

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 4 February 2003 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

The Chairman welcomed representatives of Coaley School Council to the meeting. There were 9 pupils in attendance with 4 parents and the Headmistress, Mrs Wells. All Councillors and the Clerk were introduced to those present.

A resident drew Council's attention to agenda item 5c) and urged Council not to encourage light pollution in the countryside by supporting the planning application for lighting of the manège at Sage Cottage, Far Green.

Chris Whincup, Coaley School, advised that traffic issues in the village had been discussed at school. He suggested that signs be put up outside school showing residents that the children thank them for not parking in front of the school.

Matthew Cook, Coaley School, highlighted three areas surrounding the problem of traffic. First, the speed at which vehicles drive through the village; second, inconsiderate parking of vehicles on pavements and particularly around school; third, heavy vehicles using roads that were not built for them. Finally he highlighted the issue of residents who allow their hedges to become untidy and thus restrict driver's view of warning road signs.

Michael Randall, Coaley School, raised the issue of traffic calming. He said he would like to see a 'sleeping policeman' to slow down traffic and a zebra crossing on The Street between the Recreation Ground bus shelter and the turning for Betworthy and The Close. As Chairman, he extended an invitation to the Parish Council to attend the next meeting of the School Council.

The Chairman of the Parish Council thanked all those who had taken the trouble to bring their concerns to the attention of Councillors and indicated they would be discussed at the next Council meeting. In the meantime he asked pupils to advise the Clerk of any hedges requiring attention.

Council received District Cllr Wood's written report. Grants under the Rural Project Grant scheme were approved by Cabinet and required ratification by full Council.

Local bids were the Village Hall for kitchen refurbishment (£3,000) and the joint bid between Cam/Coaley/Slimbridge for wheeled sport provision at Cam (£15,000).

County Cllr Nolder could not attend due to a meeting with the new Youth Development worker for Cam & Dursley. She would be asking what outreach facilities there would be that might incorporate Coaley.

The Market & Coastal Towns Initiative (MCTi) has a joint working party on sport & healthy living. There was a need to coordinate facilities for sport for the area and the organisers would appreciate views from user groups to ensure that all aspects are covered. The same with the healthy living centre proposal to be developed under MCTi.

221/03 **Declarations of Interest by Councillors**

There were no declarations made.

222/03 **Apologies** were received from District Cllr Wood and County Cllr Nolder; Representatives from Coaley School Council attended the meeting.

223/03 **Minutes** of the meeting held on 7 January 2003 were approved as a true and correct record by those present at the meeting. Proposed Cllr Hobson; seconded Cllr Wilcox and agreed by all.

224/03 **Matters Arising**

Minute 210/03 Dog fouling. An item would appear in the next newsletter along with a flyer produced by Stroud District Council. The Animal Welfare Officer had agreed to attend Coaley School for the purpose of an educational visit. Cllr Wilcox had obtained some further information and promotional material including a supply of poop bags from Bayer, the manufacturers of dog worming products. She was aware of a sponsorship agreement between the company and County Councils.

Minute 212/03 Rural Economic Strategy for Gloucestershire. The Chairman reported on the Conference and confirmed that Council's response had been submitted as agreed.

Minute 214/03 SDC Local Plan Inquiry. SDC's response to MU3 Lister Petter site in connection with Coaley Parish Council's objection was not specifically related to the problems at Halmore Mill sewage treatment works. The response document CD/L52 indicated that Severn Trent had identified that sewers at the Lister Petter site were subject to surcharge and that measures would be required to deal with them. Also the storm water overflow is in a poor condition and is to be upgraded as part of a programme managed by the company. An oversize replacement sewer would cover both issues.

225/03 **Planning**

Council discussed:

- a) S.03/66 The Leigh, Ham Lane – construction of an all weather tennis court and post and mesh

Council supported this application

- b) S.03/71 Sage Cottage, Far Green – erection of 4 lights above manège to rear of property

Council objected to this application and reiterated comments made at the time of the original application for a manège that it would not wish to see floodlighting at the site.

Council received permission for:

- a) S.02/1936 Holly Tree Cottage, Garter Court - construction of a lean-to porch for storage/parking of scooter
- b) S.02/1745 Land at the Fox & Hounds – outline application for the erection of a dwelling

Conditions attached to the permissions were read out.

Council received refusal for:

S.02/1815 Millham, Coaley Mill - construction of a new agricultural dwelling

Reasons for refusal of planning permission were read out.

Council received notification of refusal on appeal for:

S.02/566 West Winds, Far Green – erection of a two storey extension

226/03 **Accounts**

227/03 **Correspondence**

- a) Golden Valley Classic MCC March Hare Trial. Notification had been received of an event to be undertaken by the motorcycle club on Sunday 2 March. Councillors noted the proposed route.

- b) Notification from the Information Commissioner that Coaley Parish Council's Publications Scheme had been adopted from 28 February 2003 for four years.

An envelope of magazines and journals was circulated amongst Councillors

228/03 **Correspondence received since agenda issued**

- a) Letter from CET Group Limited requesting permission to dig trial pits on the Recreation Ground for the purpose of checking soil samples on behalf of neighbouring Bramble Cottage.

Cllr Hobson declared an interest in this matter.

Council gave permission for trial pits to be dug.

Clerk

- b) Invitation from the Chairman of the Standards Board to attend a seminar on 18 February at Taunton. Not taken up

- c) Notification from NALC of a seminar on Quality Parish Status on 18 March in London. Not taken up.

229/03 **Highways Repair and Maintenance**

Cllr Prout's written report had been circulated earlier. It was noted that delegated functions from GCC were unlikely to happen very quickly. There was no further information available on Severn Trent works to be carried out.

Cllr Poole drew attention to the presence of a representative of the Highways Department apparently carrying out a measuring exercise in Far Green and enquired as to its purpose. Report on footpath CCO 52. The Chairman advised that he and the Clerk had spoken with the owners of the land who were well aware of their responsibilities and had made every effort to maintain access to the footpath.

Notification was received that Pinnells End Lane would be closed for a day between 21 April and 2 May for topdressing. The Clerk had been unable to contact the residents of Pinnells End Farm to advise them.

Clerk

The Clerk gave an update on GCC's proposals for working at Ford Farm bridge. The Bridge Engineer and Highways Maintenance Manager had asked Council to list its concerns about the main road to Cam being closed for a period of four weeks and offered to attend the March meeting to address those concerns. Cllr Poole commented that the reasons against road closure were the same as before and should be reiterated.

Clerk

It was agreed that a letter should be issued as soon as possible to all users of the Village Hall canvassing opinion on possible road closure and soundings taken from other residents so Councillors were fully aware of the strength of feeling. Thus far the most vociferous opponent had been the publican.

Clerk

230/03 **Village Maintenance**

No work had been carried out on the allotment gates at Far Green due to Mr Morgan's incapacity.

An appeal had been placed in the newsletter for a working party to prepare for the Bledisloe Cup competition.

It was agreed that the issue of dog fouling should be carried forward to the next newsletter (Apr / May) with a follow up article utilising the promotional material and free poop bags obtained by Cllr Wilcox.

231/03 **Parish Plan meeting – 8 March 2003**

The Chairman advised that the meeting would be opened by Stephen Wright, Director of GRCC, who was well known as being a dynamic and enthusiastic speaker. In attendance would be Caroline Aistrop of Stroud Valleys Project, Andrew Jack GRCC,

and possibly Julian Jones of Vision 21. These people would be on hand to encourage residents to think about their particular subjects and how they might affect Coaley. It was suggested that CoSPA, the Village Hall and Parish Council might each have a display. If each Councillor would take a table and draw out residents concerns then this would give 10 'facilitators' who could then record the issues and present them to the meeting. No further action had been taken with regard to asking someone who had been through the process to attend as suggested by Cllr Poole. It was agreed that an invitation should be extended to the Painswick Plan team to send a representation to the meeting.

Clerk

232/03 **Report of Council's Representative on CoSPA**

Cllr Wilcox gave a written report of the last CoSPA committee meeting. It was confirmed that a draft lease had been presented by the Village Hall Committee to CoSPA but that there were still areas of dispute. Council were advised that the matter now rests between solicitors for both parties to agree the lease without referring to the relevant instructing Committees. It was recorded that the Parish Council encourages both parties to settle the matter as soon as possible. Cllr Poole requested confirmation that any delays were solely due to the legal process and that CoSPA, through its committee, remained committed to the shop project. Cllr Wilcox replied in the affirmative on both points. Cllr Hobson advised that the Village Hall Committee was equally anxious to get the matter resolved as soon as possible.

233/03 **SDC Green Spaces Strategy**

The report and questionnaire had been circulated to Councillors earlier and the Clerk was instructed to compile the composite reply. Councillors commented that it was difficult to complete the questionnaires.

Clerk

234/03 **Report on Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZ's)**

Cllr Wilcox issued a report from the DeFRA website in the circulation folder and gave a farmer's view on the Government policy. Whilst most farmers viewed the protection of watercourses as essential, Cllr Wilcox expressed the view that domestic nitrates were far worse than anything put on the land through normal farming activity.

235/03 **GCC Youth & Community Service Plan 2003/4**

Cllr Wilcox confirmed that she would be meeting with 2 representatives of Coaley Youth Group to feed their comments, as end users, into the consultation process. It was noted that there appeared to be a disproportionate number of administration and clerical staff in relation to youth workers and it was agreed that this should be highlighted to the author of the plan. Cllr Hobson proposed that Cllr Wilcox and the Clerk prepare Council's response following the Youth Group meeting; agreed by all.

LW/Clerk

236/03 **Matters for Forward Consideration**

- a) GCC Structure Plan 3rd Alteration – Deposit Draft. The Chairman would be attending the next meeting of the Structure Plan Forum group on 5 February. A summary list of policies was distributed to each Councillor for discussion at the March meeting.
- b) Requests had been received for grants from the Parish Council. In order to assist the decision making process the Clerk was instructed to issue a questionnaire to each applicant.
- c) Annual Assembly – date and topics to be decided at March meeting. Parish Plan steering committee to be invited to attend. For expediency reports would be restricted to the Parish Council only.

CD

Clerk

- d) Points raised by members of Coaley School Council during Open Forum.
- e) Planning permission Sage Cottage – possible breach of approval S.02/387.
- f) Village Hall Golden Jubilee celebrations.

237/03 **Items for Press Release and publication on the website.**

Council agreed to publish minutes of meeting held on 7 January 2003 with the exception of minute number 208/03 relating to accounts.

238/03 **Date of next meeting**

Tuesday 4 March 2003

The meeting closed at 9.45 pm