

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 3 September 2002 IN THE JUBILEE ROOM OF THE VILLAGE HALL

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

REF

ACTION

OPEN FORUM

Mrs Tong asked for the entrance to The Close to be resurfaced commenting that the road was a disgrace. She also made Council aware that the hedge next to the railway bridge at Cam & Dursley railway station required cutting back as it was a hazard to motorists. The car park at the rear of the Village Hall she regarded as an eyesore and asked if it could be cleaned.

Mrs George commented about drainage in the area of School Cottage. Flooding had occurred in September for two years running and she asked that the drains be cleared of leaves to avoid flooding this year.

Mrs Farmer was disappointed that her household did not receive a copy of the Housing Needs Survey form at the appropriate time.

District Cllr Wood had no news from SDC due to summer meetings programme. She encouraged groups to apply for funding under the Rural Project Grant scheme before the closing date of 31 October 2002.

County Cllr Nolder drew attention to the forthcoming road closure adjacent to Ford Farm to enable bridge widening to be carried out. The Parish Council's comments on the Coaley School building project regarding contractor parking and flooding problems would be included in the contract. She was pursuing with the Senior Officer in the Rural Estates Department the Parish Council enquiry into the possibility of purchasing a plot of land behind the Church to extend the graveyard. It had been pointed out that the field was wet and may require new drainage before it could be used for burials. County Cllr Nolder advised that there would be further publicity for the Village Link demand responsive bus service to demonstrate its flexibility and ease of use. Production of the 3rd Gloucestershire County Structure Plan was underway with County Councillors invited to attend a meeting. The main focus of the new plan would be the principal urban areas of Gloucester and Cheltenham. A new Director of Education was in post and the Ofsted report on schools was being actioned. Social Services department had reached and was exceeding targets set by Inspectors.

115/03 Declarations of Interest by Councillors

No declarations were made.

116/03 No apologies were received. District Cllr Wood, County Cllr Nolder and 7 parishioners attended the meeting.

117/03 Minutes of the meetings held on 2 and 30 July 2002 were approved as a true and correct record by those present at the meetings. A typing error on page 554 was corrected prior to signing by the Chairman.

118/03 Matters Arising from the meeting held on 2 July 2002

Further information regarding the proposed realignment of the Cotwold Way National Trail had been put forward by Mr Foster of Knapp Lane. Council had received a copy of his letter dated 4 July to the National Trail Office.

The Leader of SDC had acknowledged Council's concerns regarding exclusion from the Rural Project Grant Scheme and noted its comments.

Coaley did not reach the second round of the Bledisloe Cup competition.

119/03 Matters Arising from the meeting held on 30 July 2002

There were no matters arising.

120/03 Housing Needs Survey 2002

The Chairman introduced Lesley Archer, Rural Housing Enabler for Gloucestershire Rural Community Council. Mrs Archer advised that from the 280 survey forms delivered she had received 197 envelopes and prepared a report from those forms completed. She thanked the Councillors who had delivered and collected the forms and expressed delight at the 70% response rate achieved.

Mrs Archer summarised her findings to Council and suggested that the 'action points' in her report be followed up.

The Chairman thanked Mrs Archer for all her help and advice in preparing the survey forms and for reporting the findings. Questions were invited from the floor.

Cllr Chalmers asked for clarification of the difference between housing need and affordable housing. She confirmed that a housing need was identified within the survey but that this did not necessarily lean towards affordable housing.

Mr Billett asked whom to contact with a specific site in mind. Mrs Archer indicated that she would be happy to field such enquiries.

Cllr Hobson asked if the report could be provided in electronic format for publication on the website. Mrs Archer agreed that it could and undertook to make such provision.

County Cllr Nolder requested that she be allowed to keep a copy of the survey with a view to using it for capacity building under the Market and Coastal Towns Initiative.

Councillors agreed to review the draft document and to pass comments back to the Clerk for onward transmission to Mrs Archer.

Clerk

121/03 SDC Local Plan – Omission Site Betworthy Farm

Following the meeting on 30 July, the Clerk wrote to the Local Plan Inquiry office setting out the limitations on the level of Parish Council support for the site. The Officer in charge maintains the view that the scope of the objection has not altered significantly and that it was right and proper for the Council to take over as agent for the objector.

The next step was for the Planning Authority to comment on the Parish Council submission and for both statements to be put before the Inquiry Inspector for inclusion in the report.

122/03 Development of Parish Council Website

Cllr Hobson demonstrated his latest version of the website. The Chairman thanked Cllr Hobson for the work put in thus far. The general content of the site was approved.

There was some discussion as to Council being compromised by publishing details of a contractual nature or matters relating to staff that may appear in minutes of meetings.

Cllr Hobson proposed that at the time of agreeing minutes it be decided that any matter of a confidential nature be excluded from the website. The Chairman proposed that the website be launched on 1 October 2002 and that the address be publicised via the newsletter; seconded by Cllr Wilcox; all in favour.

JH

123/03 Relocation of Noticeboard at Far Green

The Clerk explained that the noticeboard situated in the bus shelter at Far Green had been tampered with and the majority of notices removed to a nearby litterbin. As the issue of a noticeboard at Silver Street had not yet been resolved, perhaps it would be appropriate for the one at Far Green to be relocated to Silver Street. Cllr Poole passed comment on whom he perceived to be the users of the bus shelter and the condition of the shelter in terms of litter and vandalism. He would object to the removal of the noticeboard from Far Green in favour of Silver Street. Cllr Wilcox suggested that some of the younger residents of Far Green be invited to decorate the bus shelter to encourage ownership

before taking steps towards moving the noticeboard.

Cllr Poole offered to keep the bus shelter tidy on a weekly basis to help identify when litter and damage had occurred.

Cllr Wilcox agreed to meet with young people at Far Green to gauge the level of interest in painting and keeping the shelter tidy.

The Chairman suggested that he, Cllr Poole and the Clerk attend at Far Green with a view to looking for an alternative site for the noticeboard in any event.

No further discussion took place on siting a noticeboard at Silver Street.

**DP
LW**

**CD/DP/
Clerk**

124/03 SLCC Annual Conference

The will Clerk attend the conference.

Clerk

125/03 GAPTC AGM 19 October Propositions for Debate

It was agreed that the Chairman should attend the AGM and vote in favour of propositions submitted by Hartpury and Tidenham Parish Councils. The proposition from Stonehouse Town Council was not supported. The proposition submitted by Newent Town Council was agreed in principle and the Chairman was instructed to put forward an amendment to read ‘.... save that there is no extra burden on the Community Charge’.

CD

126/03 SDC Street Cleansing Contract

The Clerk explained that the main residential area from the bus shelter at Far Green down through the village as far as the school, including Betworthy and The Close were scheduled to be cleaned every 6/8 weeks; the remainder of the village was regarded as rural and designated for cleaning twice a year with the exception of dead end roads such as Field, Corner, Pinnells End and Ham Lanes. There are no statutory rules regarding frequency of cleaning so the schedules have been drawn up on a contract cost basis. Cleaning can be carried out on a reactive basis if necessary.

Cllr Hobson proposed that the residential zone, marked yellow on the plan, be extended from the school to the railway bridge. This was agreed and Council asked to be notified when cleaning was carried out.

Clerk

127/03 Village Maintenance

The Chairman offered to tidy up the rear of the village hall carpark with help from Cllr Hobson. Cllr Wilcox agreed to sweep the wet pour surfacing in the childrens play area. New signs for the Recreation Ground, including those highlighted in the RoSPA report on the play area, had been purchased and were awaiting installation. Cllr Wilcox, with Mr Morgan assisting, would be installing the signs shortly and making corrections to the play area gates. Mr Morgan offered to carry out repairs to the Far Green bus shelter.

**CD/JH
LW**

128/03 Highways Repair and Maintenance

Cllr Prout gave details of highways matters outstanding following a tour of the village with Mr Portlock, GCC Highways Supervisor. The question of signage at both railway bridges to improve safety could not be answered by Mr Portlock.

Cllr Poole proposed that improved signage be included in the speed restriction proposals put forward by Mr Lindsay, GCC Traffic Manager. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to Mr Lindsay accordingly.

Clerk

The Clerk had received an extremely unhelpful response to a request to keep the road open when bridge widening work was carried out in the area of Ford Farm. Alternative routes would be via Elmcote Lane and Ashmead, neither of which was suitable in January. It was agreed that the Clerk should respond in strong terms to GCC that it was essential that a timetable be agreed for the road to be open and that all residents, visitors,

Clerk

contractors etc, should be notified. Correspondence should be copied to the Police and other emergency services.

129/03 Review of Clerk's Terms & Conditions of Employment

In the absence of recommended pay scales from NALC/SLCC this matter was deferred.

130/03 Planning

The Chairman advised Council that complaints had been received from residents in connection with helicopter movements in and out of Betworthy Farm. He had researched the issue and reported that under permitted development regulations only 28 days use was allowed. Anything over that period required a planning application for change of use. A letter had been received from Mr Taylor, the hirer of the helicopter, advising that in future it would not be landing at the farm. He apologised for any noise intrusion that may have occurred during recent landings. Mr Taylor offered a trip in the helicopter as a prize to be used in some future fundraising event in the village.

Council agreed to monitor the helicopter movements in the future. The Clerk was instructed to write to Mr Taylor and acknowledge that he will no longer cause any nuisance to residents in terms of dust and noise and to ascertain whether his alternative landing site was outside the village. The Clerk was asked to respond to his kind offer of the use of a helicopter as a prize to be taken up in the future.

The Chairman advised that he had received a notification issued jointly by DEFRA and the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister confirming that Parish and Town Councils will continue to be notified of relevant planning applications. The statement went on to reiterate Government support for the work carried out by local councils in their communities.

Council received permission for:

- a) S.02/1117 Hamshill Cottage – replacement of windows in porch and change roof from glazed to tile
- b) S.02/1165 Pinnells End Farm – erection of stock handling shed
- c) S.02/1189 Coaley C of E Primary School – extension to existing classroom
- d) S.02/557 Spring Tynning, Ticks Hill –extension to existing dwelling

Conditions attached to the permissions were read out.

Council received refusal for:

- a) S.02/566 West Winds, Far Green – erection of two storey extension (revised plans)

Reasons for refusal were read out.

131/03 Correspondence

- a) Letter from The Boundary Committee for England describing the periodic electoral review of Gloucestershire County Council.
- b) Notification from DEFRA of its project to update all maps of open country and registered common land. Draft maps will be sent out and the cooperation of parish councils is requested in ensuring their accuracy.

Due to volume of publications, two envelopes of magazines and journals were circulated amongst Councillors.

132/03 Accounts

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

133/03 Matters for Forward Consideration

- a) The Clerk to research an alternative bank account
- b) Dursley Neighbourhood Inspector to be invited to attend November meeting
- c) Parish Plan public meeting to be called in February 2003
- d) Methods of fundraising

Clerk
Clerk
Clerk

134/03 Items for Press Release

Street Cleansing Contract, dog fouling, report on Scorcher activity day, parish skip dates, recycling achievements, signage and production of village map, website launch, profile of Cllr Burgess, Housing Needs Survey.

Clerk

135/03 Date of next meeting

Tuesday 1 October 2002

The meeting closed at 10.10pm