

**Minutes of the Meeting of
PERTON PARISH COUNCIL
held at the Perton Civic Centre on
Monday 13th July 2009 @ 7:00pm**

Present Mrs CM Young [Chairman]
AK Black [Vice Chairman]
Mrs RA Heseltine
Mrs P Allen
Mrs S Bott
Mrs PN Pitt
Mrs A James
Miss C Duffell
DJ Billson [District & County Councillor]
AK James
AA Bourke
D Fereday
D Heseltine
S Bott

District Councillor - R Moreton
Parish Clerk - Tony Tappenden
Members of the Public present: 17

38/10 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr NP Caine.

39/10 **PUBLIC OPEN SESSION**

- 1) Mr. Michael Law from Coleridge Drive asked a number of questions and raised significant concerns regarding anti-social behaviour issues on Perton and a lack of visible policing. He asked:
 - a) Has the alcohol ban been lifted because it appeared to be the case given the drinking and evidence of drinking seen around the village?
 - b) Do the cameras work and record twenty four hours per day as there was numerous instances of bad behaviour such as drinking and even fire starting which never appeared to lead to anyone being apprehended.
 - c) Why is there not a greater police presence on Perton given the issues?
 - d) Could a meeting be arranged with Sainsburys in order to prevent them from selling alcohol to youngsters?

These questions provoked considerable debate since, in part, they reflect the concerns of the Parish Council.

Cllr A.Bourke said that in respect to the cameras these were monitored 24 hours per day at Codsall Police Station but the issue is that there are some 30 to 35 monitors to view and insufficient monitoring staff.

Cllr D.Heseltine said that regarding alcohol sales it is known that this originates off Perton and Sainsburys were very co-operative in this area.

Cllr P.Allen said that these were issues that only the police themselves could remedy and specifically regarding the fires it was believed that some form of accelerant had been used.

Cllr A.James said that it was common for youths to approach adults in the community to request them to purchase cigarettes and alcohol and there were many that would do this

without question.

RESOLVED that the Clerk will write to the Chief Constable to list the issues given that similar correspondence to the NPU Inspector had not delivered a satisfactory outcome.

- 2) Carol Davies raised issues with the bus route from Perton to Stafford and requested that Council members travel anonymously on route 880 to experience the service for themselves.
Cllr D.Billson said that he had a forthcoming meeting with County Council staff to discuss bus transport and would add this item to the agenda.
Cllr A.K.Black said that he regularly goes to Penkridge and next visit he would do so on the 880.
- 3) A lady asked for an update in respect to the ongoing issue of school buses from Perton to Codsall and Cllr D.Billson said that Cllr R.J.Marshall was still involved in discussions with the County Council on this matter and whilst they are trying to achieve a positive outcome it is very difficult due to Central Government edicts but they are trying to introduce a direct debit scheme to at least ease the burdens of large payments.
Cllr A.Bourke requested that R.Marsden be directly challenged since it was clear that Direct Debits are already available to some but not others. Cllr Mrs P.Pitt produced documentary evidence from Staffs CC indicating the availability of Direct Debit facilities and this was copied to Cllr Billson who said that he hoped this matter would be resolved soon following the change of administration.
- 4) Mr Steve Holt from Itchen Grove spoke for a large number of residents in the Severn Drive area who are regularly flooded out during periods of heavy rain and he said that he had personally suffered four floods over an eighteen month period.
The residents are particularly upset regarding the flooding since previous appeals to, Staffs CC, Staffs District Council, Severn Trent Water and SSHA had produced no resolution to the flooding and no apparent co-operation between authorities in order to find and fix the cause of the flooding. They felt that they had been fobbed off time after time and were appealing to the Parish Council to see if they could bring all the parties together at a public meeting.
Cllr D.Billson said he was most concerned about this recurring problem and that he has a meeting with SSHA and the Council on Wednesday and will do everything he can to ensure that the appropriate authorities review their involvement in respect to the flooding and then come to Perton for a public meeting in order to identify a solution to this recurring problem. Cllr Billson committed to 'see it through' and said that as soon as a public meeting was arranged he would ensure that we communicate the details via the Anders Square notice board, the Councillor run shops, the Parish Council website and e-mail and phone as appropriate.

40/10 **POLICE MATTERS**

a) **Police Report**

POLICE REPORT PERIOD 2/6/09 TO 8/7/09.

ASB BEHAVIOUR	26
ASB VEHICLES	5
C DAMAGE	3
DAMAGE TO M VEHICLE	0
BURGLARY DWELLING inc attempts	4
BURGLARY OTHER BUILDING	1
THEFT M VEHICLE inc attempts	0

THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLE	0
THEFT OTHER	7
ASSAULT	1
ROBBERY	1

ASB BEHAVIOUR

The warm weather has caused a displacement to the outer areas.

Hotspots for this period include – field/ grassed area at the rear of Bodiam Court off Richmond drive, involving Young teenagers lighting fires. drinking and causing nuisance to residents on Yew Tree Lane Tettenhall and Carisbrooke Road, Perton.

Edge Hill Drive and Vanbrugh Ct, early hours involving local teenagers / residents and 'warm weather' drinking and swearing. Littering,

A group of five dealt with by patrol.

Youth shelter central area and surrounding shrubs trees have been the target on two occasions by young teenagers lighting fires.

Alcohol has been confiscated from teenagers in Anders Square early afternoon by PCSO Tooth.

Perton First School - trespass and local kids removing toys from an insecure store to play with on the playground.

ASB VEHICLES

Two complaints have been received regarding scrambler bikes in woods rear Stephenson Drive 9.00pm and bike nuisance in Stephenson Drive during a lunchtime

A black MG ZR known to the police and locally owned has been identified for general nuisance, loud music / manner of driving on Severn Drive and the grassed area of Edge Hill Drive.

Police are able to deal with such incidents under sec 59 Police Reform Act which leads to vehicle seizures.

C DAMAGE

Two of the three reports have been classified as being of a dubious origin.

The 3rd report relates to damage at the shed at Perton First School.

BURGLARY DWELLING

Late evening / overnight burglaries known to the Police as 'car key' burglaries have taken place across the northern part of the LPU i.e. Perton and Codsall.

Severn Drive – Overnight theft of laptop and a silver Nissan 350z sports Stolen with keys.

Entry made via the rear garden fence of a property in Cheshire Grove and entry to the property via an insecure window.

Wren Avenue – off Stephenson. Property burgled during a week occupants were on holiday. Beading removed from a window. Blue Vauxhall Vectra stolen with keys.

Formby Avenue off St Andrews Drive, groundfloor wooden side hung window forced open with screwdriver, believed no entry gained.

Edge Hill Drive overnight burglary. Screwdriver used on a rear window. Silver VW stolen with keys.

A joint operation between Staffordshire Police and West Midlands Police has so far resulted in a significant number of arrests, involving officers stopping high powered vehicles containing offenders committing these offences across the Wolverhampton and South Staffs area.

The operation is continuing.

Please pay attention to home/ key security and avoid leaving ground floor windows open overnight and leaving car and door keys easily accessible

THEFTS

Range of offences here include - theft from shops/stores and also the theft of door keys from a house in Churnet Grove (off Severn Drive) during the afternoon.

ROBBERY

One robbery offence took place on Sainsbury's car park involving a local youth for his silver chain and mobile phone.

The offender has been identified for arrest

PC3537 Frank Hossack

8th July 2009

Cllr Mrs R.Heseltine said that a burglar alarm was triggered in Formby Avenue one night but the police refused to attend but were seen busily 'following up' during the day.

Cllr D.Billson said that it was police policy not to attend domestic alarms at night unless they were subject to RedCare monitoring.

Cllr Mrs A.James said that she was aware of an incident involving a fired gun at a rowdy party which carried on until gone 4.00 am and this did not appear on the police report and she was also aware of a mugging on St Andrews Drive although this may not have been reported.

b) **Insp A.Chapman – Policing Complaints Response**

The Councillors noted Inspector Chapman's response with great disappointment since they feel that the situation as reported is far from what actually happens on Perton and testament to this was given first hand during the public open session where yet again the Parish Council are having to take complaints about policing issues whilst there are no police in attendance to hear the details of the complaint.

RESOLVED that given Insp P.Chapman's recent arrival in the NPU it would possibly be too soon to escalate the Parish Council issues direct to the Chief Constable as previously stated during the public session so the Clerk is requested to write again to Insp Chapman to restate and update the Council views as discussed during this session.

41/10 **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Cllr AK James declared personal and prejudicial interest in cheques 103795 and 103807 in respect to Down to Earth Grounds Maintenance Ltd and Cllr Mrs A. James declared personal and prejudicial interest in cheques 103806 in respect to Perton Pet & Garden.

Cllrs Miss C.Duffell and A.A.Bourke both expressed personal interest in agenda item 16c regarding correspondence from Perton Village Nursery.

42/10 **MINUTES**

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 8th JUNE, 2009

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 8th June 2009 be confirmed as a true record and the Chairman of the Council duly signed them.

43/10 **DRAFT MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on 7th July 2009 together with income statement for June be accepted for information.

The Chairman informed the members that in respect to Finance Committee minute 15/10 she had agreed with the Clerk that the decision to open a three month 'fixed rate' account would be suspended for the time being since the expected interest rate of 1.04% could not be achieved and the current rate was around 0.8% and the trend is downwards, this is because the interest rate is linked to the money market rather than Base Rate.

44/10 **STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

a) **Application for the addition of an alleged Public Footpath from Byway 6 to Footpath 22**

RESOLVED that the Clerk will respond to the application stating that PPC supports the application.

b) **Public Path Diversion Order in respect of Public Bridleways Nos. 7 & 18 Perton Parish**

The information was noted.

c) **County Councillor's Report**

Cllr D.Billson said that there was plenty going on but not too much to report. He has attended seven induction courses since his election in June and has been selected to serve on the Fire Authority, Planning Committee and the Health Authority.

He said that all areas of the County Council are being looked at in order to ascertain what improvements can be made; this will not happen overnight and is likely to take until the end of the year.

Cllr Mrs P.Allen said that she had been made aware of two Perton direction and distance signs that show 8 & 7 miles distance from Perton to Wolverhampton and this gives a false impression which is particularly relevant given the current cost of petrol. Cllr D.Billson said that he has seen the article in local press and would report the matter on her behalf.

Cllr S.Bott raised the issue of the open barrier on the buses only lane and said that those drivers who use the access illegally often do so at high speed knowing that they are not supposed to be there and he urged for pressure to be applied to find a solution to this problem as soon as possible. Cllr Billson advised that he has a meeting scheduled with Wayne Mortiboys on 28th July.

45/10 **SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

a) **Perton Youth Club**

Cllr D.Billson said that this matter was ongoing and that the planning application for the Pavilion had been submitted but that aside there was little new to report.

Cllr A.A.Bourke asked if the grant application to the 'Youth Bank' had been successful but Cllr Billson said that he was still waiting to hear about the outcome.

Cllr Bourke also said that at the last meeting attended by Cllr RJ Marshall he had said that with a new administration there may be new policy on this matter. Cllr Billson said that County wide many previous decisions were being challenged and that he had taken up this matter and was hopeful but no decisions will be made until budget positioning is better understood.

Cllr Mrs S.Bott said that she had had a conversation with the Scout leader regarding the proposed extension and was told that the Scouts owned the land however she was advised that this is not the case and they only own their building footprint plus the immediate locality outside.

b) **District Councillors Report**

Cllr A.K.James said that he had attended a Scrutiny meeting and been involved in a resident's survey of services details of which were left with the Clerk.

Cllr R.Moreton updated the members regarding the Inter Parish games saying that Perton had won the recent running event and with three events to go we have a lead of 12.5 points.

Cllr D.Fereday said that he had also attended the scrutiny meeting plus a couple of additional meetings.

Cllr Mrs R.Heseltine said that she had attended the scrutiny meeting together with the locality meeting at Bilbrook.

Cllr D.Billson reported that:

- Rolf Levesley the Chief Executive has now retired and his replacement is Steve Winterflood who was formally the Deputy Chief Executive.
- He was again selected as part of the interview panel for the post of Deputy Chief Executive and this took place on Thursday last and resulted in Dave Heywood being promoted into the post.
- On 17th he visited London to receive his award from the Leadership Academy.
- Locality Forum 4 took place on 15th at Bilbrook Middle School.
- He attended the Public Hearing into phase 2 of the Spatial Strategy at Molineux which dealt with housing particularly on land South of Stafford.
- He attended Armed Forces Day at Codsall.
- He attended, together with other district members, a seminar by the Highways Agency.
- He visited Lincoln and Norfolk on a fact finding mission dealing with Rural Transport.
- He attended a Mag meeting at Codsall.
- He attended a Playing Fields Mtg
- On 3rd August there will be a Regional Spatial Strategy Phase 3 seminar at the Council Chamber at 6.30 pm.

Cllr A.Bourke asked about the query from the previous meeting regarding the over payment of housing benefits saying that the service is poor and the management of overpayments is poor. Cllr Billson replied that he had a comprehensive response to this matter but apologised that he had forgotten to bring this along and committed to forward to the Clerk for distribution.

Cllr Mrs P.Allen said that in Richmond Drive there was a house with five scrap cars and two on the pavement. Cllr Billson said that this had been raised previously and a 'Tidy' notice was due to be issued.

46/10 **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Planning Applications received from South Staffordshire Council and reviewed by the Parish since the last Parish Council meeting on Monday 8th June, 2009.

Application No.	Proposals
09/00433/ADV	2 off internally illuminated folded aluminium fascia. Illumination to the edges of letters and logo only via fluorescent tubes 2-3 Anders Square, Perton, South Staffordshire WV6 7QH

The Council raised no objections to the above application.

09/00409/FUL	Two-storey side extension 9 Foster Green, Perton, South Staffordshire WV6 7SQ
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The Council raised no objections to the above application but recommended that the upstairs dressing room window be obscured glazing for the life of the development.

DECISIONS - The following decisions received from South Staffordshire Council:

Application No.	Proposals	Decision
09/00273/FUL	1 No. new 5m high double sided internally illuminated totem sign - Sainsburys, Anders Square	Grant of Planning Permission
09/00242/FUL	Ground floor extensions to front and rear plus first floor side extension - 31 Stephenson Drive, Perton	

PROPOSALS WITHDRAWN - The file has been closed and no decision will be issued.

Application No.	Proposals
09/00271/FUL	Extensions to northern and western elevations plus alterations to car park and landscaping - Sainsburys, Anders Square

47/10 **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 8th June 2009

01/06/09	DD	SSDC Non -Domestic Rates	1310.00
01/06/09	STO	Kalidescope Limited	47.00
02/06/09	103792	Derek Walker - Internal Audit	260.00
02/06/09	103793	Nobisco Limited	109.94
02/06/09	103794	Progressive Safety Footwear & Clothing Ltd	64.34
02/06/09	103795	Down to Earth Grounds Maintenance Ltd	92.00
02/06/09	103796	Brisol Limited	105.76
02/06/09	103797	Mr A.Ray - Deposit Refund	150.00
03/06/09	BACS	Wages Week 09	1227.42
03/06/09	BACS	SMP Playgrounds Ltd	1652.55
04/06/09	103798	Eastern Shires Purchasing Organisation	79.17
08/06/09	103799	Mrs M.Gibson - Deposit Refund	50.00
09/06/09	103800	Life Line Screening UK Ltd - Deposit Refund	150.00
10/06/09	BACS	Wages Week 10	1184.44
10/06/09	BACS	Inland Revenue	2429.36
10/06/09	BACS	Staffordshire CC Pension Fund	1496.93
10/06/09	BACS	SMP Playgrounds Ltd	1466.25
11/06/09	103801	Eastern Shires Purchasing Organisation	87.75
12/06/09	103802	South Staffordshire District Council	670.00
12/06/09	103803	MGD Solutions	196.00
12/06/09	103804	Philip Steatham Ltd	276.00
17/06/09	BACS	Wages Week 11	1106.15
22/06/09	103805	Aircover (Homecheck Nationwide Limited)	287.50
24/06/09	DD	Unicom	54.45
24/06/09	BACS	Wages Week 12 & Month 3	4436.53
25/06/09	103806	Perton Pet & Garden	29.99
28/06/09	DD	BT Business Broadband	68.27
28/06/09	DD	British Gas - Electricity	313.66
28/06/09	DD	British Gas - Gas	50.90
28/06/09	DD	Veolia ES (UK) Limited	111.69
29/06/09	103807	Down to Earth Grounds Maintenance Ltd	92.00
29/06/09	103808	Mrs K.Barratt - Deposit Refund	150.00
30/06/09	103809	Post Office Limited	233.80
		TOTALS	20039.85

b) Budget-to-date 2009/2010

The Clerk provided a brief explanation of the budget figures which were noted.

48/10 **CLERK'S REPORT – JULY 2009**

Matters ongoing / resolved as at 13th July 2009

- Request for 'hard standing' at Perton Road Map (south location) now completed by Community Gang following action by Wayne Mortiboys.
- Advice from Clerk at Codsall PC that waiting list for allotments at Codsall is now closed and plots becoming available will be allocated to Codsall parishioners in preference to Perton parishioners on wait list.
- West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy – Phase Three Revision Final Project Plan plus Drop In Event Thursday 2nd July 09 in Birmingham. Details in Clerks Office.
- SSDC currently running a 'dog fouling' campaign across the region to raise awareness and inform dog owners' of their responsibilities.
- Speed Indication Devices now installed. Offa's Drive unit installed within tree branches obscuring visibility – Staffs CC informed.
- Polycarbonate windows replaced at bus shelters at Leasowe Drive and Offa's Drive.
- Spate of fires recently by Lakeside / Playground.
- SPCA June 2009 newsletter distributed to all members at meeting.
- Change of cheque signatories now complete and confirmed by Co-Operative Bank.

Cllr C.Duffell asked if there was a cut off date in respect to passing jobs to the Community Gang. The Clerk said that as they were apparently making regular visits to Perton we simply need to keep the list current.

Cllr A.K.Black said that in respect to Codsall allotments there are fourteen people on the wait list.

49/10 **LITTER WARDEN – JOB SHARING**

The Clerk reported that the existing litter warden had requested a reduction in his hours since a seven day week for a part time job was proving difficult. The Clerk advised that we could split the rota across two shifts with no increase in costs but possibly an improvement in service with, for example, cover available for holidays.

RESOLVED that the Clerk sort out this matter as he sees fit and in accordance with the needs of the existing litter warden and the availability of an additional warden.

50/10 **ADT CONTRACTS REVIEW – FIRE ALARM, INTRUDER ALARM & EMERGENCY LIGHTING**

The Clerk explained that this would normally be a matter for the Management Committee but given the imminent expiry of the Intruder Alarm maintenance contract an immediate opportunity exists. He outlined the current position regarding the three services currently maintained by ADT and explained that the existing and aged Intruder Alarm is behaving very erratically with constant issues and that the maintainer was both expensive and difficult to deal with. He further explained the weaknesses in the existing monitoring system and the fact that each set / reset of the alarm requires the dialing of a premium rate telephone number.

RESOLVED that upon expiry of the Fire Alarm and Emergency Lighting system contracts the inspection of these systems will be moved to the building electrician, A.C.Design, who currently inspects these installations as part of the annual electrical inspection. The Intruder Alarm contract will be terminated at the end of the current month and a new contract will be placed with local supplier SGS Systems Ltd and the panel and terminal equipment will be replaced and the monitoring system will be upgraded to dual path signaling. Total upfront costs amount to £575.00 plus £479.00 per annum in respect to maintenance and monitoring.

51/10 **APPLICATION FOR GRANT – PERTON & CODSALL UTD.FC**

It was noted that Paul Chapman may be in his final year with Perton FC and if so this could have significant impact to Perton children, possibly increasing the number of teams run by Perton & Codsall FC.

RESOLVED that the football club will be offered a grant of £250.00

52/10 **CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD 2009/10**

RESOLVED that the citizen of the year award programme will run again in 2009/10 with all terms and conditions remaining the same as last year.

53/10 **CORRESPONDENCE**

a) **Flooding Severn Drive**

This matter was dealt with during the public session and whilst the correspondence was noted no further debate ensued.

b) **Skateboard Park**

Following some discussion regarding the previous skate park and the alternative facility at Pattingham it was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk will respond to the request and attempt to find out how many youths would be interested in using a skate park facility and also what other ideas the writer has in respect to alternative facilities that may be of interest.

c) **Perton Village Nursery**

The correspondence was noted with particular regard to the apology extended to the Chairman and the positive mood going forward.

54/10 **THE PARKWAY SPEED HUMPS: e-PETITION, STAFFS COUNTY COUNCIL – CLLR NP CAINE**

Cllr A.K.Black outlined the intent of the petition in Cllr Caine's absence, stating that the concern was in respect to restriction to emergency services: The Clerk read out the petition content.

RESOLVED that PPC support to this petition will not be given at this time pending evaluation of the effectiveness of recently installed Speed Indication Devices.

DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 14th September 2009 @ 7.00 pm

The meeting closed @ 8.55 pm

Chairman
14th September 2009