

Present: Mrs C. Young [Acting Chairman]
Mrs P Allen
Mrs PN Pitt
Miss C Duffell
AK James
AK Black
AA Bourke
D Fereday
NP Caine

Also Present: RJ Marshall – County Councillor
R Moreton – District Councillor
Parish Clerk – Tony Tappenden
Members of the Public present : Seven
PC Frank Hossack & PCSO Rachael Street
Mathew Viney – Reporter Wolverhampton Chronicle

131/08 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were offered and accepted from Mrs R Heseltine, Mrs A James, Mrs S.Bott, S Bott, D Heseltine and D.Billson.

132/08 **PUBLIC OPEN SESSION**

- 1) Mr Morris raised three issues. Firstly he enquired about the surfacing of the buses only lane which he said was appalling. Secondly, he queried the use of the bollard at the bus lane and lastly he commented regarding recent renewed flooding on the footpath from the Wrottesley Arms down towards St. Andrews Drive.
Cllr RJ Marshall responded by stating that at the current time anyone actually walking on the bus lane was technically trespassing but he was able to assure Mr Morris that the County Council recognised people walk in this area and was able to confirm that Capital exists in next year's programme to provide a pedestrian footpath in this area. With regard to the bollard he stated that this could be back in service really soon and this was just dependant on the re-distribution of the 'zappers'. As far as the footpath flooding is concerned there is a plan to improve this lake side area next Spring and Cllr Marshall did state that he would see if any further temporary patching could be provided.
- 2) The Clerk distributed an email from Mr Gerald Wallbank of Troon Court who raised issues concerning the 'stile' which replaced a previous gate that links Troon Court cul-de-sac with the Penk footpath.
RESOLVED that the Clerk will take up this matter with the District Council to see what can be done and get back to Mr Wallbank in due course.
- 3) Mr Phil Pritchard provided the Council members with a brief update concerning the Goodyear £10,000 win. He stated that he had received an email advising how this money could be claimed and would forward this email to the Clerk in order that it can be factored into the bigger project.
PC Frank Hossack queried the provision of additional lighting at the MUGA/playground and was informed by the members that there are no plans for any additional lighting.

a) **Police Report**

Reported Crime Figures Perton
12 November 2007 – 10 December 2007

Rowdy / ASB behaviour	6	
ASB Vehicles	0	
Criminal Damage	4	
Burglary dwelling	1	
Burglary other building	1	
TWOC/ take vehicle	0	
Theft of M/V	1	
Theft from M/V	1	
Damage to M/V	0	
Assaults	2	
Robbery	2	
Theft Other	2	

1. Rowdy and anti-social behaviour/ Nuisance figs are much lower than previous period associated with Halloween and Bonfire Night. Hot spots remain Anders Sq/ Lakeside and Gainsborough Drive for nuisance complaints.
2. There was 1 reported burglary dwelling. This involved theft of the front door key which had been left underneath the front door mat. Entry has been gained and a set of car keys taken and used to drive away the owner's vehicle that was parked in the drive. This vehicle has not been recovered.
3. Burglary other building, Perton Pro Golf Club was broken into overnight 12/11/07.
4. Theft of motor vehicle relates to the vehicle at Para 2.
5. Theft from motor vehicle overnight 2nd December 2007. Vehicle in Lowry Close. Rear windscreen smashed items were taken from the vehicle, offenders made good escape.
6. Assault. A 29 year old Coventry man has been arrested in connection with an assault upon a female in Canterbury Drive. After a phone text relationship.
7. Several Police Officers attended an assistance call to a female officer attempting to detain a 16yr teenager from the Tettenhall area after he was found drunk and incapable at 20:00hrs Friday 30th November. He has subsequently been charged with public order offences.
8. Robbery. Two local 16yr olds were robbed at knife point in the woodlands between Yew Tree Lane / Dippons Lane on the boundary with Wolverhampton. Two hooded offenders have jumped the victims and have used / threatened violence to steal mobile phones, one of the offenders is described as wearing a hood zipped completely over the head and face revealing plastic goggles over the eyes. Both offenders are black Caribbean. The victims were not seriously hurt. Offenders made good escape.
9. A second robbery, at Lowry Close has been attended by the police where a laptop and Xbox were the only items stolen. Police believe this incident to be connected to the settlement of a drugs debt.

10. Theft of lead from Perton Middle School 22nd November 2007. CCTV evidence is of no evidential value.
11. Theft of 3 Royal Mail Post pouches from Dunster Grove on 27th November 2007. A particular location has been in long term use by post staff as a dropping point for later collection. PCSO Street recovered what we believe to be part of the contents in the Spenser Avenue car park (closest to Sainsbury's) 9th December 2007. From enquires this appeared after midnight Sunday the 9th. Two bank cheques, numerous Christmas Greetings cards and other unfranked mail has been recovered. The suspect for the offence was described as a mixed race male who was seen loitering in the neighbourhood. Post office have been updated. The recovered items were saturated and unsuitable for forensic examination.
12. Criminal damage. PC Lampitt has detained to young local boys under the age of 12yrs old caught applying graffiti to Harald Close subway. Enquires continue.
13. Other updates
Action plan Perton Bus Lane. Two drivers have been issued with fixed penalty notices whilst driving into Perton.

PCSO's are attending various complaints regarding parking issues in the Perton area.

Alcohol Designation

Police Data has now been plotted onto GIS at the district and the application will be submitted to the Regulatory Committee on the 18th December 2007. Police have received very good feedback regarding this proposal and we do not anticipate any problems. The final stage will involve the consultation process.

Police will continue to provide patrols to deal with alcohol abuse particularly in the central area. Friday nights appear to be a problem.

Information can be left for Perton Neighbourhood Police team on our voicemails: - 08453 303132. (04259 PC Lampitt) (03537 PC Hossack)(08861 PCSO Wilkes)(08862 PCSO Street). The Staffordshire Police control number is 08453 302010, and Crimestoppers 0800 555 111

PCSO 8862 Rachael Street
PC 3537 Frank Hossack

Cllr RJ Marshall queried item 12 concerning graffiti and also item 13 in respect of monitoring of the bus lane. Whilst PC Frank Hossack said that the graffiti was being dealt with by PC Duncan Lampitt the Clerk was able to advise the members that a formal complaint had been made to PC Lampitt on behalf of the Parish Council. PC Hossack stated that with regard to item 13 the bus lane, an action plan had been devised and implemented to monitor traffic using the bus lane illegally.

Cllr Mrs P Allen stated that 21 young people had recently attended the Church Youth Club session for the under 16's but raised concerns regarding older children trying to force their way into the event and requested policing support. PC Hossack confirmed that they would do all they could to help and expressed general concerns regarding the possible negative effects following the closure of the main youth club.

Cllr NP Caine stated that some while back a speed gun was bought by the Parish Council and queried its frequency of use and also the areas in which it is used and the convictions obtained. After some debate on this matter he stated that he was generally trying to find out if the gun is being put to good use.

Cllr Mrs P Allen queried the value of flashing signs as a deterrent to speeding and suggested that we should perhaps try to get one. Areas that could be policed by such methods are the two junctions of Edge Hill Drive and the Parkway, either side of the Parkway chicane and both sides of the Severn Drive crossing. Cllr A Bourke queried who pays / locates such signs.

RESOLVED that the Clerk will write to County Highways Authority to obtain more details regarding this facility.

PCSO Rachael Street raised concerns about the level of lighting in the area around Sainsbury's and Cllr NP Caine replied stating that Neil Harvey from the District Council was currently working on a report to ensure that the owners of this lighting were forced to bring the levels up to current British standards.

134/08 **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Cllrs Mrs P Pitt and A Bourke expressed personal and prejudicial interest in agenda item 13 regarding litter warden services in Anders Square.

District Cllr R Moreton declared personal and prejudice interest in Cheque no. 103490.

135/08 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the draft minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 12th November 2007 be confirmed as a true record following minor amendments and the Chairman of the Council duly signed them.

RESOLVED that the draft minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on 4th December 2007 be accepted for information.

136/08 **PERTON CHILDRENS PLAYGROUND**

Cllr Mrs P Allen stated that Parents and Children would like to be consulted regarding the overall design. The Clerk advised that additional plans had been requested from the initial contractor and a second alternative supplier had also been approached with the intent of providing both comparative designs and costs.

RESOLVED that since the final design is dependant on the result of the lottery funding, which is still outstanding, this matter would be held in abeyance until the next meeting.

137/08 **STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT**

County Report for Perton Parish Council November / December 2007

Progress has been made on the proposed new crossing in Coleridge Drive (near to the petrol station). I will give more details at the meeting. As requested, I have done a petition which will have been handed in to the Chairman at the full County Council meeting on Thursday 6th.

Not as much to report (of a positive nature) regarding the Chicane on the Parkway near to St Andrews Drive.

I hope to have an officer present at the meeting to explain the County Highways position and maybe, just maybe to listen to our concerns.

The decision on County Council run residential care homes has now been made. It was, as I hinted last meeting a 'partial U-Turn'. The decision is now to retain five of the homes

for EMI / Dementia purposes and two others for 'intermediate care' one in the north and one in the south (at Gt Wyrley).

There has NOT been any change in policy regarding the Learning Disability homes and the Physical Disability home. These will all be closed as soon as alternative care of an equivalent (or better) standard is available and accessible. The revenue implications of this change are that these homes will cost about £1.70 million a year to run which was not the intention 6 months ago.

A public meeting was called in Burton-on-Trent on 9th of November where each political party were invited to put their point of view and answer questions on this difficult subject. Neither Labour nor the Lib-Dems turned up which certainly made it an interesting night for me! – Two Labour MPs turned up. One of the main themes of complaint was that it was virtually impossible to get an answer to any question. I pledged to get an answer to any 'reasonable' question in writing which was achieved at a special Corporate Policy committee meeting on 22nd November (26 in all).

The sites that are to be discontinued will either be developed as Extra Care facilities, or used for other NHS purposes (for example, Bilbrook House is being earmarked as some sort of community hospital) or will be sold off to the highest bidder. No clear time-table on this part but I will explain what I can at the meeting.

For reasons best known to the controlling Labour group, the decision on Job Evaluation has been put back from December 5th to January 9th. The estimated costings are basically the same as in my last report, but there are some fairly searching questions regarding the amount of back-pay. The Conservative group feels that the fourth year of back pay is not justified. More details at the meeting.

There has been another 'change of direction' made on the subject of County Farms and their future. More details at the meeting.

Finally, I have been asked if I would carry on as the Chairman of the South Staffordshire Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. I agreed to do (at least) one more year as I feel that this is a very, very worthwhile scheme.

Cllr Robert J. Marshall

Cllr Marshall also advised the members of the following:-

- County Star rating has now improved from 1 to 2 stars.
- Scrutiny Work Group has been established to deal with the care of carers.
- Coleridge Drive crossing is likely to proceed.
- The Bus lane has seen a significant step forward and there is a suggestion that it could be turned into a proper road although this is unlikely in spite of £10,000 per annum on repairs.
- Youth Provision future is under serious review and the next meeting takes place on the 20th December.

Cllr Mrs P Allen stated that in respect to the Youth Centre Library room the exterior door has a ramp which is causing concern as it will be accessed by skate boarders.

Cllr RJ Marshall apologised saying that he had followed this up with Property Services asking who had designed this feature but was still awaiting a straight answer and would follow-up as soon as possible.

Cllr Mrs P Allen further stated that she had heard that the cost to keep the existing youth centre open for a year amounted to only £6,000 of running costs and enquired whether or not Cllr Marshall's LMIS grant could be utilised to keep it open until a permanent solution was found. Cllr Marshall's response was to say that if it was purely a monetary problem he had no issue with using the grant for that purpose but countered this by saying whilst there has not been much deterioration over the last two years there was 'health and safety' grounds suggesting that the premises should not remain open for much longer and due to its location there is no resale value of this site. He further said that from a monetary point of view we are already being asked to pay again for something already paid for via Council tax.

Cllr AK James produced a press article regarding the Government's intention to seize the assets of dormant bank accounts and use the proceeds to provide every constituency with a new or refurbished youth club stating that £184 million over three years would be added to the continuing funding of £495 million and asked if the County Council were aware of this adding that we already pay for the current Youth Service.

Cllr Mrs C Young asked who was invited to the Dave Heywood planning meeting on the 20th December but no definitive list was available and Cllr Mrs P Pitt stated that it was very important that all Councillors be invited to the workshop following this Planning meeting.

RESOLVED that the Clerk will distribute the key points of this meeting to all Councillors either by post or email after the 20th December.

138/08

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

(a) **MUGA**

Cllr A Bourke queried the recent letter from SSDC Chief Executive R. Levesley to the Clerk, stating that there seemed to be a number of points causing either concern or confusion at the District Council but Cllr AK James was able to confirm that the letter was simply to confirm a number of assumptions.

No further information was discussed on this topic since we are awaiting an announcement in December concerning funding.

(b) **Sussed Out & About – 2008 Programme**

Cllr A Bourke queried the reasoning behind free sessions provided at Codsall in spite of no apparent funding from Codsall Parish Council whilst no such free sessions are provided at Perton in spite of the fact that we have made previous contributions. Cllr Marshall stated that all sessions are subsidised to some level but will check the exact facts of this matter.

RESOLVED that this item will be rescheduled for the next meeting pending Cllr Marshall's feedback on the status of the free sessions.

(c) **Councillors' Report:**

- Cllr AK James was able to provide good feedback stating that a recent accountants report showed that South Staffordshire Council is the fifth lowest taxing authority out of 238 District Councils nationwide.

He further advised the members that a recent Planning Application Appeal concerning the Bradshaws Shop had now been allowed.

With regard to a request for dog control notices at the playing fields he stated that there was an existing notice on the pavilion concerning certain acts of

vandalism and it was important generally that people should be made aware of the law concerning dangerous dogs, playing of golf, riding of quad bikes etc. **RESOLVED** that Cllr AK James will work with the Clerk regarding the wording and location of signs in order to advise members at the next meeting, additionally, Perton Place Magazine may also be utilised to advertise this information.

Cllr AA Bourke commented that whilst South Staffordshire Council may be rated fifth lowest taxing authority out of 238 it should also be noted that in terms of performance it is only rated 'fair' and the rate of improvement is comparatively very slow, only 38 authorities are rated lower.

- Cllr NP Caine read a statement from Cllr DJ Billson who was unable to attend the meeting. The statement indicated that Cllr Billson had been working to explore all avenues in an attempt to secure funding for a fitness suite on Perton. He was able to make a bid via Service Challenge in this year's budget but unfortunately the argument presented by him and Cllr RJ Marshall in support of the bid was not successful but the project was upgraded to level 2. The statement continued stating that it is a fact of life that the Parish alone cannot proceed with any programme without the support and partnership working of the District Council. Since the Parish would need to find minimum funding in the region of £166,000 Dave Billson requires a specific endorsement from the Parish Council if they require him to explore this avenue further.

Cllr A Bourke stated that the foregoing statement from Cllr Billson paid scant attention to the findings of the Parish Plan since the Plan had not indicated a requirement for a fitness centre; in fact it was a leisure centre with pool that was needed. He additionally stated that it would have been prudent for Cllr Billson to bring this matter to the Parish Council before embarking on this course of action.

Cllr Mrs P Allen queried whether or not Cllr Billson believed he was running Perton Parish Council on his own and matters such as this should carry the collective decision of the Parish Council. Additionally, the Council had already agreed to look at Alliance Leisure who could build a centre at no upfront cost.

Cllr RJ Marshall responded saying it was clear that Perton does not have enough facilities and therefore it was felt that driving a fitness centre as a starting position would be viable, compared to the huge cost of a full leisure centre with pool. Additionally, the Parish would get profit or loss based contributions based on the percentage of their initial contribution.

Cllr D Fereday stated that he had attended the Service Challenge Briefing and said that there had been 39 areas of spending totalling £1.5 million, plus a further 9 areas adding up to a total of £1.9 million. The Perton Fitness Centre fell just outside of this target area once all of the priorities had been assessed.

Cllr Mrs P Pitt said that at the current time a youth centre was more important than a fitness centre and when did Perton people, or indeed Perton Parish Council request a fitness suite? Additionally a £0.5 million investment was unrealistic when we are not even able to keep our youth club.

RESOLVED that the Cllr Billson's statement be added to the next agenda and copied out to all Council members.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Planning Applications received from South Staffordshire Council and reviewed by the Parish since the last Parish Council meeting on Monday 12th November, 2007.

Application No.	Proposals
07/01249/FUL	Hard paving and steel boundary fencing to form a multi-use games area Upper Lake, The Parkway, Perton, South Staffordshire.
07/01296/FUL	Two storey side extension 2 Pugin Close, Perton, South Staffordshire. WV6 7TT

The Council raised no objections to the above proposals.

07/00792/FUL	Conversion of stable building to form 4 dwellings with associated landscaping. Stable Buildings At The Bradshaws, Holyhead Road, Codsall, Wolverhampton, South Staffordshire. WV8 2HT
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The Council raised no objections to the above proposals subject to compliance with redundant farm buildings re-use conditions.

South Staffordshire Council - Refusal of Planning Permission:

07/01077/FUL	Two storey side and rear extension 3 Stanley Court, Perton, South Staffordshire. WV6 7TG
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Planning Permission Granted after Appeal:

06/01043/VAR	Variation of condition 9 on permission 03/00961/FUL for construction of new farm shop – Bradshaws Farm Shop, Wrottesley Park Road, Perton, South Staffordshire. WV8 2HU	Planning Inspectorate 07/11/07
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Consent Certificate:

AL/80/2007/TOP	Consent to crown thin by up to 20% and cut back branches on property side of crown by up to 1 metre to appropriate growth points. - 9 Hoylake Road, Perton, South Staffordshire
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ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**a) List of Payments:**

The Clerk reported that the following accounts duly authorized by designated Member signatories had been paid.

List of Payments since last reviewed at the meeting of the Council on 12th November 2007

			£
01/11/07	STO	Kalidescope Limited	47.00
01/11/07	DD	SSDC Non -Domestic Rates	1199.00
01/11/07	BACS	Wages Week 31	1053.91
01/11/07	BACS	Staffordshire CC Pension Fund	1168.24
01/11/07	DD	Information Commissioner's Office	35.00
02/11/07	103479	MGD Solutions	196.00
02/11/07	103480	Hi-Tech Security Print Ltd	42.30
02/11/07	103481	Perton Place	55.00
02/11/07	103482	ADT Fire & Security PLC	319.41
02/11/07	103483	ADT Fire & Security PLC	254.66
05/11/07	103484	L.Groom - Deposit Refund	50.00

05/11/07	103485	R.Horton - Deposit Refund	50.00
07/11/07	103486	Robins Nest Catering	52.80
07/11/07	BACS	Wages Week 32	1029.49
08/11/07	103487	Mrs R.Hawkins - Deposit Refund	50.00
08/11/07	103488	Eastern Shires Purchasing Organisation	91.65
13/11/07	103489	South Staffordshire District Council	135.00
13/11/07	103490	Mrs A.Moreton	135.00
14/11/07	BACS	Wages Week 33	1014.16
19/11/07	DD	Severn Trent	125.06
20/11/07	BACS	Bank Charge	12.00
20/11/07	103492	Nobisco Limited	97.02
20/11/07	103493	South Staffordshire District Council	387.01
20/11/07	103494	Veolia ES (UK) Limited	173.09
20/11/07	103495	Penn Flower Club - Deposit Refund	150.00
20/11/07	103496	Brisol Limited	258.80
20/11/07	103497	Mrs S.Griffiths - Deposit Refund	50.00
20/11/07	103498	Mrs J.Baker - Deposit Refund	150.00
21/11/07	BACS	Wages Week 34	2062.17
26/11/07	DD	Unicom	74.10
28/11/07	103499	Emmas Plants - Deposit Refund	50.00
28/11/07	103500	BHX Leisure	1000.00
28/11/07	BACS	Wages Week 35	4045.45
28/11/07	DD	British Gas - Gas	399.92
28/11/07	DD	British Gas - Electricity	427.83
29/11/07	103501	RHF Heating Company td	520.02
30/11/07	103502	MGD Solutions	196.00
		Total	17157.09

b) **2007 / 2008 Budget-to-date:**

The budget figures for income and expenditure up to 30/11/2007 were noted.

c) **Auditors Report Year Ended 31st March 2007**

RESOLVED that Perton Parish Council accept the Auditors findings which are seen very positively by the Council who additionally expressed thanks to the Clerk's office in respect to the Financial Management of the Councils affairs.

d) **Financial Statement for half-year ending 30th September, 2007**

RESOLVED that the Council accepts the figures as presented.

141/08 **CLERKS' REPORT – DECEMBER 2007**

Matters ongoing / resolved as at 10th December 2007

- New Years Eve Tickets Sold Out
- PHRAA - PPC petition now posted at 10 Downing Street petitions web-site: Sir Patrick Cormack informed (acknowledged) and Ron Joyce PHRAA informed. Petition reads: *We the undersigned petition the Prime Minister to introduce a new act of parliament to give residents in Park Homes the equivalent legal protection and rights to that available for owners of normal houses. Petition available via – <http://petitions.pm.gov.uk/Park-Home-Owners/>*
- Castenea – Sweet Chesnut Tree to be planted FOC at Perton Playing Fields together with a plaque reading: 'In gratitude to Perton Parish Councillor Keith James –for his support to Perton Playing Fields in 2007'

- PayPoint – Tim Highland reviewing possible opportunity with Sainsbury HQ. Sir Patrick Cormack dealing with PayPoint Chief Executive – Dominic Taylor
- Available in Clerks Office: Minutes of Police meeting on 15th November regarding alcohol licensing in local area vis-à-vis Perton drinking issues.
- Review of Protection & Provision of Community Facilities via Jan Mitson @ SSDC. Questionnaires in foyer of Civic Centre with Freepost return.
- Photographs & League tables available in Clerks office in respect to Perton & Codsall Utd under 10 FC – PPC Grant recipients.
- West Midlands Regional Assembly – Phase Three Draft Project Plan consultation. To view / comment see: <http://www.wmra.gov.uk/rssphase3>
- New Drain Request – Sandown Drive. Agreed by Staffs CC Highways Division & Landscaping @ Livingstone Avenue – Staffs CC (David Wright)

142/08 **LITTER WARDEN – ANDERS SQUARE / JOHAL DAIRIES**

Cllrs Mrs P Pitt and A Bourke left the room for this item discussion.

The members noted that the proposal from First City was not immediately available but hoped that it would be available in good time for the Precept meeting in January. **RESOLVED** that the Clerk will produce a spreadsheet for the Precept meeting detailing current hours worked by the Perton Litter Warden and how much of this is re-charged back to Johal Dairies via First City.

143/08 **REVISION OF STANDING ORDERS AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS – CLLRS REQUIRED AMENDMENTS**

RESOLVED that the duration of the meeting will be amended to allow for a 2½ meeting which will incorporate the Public Open session. Additionally, the Clerk's office will produce revised Standing Orders and Financial Regulations incorporating any other suggested amendments for future acceptance by the Parish Council.

144/08 **SOCIETY OF LOCAL COUNCIL CLERKS**

RESOLVED that the full year's subscription will be renewed at a cost of £203.00.

145/08 **CORRESPONDENCE**

- Bromford Housing Group – Anti-Social behaviour, Spencer Avenue**
The correspondence was noted.
- SSDC – Acknowledgement regarding Spring Concert grant**
The correspondence was noted.
- Sir Patrick Cormack – PHRAA & PayPoint**
The correspondence was noted.
- Sainsburys – Request for support at the Childrens Playground**
The correspondence was noted.

DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 14th January 2008 @ 7.00 pm
The meeting closed @ 9.15 pm

Chairman
14th January 2008