of the development was too big.

Joanna Jackson also an immediate neighbour of Danesway, Far Green voiced her concerns about the proposed garage. She commented that the available plans were poorly labelled and inaccurate and did not show the current layout adequately. She was concerned that the proposed development would be forward of the current building line and the size was disproportionately large for the site. The height of the garage would be the same as the bedroom windows at the front of her property and would lead to loss of light to her downstairs rooms. There was concern also about the double doors proposed on the side of the development and the use of motorbikes near to her home producing noise and fumes. No provision had been made on the plans for the collection and distribution of rain water. The intended use of remaining buildings on the site was also a concern. The scale of the proposal was considered disproportionate to the setting and would set a precedent for intrusive development.

Mrs J. Cook of Pinnells End Farm spoke regarding the current application to convert a barn at her property to a dwelling house, in which her husband and herself would live or her children. A processing room for meat also formed part of the application.

Mr R. Black spoke as a representative of the Tennis Club. He reported that there had been problems with balls ending up on the courts and retrieval being achieved by youngsters breaking in. He requested that the proposed games wall is sited a distance away from the courts.

County Cllr Margaret Nolder reported that following the recent county review of Sixth Form provision, a review would now take place of Primary Schools. Coaley Primary School would be part of that review. Due to the falling numbers of children generally, most schools would have empty places. The review would look at the quality of schools rather than just in an economic sense. The proposed new housing on the Lister Petter site would bring more children into the area.

District Cllr Janet Wood reported that the district elections held on 10 June produced no change in the political make up of SDC. Janet was now Vice Chairperson of the Scrutiny Committee for Direct Services and was a member of the Probity Working Group. During the next week SDC would be subject to a comprehensive assessment, an 'OFSTED' of the Council.

## 70/05 **Declarations of Interest by Councillors**

Cllr Chalmers declared an interest in Agenda Item 4, d, planning application, Fox House. The declaration was noted in the book reserved for the purpose.

## 71/05 **Apologies**

Cllr Bryant was away on holiday.

## 72/05 **Minutes** of the meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 July 2004, were approved as a true and correct record by those present at the meeting. Proposed Cllr Dickinson; seconded Cllr Wilcox; all in favour.

## 73/05 **Planning**

Council discussed:

- a) S.04/1249/FUL Harmers End. Erection of two storey extension. Support for the application was proposed by Cllr Chalmers; seconded Cllr Hobson; two votes in favour, four abstentions. The proposal was thus carried.
- b) S.04/1320/FUL/5983 Danesway, Far Green. Erection of double detached garage. Objection to the application was proposed by Cllr Dickinson; seconded Cllr Poole; all in favour. The reasons for objection were stated as:
  - The proposed development would be in front of current building line.
  - The development would be of an overbearing nature due to the proposed size.
  - A precedent would be also be set for similar development.
- c) S.04/1292/COU/18904 Pinnell's End Farm. Change of use of barn to agricultural workers dwelling and associated farm processing room. Support for the application was proposed by Cllr Chalmers; seconded Cllr Wilcox; all in favour.
- d) S.04/1370/FUL/21629 Fox House. Resubmission following refusal S.03/C0304/FUL for the construction of an access. The new plans showed that a side wall on a neighbouring property would be reduced to give better visibility for vehicles leaving Fox House. Cllr Poole proposed objection to the application; seconded Cllr Prout; three votes in favour, two abstentions. The reasons for the objection were stated as:
  - Concern remained about the visibility for vehicles leaving the site, possibly constituting a Highways safety issue.
  - The visibility was also dependent on the cooperation of the next door neighbours keeping the hedge at the front of their garden, at a low height. The neighbours may in time change, thus concern was raised over continued maintenance of the hedge.

74/05 **Accounts**a) Gratuity payment to previous Clerk

The Clerk explained that permission had finally been given to proceed with the gratuity payment payable to Sian Smith, under the terms of her employment contract. The payment had been authorised by the Inland Revenue Audit and Pensions Schemes Service and would be payable as a tax-free sum. The Clerk reminded those present that the amount payable had been arrived at by taking advice from Mr Woodcock, the Financial Advisor for the SLCC, who had used an approved calculation. The sum payable was £1264.14. The Council agreed to proceed.

b) Income received and payments for authorisation

The following monies were received:

Countryside Agency	356.27	Parish Plan Payment
Countryside Agency	409.12	Little Green Bus
HM Customs & Excise	352.48	VAT recovered

Payments for authorisation:

Coaley Village Hall	65.00	Room Hire
Buckstop	185.00	Newsletter printing
John Hobson	33.49	Website expenses
Sian Smith	1264.14	Gratuity payment

H. R. Targett

H.R. Targett	288.20	Clerk's salary (June2004)
Newsletter	28.82	Editing June/July
Glos Training Partnership	25.00	Updating for Clerks
		Conference attended 1/7/04
Clerks's expenses	25.90	Ink cartridge
	3.36	Postage stamps

Accounts approved by Council. Proposed Cllr Dickinson; seconded Cllr Poole; all in favour.

c) 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter's Income and Expenditure Report to 30 June 2004

The report was presented to Council. The Clerk explained some aspects of the report as a new accounting package had been used since the beginning of the financial year. The Clerk also reminded Councillors of the balances remaining in the Parish Grant Fund and the Village of The Year competition fund. These were; Village of The Year Fund £826, earmarked for the tree seat. £350 in the Youth category fund. Parish grant fund £150.

d) Little Green Bus – Accounts at the end of operation Year 3

The third year of operation of the Little Green Bus ended at the end of March 2004. The Countryside Agency had been funding the operation until then, with Cam PC contributing £300, and Coaley and Slimbridge PC's also contributing £150 towards the costs. Cam PC had now received funds from the Market Towns Forum and so held the collective LGB fund. The Clerk explained that a balance of some £500 was expected to be paid over by Coaley Parish Council, to include a £250 donation from the Langtree Trust received by the Council last year. The true balance figure only showed up in the converted Income and Expenditure Account provided for the internal auditor. The balance had built up over the three years and stood at £1323.88. The figure had been checked both with the previous Clerk and the Cam PC Clerk who both had historical knowledge of the operation. Administration costs of £530.67 had been claimed during operational years 2 and 3. Sue Hanman the Cam PC Clerk suggested that this figure be deducted from the balance leaving a payable amount of £793.21. This would be put to the LGB steering group who would next meet in September. There was no rush for the money to be paid over. The Clerk stated that financially, Coaley Parish Council was in good shape and that the balance be paid over before the end of the current financial year. The Clerk gave February 2005 as a good time to review this.

## Items for discussion

75/05 a) Clerks's Report

- Contamination of the stream running from Knapp Lane into the Ham had been reported. The Environmental Agency was currently investigating and samples had been taken for analysis. The source appeared to be farm buildings in Knapp lane.
- An invitation had been received to attend a meeting entitled 'Affordable homes for Stroud District', to take place on the 8<sup>th</sup> July at The Space, Lansdown, Stroud. No Councillors were able to attend.
- Councillors were asked if they had any comments regarding the 20/20 Vision Community Strategic Plan circulated to them all. No further comments were considered necessary.
- A letter had been received from John Lindsey (Traffic Manager South) regarding the requested vehicle weight limit on Peak Lane. He would respond on the issue at a later stage.
- Two letters had been received regarding the future of the Fire and Rescue Service Tri Centre at Quedgeley. A review was still underway and the management of the Quedgeley Centre were now submitting a bid for a Glos. Regional Control Centre to be based on the Tri Service estate.
- Further information had been received regarding parish appointments to the Conservation Board of the Cotswolds AONB. Information to be made available to Cllr Bryant.
- There would be a two evening training session for new and fairly new Parish Councillors, at Ebley Mill on Wednesday 21st July and 28th July. Information to be offered to Cllr Bryant.
- Propositions had been received for debate at the GAPTC AGM on Saturday 16th October. The propositions were read out. No amendments were requested or other comments made.
- The Clerk requested that she be permitted to purchase from the SLCC the latest 'Clerk's Manual' publication, cost £34. Purchase approved. Proposed Cllr Hobson;

seconded Cllr Chalmers; all in favour.

- A Parish Plan forum would take place on the 14th September at the Painswick Centre. Information to be given to Cllr Bryant.
- A copy of the SDC strategy for the identification of contaminated land had been received. Responses to be received by SDC by 31<sup>st</sup> August. The document was added to the circulation folder any comments were requested to be directed to the Clerk.
- A farewell event had been arranged for Colin and Judy Dickinson in the Village Hall on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> August, 7.30pm to 9.30pm. It would be a ticket event only, costing £2. Any profit raised would be donated to the Village Hall fund. Tickets available from Maggie Lewis and Mo Green.
- The Clerk reported that she had recently attended the SDC parish and town council's meeting at Ebley Mill. Handouts of interest were included in the circulation folder.

76/05 b) Councillor resignation – Cllr Dickinson

The Chairman read out the letter of resignation received from Cllr Dickinson. The resignation would be effective from the 9<sup>th</sup> July 2004.

77/05 c) ROSPA annual play area inspection – Cllr Wilcox

The actions recommended were in the process of being carried out. Quotes had been requested from Playline regarding the 'Coaley Canyon' play item. New hinges and latches had been ordered for the gates. Other maintenance would be carried out in the near future.

78/05 d) Kick wall and youth area project – Cllr Wilcox

Cllr Wilcox reported that progress had been made towards the installation of a games wall on the Recreation Field. The games wall would incorporate facilities for football, cricket and basketball. Several quotes had been sought. The cost would be in the region of £7000. The youth of the village had been consulted and at a later stage, a BMX facility, a youth shelter and a hard surface playing area would also hopefully be installed. The Clerk added that all possible avenues had been explored for the installation of a temporary facility. Health and Safety regulations and the inability of the parish insurers to accept the associated risks had sadly made this option a non-starter.

79/05 e) Proposed change of status for Leisure and Recreation Committee

The Clerk reported that having sought and received a lot of advice, that the committee, for the purposes of seeking funding should become an independent group. The group would be known as Coaley Community Action Group and it's membership would be the same as the current committee. The group would have it's own bank account and deal with it's own financial affairs. A constitution for the group would guarantee the Council would have representation. The Council agreed to the group becoming independent.

An opening balance was required in order for the group to set up a bank account. The Council agreed to grant the sum of £400 to the project. (£350 VOTY youth category fund and £50 Parish Grant Fund). Proposed Cllr Hobson; seconded Cllr Poole; all in favour. During the discussion Sian Smith offered to delay the payment of her gratuity until the next financial year and for the Council to put the money instead towards the project. The matter to be discussed at the next meeting.

## 80/05 f) Highways repairs and maintenance

The Clerk reported the fissure at the top of Frocester Hill had been causing further problems to the contractors working on it. A rock fall had occurred causing work to halt and a further review of how to proceed had to be undertaken. However, the Highways Department advised that the work was still on track to be completed by the end of the month. Spring Hill, the road running from the Eastington mini roundabout to the large roundabout approaching Stonehouse would be closed from 19<sup>th</sup> July to October 11<sup>th</sup>. Traffic lights were thus being set up on the A38 at Claypits, the Eastington turn off. This was in an attempt to alleviate congestion. The Highways Department advised that the traffic lights might become a permanent fixture if no complaints were made about them. The water leak in Elmcote Lane had been repaired.

## 81/05 g) Allotments check June 2004 – Cllr Prout

**A report had previously been circulated to Councillors.**

## 82/05 h) Village Maintenance

It had been brought to the Clerk's attention that the footpaths leading off from the Close were overgrown and needed attention. Norton's Alley footpath was also in need of attention. SDC and Charles Lingard to be contacted respectively. Cllr Dickinson reported that damage had been done to the plasterboard ceiling of the bus shelter at Westend. The damage was not considered to have left the shelter in a dangerous state and no repair was required at present.

CLERK

83/05 i) Folk Camp 2005, request for use of Recreation Field

A letter had been received from Mr Conway of the Folk Camp Society, requesting the use of the Recreation Field for caravans and camping for an event the Society would like to hold in Coaley, in conjunction with the Village Hall. The event would take place from the Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> May to Sunday the 5<sup>th</sup> June 2005. Some 30 people would be on site from the Tuesday to the Friday with another 30 joining for the weekend. The Council agreed that a representative from the society be invited to attend the next Parish Council meeting in September to answer questions and give more information.

## 84/05 j) Proposed tree seat outside of community shop

In the absence of Cllr Bryant the Clerk read out Cllr Bryant's recommendation for the seat. He felt that the 'Barnsley' style from Brittanica at Alveston would be the most suitable. At the cost of £731, only a half seat could be afforded. The Council agreed that Cllr Bryant should go ahead and purchase the seat on behalf of the Council. Proposed Cllr Hobson; seconded Cllr Dickinson; all in favour.

## 85/05 k) Parish Plan pre publication findings

The Clerk read out a report from Cllr Bryant. He had heard nothing further from Bob Hallam Chairman of the Parish Plan Committee. Cllr Dickinson commented that the Committee had met recently and would be in contact with Cllr Bryant.

86/05 **Matters for forward consideration**

- a) Election of new Vice Chairman.
- b) Councillor vacancy.
- c) Visit of Folk Camp representative.
- d) Consideration of Sian Smith's offer regarding delaying gratuity payment.

87/05 **Items for press release and publication on web site**

The usual minutes to appear on the website

88/05 **Date of next meeting**

Tuesday 7 September

The meeting closed at 9.20pm