

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 11 June 2002 IN THE JUBILEE ROOM OF THE VILLAGE HALL

Present: Councillors C Dickinson (Chairman), J Hobson, L Wilcox, C Prout, D Poole, M Burgess, S Smith (Clerk)

REF

**ACTION**

**OPEN FORUM**

District Cllr Wood reported that a proposal to sell the District Council housing stock to a housing association would be discussed by the SDC Cabinet at a meeting later that week. The sale would release £33m to be used for building new houses which would not be subject to a 'right to buy' option. She confirmed that there were 36 rental properties left in Coaley under the control of SDC.

A proposal had been put forward that future applications under the Rural Project Grant scheme should be submitted electronically and not via the Parish Council. Applicants would merely need to indicate that the Parish Council supported their application.

District Cllr Wood sought the views of the Parish Council on this proposal.

County Cllr Nolder indicated her intention to attend a meeting of the GCC

Environmental Scrutiny Committee at which the travellers on Coaley Peak would be discussed. She would also attend a seminar on the current role and future of the Rural Estates department of the Council.

GCC had received guidance from central government on a comprehensive performance assessment whereby Members and Officers would be subject to assessment by District Audit against predetermined categories. Each department would provide its own self-assessment for scrutiny by others. County Cllr Nolder and Cllr Poole exchanged views on the government agenda behind the assessment process.

Cllr Burgess enquired of District Cllr Wood where the funds raised from the sale of housing stock would rest. District Cllr Wood confirmed that the money would go to the housing association to deal with future housing needs of the District. Staff would transfer to the association but SDC would maintain the housing waiting list.

64/03 Declarations of Interest by Councillors

Cllr Hobson declared an interest in the matter of the lime tree on the Recreation Ground adjacent to Bramble Cottage.

His declaration was duly noted in the book kept for the purpose.

65/03 Apologies were received from Cllr Chalmers who was on holiday. District Cllr Wood and County Cllr Nolder attended the meeting.

66/03 Minutes of the meetings held on 7 May 2002 were approved as a true and correct record by those present at the meetings.

67/03 Matters Arising

An additional allotment plot had been let at Far Green on the same terms as those agreed at the previous meeting. However, only one of the three new tenants had signed and returned the agreement form.

Cllr Hobson expressed his disappointment that the production of a Parish Plan had not been brought forward to the agenda. His comments were noted.

68/03 Phase II Children's Adventure Playground

The contractors had finished the installation of play equipment and surfacing just in time for Jubilee weekend. The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) report drew attention to a problem with the gates at either end of the play area and made recommendations regarding signage, location of seats and manufacturer's identity labels.

RoSPA had marked the site overall as a medium risk however the individual category markings were low risk Council accepted the report as it stood. The Clerk gave a summary of the financial position for the scheme (Appendix I).

69/03 Phase III

A further survey directed at the residents of Betworthy and several properties leading into The Close had been conducted by SDC. Five options for play facilities, including BMX, had been put forward. From the number of replies received it was clear that equipment for the age range 2yrs-9yrs was preferred. Cllr Poole commented that a significant number of other people were not catered for under this scheme. Copies of the questionnaires had been forwarded by SDC as several of the comments and suggestions related to areas under Parish Council control. The Chairman confirmed that the Recreation and Leisure committee would study them closely.

**R & L  
Cttee**

70/03 Report from Chairman of Golden Jubilee Committee

The Chairman read his report and thanked all those who had contributed towards making the Jubilee weekend such a success.

71/03 Housing Needs Survey

Survey forms and reply envelopes were distributed to Councillors. A covering letter explaining the purpose of the survey would be available later that week. The Clerk explained the background to the survey and why it was necessary to establish future needs to address current perceived problems. After much debate it was agreed that the survey forms would be delivered to households simultaneously during the period 16 – 19 June for completion and collection by 14 July 2002.

72/03 Lime Tree on Recreation Ground

A report from Tree Maintenance Limited dated 9 May and the Tree Warden's comments thereon had been circulated with the agenda. The Clerk was asked to ascertain whether the owners had obtained a full structural survey of the property prior to purchase and if that could be made available to Council together with a current survey.

The Clerk was asked to obtain two quotations for the installation of a root barrier being one of the options suggested in the reports.

**Clerk**

**Clerk**

73/03 Report from Council's Representative on Coaley School Governors

Cllr Hobson gave his report, which is appended to these minutes (Appendix II).

74/03 Traffic Calming – Proposed Speed Limit

The GCC Traffic Manager (South) had put forward revised proposals for a 30mph speed limit throughout the Parish as requested by Council at its March meeting. The provision of white 30mph roundels was discussed and it was agreed that these should be painted on the road at the point of entering and leaving individual hamlets.

**Clerk**

75/03 Proposed Title for Parish Newsletter

Suggestions for the title had been circulated previously. The Clerk received votes by written ballot paper. There were four votes for it to remain the same and two for change. There was no further debate.

76/03 Village Maintenance

The Clerk reported that Edward Rendall had stepped forward in response to Council's request for an odd job person. The priority area for the next ten days would be the area to be judged for the Bledisloe Cup competition and he had already started on the carparks around the Village Hall. It was agreed that he should be paid £5 per hour.

Cotswold Surfacing had re-laid damaged ecoblock surrounding the Coronation oak tree. It was agreed that the Clerk should source new signs for the Recreation Ground, including those highlighted in the RoSPA report on the play area.

Clerk

77/03 Highways Repair and Maintenance

Cllr Prout gave details of the GCC Best Value Review Consultation and highlighted two areas of interest. First, the reintroduction of annual meetings with parishes which, if neighbouring parishes were involved, could be held in Coaley. Second was the possibility of certain items of maintenance such as verge cutting, weed spraying and pavement maintenance, being devolved to Parish Councils. Mr Gage had resigned as Highways Warden due to deteriorating health. Mr Portlock, GCC Highways Supervisor had requested that Council prioritise its pavements for attention. It was agreed that most foot traffic was between Hamshill and the school each day and this route must be regarded as priority. Peak Lane would be closed for two days to enable essential tree maintenance work to be carried out. The dates were published in the newsletter.

Clerk

78/03 Planning

A report was given of the planning sub-committee meeting on 24 May 2002. Council discussed S.02/566 West Winds, Far Green – erection of two storey extension (revised plans). Council did not feel that the revisions were sufficient to alter its opinion stated on 7 May. The Clerk was instructed to reply accordingly to the applicants' letter dated 10 May.

Clerk

Council received permission for:

- a) S.02/557 Spring Tynning, Ticks Hill – erection of extension to form garage with study over; replace velux windows with dormers; erection of a conservatory.
- b) S.02/387 Sage Cottage, Far Green – change of use from agriculture to equestrian with the erection of an L shape stable block and manège (revised plans)

Conditions attached to the permissions were read out.

The Clerk replied to questions raised in connection with the operation of planning permissions at Betworthy Farm.

79/03 Correspondence

- a) Invitation from Stroud & District Citizens Advice Bureau to attend its AGM on 26 June was not taken up.
- b) Letter of thanks from Mrs Wibberley, recipient of the Golden Jubilee award for service to the community.
- c) Letter of thanks to Council for organising Jubilee celebrations from Mr & Mrs Hallam, Church Cottages.
- d) Letter from Mrs Underwood, The Old Chapel, Far Green advising details of a motor accident she sustained whilst in the Village Hall carpark. Details were passed to the Chairman of the Village Hall Committee.
- e) Letter of introduction from the new Chief Executive of Cotswold and Vale Primary Care Trust. Mr Richard James offered a member of his team to attend a Council meeting to discuss local health issues. The Clerk was instructed to arrange a suitable date.

Clerk

A monthly envelope of magazines and journals was circulated amongst Councillors.

80/03 Accounts

Details of the accounts are not published on the Web and can be obtained from the parish clerk.

81/03 Matters for Forward Consideration

- a) Training for Councillors on Saturday 28 September. The date was agreed and the Clerk was asked to invite Councillors from other parishes to attend to help defray the cost.
- b) Planning seminars organised by SDC Development Control department may take some time to arrange. An offer by a member of SDC staff to attend a meeting of the Parish Council was not taken up.
- c) The Clerk highlighted the main changes in the April 2002 version of Standing Orders & Chairmanship, circulated to all Councillors, for discussion at the next meeting.

**Clerk****Clerk****Clerk**82/03 Items for Press Release

Publicity for completion of Phase II Children's Adventure Playground  
 Contributions to SDC E newsletter to be submitted by Cllr Hobson in future  
 Sale of surplus red paint used for painting swings

**LW****JH****Clerk**83/03 Date of next meeting

Tuesday 2 July 2002

The meeting closed at 10.15pm