

**Minutes of the Meeting of**  
**PERTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**held at the Perton Civic Centre on**  
**Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2008 @ 7:00pm**

Present Mrs CM Young [Chairman]  
AA Bourke [Vice-Chairman]  
Mrs P Allen  
Mrs PN Pitt  
Mrs R Heseltine  
Mrs S Bott  
Miss C Duffell  
DJ Billson  
AK James  
SK Bott  
AK Black  
NP Caine - from 8.25  
D Heseltine

County Councillor - RJ Marshall  
District Councillor - R Moreton  
Staffs CC Deputy Head of Youth Service – Graham Bott  
Staffs CC Partnerships - Simon Hobbs  
Asst Parish Clerk - Alison Moreton  
Matthew Viney - Chronicle  
David Seadon - Trainee Reporter  
Members of the Public present : 5

104/09 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were offered and accepted from Cllrs Mrs A James and D Fereday.

105/09 **PUBLIC OPEN SESSION**

- 1) A resident informed the meeting that over the last two years she had had numerous conversations and entered into correspondence with the District and County Councils regarding the general state of Dippons Lane. Last December a site survey was carried out and it was swept. She added that it would be an ideal lane for the children to walk to the Middle School safely but at the moment it was thick with mud and obstructed by overhanging branches which needed clearing. Cllr Mrs Allen added that due to the safety aspect, bollards were put in which restricted vehicular access. Cllr Billson agreed to contact the District Council and report back to the resident.
- 2) The second concern raised by a resident who reported on the problems being endured by the closure of the bus lane and the chaos of the bus service not working to schedule. She had lived here for 28 years and in all those years it had never been as bad. With the bus lane being closed she asked what alternative arrangements were in place for emergency vehicles gaining access to Perton and if anyone had informed the emergency services. She was informed that no one had notified the Parish Council of the work taking place on the bus lane.

Cllr Black reported on how badly the Choice buses are being driven with passengers in danger of being thrown from one end to the other. The resident added that on another occasion the bus had driven with the door open all the while and she felt that the people on Perton were getting a raw deal.

Following further discussion it was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk would write to the County Council expressing our dismay at why we had not been informed of what was happening in our own area and to the Traffic Commission in Birmingham regarding Choice Travel's breach of conditions.

- 3) The final issued raised by a resident concerned the outcome of 'walking the route' to school. Cllr RJ Marshall explained that the walk had been carried out on the Tuesday morning following the last meeting in which they witnessed coaches going onto the pavement. He felt that the County Inspector had made his mind up prior to the walk that it was a safe route to school but the officer said he would get something done about the overgrowth.

Following on from the last meeting Cllr Marshall informed the Members that it was not a legitimate use of the Local Members Initiative Scheme to lend money to individuals.

106/09 **POLICE MATTERS**

a) **Police Report**

Reported Crime Figs- Perton- 07/10/08- 03/11/08

Rowdy / ASB behaviour...	21
ASB Vehicles...	1
Criminal Damage...	5
Damage to M/V...	9
Burglary dwelling...	0
Burglary other building...	1
TWOC/ take vehicle...	0
Attempt/Theft of M/V...	0
Theft from M/V...	1
Theft Other...	5
Assaults...	3
Robbery...	0
Sex Offences	0
Drugs	0

1. The nuisance calls for this period were dramatically reduced from the two previous reports. This is very pleasing considering this period included Halloween. There have been several calls regarding youths letting off fireworks around the village. On one particular incident, although no fireworks were found, several youths received dispersal notices.
2. There is a worrying trend of theft of pedal cycles. Four of the five thefts involved the taking of pedal cycles. It is recommended all bikes are kept under lock and key and out of sight.
3. The criminal damage, damage to vehicles and theft from vehicles was up. The majority of damage to vehicles is where theft from has been attempted. Others included damage where vehicles may have been targeted. Again it is recommended nothing is left in view in parked unattended vehicles.
4. The priority crimes of burglary dwellings, theft of motor vehicles and robbery were excellent with no reports. The assaults were again of a minor nature.

5. It would also appear it is to cold for the flasher, as we have had no reports. This may suggest previous report was not in fact a flasher.

Any information please contact Perton's Neighbourhood Team via voicemail 08453 303132 - PC Duncan Lampitt (04259), PC Frank Hossack (03537), PCSO Teresa Wilkes (08861) and PCSO Rachel Street (08862).

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Councillors remarked on the lack of Police presence, yet again, at the Council Meeting. Cllr James asked that all complaints, observations and the lack of appearances at the meetings should be raised at the Police Meeting to be held on 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2008.

Cllr Mrs Allen reported on an incident that had taken place in her road which was not properly recorded in the police statistics.

107/09 **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Cllr A.K.James declared personal interest in cheque 103662 paid to Down to Earth Grounds Maintenance Limited.

Cllr Mrs P.Allen declared personal interest in cheque 103663 paid to David Allen.

Cllr N.P.Caine declared personal and prejudicial interest in cheque 103669 paid to Ricoh UK Ltd.

108/09 **MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 13<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER, 2008**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 13th October 2008 be confirmed as a true record and the Chairman of the Council duly signed them.

109/09 **DRAFT MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** that the draft minutes of the Management Committee Meeting held on 3rd November 2008 be accepted for information.

**RESOLVED** that the draft minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on 4th November 2008 together with October income statement be accepted for information.

110/09 **STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

a) **Youth Services: Simon Hobbs/Graham Bott**

Simon Hobbs introduced Graham Bott, who is in charge of Youth issues County wide; Graham distributed a report providing a proposal for PPC in respect to Perton Youth Centre together with a building 'condition' statement as a starting point for discussion. Graham outlined the proposals.

Cllr D Hesletine asked if this was a 'get out' of the commitment of the County Council towards Youth Provision in which case this would mean that Perton rate payers are hit twice for a service that the County Council should provide.

Cllr AK James asked if this situation was financially driven since as a Parish we are also trying to keep costs down.

Cllr Billson asked if the £6399 running cost shown in the proposal includes rates, energy, caretaking, insurance, youth work delivery and also queried what the original selection criteria when choosing the premises was.

Graham Bott responded stating that the review was financially driven in order to make significant savings. A review was conducted based on number of occasions used, attendance and running costs and then made a decision in which the Youth Service could withdraw services. He added that the Youth Service will be looking to maintain Youth workers in Perton.

Cllr Mrs P Allen stated that a proper breakdown on costs would be required if we are going to consider any part of these proposals. She was concerned about building repairs and did not consider two evenings per week adequate provision for Perton.

Discussion took place on the numbers attending Perton Youth Club and Cllr Billson stated that 72 members were registered last term and it may be more this term.

Cllr Marshall confirmed that the building used for the youth centre was constructed in 1950 and asked if there was any possibility the County Council would help with some of the repair costs.

Graham Bott replied stating that they could possibly provide a small amount for repairs and maintenance. He said that this financial year there was only £65,000 for the whole of the Youth Service but could possibly replace windows with UPVC double glazed fittings.

The Chairman requested this in writing as a matter of urgency.

S. Hobbs said that there may also be some money to do work on security which was an area of concern at the last 'speed conference' event.

It was noted that the Young People forum will need to make the application to apply to Youth Capital Fund for a grant. Funding should be available from April 09 and it will be necessary to look at how to put together the application.

Cllr RJ Marshall informed the meeting that he had spoken to the Deputy Head and Chair of Governors at Perton Middle school and was told that they had not 'mothballed' anything and no unused space was available.

It was **RESOLVED** that Mr G Bott would provide a breakdown of costs for the last 5 years and a Special meeting be arranged early December to discuss the proposals.

b) **Quotation to provide a structural report for the Youth Club premises**

**RESOLVED** that the quotation for £350 for the preparation of a structural report and Cllr Marshall's offer of funding this through the Local Member Initiative Scheme was accepted. It was also agreed that the survey be carried out as soon as possible.

c) **County Councillor's Report**

A verbal report was received from Cllr Marshall on the following items.

With regard to Rights of Way, Cllr Marshall informed the Members that even though a

footpath may have been walked over the last 10/20 years as a desire line, it is still not a Public Right of Way and the landowner is entitled to gate off his land. Cllr Mrs Allen, who declared an interest in the Ramblers Association, suggested that the Ramblers could take this up and make a claim independent of the Parish Council.

Cllr Marshall reported that with regard to best practice all school crossing patrols were to be monitored and if they didn't get enough points and the lighting was deemed sufficient at crossings the patrol wardens could be removed. He agreed to report back at the next meeting.

The Community Speed Watch had been out on two occasions with the speed gun and suggested this might help in proving that Heath House Lane was not a safe road. A Training Course for using the speed gun would be arranged shortly.

The overall performance for the County Council in terms of 'shire counties' was at one time placed 21<sup>st</sup> out of 24 and had now improved to 12<sup>th</sup> place. The average number of days absent was 10.1 with the County being 10.6.

The planning application for the Waste Energy Plant was approved with no more conditions and should be up and running by 2013.

A £2m budget for Highways has been announced and will be spent where the need is greatest. South Staffordshire has been allocated £35,000.

The number of District Partnership Officers was being reduced from six to four.

111/09 **SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

a) **Allotments Review**

Cllr DJ Billson informed the meeting that he was still pursuing this matter and the District Portfolio Managers had requested a review be done on the whole of South Staffordshire.

b) **Locality Member Forum Meeting at Perton Civic Centre –  
19<sup>th</sup> November, 5.45 pm onwards now open to all Council Members**

Cllr DJ Billson stated that all Councillors are welcome to attend these meeting which they would find a useful source of information and enable them to have an input into their own locality. Rural transport was on the agenda concerning free transport.

c) **District Councillors Report**

*Cllr AK James* reported that the planning decision for Cornovian Close had been reversed and given the go ahead once he had highlighted the application complied with Council policies.

*Cllr Billson* provided a verbal report on the following items.

- ∅ He had attended the presentation of the Conservation and Design Awards 2008, and the winner was listed on District's website.
- ∅ A review is at present taking place into rural transport and the findings will be published when known.
- ∅ Following a housing investigation by Nathan Lichfield, all three scenarios were presented to the Government, none of which affect allocations to South

Staffordshire. Stafford Town is making representation with a view to building south of Stafford possibly in the Penkrudge area. There will be strong resistance to any proposals as Penkrudge is on flood plain.

*Cllr NP Caine joined the meeting at this point.*

- ∅ A Members' Design Training session will take place at the District Council on 27<sup>th</sup> November.
- ∅ Attended a presentation at Staffordshire Fire Station on a new sprinkler system. He is currently negotiating with Planners and Members in South Staffordshire with a view to introducing this as a supplementary planning document although he stated that it could be many years before it was adopted. The cost to install the sprinkler system into new homes would be between £1,000 - £1,600.

112/09 **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

**Planning Applications received from South Staffordshire Council and reviewed by the Parish since the last Parish Council meeting on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> October, 2008.**

Application No.	Proposals
08/00972/FUL	Obstacle wall <b>Mr Mouses Farm For Unfortunates, South Perton Farm, Jenny Walkers Lane, Trescott, Wolverhampton, South Staffordshire WV6 7HB</b>
08/00944/FUL	Extension to increase sanitary provision and staff room <b>Bradshaws Farm Shop, Wrottesley Park Road, Perton, South Staffordshire. WV8 2HS</b>
08/00932/FUL	Conservatory <b>Symond Syde, Holyhead Road, Kingswood, South Staffs. WV7 3AP</b>

The Council raised no objections to the above proposals.

**DECISIONS** - The following decisions received from South Staffordshire Council:

Application No.	Proposals	Decision
08/00911/FUL	Two storey and single storey side extension and conservatory - 31 Cornovian Close, Perton	<b>Grant</b> of Planning Permission
08/00900/FUL	Conservatory - 16 Oatlands Way, Perton	
08/00826/FUL	Demolition of existing dwelling house and erection of replacement - Long Ride, Pattingham Road, Perton	

113/09 **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

- a) 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 13th October 2008**

01/10/08	STO	Kalidescope Limited	47.00
01/10/08	DD	SSDC Non -Domestic rates	1247.00
01/10/08	BACS	Wages Week 26	1104.10
01/10/08	103660	St John Ambulance	70.50
02/10/08	103661	John Ellis Associates	293.75
02/10/08	103662	Down to Earth	94.00
03/10/08	103663	David Allen - the handyman	239.86
08/10/08	BACS	Wages Week 27	1105.76
08/10/08	103664	Veolia ES (UK) Limited	121.38
09/10/08	103665	Eastern Shires Purchasing	47.00
10/10/08	103666	Staffordshire Pension Fund	1006.11
10/10/08	103667	N.Staffs Fire Extinguisher Maintenance Service	214.73
13/10/08	103668	Dr S.K.Vij - Deposit Refund	170.00
15/10/08	BACS	Wages Week 28	1159.47
15/10/08	BACS	Staffordshire CC Pension Fund	1538.10
15/10/08	BACS	Inland Revenue	2330.31
16/10/08	103669	Ricoh UK Ltd	227.14
16/10/08	103670	Computacenter (UK)	134.87
17/10/08	DD	British Gas	50.49
21/10/08	103671	Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal	50.00
21/10/08	103672	Post Office Limited	186.12
21/10/08	103673	Screwfix Direct	99.98
21/10/08	103674	MGD Solutions	196.00
21/10/08	103675	National Osteoporosis Society - W'ton Group	135.00
21/10/08	103676	Robins Nest Catering Service	237.68
22/10/08	BACS	Wages Week 29	1133.34
23/10/08	103677	Eastern Shires Purchasing	30.78
24/10/08	DD	Unicom	62.26
27/10/08	DD	Drinkmaster Limited	167.72
27/10/08	103678	Mrs Horton – Deposit Refund	50.00
27/10/08	103679	Perton First School PTFA – Deposit Refund	50.00
27/10/08	103680	Drinkmaster	49.75
27/10/08	103681	Hi-Tech Security Print Ltd	45.01
27/10/08	103682	Mrs L.Chester – Deposit Refund	50.00
28/10/08	DD	British Gas	353.64
29/10/08	BACS	Wages Week 30 & Month 7	4064.48
<b>TOTALS</b>			<b>18163.33</b>

- b) **Budget-to-date 2008/2009**

The budget report circulated with the agenda was noted.

Matters ongoing / resolved as at 10<sup>th</sup> November 2008

- PPC Civic Centre Planning Application 05/00050/FUL expires on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2010. To renew requires a new application and fee. N.B. New applications now last only three years.
- BRE Community Sustainable Energy Programme – Project Development Grant of £1242.00 awarded.
- Feedback provided into South Staffordshire Councils 'Open Space Strategy' audit consultation stating that the strategy needs to cater for the provision of allotments where none currently exist.
- Warranty repairs completed to SMP Playground apparatus on 27/10/2008. –
- Section 137 Expenditure: Limit for 2009 / 2010 set at £6.15
- Bromford Housing and SSHA requested to contact tenants via their newsletter to request that they 'do not feed the geese'.
- Playground & Muga signs erected on 4<sup>th</sup> November.
- Muga Picnic benches x 3 installed on 4<sup>th</sup> November
- Flooding Issues: Severn Drive - Cloverdale – Anson Close
  - Severn Trent Water survey shows 'all clear' and suggest Staffs CC Highways public storm water sewers are overloaded at times of heavy rain.
  - Staffs CC state that Highway Drains are clear but discharge into Severn Trent Surface Water Sewers which become full to capacity when there is heavy rain so floods are inevitable across Perton.
  - Escalated issue again to Severn Trent Customer Operations by phone and by letter raising key points of issue – awaiting feedback.
  - Ofwat do not deal with these issues and referred me to Water Consumer Council
  - Water Consumer Council state that water companies 'do not have standards to meet' with basic capacity issues and therefore this type of problem is longest / hardest to fix. All recent correspondence copied to them with letter requesting support.
  - Affected householders informed by post of current situation and requested to formalise problems with letters to STW and Water Council.
  - Referred issues to S.Poyser at SSDC who in turn has passed to Dave Armitage at Environmental Health (General) Services.
- Additional Footpaths – Definitive map of 'Rights of Way' requested from Staffs CC and received on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2008.
- Dept for Communities and Local Government: A consultation regarding Codes of Conduct for local authority members and employees. Documentation in Clerks office – closing date Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> December 2008.
- BBCs Andy Knowles to compere Inter Parish Games Presentation Evening on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November at Wombourne Civic Centre. Tickets for Parish Councillors or competing residents available via SSDC Leisure Services.

The Chairman commended the Clerk on his thorough investigation and report into the flooding problems. It was felt that the Parish Council had done all they could in assisting the householders affected by the flooding.

115/09 **FUNDING INVESTIGATION – CLLR D.J.BILLSON**

Cllr Billson informed the meeting that there was some Capital Funding available through the Community Learning Partnership and hoped we would be successful in securing a grant.

The Chairman reported that Graham Riley, Perton Librarian would like to give a presentation to Members on the Pilot Scheme being run at the Library through the Community Learning Partnership.

It was **RESOLVED** to invite Mr Riley to the Parish Council meeting in January.

116/09 **QUOTATION TO REPAINT LOWER LAKE SUBWAY**

After consideration it was **RESOLVED** that the quotation for £740.00 be accepted.

117/09 **PRECEPT INCLUSIONS FOR 2009 / 2010**

Members were asked to inform the Clerk of any projects they wished to be considered for the 2009/2010 budget. One item offered was the Youth Club.

118/09 **CORRESPONDENCE**

(a) **Choice Travel – Perton Bus Issues**

In additional to the discussion during the Public Open Session several Councillors commented on their own negative experiences with this bus service.

(b) **Consumer Council for Water – Perton Flooding Issues – See Clerks Report**

Members noted the correspondence detailing how complaints will be handled by the Consumer Council for Water.

**DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2008 @ 7.00 pm

The meeting closed @ 8.50 pm

**Chairman**  
**8<sup>th</sup> December 2008**