

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON **5 November 2002** IN THE JUBILEE ROOM OF THE VILLAGE HALL

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

REF

ACTION

OPEN FORUM

Mrs George gave a statement as Chairman of CoSPA requesting reassurance that the Parish Council still supports the shop project. The Chairman responded that the Parish Council was still firmly in favour of the project. Mrs George asked if the Parish Council could bring pressure to bear on the Village Hall Committee to ensure that a lease for the land on which the shop is to be built was forthcoming. An application for a grant from DeFRA was in serious jeopardy due to the lease not being made available.

District Cllr Wood reported that voting in the elections due to be held in May 2003 could be by way of internet and telephone to enable greater participation in the electoral process. She also advised details of the GCC periodic electoral review. She would support the proposal that Coaley be banded with Uley in GCC negotiations.

Coaley was the only parish to respond to the district wide parish boundary review. The Parish Council proposal regarding Halmore Mill has been accepted by SDC and would be put forward to the Secretary of State for approval.

The Central Government Standard Spending Assessment procedure had been reviewed and Gloucestershire would be worse off. The SDC budget would be affected and one of the options for balancing the budget would be to cut grants and donations. District Cllr Wood made clear her intention to vote against any such proposal.

Applicants for planning permission at Elmcote Lane and the Fox & Hounds had requested that their recent applications be put to the SDC Development Control Committee and District Cllr Wood had facilitated such arrangements.

PC Croot and Inspector Donovan from the Dursley Inspector Neighbourhood Area (INA) were introduced to the meeting. A rumour that the Gloucestershire Constabulary would lose up to 130 officers was not accurate. Inspector Donovan's INA would not operate with a reduction of 10 officers. Extending the life of vehicles and equipment would make savings. It was reported that Cotswold and Stroud Division of Gloucestershire Constabulary is the quietest in the County but that Dursley has the largest crime figure within that Division. The following statistics cover a twelve month period:

Dursley INA	No attributed to Coaley	Type of Crime
2065	22	All reported crimes
260	2	Violent
159	2	House burglary
212	1	Non dwelling burglary (garage unsecured)
242	6	Theft from motor vehicles (4 cars unsecured)
101	1	Vehicle taken without consent
440	3	Offence of criminal damage
118	2	Drug offences
1195	5	Public disorder incidents

There are 17 parishes in the INA with Coaley being the quietest parish.

PC Croot gave a report on the Mobile Police Station (MPS), which had been in circulation for 8 months in the Stroud & Cotswold Division. Statistics were given on the

number of crimes reported and property recovered through this method of policing. The MPS visits Coaley twice monthly and dates are publicised through the newsletter and noticeboards. PC Croot advised that a speed gun was carried on the MPS and is available for use within the parishes. He described a much more effective gadget for use in combating speeding traffic and appealed for contributions from Parish Councils towards funding.

Cllr Poole asked what Parish Councils could do to help the police. Inspector Donovan said that Parish Councils were the best eyes and ears in the area and asked for all information of interest to be passed on to the Dursley police station. PC Croot described the operation of a Police Information Point (PiP) and asked for space within the new shop for a PiP display board. He urged the Parish Council to support the Neighbourhood Watch group.

Mr George reported a recent incident and the police response to it. He confirmed that the telephone point outside the police station did not work. PC Croot advised that it had been superseded by a different type of call centre telephone service.

The Chairman thanked all those attending the Open Forum, particularly the Police representatives, and declared the Forum closed.

163/03 **Declarations of Interest by Councillors**

Cllr Dickinson declared an interest in the matter of:
S.02/1810 The Old Vicarage planning application

164/03 **Apologies** were received from Cllr Hobson and County Cllr Nolder. District Cllr Wood, Inspector Donovan, PC Croot and 3 parishioners attended the meeting.

165/03 **Minutes** of the meeting held on 1 October 2002 were approved as a true and correct record by those present at the meeting. Minutes of the meeting held on 22 October 2002 were approved as a true and correct record by those present at the meeting.

166/03 **Matters Arising from the meeting held on 1 October 2002**

The Clerk was now in receipt of approved copies of the Housing Needs Survey and information that would enable her to pursue the recommended action points. Cllr Poole had attended a meeting of the Dursley parish cluster group on 3 October and his minutes were in circulation.

167/03 **Matters Arising from the meeting held on 22 October 2002**

There were no matters arising.

168/03 **Report on GRCC AGM held on 9 October 2002**

Cllr Prout circulated his report of the meeting. He mooted the idea of 'Village Agent' as a link between the village and the GRCC. He concluded that Coaley Parish Council was already fully briefed on the Parish Plan which was one of the subjects discussed at the AGM. It was agreed that the Village Agent vacancy should be promoted via the newsletter.

169/03 **Report on GAPTC AGM held on 19 October 2002**

Council received the Chairman's report of the meeting, copies having been circulated previously. The subscription rate for 2002/03 was noted. Coaley Parish Council's proposition put forward last year that the timing of the annual parish meeting be changed

Clerk

has now been adopted by NALC as policy to be pursued.

170/03 **Report on SLCC Annual Conference 19-21 October 2002**

The Clerk's written report was not available and would be circulated at a later date. The following items were drawn to the attention of the Council: proposed changes to the Accounts and Audit regulations, the developing role of local councils as stressed at the GAPTC AGM and the importance of proper briefing and training for both Councillors and Clerk; the new Freedom of Information Act requirement for Parish Councils to prepare and submit a 'Publications Scheme' by the end of December; a summary of activity by the Standards Board including statistics since its inception earlier this year.

Clerk

171/03 **Report from Council's Representative on the Village Hall Committee**

Council received the Cllr Dickinson's report of the Village Hall AGM, copies having been circulated previously.

The Clerk raised the matter of the entrance door to the Jubilee Room and asked if it could be adjusted from self locking to including a door handle and locking device. The Chairman proposed that a letter drawing attention to the difficulties experienced should be sent to the Village Hall Committee; seconded by Cllr Chalmers and agreed by all.

Clerk

172/03 **Report from Chairman of Recreation & Leisure Committee**

Cllr Wilcox advised that she attended a meeting called by Cam Parish Council and supported by Slimbridge Parish Council and representative District Councillors to pursue the proposal for developing the Jubilee Field in Cam. Neighbouring parishes were asked to join in with a joint bid to SDC Rural Project Grant Scheme for funding of a skateboard park. Supporting evidence would be required from the parishes towards the joint bid. Cllr Wilcox agreed to sit on the joint working party and Council supported the joint bid. At a meeting to be held later in the month, the Recreation & Leisure committee would be considering the possibility of putting down a strip of concrete on the Recreation Ground for skateboarders to encourage them away from the Village Hall carpark.

LW

LW

LW

173/03 **Report from Council's representative on CoSPA**

Cllr Wilcox gave details of meetings she had attended since her previous report. Fundraising was continuing and it was hoped that the Community Fund would be generous with a large grant to cover the building costs for the shop. A lease from the Village Hall Committee was still awaited. Without the lease the grant would be lost. It was agreed that Council's representative would liaise with the Village Hall Committee to see why the delays had occurred and what action the Parish Council could take to move the shop project along.

CD

Cllr Poole commented that the lack of information emanating from the Village Hall Committee was of concern to both the Parish Council and the CoSPA Committee. Cllr Poole proposed that the Chairman express concern over the lack of urgency given by the Village Hall Committee towards production of the lease; seconded by Cllr Chalmers and all in favour.

CD

To clarify the question raised by Mrs George during the Open Forum, Cllr Dickinson put the proposal that the Parish Council was in favour of the shop as a project on the site under negotiation; seconded by Cllr Wilcox; all in favour.

174/03 **Gloucestershire County Council Periodic Electoral Review**

Following the review last year of District Council electoral wards it was now the turn of the County Council to respond to changes initiated by the Boundary Committee for England. Draft proposals show Coaley included in a division with Dursley, Frocester,

Uley and Leonard Stanley. Cam stood alone.

Cllr Dickinson proposed that Coaley be included with Cam as a Division; seconded Cllr Burgess; all in favour.

Clerk

175/03 **Highways Repair and Maintenance**

Cllr Prout circulated a report on a Highways and Traffic Management Seminar he attended on 28 October 2002. Future meetings to be arranged by GCC would be welcomed. Cllr Prout had raised the issue of lack of coordination between GCC Highways Department and utility companies and was given the vague response that liaison did take place but that the companies had the right to attend to their services at all times.

Comments were made on the closure of Peak Lane and the lack of notification given to residents. The Clerk advised that GCC Highways had in the past issued leaflets to residents who might be affected by works. However, the current road closure had been requested by Severn Trent to renew a water main and that particular company did not offer the same courtesy.

County Cllr Nolder had been able to confirm that the bridge work at Ford Farm bridge would be going ahead and that all parties had agreed to the installation of a temporary bridge for the duration of the work which would start in January 2003.

New items of highways repair reported were:

Overhanging hedges at Tickshill and The Ham. Both the Clerk and the Tree Warden had visited the elderly resident whose hedges required attention and she had attempted to take some remedial action. The Tree Warden and his party had been given permission to work on the hedges during the coming winter months. Photographs of Tickshill and The Ham were shown to Councillors and it was noted that part of the Far Green allotment hedge was at a height equal to that being attended by the Tree Warden.

Attention was drawn to outstanding issues of highways maintenance, namely the solar powered (non-flashing) wig wag at the school and Elmcote Lane flooding. These items to be pursued by the Clerk and Cllr Prout respectively.

Clerk/CP

176/03 **Village Maintenance**

Tenders for the grass cutting contract for 2003/04 had been opened by the Chairman and Clerk. Details of comparative quotations were circulated to Councillors.

The Chairman proposed that LGM be made the preferred supplier and that the Clerk negotiate with them to reduce the price downwards; seconded by Cllr Burgess and agreed by all.

Clerk

177/03 **SDC Street Cleansing Contract**

Details of the additional cost of cleaning the main road from the School to the railway bridge beyond Westend were given.

Cllr Dickinson proposed that Coaley Parish Council pay the additional cost until such time as the contract was renegotiated by SDC; seconded by Cllr Chalmers. Five votes in favour and 1 abstention. Following advice from District Cllr Wood on the length of the contract, it was agreed that Council would contact the relevant portfolio holder with a view to getting the area included in the SDC contract at the earliest possible opportunity.

Clerk

178/03 **Planning**

Council discussed:

- a) S.02/1785 Nutgrove, Silver Street – erection of conservatory

- Due to the Chairman's declaration of interest, Cllr Poole took the chair for the next item
- b) S.02/1810 The Old Vicarage, The Street – rendering of extension to west end of house to match existing (Listed Building Consent)
 - c) S.02/1925 Holly Tree Cottage, Garter Court – change of use of land from agricultural to residential

Council supported all three applications

Clerk

Council received permission for:

- a) S.01/1624 Betworthy Farm – extension to former piggery (for use as a covered store)

Conditions attached to the permissions were read out.

Notice of appeal against refusal had been received on:

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

Council noted the appeal and did not amend or modify its earlier comments on the application and revised plans.

179/03 **Correspondence**

- a) Letter of thanks from Alkington Parish Council for arranging the training course held in Coaley on 28 September 2002. They expressed a desire to maintain contact with Councillors to discuss matters of mutual interest. The Clerk was instructed to acknowledge the letter but not to fix a date at present.
- b) Notification from Stroud & District Motor Club of a mechanics trial through Coaley Wood on Sunday 10 November. The Clerk was instructed to notify the organisers of the event of the closure of Peak Lane.
- c) GAPTC training course at Malmesbury on 20 November 2002 – not taken up

Clerk

Clerk

Various publications were circulated amongst Councillors in the monthly envelope

180/03 **Correspondence received since agenda issued**

- a) An appeal by the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens for a new warden to represent the parish of Coaley – to be promoted via the newsletter
- b) An appeal by Stroud Valleys Project for support in submitting a bid to English Nature for writing a biodiversity plan covering Coaley parish – letter to be copied to Cllrs for discussion at next meeting
- c) Proposals from Halcrow to install a bus shelter at Cam & Dursley rail station – all in agreement that this item would be well used and appreciated

181/03 **Accounts**

Consultation on the Accounts & Audit Regulations 2003 by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM).

The Clerk drew attention to the following proposals:

Date for filing accounts to be brought forward to end of June – not supported

Public inspection of accounts to be 12 months from the year end – it was suggested that an alternative would be to display the accounts on the Parish Council website for 12 months but that inspection at Council office would remain unchanged at 15 days

Internal audit to be voluntary for councils with less than £100,000 turnover – not

supported.

Precept 2003/04

Play area resurfacing would be due at any time from 7-10 years from installation. It was agreed to start budgeting for replacement.

A full programme of grants and donations would be considered if the money were available and the maximum spend under S137 would be precepted.

It was agreed that money should be set aside for possible improvements to pavements through weed spraying. An offer by Mr Meredith to run a film show of his films taken of the Millennium and Golden Jubilee celebrations was taken up as an opportunity of raising funds to support the precept.

The Clerk detailed her research to date for an alternative bank account which did not look promising.

182/03 **Matters for Forward Consideration**

- a) SDC Energy Efficiency update – speaker to be invited to January meeting
- b) Freedom of Information Act – December meeting

**Clerk
Clerk**

183/03 **Items for Press Release**

Promotion of the Village Agent scheme
Road closure at Ford Farm due January 2003
Cotswold Voluntary Wardens advert
Know your Councillor – Cllr Burgess

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MB

184/03 **Date of next meeting**

Tuesday 3 December 2002

The meeting closed at 10.45pm