

Minutes of the Meeting of
PERTON PARISH COUNCIL
held at the Perton Civic Centre on
Monday 13th November 2006 @ 7:00pm

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

Members of the Public present : Six
Journalist from Wolverhampton Chronicle – Chris Moriarty
Neighbourhood Police – PC Frank Hossack

126/07 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were offered and accepted from Mrs P.M.French and R.French

127/07 **PUBLIC OPEN SESSION**

Mr Morris thanked Councillor R.J.Marshall for the prompt attention given to fixing two of the three issues raised at the Council meeting on 9th October. He also mentioned that the third item relating to the lack of footpaths causing school children to alight from school buses onto grass verges causing muddy and unpleasant conditions was still outstanding. He specifically stated that this issue was on The Parkway near to Gainsborough Drive rather than actually in Gainsborough Drive as stated in the original meeting minutes.

Tina Davies also praised the Council for a speedy solution to the issue of manhole grating covers which had now been secured in the subway at the lower lake. She also stated that generally the subways had once again been daubed with obscene graffiti following recent re-painting. Additionally she provided a map to show routes where local mothers were walking children in preference to using subways and requested that consideration be given to providing 'crushed brick' pathways since the current routes were just muddy tracks. The Clerk read out two letters from David Wright at Staffs C Highways office, the first concerning the repair to the manhole covers and the second suggesting that the subway painting issue should be subject to a community arts project.

Discussion between the Councillors confirmed that an arts project was not the

desired solution.

RESOLVED that the Clerk respond to David Wrights letter refuting the arts project solution and reminding him of his earlier commitment to re-paint each time obscene graffiti becomes unacceptable. Cllr R.J.Marshall will also reiterate this requirement through his own channels and invite a representative of Staffs CC to the next meeting.

128/07 **POLICE MATTERS**

A) POLICE REPORT

Reported Crime Figs- Perton- 10/10/06- 13/11/06

Rowdy / ASB behaviour.....	34	#1
ASB Vehicles.....	3	#1
Criminal Damage.....	8	
Burglary dwelling.....	2	#2
Burglary other building.....	2	#2
TWOC/ take vehicle.....	1	
Theft of M/V.....	1	
Theft from M/V.....	0	
Damage to M/V.....	2	
Theft Other.....	1	
Drugs.....	1	#4
Offensive Weapon.....	1	#4
Assaults.....	5	#5
Attempted Robbery.....	1	
Shop Theft.....	1	#6
Sex Offence.....	1	#7

1. Rowdy and anti-social behaviour/ Criminal damage figs are higher this month. However if you take into account this month included both Halloween and Bonfire night, and the nights have now drawn in, the figures are not too alarming. Several of the ASB related to fireworks. A youth involved in ASB, is being dealt with for breach of ASBO. Hot spots for ASB are still Harald Close, Spenser Ave, and Anders Square. On a plus side, the ASB of vehicles has reduced.
2. The reported burglaries again are of concern. However, an offender for one dwelling burglary and offenders responsible for attempting to break into buildings at a school, are helping police with enquiries.
3. For the first time in 3 months there has been no pedal cycles reported stolen. But vehicle crime has risen, with 1 vehicle stolen and 2 damaged. One youth was dealt with for taking a vehicle without consent (TWOC).
4. The drug and offensive weapon incidents were linked. One offender was arrested for possession of cannabis and a machete. Discovered whilst

on pedal cycle patrol in one of the hotspots.

5. Of the 5 assaults, three were linked to an 18th birthday party at the Civic building. Of the other two assaults, one offender is been dealt with over one matter, and enquiries are still ongoing for the others.
6. The continued high visual policing in Anders Square may have reduced the shop theft to 1 incident this month. If all goes to plan the PCSO will be in place after there training, enhancing policing and reassurance.
7. The sex offence amounted to a suspicious male exposing his person. This male was located and dealt with.

PC Hossack commented that Halloween had created a huge impact to policing and that a contingency plan would have to be considered for next year.

Cllr C.J.Bromley expressed concern regarding broken bottles and hostile youths at the car park at Gainsborough Drive adjacent to the playing fields. Cllr S.Bott stated that PCs Hossack and Lampitt had previously done good work in this area with similar issues, and that debris on the pavilion roof was generally adding to the 'run-down' appearance of the area.

Cllr A.K.James said that many of the problems had arisen since new lights had been provided, attracting youths like 'months to flame'. Additionally this area had become one of several drinking dens on Perton and an alcohol ban was required.

PC Hossack stated that the original 'drink ban' report had gone to Mr Rolf Levesley at Staffs District Council but no further progress had been made.

Cllr Mrs P.Allen enquired as to shift patterns for the new PCSOs and was informed that they will match the shifts of the neighbourhood PCs.

Cllr N.P.Cine requested to accompany PC Hossack on a shift and this was agreed.

PC Hossack also referenced increases in the area of Internet Fraud and cautioned that users of 'dial-up' services were more at risk due to anti-virus programmes and such like being more difficult to keep up to date.

RESOLVED that the Clerk write to Inspector Pat Shannaghan to request action on a drink ban and to get an update regarding police occupation at the Civic Centre.

B) POLICE PERFORMANCE

The performance information provided by Chief Constable' David Swift was noted.

C) CORSERS COURT / WAVENEY AVENUE – Cllr A.A.BOURKE

Cllr Bourke advised the meeting that he had been informed that inconsiderate parking by visitors to Corsers Court was causing distress to local residents. Motorists are apparently parking on both sides of the road partly on the road and partly on pavement. This is causing access difficulties for elderly residents and also potentially impeding access for emergency services.

Cllr R.J.Marshall informed the meeting of additional powers available in this area relating to 'decriminalised parking'.

RESOLVED that the Clerk will write to SSHA to advise them of the issue with a view to them taking local action to advise visitors of the problem and alternative parking sites in the area.

PC 4259 Lampitt/ PC 3537 Hossack can be contacted for any enquiries or information on voicemail 08453 3031232 (04259 PC Lampitt) (03537 PC Hossack)

129/07 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Mrs A.James declared a personal interest in the Planning Committee items 52, 53 and 61.

Cllr A.A.Bourke declared a personal interest in the Planning Committee items 52 and 53.

Cllr A.K.James declared a personal interest in cheque No 103216 to DowntoEarth.

130/07 **MINUTES**

A brief discussion took place regarding the volume of minutes prepared. Though some suggested that they could be restricted to resolutions only further debate indicated that the current format gave a good overview of the nature of discussions leading to the resolutions which is useful to members of the public and Councillors unable to attend the meetings.

RESOLVED to leave the minutes generally as they are with the Clerk providing content précis as appropriate.

RESOLVED that the draft minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 9th October 2006 be confirmed as a true record and the Chairman of the Council duly signed them.

RESOLVED that the draft minutes of the Special Meeting held on 23rd October 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 5th October 2006 together with the Income Statement from April to October 2006 be confirmed as a true record and the Council accepted them.

131/07 **MUGA - UPDATE**

The letter received on 23rd October from Mr Rolf Levesley, Chief Executive of South Staffs Council and previously distributed at the meeting on 23rd October again distributed and the content was noted.

Cllr D.J.Billson stated that applications for grants had been submitted and were ongoing.

132/07 **BUS SHELTERS**

The Parkway / Gainsborough Drive

A Site Meeting comprising Clerk, Cllr D.J.Billson, Cllr N.P.Caine, Steve Mellings representing Staffs CC and PC Duncan Lampitt representing Les Dyble – Police Highways took place on Friday 3rd November 2006. There is a need to cut back some tall conifers to enable the Shelter to be suitably sited but no other concerns were raised.

The Clerk met with Peter Brunt of Abacus on Tuesday 7th November and our requirements were detailed and a quotation will be submitted to us ASAP.

The Parkway / Sandown Drive – enclosed letter from Mrs G.Smith

The letter from Mrs Smith was noted.

RESOLVED that the Clerk will request MGD Solutions to survey the Bus Shelters and produce a quotation for a phase 2 refurbishment programme for possible inclusion into next years budget.

133/07 **PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS – CLLR N.P.CAINE**

Cllr N.P.Caine advised the meeting that he had written to Staffs CC to ask if there would be any objection to new pedestrian crossings. He is currently awaiting a response.

134/07 **PERTON VILLAGE ROAD MAPS**

The Council felt that the replacement of the Map Boards was a justifiable additional expense over refurbishment of the existing boards as they would create a brighter more modern presentation at minimal additional cost.

RESOLVED that the Clerk will proceed with the procurement and erection of two new map boards with the signage provided from Signs Now Ltd and the map files and indexes coming from Location Maps Ltd. The total combined costs for two new boards will be in the region of £1725.00 including erection.

135/07 **PERTON 'WALKERS ROUTES' MAP**

In placing business with Location Maps Ltd for the Perton Village Road Maps there is a financial advantage to us to utilise the same map copyright for the joint production of a walkers map. Initial discussions suggest that the production of a walkers map would be very popular with a considerable number of local residents and that it would probably be wise to fix a charge per map to give it 'value' beyond a simple information leaflet.

RESOLVED to proceed with a PPC sponsored walkers map and that the Clerk will liaise with Location Maps Ltd with regard to size, style, quantity and price.

136/07 **BUDGETS / RESERVES & SURPLUSES – Cllr R.J.MARSHALL**

Cllr R.J.Marshall provided an overview of the Council Tax budgeting position and its potential impact on reserves. The stated reserve of £3.4M was further enhanced by an additional sum of £300k. He stated that a reserve of £1M was

the minimum acceptable level. It has been agreed that the Council Tax increase for five years will be limited to a 3% rise and he provided numbers to show that the reserves will diminish as a result, a rise of 4% would clearly not diminish the reserves to such a degree. Numerous figures were quoted and are available from Cllr R.J.Marshall to support the various permutations.

Cllr A.A.Bourke expressed considerable concern regarding the reduction of weekly bin collections and that the weekly service could not be re-instated without the threat of rate-capping. Why could the reserves not be utilised? Additionally he stated that in respect to the Leisure budget large sums were generated from Perton residents whilst very small amounts were invested in Perton. Cllr Bourke informed the meeting that in a very recent Audit Report it showed that £60k had been spent on a Leisure Services contract with consultants to promote membership at both Penkridge and Wombourne Leisure Centres. The auditor had expressed concern that there was no database in place to measure the outcomes of the consultancy and that the consultant company was in fact now in liquidation and yet the scheme appeared to be continuing with a company bearing a new name but the same directors.

Cllr R.J.Marshall stated in reply that 'Vision Leisure Consultancy' had been awarded a contract to increase membership but would likely be paid on results with no increase generating no fee and a maximum award of £60k subject to performance. He further stated that he felt that the Council could probably do the job 'in-house' themselves.

Cllr A.A.Bourke replied that his point was that firstly if there was no database in existence then there was no process to measure the consultants' performance but secondly his key point concerned the actual use of money when Perton is so low on facilities of any kind.

RESOLVED that Cllr R.J. Marshall will investigate and provide a factual response to each question at the next Parish Council meeting.

137/07 **CENTRE KITCHEN EQUIPMENT – Cllr D.J.BILLSON**

Cllr D.J.Billson advised that on a recent visit to the Civic Centre kitchen he had become aware of a possible surplus of kitchen appliances that were no longer in use and could potentially have some sell on value.

RESOLVED that the Clerk will arrange to produce an inventory of kitchen equipment for the next meeting to determine what equipment may be surplus to requirements.

138/07 **ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION GROUP**

The next meeting of EAG 4 will take place at Perton Civic Centre on Thursday 11th January 2007 at 7.00 pm.

RESOLVED that Cllr A.K.James will attend to represent Perton Parish Council.

139/07 **PRELIMINARY BUDGET 2007/08**

The Clerk distributed a 'first-pass' preliminary budget for 2007/08 with a brief explanation of the format. This will form the basis of calculation for the Precept for the next year and can be updated in coming weeks to incorporate future

spending plans and projects.

140/07 **SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

A) Spring Concert Series

RESOLVED that a grant will be offered in line with that provided last year.

B) Register of Members Interests

RESOLVED that all members will check their current registration details with regard to their statutory declaration and update as appropriate. The Clerks office will then ensure the details are updated to the Monitoring Officer at South Staffs Council.

C) South Staffordshire Local Development Framework Core Strategy

The Clerk advised the Members regarding the Core Strategy documentation and distributed overview pamphlets as required.

D) Capital Grants and Loans Scheme

The Clerk distributed copies of the documentation for reference and these were noted.

E) Councillors Reports

Cllr D.J.Billson informed the meeting of his involvement in 'Local Democracy Week' which was well accepted and involved eighty children each day. A mock Parliament was formed and it transpired that 'Re-Cycling' was the top issue.

Cllr N.P.Caine advised that there were now only three transmission masts on The Parkway at Shackleton Drive. However some discussion on this point suggested that a fourth mast is still to be erected as a replacement to another incorrectly located, on completion this redundant mast should then be removed leaving three in total. Cllr Caine also stated that some areas are still short on 'public lighting' and sited Gibson Road as an example.

Cllr Mrs P.C.Bromley advised that Mr Marsh at NHS advised that with regard to Staffordshire Ambulance no immediate merger will occur but this will happen in due course. The 'First Responders' are working well and also Ambulance Drivers are also skilled beyond just driving skills to provide additional medic / responder capability.

Cllr C.J.Bromley endorsed the previous remarks and added that he was concerned about the general reduction in available drugs.

Cllr A.K.James reported that from Direct & Support Scrutiny it was agreed that with respect to Asbestos issues it will be replaced.

Cllr R.J.Marshall advised that South Staffordshire was already in front of the quota for 'Green / Dry' re-cycling. The Defra target for 2010 is a minimum of 40%. However Staffs CC will be measured as a whole and other areas such as 'Cannock' are currently causing the overall target to be missed. The impact is

that County wide we could incur penalisation via Council Tax hikes if the overall quota is missed.

Cllr A.A.Bourke asked if South Staffordshire is likely to apply for Unitary status. Cllr R.J.Marshall replied that this was unlikely but more likely was the introduction of LAA – Local Area agreements. For example instead of grass cutting being conducted in part by both South Staffs Council and Staffs CC a LAA could show economies of scale with all work being completed by a single authority.

141/07 **STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

A) Statement of Accounts 2005/06

Noted

B) County Councillors Report

Cllr R.J.Marshall provided an update on Social Care. Following yet another re-org each area will have a District Director with an area budget. Following a £4M over spend lay offs (to sixteen middle managers) are currently having a negative impact. There are considerable spending pressures and currently there is more spending than available budget.

Cllr Mrs P.Allen expressed concern regarding wages restructuring as a result of new job evaluation process stating that in some cases certain individuals could be losing £5k to £7k per annum.

Cllr Marshall explained that with the evaluation it was inevitable that there would be some net losers but whilst 25% would be likely to see some reductions it was envisaged that 45% would see more and 30% no change.

142/07 **CORRESPONDENCE**

a) A Core Strategy for the Black Country

RESLOVED that Callers D.J.Billson and A.K.James would attend the strategy session 6th December 2006, 9.30 am – 2.00 pm at the Hawthorns, West Bromwich.

b) Play Area

The meeting considered the e-mail submitted by Jessica Heale relating to the childrens playground and areas around the lake.

RESOLVED that Cllr A.K.James would discuss these concerns with the appropriate authorities at South Staffs Council with a view to obtaining an assessment of what can be done to improve matters and report back at the next meeting.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Planning Applications received from South Staffordshire Council and reviewed by the Parish since the last Parish Council meeting on Monday 9th October 2006.

	Application No.	Proposal	Date Returned	No Objections	Objections Raised
52	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	11/10/06		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
53	06/01044/OUT	Demolition of and replacement farm shop - Bradshaws Farm Shop, Wrottesley Park Road, Perton, South Staffordshire. WV8 2HU	11/10/06		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
54	06/01069/FUL	Conservatory 5 Cornmill Grove, Perton, WV6 7XU	11/10/06	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
55	06/01084/TEL	11.7m monopole with associated equipment Opposite 1 Shackleton Drive, The Parkway	11/10/06	Planning consent not required	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
56	06/01096/FUL	Part demolition of existing house, to provide new ground floor living accommodation with first floor and roof alterations to provide additional bedroom accommodation - Holbeck, Pattingham Road, Perton WV6 7HD	11/10/06	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
57	06/01099/FUL	Garage extension and internal alterations 11 Guthrum Close, Perton, WV6 7NN	17/10/06	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
58	06/01091/FUL	Double extension and conservatory 16 Hawksmoor Drive, Perton, WV6 7TE	17/10/06	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
59	06/00787/FUL	Conservatory - 7 Fowler Close, Perton, WV6 7YQ	26/10/06	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
60	06/01121/FUL	Conservatory- 23 Raglan Avenue, Perton, WV6 7RZ	10/11/06	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
61	06/01156/ADV	Sign on gable end wall - 21-24 Anders Square, Perton, WV6 7QH	10/11/06	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

62	06/01174/FUL	Demolition of existing and erection of new dwelling Marion, Pattingham Road, Perton, WV6 7HD	10/11/06	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
63	06/01189/FUL	Conservatory- 20 Lytham Road, Perton, WV6 7YY	10/11/06	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

144/07 **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

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

			£
10/10/06	BACS	Wages Week 28	1227.47
17/10/06	DD	Severn Trent	93.52
17/10/06	BACS	Wages Week 29	1143.72
18/10/06	103206	Dell Corporation Ltd	45.83
18/10/06	103207	Drinkmaster Ltd	167.72
18/10/06	103208	Robert Acton Product Developments	61.10
18/10/06	103209	Veolia ES Onyx Limited	123.15
18/10/06	103210	Post Office Ltd	155.00
18/10/06	103211	BT	18.94
18/10/06	103212	Cardiac Rehabilitation, Heart & Lung Centre	105.00
18/10/06	103213	Mrs J.Digby - Event Refund	372.00
18/10/06	103214	Staffordshire Pension Fund	696.15
18/10/06	103215	Nobisco Ltd	211.61
18/10/06	103216	DowntoEarth Grounds Maintenance Ltd	105.75
18/10/06	103217	Mrs M.Davies - Event Refund	330.00
18/10/06	103218	Tettenhall Operatic - Event Cancellation	18.00
18/10/06	103219	Chris Orme Curtain Track Specialist Ltd	41.13
18/10/06	103220	The Midland News Association Ltd	886.98
18/10/06	103221	Talon Music Limited	3525.00
18/10/06	103222	Talon Music Limited - Bootleg McCartney	0.00
18/10/06	103223	Dave Reilly for Bootleg McCartney	2000.00
25/10/06	DD	Drinkmaster Ltd	167.72
25/10/06	BACS	Wages Week 30	3598.74
26/10/06	103224	Post Office Ltd	225.97
26/10/06	103225	All Stars Band	2500.00
26/10/06	103226	Brisol Ltd	197.02
26/10/06	DD	Unicom	74.26
27/10/06	103227	Queen on Fire	1468.75
27/10/06	103228	Neil Jefferies	0.00
27/10/06	103229	Anthony Wright	0.00
29/10/06	DD	British Gas - Electricity	395.00
01/11/06	DD	Info Comms - Data Protection Register	35.00
01/11/06	DD	SSDC Non -Domestic Rates	1169.00

01/11/06	BACS	Wages Week 31	1175.19
01/11/06	BACS	Inland Revenue	2460.68
01/11/06	BACS	Staffordshire County Pension Fund	1097.02
01/11/06	STO	Kalidescope Limited	47.00
		N.Staffs Fire Extinguisher Maintenance	
01/11/06	103230	Service	205.87
01/11/06	103231	McNaughton Graphical Papers Ltd	102.59
01/11/06	103232	Orchestra of the Swan	2731.87
01/11/06	103233	Perton Place	55.00
06/11/06	103234	Mr P.Andrews - Deposit Refund	50.00
06/11/06	103235	2nd Perton Brownies - Deposit Refund	25.00
06/11/06	103236	Mr Andrew Morton (Osborne)	150.00
06/11/06	103237	Mr S.Jones - Deposit Refund	150.00
06/11/06	103238	Mrs N.Wood	44.00
06/11/06	103239	ADT Fire and Security plc	309.21
06/11/06	103240	ADT Fire and Security plc	246.53
06/11/06	103241	Hi-Tech Security Print Ltd	40.54
06/11/06	103242	ADT Fire and Security plc	123.38
		TOTAL PAYMENTS	30173.41

DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 11th December 2006 @ 7.00 pm

The meeting closed @ 9.25 pm

Cllr. A.K.James
Chairman
11th December 2006