

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON **2 March 2004** IN THE JUBILEE ROOM OF THE VILLAGE HALL

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

REF

ACTION

OPEN FORUM

Bob Hallam thanked the Parish Council for their help in the campaign to bring Broadband to Coaley. He also commented that he never believed that a 30mph speed limit would reduce traffic through the village. He felt that drivers needed to be trained to drive according to the conditions and this was not achieved by blanket speed limits.

County Cllr Margaret Nolder added that the County Council has had various conferences with European input about ways to restrain poor drivers. Holland and Denmark appeared to take a lead in this issue.

Bob Hallam added that in Australia they have variable speed limits. Different speed limits for different times of the day. For instance when pupils are leaving school, the speed limit is reduced.

Mr E. Lees commented that on a short trip last week he had noticed an accumulation of litter alongside the road leading out of Coaley towards Cam and Dursley Station. He wondered if personnel subject to community service orders could be employed in the removal of the debris.

District Cllr Janet Wood added that the removal of rubbish was a contracting issue and any problem could be referred to the Environmental Contracting Department at Ebley Mill. A request could be made for heavily littered areas between officially recognised areas to be cleaned up. Community service order personnel had not been used recently for such tasks.

Mr D. Hunt added that a lady had recently been seen picking up litter along a stretch of the A38.

Mr E. Lees commented that a problem was occurring at Westend. Motorists were parking their cars up on the pavement. This practice forced pedestrians to step off of the pavement and into the road to negotiate the obstruction.

District Cllr Janet Wood reported that the sites inspection panel had visited The Lanterns site. The outcome of the planning application would be determined 9 March 2004 at the Development Control Committee meeting.

£100,000 had been allocated by the District Council to provide grants for village halls. Cllr Wood had already been in contact with Mo Green, secretary of the Coaley Village Hall Committee regarding the application for a grant.

Cllr Wood expressed her interest in the recently acquired Trenley Road site plan and would be interested to see what view emerged from the completed Parish Plan on affordable housing.

Cllr Wood reported that the average D band council tax charge would rise by 5.4% for the coming financial year.

County Cllr M. Nolder added that the County Council had also been involved in the council tax setting process. Investment would be made in education and social services, amongst others. The Council was trying to keep tax increases low and use money wisely. A review of education in the county continued. Some sixth forms may close, the cabinet would discuss these issues during the week.

231/04 **Declarations of Interest by Councillors**

Cllr Hobson declared an interest in Agenda Item 6.h, lime tree on the recreation field and Cllr Dickinson declared an interest in Agenda Item 6.e, the Golden Jubilee Award. The declarations were noted in the book kept for the purpose.

232/04 **Apologies** were received from Cllr Prout, Cllr Bryant and Cllr Chalmers.

233/04 **Minutes of the meeting held on 3 February 2004** were approved as a true and accurate record by those present at the meeting. Proposed Cllr Poole; seconded Cllr Wilcox; all in favour.

234/04 **Planning**

Council discussed:

a) S.04/0334/FUL 4682. Riverside, Halmore Lane. Renewal of permission S.99/146 for conversion of barn to dwelling. Erection of double garage to side. Demolition of lean-to buildings.

Council resolved to support the application. Proposed Cllr Wilcox; seconded Cllr Poole; all in favour.

Council had received permission for:

a) S.03/C0464/FUL 5 Hillside, Far Green. Retrospective application for the erection of a conservatory. Conditions attached to the permission were read out.

Council had received refusal for:

a) S.03/C0441/COU Pinnells End Farm. Change of use from barn to a dwelling. Reasons for the refusal were read out.

b) S.03/C0304/FUL Fox House, The Street. Formation of new vehicular and pedestrian access and conversion of approved dining room to a single garage. Reasons for the refusal were read out.

235/04 **Accounts**

The following monies were received:

Countryside Agency	476.23	Little Green Bus
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Payments for authorisation:

Colin Hoskins Mini Coaches	159.90	Little Green Bus – Feb 2004
PWB Loan	1500.50	Rear of Village Hall car park
Profile	175.00	Newsletter Feb/March

Date Protection	35.00	Renewal of registration
Payments authorised to H. R. Targett		
H.R. Targett	288.20	Clerk's salary (February 2004)
Newsletter	28.82	Newsletter Feb/March

Council approved accounts and authorised payments.

Items for discussion

236/04 a) Newsletter – reviews of contents and residents comments

The Clerk reported that at the last meeting Mr Goring had been in attendance and had requested a letter to the editor's page in the newsletter. The Clerk had subsequently received from Mr Goring, copies of other local newsletters, which included letters to the editor. The Clerk reminded those present that all Coaley residents pay for the newsletter via the precept and thus the Parish Council was accountable for the publication. After making enquires it transpired that the other publications put forward by Mr Goring were not Parish Council publications but independent, with little or no funding generated by the precept and the editorial being independent of the Councils concerned. Richard Belliss of GAPTC had been contacted for his advice on the issue. He advised that:

- If the Parish Council published the newsletter then it had the say on the format and editorial.
- Quality Parish Status requirements do not stipulate what the newsletter should include or how it should be published.
- Quality Parish Status requirements are that the Parish Council provides regular information to the electorate on the activities of the Parish Council.
- Anyone with any views regarding the work of the Parish Council is entitled to express them and the Parish Council has to consider them. However, Councillors represent all in the community and through their day to day contact with residents must make decisions, which they think, will be of benefit to the majority.
- The Code of Conduct's general obligations on members include 'treating others with respect' this has to be taken into consideration when publishing as theoretically the Council could be brought into disrepute.
- If the Parish Council is content with the format of the newsletter then that is fine. If any resident feels that there should be a newsletter produced independently from the Parish Council, one with an independent editorial then they are of course free to get on and do it.

Both the Clerk and Councillors had been gathering opinion from residents since the last meeting regarding the newsletter contents. The overwhelming majority of residents appeared to be happy with the current format. Comments made by residents present at the meeting supported this view. A letter to the editor's page was not seen as necessary. The Council thus resolved to carry on with the newsletter in the current format.

237/04 b) Parish Clerk's Report

Minute 227/04. The Clerk confirmed that a letter of support to the Standish Community Initiative had been sent and a note of appreciation had been received. The letter would go forward with others in support of the bid being put together by the Initiative to acquire the Standish Hospital site.

The Clerk had received an e-mail via the Chairman from Barbara Piranty, the 'In Touch' Adviser for GRCC, regarding taster computer sessions. The Parish Plan was referred to in the e-mail. Bob Hallam the Chairman of the Parish Plan Committee was present at the meeting and requested that no further action be taken at present.

Circulation folders had proved to be extremely slow circulating amongst Councillors. The Clerk requested that all Councillors attempt to read the material as soon as possible, otherwise it rather defeated the object of the exercise. It was resolved that whoever was in possession of the folder at the time of the next meeting, would return it to the meeting in order to ascertain if all Councillors had received the folder and had time to assimilate the contents.

Future funding for the Little Green Bus service would be determined within the next couple of weeks. GCC had come up with an offer for funding for six months whilst an overall view of transport provision in the area was completed. The Steering Committee would meet to discuss the funding offer.

Cllr Bryant had informed the Clerk that the provisional date for the planned village litter pick would be 24 April 2004.

The Golden Valley Classic motor cycle race took place on 29 February. The Clerk had informed all on the route of the date and invited comments or concerns. Two concerns were raised, mud on the roads after the race and the adherence to bridle ways. The concerns were brought to the attention of the organisers. No untoward comments had been forthcoming to date since the event took place.

The Clerk had received a letter from SDC informing that parish skips would no longer be offered as a service. This was due to the need to comply with current and new legislation and the skip service was seen as an uncontrolled method of waste collection.

An access to the countryside questionnaire had been received and was taken for completion by Cllr Wilcox.

A GCC Archaeological Service questionnaire had been received. Clerk to complete.

A GCC Community Strategy questionnaire had been received and copies taken by Councillors for their perusal.

LW

CLERK

238/04 c) Personal Announcement – Chairman

Cllr Dickinson, Chairman of the Council announced that he would not seek re-election as Chairman at the AGM to be held in May. His wife and he had decided to move to Cheltenham for personal reasons. He would however, if Council approved, remain on as a Councillor until his eventual moving date.

239/04 d) Village Of The Year Fund & Parish Grants

A sub committee had met and had drawn up an allocation criteria report. This would form the basis of the decision making process for allocation of funds. An application form had also been raised to be completed by applicants for funding. The Clerk provided a list of applicants who had applied so far, with the corresponding power to spend. The Clerk reported that a letter of thanks had been received from Anne Gilbert 1st Coaley Guide Unit leader, for the £50 allocated to them so far.

240/04 e) Golden Jubilee Award 2003

Cllr Dickinson having already declared an interest took no part in the discussion. Vice Chairman Cllr Hobson chaired.

A list of nominees had previously been circulated to Councillors. Following a secret ballot, Mary George was announced as the winner.

241/04 Parish Footpaths Map

Cllr Wilcox updated Council on the progress so far. Dr T. Chivers had been extremely helpful and had made available an old hand drawn map he had produced some years ago. This had now been copied and enlarged in size. Colour coded walks on the map to denote difficulty were a possibility on the finished article. A sub committee would meet to further progress. It was suggested that when completed, a copy of the map should be included in the welcome pack provided to new residents by the W.I.

242/04 g) Highways repairs and maintenance

The Clerk had been made aware of water seen running across the road near to the Tickshill entrance to The Ham, outside Streamleaze.

Cllr Hobson reported that the left-hand edge of the road on the bend immediately before the railway bridge near to Cam and Dursley station was falling away.

The two items above to be brought to the attention of the Highways Department.

CLERK

Bob Hallam also commented that hedging was obscuring the visibility at the end of Box Road looking to the right. Sue Hanman the Cam Parish Clerk to be notified.

CLERK

243/04 h) Lime Tree on the Recreation Field

(Cllr Hobson had declared an interest in this item)

The Clerk reported that she had managed to gain professional advice and two quotes for the work considered necessary to be carried out on the lime tree. Reduction in the size of the tree was seen to be the best option. Allianz Cornhill the Parish insurers have stipulated that the work will need to be carried out by a tree surgeon with professional indemnity insurance. This was proving difficult as not all surgeons have this cover. Another two tree surgeons had agreed to look at the tree. When further advice and quotes for the work had been obtained Allianz Cornhill would be advised. Allianz Cornhill had instructed the Council not to begin any work on the tree until they had given full permission. Cllr Hobson commented that it seemed rather premature of Allianz Cornhill to demand action now, when negotiations were still going on between them and his home insurers.

244/04 Risk Assessment Document

In view of the impending annual audit, the Clerk felt that bus shelters should be added to the Risk Assessment Document for 2004. Council supported the amendment.

245/04 j) Village maintenance

The Clerk reported that the missing post box at Tickshill had been replaced.

Two railway sleepers had been located at GCC Estates, which would be provided free of charge, to replace the bridge crossing the stream at the bottom of the recreation field. Transportation from within the village had proved difficult. GCC had now agreed to deliver. Cllr Wilcox offered to meet the delivery when arranged and facilitate access to the site using a front loader vehicle.

246/04 k) Parish Plan – Update by Chairman

The Parish Plan Questionnaires had been sent to GRCC for analysis. The Parish Plan Committee would make a presentation at the Annual Assembly on 27 April 2004. The Committee would need to decide what information they wanted to publish. A copy of the Parish Plan would then be sent to every household. A summary of the analysis was distributed to Councillors.

247/04 l) Links with Local Councils – Feedback to Hot Topic Questionnaire

The report had been previously circulated to Councillors. An invitation to attend a meeting on 11 March 2004 at Ebley Mill was unfortunately unable to be taken up by Councillors present.

248/04 **Matters for forward Consideration**

- 1) Allocation of grants. Village of The Year funds and Parish Grants.
- 2) Plans for Annual Assembly.

249/04 **Items for press release and publication on web site**

The usual minutes to be published on the website.

250/04 **Date of next meeting**

Tuesday 6 April 2004.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.