

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON **3 June 2003** IN THE JUBILEE ROOM OF THE VILLAGE HALL

Present: Cllrs C Dickinson (Chairman), J Hobson, L Wilcox, C Prout, D Poole, S Smith (Clerk)
REF

ACTION

OPEN FORUM

Residents either side of West Winds, Far Green gave statements to the Council regarding the planning application to be discussed later in the meeting.

The applicants at West Winds also gave their view of the plans that had been designed in consultation with Planning Officers at SDC. They requested Parish Council support for the application or no comment at all.

Mr Goman commented on the newly enlarged access to Lower Silver Street Farm drawing attention to the size of entranceway in relation to the lane and also the possible effect on the watercourse, which it straddled. Mr Dauncey from GCC was able to clarify the highways position regarding farm entrances.

District Cllr Wood advised that SDC would 'match fund' applications for Rural and Community Grants subject to policy within the grant scheme. Following the recent elections she had been appointed Vice Chairman of the Regeneration and Resources Scrutiny Committee. A new board had been set up for transfer of the District housing stock to the Housing Corporation. She had attended a meeting the previous day at Trenley Road between SDC Housing Development Officer, Pippa Clew and Cllrs Wilcox and Prout with a view to developing the site adjacent to no 4 Severn View for affordable housing. It was intended that the site would be passed across to the Housing Corporation for this purpose. GCC Highways Department would be consulted with regard to vehicular access to and from the site. The other site on GCC owned land behind Coaley School had been considered too expensive to pursue.

County Cllr Nolder reported that a new Officer had been appointed to follow through the Burial Ground proposal put forward by Coaley Parish Council. It had been stressed to him that the request for a plot of land for burials should not be mixed up with the affordable housing issue. She described a survey to be conducted between Highways Agency and GCC to establish travel patterns of vehicles throughout the County. She emphasised that the purpose was for statistical analysis only and urged residents to cooperate if asked to pull off the road. The Rednock School Private Finance Initiative (PFI) bid was turned down because the school was too good to qualify. Money would be given to schools that need to raise standards.

The Chairman invited Mrs Kirkham, Bridge Engineer for GCC to explain the current position regarding bridge work at Ford Farm bridge during the summer. Mrs Kirkham advised that a 12 hour traffic count had been conducted and the figures tallied with the informal survey carried out by the Clerk in March - 95 vehicles in both directions during one hour over the bridge. This was not sufficient volume of traffic to justify installing a temporary bridge. The project would save just over £100k by not having a temporary bridge with the overall scheme costs just under £200k. This meant therefore that the road would be closed for 6 weeks only with a signed diversion route via Cam Green and Ashmead. It was thought that most vehicles would use that route. Roadside signage would indicate local services open as usual.

Cllr Hobson pointed out that Severn Trent proposed traffic controlled roadworks through the main street during the same period. Mrs Kirkham was not aware of this and undertook to raise it at the next joint meeting with utility companies.

Cllr Poole asked several questions regarding project costing and why Coaley residents were being penalised through road closure for a problem not necessarily of their making. Mrs Kirkham confirmed that the funds set aside for replacing pavements in Coaley this year were ringfenced and did not form part of the bridge project. The bridge required strengthening in order to comply with EU standards and was not connected with development of the Listers site in Dursley for housing. The Environment Agency had requested widening of the culvert to be carried out at the same time. Although not the preferred diversion route, Elmcote Lane would be upgraded with the provision of 14 passing bays, at a cost of £18k funded from the bridge project, which would benefit Coaley residents.

Mr Carter enquired whether the spare Bailey bridge could be brought into use. Mrs Kirkham explained that foundations would have to be built and that transport and refurbishment prior to use would mean an additional £50k on the project cost. By using a temporary bridge the job would take twice as long and costs would escalate. Mr Carter asked whether the vehicle count took into account farm vehicles which were anticipated to be higher during the summer months and likely to use Elmcote Lane which was totally unsuitable. Mrs Kirkham considered that since Elmcote Lane was not the signed diversionary route only local people would use it and thus be aware of the danger of oncoming traffic. She would do all she could to make it safe. Mr Carter asked what facilities would be put in place to indicate that his pub was open. Mr Dauncey replied that adequate signage would be provided. It was noted that although the road would be closed to vehicles, pedestrian and cycle access would be in place for the duration of the works.

Cllr Dickinson raised the question of bus routes and how they would operate. Mrs Kirkham replied that the Railink bus had low usage and Village Link would be promoted instead. There was a meeting between Parish representatives and the GCC integrated transport department soon at which this matter would be raised. County Cllr Nolder suggested that the operator of the Little Green Bus, Colin Hoskins Coaches, should be notified directly of the road closure.

A local resident commented that he had stopped using Elmcote Lane because it was dangerous and asked 'what price Health & Safety?' Mr Dauncey advised that he had considered putting in traffic signals on the narrowest parts of the lane to secure safety however the volume of traffic had to be weighed up against the wait at traffic lights. This might inconvenience people more. Advisory signing may be a possibility. The start date for works was confirmed as 23 June with road closure taking place during school holidays. Residents would be able to learn of progress via the GCC website.

59/04 **Declarations of Interest by Councillors**

Cllr Hobson declared an interest in the matter of the letter from the Village Hall Management Committee dated 3 May 2003.

60/04 **Apologies** Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Chalmers and Cllr Burgess.

County Cllr Nolder, District Cllr Wood, and 8 parishioners attended the meeting. Mr M Dauncey and Mrs L Kirkham representing Gloucestershire County Council also attended the meeting. Mr Goman from Silver Street was a guest at the meeting

61/04 **Minutes** of the meetings held on 6 and 22 May 2003 were approved as a true and correct record by those present at the meeting. Proposed Cllr Prout; seconded Cllr Hobson; agreed by all.

62/04 **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

63/04 **Planning**

Council discussed:

- a) S.03/544 Land at Fox & Hounds – approval of reserved matters for the erection of one dwelling (revised plans)

Cllr Dickinson proposed that Council support the application; seconded Cllr Poole; all in favour

- b) S.03/427 West Winds, Far Green - erection of two storey extension (revised plans)

Cllr Dickinson proposed that a letter be sent to SDC pointing out that the revised plans do not appear to conform to the details requested in a letter to Richard Wadley Designs from Melanie Beddoe, Planning Officer, dated 2 May 2003. On this basis, Coaley Parish Council does not support the application; seconded Cllr Poole; all in favour.

- c) S.03/798 7 The Close – erection of single storey rear extension, rear porch and pitched roof over existing garage/utility room

Cllrs Hobson & Wilcox declared an interest in this matter.

Cllr Dickinson proposed that Council support the application; seconded Cllr Prout; all in favour.

- d) S.03/864 Pigeon House Farm, The Ham – erection of agricultural building to replace existing

Cllr Dickinson proposed that Council object to the erection of a new barn as it would affect the setting of a building of special architectural interest; seconded Cllr Hobson; all in favour

Council received refusal for:

- a) S.03/413 The Leigh, The Ham – erection of new garage with games room over

Reasons for refusal were read out.

64/04 **Accounts**

Accounts for year ended 31 March 2003 were presented to Council for approval; Proposed Cllr Hobson; seconded Cllr Prout; all in favour

The Chairman read out the statements requiring endorsement by the Council in the Annual Return. All statements were answered positively with the exception of a risk assessment. It was agreed that a suitable explanation should be submitted with the Statement of Assurance to confirm that Council will consider a risk assessment during the next year. Proposed Cllr Wilcox; seconded Cllr Hobson; all in favour. It was agreed that the Chairman would personally thank, on behalf of Council, Mr Hall for conducting the internal audit at short notice.

65/04 **Correspondence**

- a) Letter from CoJAC 15 May 2003 requesting support for its submission to the SRA for trains to stop at Cam & Dursley and Yate rail stations. Cllr Prout proposed that Council offer the support requested; seconded Cllr Wilcox; all in favour
- b) GAPTC Summer Update – the Clerk drew attention to training courses currently on offer, the Quality Parish Council scheme, GAPTC AGM on 18 October, NALC Annual Conference 3-5 October in Cardiff and the introduction of allowances for Parish Councillors. These items were duly noted by Councillors

Clerk

66/04 **Correspondence received since agenda issued**

- a) SDC Scrutiny Committee examination of road closures by GCC. Council considered that District Cllr Wood as Deputy of the Committee was in a unique position to put across the Parish Council's view of GCC road closure arrangements.
- b) Invitation from Stroud & District CAB to attend AGM on 25 June – not taken up.
- c) Details of the UK Online campaign – to be passed on to Cllr Burgess.

Clerk

Clerk

Clerk

An envelope of magazines and journals was circulated amongst Councillors.

67/04 **Report of Recreation & Leisure sub committee dated 2 May 2003**

The report, having been circulated at the previous meeting, highlighted two areas for Council approval. First was the removal of pea gravel from the Ecoblock surrounding the Coronation oak in the Parish Council carpark. Cllr Wilcox had sourced an industrial vacuum cleaner to remove the gravel and it was agreed that this should be used in the first instance.

LW

The second item for discussion was the provision of a wooden 'kickboard' to be placed adjacent to the soil heaps at the bottom of the Recreation Ground. A cheap chipboard could be provided at low cost from materials available or Severnply could provide a hardboard kickboard for approximately £50. Council agreed to install a temporary kickboard at the rear of the Recreation Ground and monitor usage.

LW

68/04 **Letter from Village Hall Management Committee 3 May 2003**

Council discussed the letter which had been circulated at the previous meeting. The Clerk was instructed to reply that Coaley Parish Council shared the concern of the Village Hall Finance Committee and supported its attempts to stop vandalism. Cllr Wilcox advised that the Youth Group were being encouraged to assist with clearing up graffiti on the hall although it was not necessarily that age group who were applying it.

Clerk

69/04 **Highways Repair and Maintenance**

Cllr Prout reported that the pavements were in a poor state of repair at Westend; he was advised of recent pavement damage at the Trenley Road junction with Hamshill. Council discussed the points raised during the Open Forum regarding road closure at Ford Farm and the alternative route for traffic. The Clerk was instructed to write to GCC to confirm that Council remained unhappy with road closure and to request that GCC please reconsider its decision in the light of traffic usage at the time. Councillors also requested that details of signage for both Elmcote Lane and the diversionary route be advised.

CP

Clerk

70/04 **Affordable Housing**

Cllrs Prout and Wilcox had met District Cllr Wood and Ms Clew, SDC Housing

Development Officer, on 2 June to look at the SDC owned site adjacent to 4 Severn View, Trenley Road. It was anticipated that only 2 dwellings could be accommodated on the site and there would be highways issues due to poor vehicular visibility. These could be overcome by the removal of the hedge on the Parish Council allotments further along the road. Further development would be preferred on GCC owned land behind the school. The party then toured all three Parish Council allotment sites in the village.

71/04 **Village Maintenance**

The Chairman gave an update on works carried out in preparation for Bledisloe Cup judging. Both the District and County Councils had acknowledged Coaley's entry into the competition and agreed to pay special attention during the period of judging. Invitation to attend SDC's Play Area Inspection training course on 13 June was accepted by Cllrs Wilcox & Prout. The cost of £10 per person was acknowledged.

LW/CP

72/04 **Appointment of Parish Clerk**

In view of the nature of the business to be discussed Council resolved to exclude members of the public.

The Chairman reported that the recruitment panel had been unable to appoint a Clerk from the candidates interviewed during week commencing 19 May. It was agreed that an advertisement should be placed in the June/July newsletter. If there were no local applicants then an advertisement should be placed in the Citizen on Thursday 26 June. The Clerk was asked to appraise the local resident whose application was withdrawn following interview that the job would be readvertised and a further application would be looked upon favourably.

Clerk

73/04 **Matters for Forward Consideration**

Cllr Poole's report from Coaley School Governors
SDC Crime and Disorder Strategy meeting held on 3 June

74/04 **Items for Press Release and publication on the website.**

Council agreed to publish on the website minutes of meeting held on 6 May 2003 with the exception of minute number 06/04 and 20/04. Minutes of the meeting held on 22 May 2003 would not be published due to their content.

75/04 **Date of next meeting**

Tuesday 1 July 2003

The meeting closed at 10.30pm