

Minutes of the Meeting of
PERTON PARISH COUNCIL
held at the Perton Civic Centre on
Monday 12th June 2006 @ 7:00pm

Present A.K.James [Chairman]
Mrs. R. Heseltine [Vice Chairman]
Mrs. P. Allen
Mrs. A James
Mrs. P.N. Pitt
Mrs. P.C.Bromley
C.J.Bromley
N.P.Caine
A.A. Bourke
R.J.Marshall

Members of the Public present : Six
Journalist from Wolverhampton Chronicle – Katy Muench

34/07 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were offered and accepted from D.J. Billson, Mrs J.R.Williams

35/07 **PUBLIC OPEN SESSION**

Cllr R.J.Marshall introduced Mr David Wright Divisional Highways Manager from Staffs County Council to comment on the Harald Close subway infill debate. David stated that the issue comes down to cost and safety, the safety aspect is that subways are always considered to be safer road crossings when compared to Pelican Crossings. From a cost perspective the budget required for infill would be in the region of £100k, £70k to infill and close-off plus a further £30k for a Pelican Crossing.

Cllr Marshall indicated that having made several recent visits to the location he had found both local youths and one from Telford in the vicinity. Discussion with those present indicated that the message from the youths is that they simply want somewhere to meet and sit / talk without being moved on. There was a request to make the 'Temple' bigger and also to provide some form of table to complement the 'Temple'. Further discussion disclosed that gating is unlikely to be a viable solution since it will still enable people to cluster unseen in the area even though the subway is gated at both ends.

Graffiti is again very apparent which is disappointing given how recently all the subways were re-painted.

RESOLVED that David Wright would action re-painting of subways as soon as possible and jointly with Cllr R.J.Marshall would obtain cost of gating for subway.

Following the previous complaint regarding the walkway between Jedburgh Drive and Wrottesley Arms Public House, Cllr R.J.Marshall informed the meeting that the ruts were caused by contract vehicles associated with Steve Poysers Department (01902-696503). General tidying of the area will continue until a bigger project,

currently under evaluation, to de-silt the lake commences. Then the paths will be upgraded along with the street lighting and adopted by the County Council, such adoption can only take place if the paths are 'metalled' to the appropriate standard.

RESOLVED that pending the project above the Clerk will write to Steve Poyser at SSDC to flag the ongoing issue of rutting and mud contaminated paths.

Mr Mark Talbot identified an act of vandalism at Barley Croft where a tree was sawn down late at night by five youths aged 15 to 16. This has been reported to both the Police and the Council, the Council was responsive and replanted a tree however the Police were unhelpful according to Mr Talbot.

Mr Tyrils from Beverston Road stated that on Saturday 10th June (the night of the England World Cup match) some 30 youths had congregated on adjacent land very close to his fence border and spent several hours indulging in anti-social behaviour. This included drinking, noise and bad language, fires and barbecues and lewd behaviour. The Police are reported to have taken six hours to respond following the first report at 21.15 pm, and four hours to respond to a lesser incident the following evening.

Mr Sandhu from Tintagel Close stated that he was disillusioned with the Police force capability following extensive damage to vehicles over a three month period and perceived poor support. He stated that the local Police Station was always shut and that the external phone did not function.

Cllr R.J.Marshall read a letter that had been sent to Inspector Shannaghan and copied to himself via e-mail. This concerned a police response to a problem with drunken youths leaving the Pear & Partridge. The youths continued loud and foul behaviour even when confronted by police and one was seen by the original caller to urinate on garden shrubs without comment from the pc. When later confronted about this by the caller the pc became defensive and then abusive to the caller.

Cllr Mrs P.Allen stated that the current period seemed to be the worst in Perton history in terms of reports regarding anti-social behaviour and the worst in terms of policing response. She stated that all future complaints to the police should be in writing and copied to the Parish Clerk.

RESOLVED that the Clerk would once again write to Inspector Pat Shanaghan to inform him of the current crop of issues and negative comments aimed at local policing and request feedback as appropriate.

36/07 **MEETING DURATION – Cllr A.K. James**

Cllr A.K.James suggested that all concerned should make every effort to reduce the meeting duration and that future consideration should perhaps be given to submitting agenda items to the Clerk no later than two weeks prior to the meeting date.

Cllr Mrs P.C.Bromley suggested that consideration should perhaps be given to holding two meetings per month of shorter duration.

Cllr Mrs P.Allen stated that the solution was to be found in a 'time-guillotine' and

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moving to vote sooner. The matter was left open.

POLICE REPORT

PC Frank Hossack pre-delivered the latest reported crime figures for Perton covering 08/05/06 to 12/06/06.

Police report to Perton Parish Council for Parish meeting 12th June 2006 – covering the period 8/5/06 to 12/06/06.

Apologies: - PC4259 Duncan Lampitt (rest day)
- PC3537 Frank Hossack duty 0800 x 1700hrs

Points of interest include:

Burglary (non-domestic)

Gibson Rd – bet 0001hrs – 0900hrs Sunday 4th June 2006. Forced / jemmed entry to rear aluminium garage door. High value fishing tackle stolen.

Robbery (cash in transit) Perton Post office.

Approx 1100hrs Wednesday 7th June 2006.

Post office cash in transit cash box snatch *rear yard of the Post Office.*

Offender. White male, mid 40's, thin build 6', thin face, goatee beard, long hair.

Wearing brown coat and a Stetson (cowboy hat). Made off on foot towards Church Rd. Cashbox later recovered *Shop Lane, Oaken* (seized for forensic examination)

Any information please direct to D/Sgt BUXTON –CID 01785 218844 or Crimestoppers 0800 555 111 (calls treated anonymously)

***For information of Parish councillors – Post office vehicle drivers will now be collecting/ dropping from front of premises in Anders Square – covered by CCTV. This was previously discouraged owing to complaints received by the Parish Council about manner of driving.

Theft from shops

5 incidents in total during this period

3 from *Sainsbury's*, 1 incident from '*Learning Ladder* and 1 incident at *Lloyds Pharmacy*.

Other theft incidents

Brunel Grove. During the day Tuesday 16th May 2006 residents returned home to discover fence panels removed and stolen from sections of fencing.

Criminal Damage Hotspots.

(1) Friday 19th May 2006 - *Browning Grove*. Wooden gate and hinges.

(2) Night of Friday 26th May 2006 – front garden plants and ornaments in *Spenser Avenue*. Linked to disturbances in the street and ongoing investigations with Bromford Housing group regarding anti social behaviour.

Second complaint received from same victim regarding damage to rear garden screen next to the footpath overnight Friday 2nd / Saturday 3rd June 06. Investigations continue – PC HOSSACK /PC LAMPITT

(3) *Tintagel Close / Conway Rd*. Malicious Vandalism being caused to two vehicles parked overnight Tues 30th and Wed 31st May 2006.

Inspection cover removed from the pavement placed on bonnet of vehicle parked

on the street. Second vehicle belonging to the same victim scratched along side. Investigations continuing PC HOSSACK.

Anti –Social behaviour hotspots.

Spenser Avenue (joint investigations with Bromford Housing Group regarding complaints of nuisance and public order related offences). Number of concerned residents in Spenser Avenue assisting with ongoing investigations.

Harald Close – 1 reported incident 2130hrs Saturday 27th May regarding the subway.

Lakeside – next to Darwin Court. New resident to Perton concerned about under age drinking, noise nuisance and litter generated from teenagers around the lakeshore Night of Friday 2nd June 2006.

Agricultural land adjoining rear of properties in *Hawksmoor Drive*. Local teenagers use this location during the summer months to the annoyance of local residents.

Anti-social behaviour still represents the highest number of complaints received during this period.

15 incidents in total.

PC3537 FRANK HOSSACK

38/07 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Mrs R.Heseltine declared personal interest in planning application – 06/00360/FUL relating to 21 St Andrews Drive and personal interest in the agenda item relating to Perton Womens Institute.

Cllr Mrs P.N.Pitt declared personal interest in the agenda item concerning ‘ Extn to yellow lines in Sandown Drive’

Cllr A.A.Bouke declared personal interest in planning application – 06/00421/FUL relating to Perton First School.

Cllr N.Caine declared personal prejudicial interest in the agenda item relating to Acorn Club – he subsequently left the meeting when this item was discussed.

Clr A.K.James declared personal interest in cheque no 103106

39/07 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on 8th May 2006 be confirmed as a true record and the Chairman of the Council duly signed them.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Management Committee meeting held on 22nd May 2006 be confirmed as a true record and the Chairman of the Council duly signed them.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 4th May 2006 be confirmed as a true record and the Council accepted them.

40/07 **SUMMER CHILLOUT – RACHAEL MARTIN**

Rachael Martin explained to the Council that she was very concerned regarding the apparent duplication of the Chillout scheme by SSDC. Richard Coggins had stated that some Centres were no longer available since they were utilised by 'Hype' and Youth Centres. Hugh Disley had stated that Chillout should continue but Rachael stated that the organisers were not invited to or included in ongoing debate. The view is that the Council has simply copied the programme but made it available County wide. Rachael stated that regardless of whatever conflict arises the programme will go ahead.

Cllr R.J.Marshall replied that from his discussions with Richard Coggins his perception was that the Council scheme had been designed to complement Chillout rather than compete and that there would be no duplicate days just more days available overall.

Cllr Mrs P.Allen stated that if there was any duplication then this is a waste of money and such available funds should be redirected to re-open the youth centre.

RESOLVED that Cllr R.J.Marshall would investigate and report back within two weeks to update the next meeting. Additionally the Parish Council would show support to Chillout which is seen as value for money when funds are being diverted elsewhere.

41/07 **TEMPORARY ADMINISTRATION POSITION**

The meeting discussed the temporary position which has now time expired but has proved to be a very worthwhile additional position in terms of spreading workload and improving efficiency of Centre and Parish operation.

RESOLVED that Becky Hodgetts would be offered a permanent, part time role to formalise the status of this role. The role will be 20 hours per week normally over four days per week and restricted to school term time only. Becky will be expected to co-operate with special periods during holidays when either the Clerk or Assistant Clerk are on leave, support may then be required as directed and agreed with the Clerk.

42/07 **PARISH PLAN – CLERKS UPDATE**

The Clerk explained that the work on the production of the Parish Plan had come to a temporary stop since it had been discovered that the format previously required by the Plan Committee had been well outside the parameters of the software programme. The impact was that whilst the plan could be produced in this format it would be impossible to use the software to deliver any meaningful analysis of the returned completed documents.

RESOLVED that the Clerk would convene a meeting of the Parish Plan Committee on Monday 26th June and explain the operating parameters of the software with a view to reducing the size of the questionnaire to fit within the software profile.

43/07 **ROOM HIRE REQUEST – HARLEQUIN PANTO PRODUCTIONS**

This item was placed before the Parish Council following a request from Harlequin

to book a week long package in January 2007, the only negative impact to this request will be the impact on regular bookings. Harlequin are sensitive to this issue and have committed to offer displaced groups discounted tickets by way of compensation and also to offer auditions to those groups that may have the talent and desire to participate in the panto.

RESOLVED that this is the type of business that the Civic Centre should seek to attract and therefore to proceed with the booking as requested. The Clerks office to work with Harlequin to minimise the impact to regulars.

44/07 **BUS SHELTER REFURBISHMENTS**

The Members considered a consolidated proposal presented by MGD Solutions by way of précis of the document previously submitted.

RESOLVED that the proposal from MGD Solutions be accepted and implemented ASAP to cover initially the refurbishment of the three worst Bus Shelters at Leasowe Drive, Shackleton Close & Manston Drive / Offas Drive.

45/07 **PROPOSED CIVIC CENTRE ROOM HIRE – CONCESSIONARY RATES**

The Concessionary rate offers approximately 30% reduction to normal room hire rates and has been crafted for the Council in order that the Council has the opportunity to offer a subsidised hire rate to local and non profit making clubs and organisations that would be unable to utilise the Civic Centre at full hire rates.

RESOLVED that the Concessionary Room Hire charges and associated conditions are accepted with immediate effect. Subsidy totals will be collated by the Clerks office and cross charged from the Centre to the Parish in order that the Centre derives full costs for all room hires.

46/07 **APPLICATIONS FOR CONCESSIONARY ROOM HIRE RATES**

Applications were considered initially from five clubs / organisations.

- a) Art Club – Cynthia Walczak
- b) Perton Karate Club
- c) Perton Jubilee Townswomen Guild
- d) Acorn Club
- e) Perton Village Nursery

RESOLVED that all the above named clubs / organisations be given immediate access to room hires at the Concessionary rate with immediate effect.

47/07 **APPLICATIONS FOR GRANT**

- (a) **Perton Arts Project – Maggie Quinn**

RESOLVED that the application be held over until more information is obtained following Perton Parish representatives meeting with Maggie Quinn on 16th June 2006. Additionally Clerk to write to Maggie Quinn to request additional details and to gain view as to other parties that may be providing funding.

(b) Summer Chillout

RESOLVED that the application be held over until the Clerk can write to Rachael Martin and request additional financial information regarding carry over of surplus funds from 2004 to 2005 and the 100+ increase in staffing costs from 2004 to 2005.

(c) Perton Womens Institute

RESOLVED following a vote, that the Perton Womens Institute be offered a 50% reduction of the total cost of room hire excluding refundable deposit.

(d) Nicky Thacker Event in aid of Compton Hospice

RESOLVED following a vote, that the event in aid of Compton Hospice be offered a 50% reduction of the total cost of room hire excluding refundable deposit.

At the request of Cllr A.A.Bourke the manner in which each member voted with regard to items (c) & (d) above is recorded as follows:

In favour of 100% reduction: Cllr Mrs P.N.Pitt, Cllr Mrs P.Allen, Cllr A.A.Bourke

In favour of 50% reduction: Cllr Mrs A.James, Cllr Mrs P.C.Bromley, Cllr C.J.Bromley, Cllr N.P.Caine, Cllr R.J.Marshall.

48/07 **PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETINGS – Cllr Mrs P.Allen**

Cllr Mrs P.Allen suggested that with regard to controversial planning applications it is perhaps necessary to introduce a different approach to ensure adequate time and focus is given over for discussion of these plans. One possibility would be to convene special Planning Committee sessions prior to the start of Parish meetings.

RESOLVED that where special discussions are required this would be noted against the appropriate agenda item and time would be allocated at the Planning Committee agenda item to ensure full coverage of issues.

49/07 **VILLAGE MAPS – Cllr Mrs P.Allen**

Cllr Mrs P.Allen stated that that due to age, wear & tear consideration should be given to the replacement of the location maps at each entrance to Perton Village together with refurbishment or replacement of the display boards.

RESOLVED that the Clerk would seek to obtain costs for the replacement of the maps and refurbishment as required of the display boards.

50/07 **CHRISTMAS MARKETS – Cllr Mrs A.James & Cllr Mrs P.Allen**

Cllr Mrs P.Allen advised the meeting that probably the ideal venue for the market would be the Lakeside Hall and this could be made available to local organisations and give the Council good access, control and support to the event which would be a strong PR exercise. The event could be run to co-incide with the turn on of the Christmas Lights. It was further suggested that the Terry Harding room could be utilised to cover commercial organisations which could sponsor the main event. Cllrs Mrs P.Allen & Mrs A.James will continue to investigate.

51/07 **SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS**

Cllr N.P.Caine stated that his work continues with regard to improvements to street lighting associated with SSDC owned footpaths.

Cllr. A.K.James advised the meeting that the Silver Poplars site issues continued and he had recently attended a meeting with the Chief Executive and Solicitor. Apparently a case can only be led if the perpetrator is caught 'red handed'. A tree replacement order has been issued.

Cllr R.J.Marshall explained that the issue concerning drainage at the Playing Fields in respect to capital grants had now been reversed and now allows for up to £25k of expenditure.

52/07 **STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS – Cllr R.J.Marshall**

(a) Extension to Yellow Lines in Sandown Drive

This has been looked at and the yellow lines are tied into the 20 MPH zones around schools.

(b) Harald Close Subway

The meeting was informed that the youths that frequent this area had stated to Cllr R.J.Marshall that they simply required an alternative location as a meeting point and that confrontation has occurred due to the intolerance of some of the local residents. He further stated that there were no issues reported at the other end of the subway. There was a suggestion that the 'Temple' could possibly be extended but Cllr Mrs A.James advised that this location was already considered to be an area of nuisance and should be contained rather than extended.

(c) Councillors Reports

Cllr R.J.Marshall stated that the issues concerning Social Care and in particular the closing of certain residential homes in order to reduce budget was an ongoing concern. A brief report // summary was left with the Clerk for interested parties.

53/07 **RESOLVED** that Standing Order No 79 (Length of Meeting) be suspended.

54/07 **CORRESPONDENCE**

(a) Apportionment of Council Taxes

The Clerk had received an acknowledgement of the letter sent to R.Levesley, Chief Executive of SSDC but no further details has yet been received, a reminder letter will be sent in due course.

Cllr R.J.Marshall quoted a few figures by way of partial answer:
Landscaping £102k spent out of total budget of £600k.
Recycling £220k out of £2M.
Street Cleaning £40k out of £500k

(b) South Staffordshire Council for Voluntary Action

SSCVS wrote in acknowledgement and thanks for the grant provided towards core costs, this was noted.

(c) Football Pitch Surface – Budgetary Quotes

The budgetary costs were noted.

RESOLVED that the Clerk would write to SSDC to test the reaction to a project to provide a hard resurface to the pitch.

(d) South Staffordshire Crime Reduction Partnership

RESOLVED that Cllr R.J.Marshall will attend as representative of the Parish Council.

55/07 **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Planning Applications received from South Staffordshire Council and reviewed by the Parish since the last Parish Council meeting on Monday 8th May 2006.

			Date Returned
20	06/00396/LUE	Use of farm shop for general retail class A1 Bradshaws Farm Shop, Wrottesley Park Road, Perton	11/05/06
25	06/00426/REN	Renewal of flexible planning permission 96/00190 (Change of use of disused farm shop as either office units within Class B1, serviced Office suites within Class B1, Light industrial activities within B1, Distribution centre for horticultural / nursery business, Creche or day nursery business within Class D1, Gym within Class D2, Sale of food stuffs within Class A1, Restaurant within Class A3) The Bradshaws, Holyhead Road, Codsall, WV8 2HT	11/05/06
26	06/00420/FUL	New Single storey bedroom 55 Spenser Avenue, Perton WV6 7QQ	12/05/06

27	06/00451/FUL	First floor rear addition and rear conservatory 4 Hawkstone Court, Perton WV6 7YT	12/05/06
28	06/00466/FUL	Two storey side extension 9 Carisbrooke Road, Perton WV6 7UU	12/05/06
29	06/00474/FUL	Garage extension at side 1 Crowland Avenue, Perton WV6 7XF	12/05/06
30	06/00421/FUL	Single Storey extension to staff room and office Perton First School, Manston Drive, Perton	12/05/06
31	06/00472/FUL	First floor extension over existing garage and kitchen 42 Mercia Drive, Perton WV6 7NE	12/05/06
32	06/00524/FUL	Ground floor shower room extension for disabled person 5 The Saddlestones, Perton WV6 7UH	25/05/06
33	06/00360/FUL	Amended Plans – Single Storey rear extension and conservatory 21 St Andrews Drive, Perton	31/05/06

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ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

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

BACS	Wages Week 6	962.00
103097	Allianz Cornhill	6055.70
103098	Veolia ES Onyx Ltd	111.30
103099	Lesley Davies - Perton Place Ad Mag	55.00
103100	Mrs Stallard Event Refund	50.00
103101	Application for Grant - 3rd Perton Brownies	200.00
DD	British Gas - Electricity	517.71
BACS	Wages Week 7	1138.89
DD	Severn Trent	93.52
103102	Nobisco Limited	66.74
103103	Brisol Ltd	132.47
103104	South Staffs District Council	132.26
103105	Hilarys Blinds Ltd	99.00
DD	Unicom	21.59
103106	DowntoEarth	188.00
103107	Bilston Operatic Co Event Refund	50.00
103108	Perton Poppets - Vicky Green Event Refund	150.00
103109	Mrs Peck Event Refund	50.00
103110	A.C.Design & Construction (UK) Ltd	3410.73
BACS	Wages Week 8 + Advance Week 9	4511.67
DD	SSDC Non -Domestic Rates	1169.00
103111	Tim Aston Plumbing & Heating Services	165.00
103112	F.Parr Limited	59.87
103113	Mrs Robbins Event Refund	100.00

103114	SSDC	630.00
103115	Welbeck Sports	214.98
BACS	Wages Week 9 Revised & Week 10	1356.22
BACS	Inland Revenue	2403.49
BACS	Staffordshire County Pension Fund	806.65
TOTAL PAYMENTS		24,901.79

DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 10th July 2006 @ 7.00 pm

The meeting closed @ 10.00 pm

Cllr. A.K.James
Chairman
10th July 2006