

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 1 October 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**

Mr Billett asked Council to thank Mr & Mrs Poole for keeping the Far Green bus shelter tidy and in good order. He wished to scotch rumours that he had agreed to sell his garden to a developer interested in Lanterns, The Street. He requested that Council abide by the results of the Housing Needs Survey when considering a planning application on the Lanterns site.

Mrs Tong commented on the condition of the roads and grass verges in villages and towns she had visited in Yorkshire. She asked why Gloucestershire was not of the same standard. County Cllr Nolder concurred with Mrs Tong's view of the state of roads, pavements and verges locally. She replied regarding the strength of the GCC budget and pointed out that larger parishes arrange for additional grass cutting over and above that provided under the GCC contract. She also passed comment on the installation of street furniture designed to aid traffic calming.

County Cllr Nolder brought news of partnership working between GCC, 6 District Councils, 3 Primary Care Trusts and other health organisations. Funding had been secured and a structure put in place to deliver services jointly for vulnerable groups such as housing for young people leaving care, adults with learning disabilities living within the community. There was also a proposal to build a 50 place nursery at a site in Dursley together with outreach facilities.

139/03 **Declarations of Interest by Councillors**

No declarations were made.

140/03 **Apologies** were received from District Cllr Wood; County Cllr Nolder and 2 parishioners attended the meeting.

141/03 **Minutes** of the meetings held on 3 and 19 September 2002 were approved as a true and correct record by those present at the meetings with the exception of a typing error on page 561. It was agreed that the minutes would be displayed in full on the Parish Council website with the exception of accounts and details of the Clerk's absence from home.

142/03 **Matters Arising from the meeting held on 3 September 2002**

The Far Green bus shelter was being maintained by Mrs Poole and there had been no further incidence of vandalism.

The Clerk had received confirmation from the residents at Betworthy Farm that the alternative landing site for the helicopter was outside the Parish.

Information missing from the website at launch on 1 October would be added in due course.

143/03 **Matters Arising from the meeting held on 19 September 2002**

There were no matters arising.

144/03 **SDC Street Cleansing Contract**

Council's comments regarding operation of the contract had been referred back to SDC. The inclusion of the road from School to the railway bridge on a 6 weekly basis would bring cost implications to the contract. These could be overcome by other areas being downgraded or the Parish Council paying the cost of extra cleaning.

Cllr Burgess proposed that SDC be asked to clean the additional area once every 8 weeks.

The Chairman suggested that SDC be requested to confirm how the present contract would be downgraded in terms of change of frequency and the additional cost, which may be passed on to the Parish, if the contract were enhanced rather than downgraded.

The other items requested regarding notification of street cleaning and wish to retain the lady operative could not be met under the terms of the contract.

Councillors were concerned to learn that neither SDC nor the contractor could advise when they were visiting and cast doubt upon the effectiveness of their work schedules.

Clerk

#### 145/03 **Housing Needs Survey 2002**

A draft letter to residents was circulated amongst Councillors. The draft was approved subject to slight alteration regarding definition of affordable housing and details of the website. It was agreed that the letter should be inserted into the October/November newsletter awaiting distribution.

The Clerk had been unable to obtain further copies of the Survey report as the author was on holiday.

Clerk/CD

#### 146/03 **Report on meeting of Community Health Council**

Cllr Burgess advised that she had attended a meeting held in Stroud on 9 September 2002. Only 3 members of the public attended. This might be explained by the demise of the Community Health Council in March 2003. A new hospital based Council would be set up in the future. Issues raised at this meeting were those of parking at hospitals, prescriptions in hospital and delivery of drugs. A survey of the ambulance service was being conducted prior to cessation of the Council.

#### 147/03 **Report on Police & Community Consultative meeting**

Cllr Poole advised that he had attended a meeting held at Sharpness on 18 September 2002. Inspector Donovan addressed the meeting on policing matters and a representative from the Severn Area Rescue Association gave a presentation on the work of that organisation. The Community Safety Officer gave an update on the Crime & Disorder strategy. Cllr Poole advised that he would attend the Dursley Parish cluster group meeting on 3 October 2002.

DP

#### 148/03 **Report on Recreation & Leisure Committee meeting**

Cllr Wilcox advised that the committee had met on 30 September to discuss a proposal that Coaley should join with Cam and Slimbridge in a joint bid to SDC for funding for a skateboard park at the Jubilee field in Cam.

There was some degree of urgency in applying for a grant under the Rural Project Grant scheme that focused on young people.

Cllr Burgess proposed that Council support the application for a Rural Project Grant; seconded by Cllr Chalmers, all in favour.

#### 149/03 **Village Maintenance**

The report of the Bledisloe Cup judges was circulated to Councillors. Concern was

expressed that the worst area of marking was for the school. It was agreed that next year a working party would be invited to contribute to the Bledisloe process, thus engendering community spirit.

All signs had been installed at the Recreation Ground. The Clerk had received complaints of dog fouling and had advised the complainant that the current newsletter carried an article on the subject.

The Chairman and Cllr Wilcox had tidied up the Parish Council carpark and the wet pour safety surfacing. Cllr Wilcox reported that Messrs Playline had returned to replace a piece of wet pour that had failed since the installation of Phase I. She was currently trying to contact Redlynch Leisure, the installers of Phase II, to discuss possible failures in their work.

LW

Repairs to the roof of the Far Green bus shelter would be carried out shortly by Mr Morgan. The allotment gate at Far Green had collapsed through additional use by new tenants. It was agreed that a replacement should be sourced as soon as possible.

Clerk

Cllr Chalmers advised that he had received complaints regarding untidy gardens at properties in Hamshill. The Clerk was instructed to bring the complaints forward to SDC Housing Department and to comment on the misuse of chippings from the driveway. The Clerk would pursue the matter of disposal of items of unwanted furniture with the resident concerned.

Clerk

#### 150/03 **Highways Repair and Maintenance**

A road closure notice had been received for Peak Lane from 4 November to 3 February for the purpose of installing a water main. As the road had only recently been resurfaced in its entirety, Cllr Poole proposed that Council object most strongly to digging it up after such a short period of time. This course of action was agreed and the Clerk was asked to include County Cllr Nolder in any correspondence.

Clerk

The Clerk reported on a meeting held with the GCC Bridge Engineer and County Cllr Nolder at Ford Farm bridge. As a result of concerns expressed, the engineer was now disposed to consider the installation of a temporary bridge in order that the road may be kept open when bridge work was carried out. It would be necessary to liaise with local landowners regarding access and details of the negotiations were currently awaited. The closure of Peak Lane at the time when works were anticipated to start also had some bearing on the decision to try to keep the road open.

The queries raised by Mrs Tong during the open forum were discussed. The Clerk was instructed to write a letter of complaint to GCC regarding the frequency and quality of verge cutting.

Clerk

#### 151/03 **Review of Clerk's Terms & Conditions of Employment**

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

#### 152/03 **Planning**

The Chairman had circulated a paper proposing that a Village Design Statement should be prepared by a working party of residents. The document could then be adopted by the Parish Council and put forward to SDC as Supplementary Planning Guidance. It was pointed out that this should form part of the Parish Plan and could be dealt with at the public meeting to be held in February 2003.

Notification had been received of an appeal against refusal of permission at West Winds, Far Green. This matter would be brought forward to the November meeting for discussion.

153/03 **Correspondence**

- a) Neighbourhood Watch message regarding an incident that took place on the previous day. The details were read out to Council and no action taken.

There were no items for circulation amongst Councillors.

154/03 **Accounts**

Income and Expenditure reports to 30 September 2002 were presented to Council.

Council discussed the first draft of the precept for 2003/04. The Clerk was instructed to invite tenders for grass cutting. Items for further discussion were special projects and play area maintenance.

**Clerk**

155/03 **Matters for Forward Consideration**

- a) Councillor profiles from Cllrs Prout & Chalmers to be published on the website  
b) Works at Coaley School to be carried out from October 2002 to March 2003.

**CP/DC**

156/03 **Items for Press Release**

Housing Needs Survey letter to residents

**Clerk**

157/03 **Date of next meeting**

Tuesday 5 November 2002

The meeting closed at 10.40pm