

**Minutes of the Meeting of
PERTON PARISH COUNCIL
held at the Perton Civic Centre on
Monday 13th October 2008 @ 7:00pm**

Present Mrs CM Young [Chairman]
AA Bourke [Vice-Chairman]
Mrs P Allen
Mrs A James
Mrs PN Pitt
Miss C Duffell
DJ Billson
AK James
SK Bott
AK Black
D Fereday
NP Caine from 8:15 pm

County Councillor - RJ Marshall
District Councillor - R Moreton
Staffs CC Partnerships - Simon Hobbs
Staffs CC Youth Service -Richard Coggins
Parish Clerk - Tony Tappenden
Members of the Public present : 8

83/09 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were offered and accepted from Cllrs Mrs R Heseltine, Mrs S Bott and D Heseltine.

84/09 **PUBLIC OPEN SESSION**

- 1) Cllr A K James spoke on behalf of a resident who had voiced concerns regarding Perton buses. Apparently the services offered by Choice Travel often do not run to schedule and are often late or do not turn up at all. **RESOLVED** that the Clerk will write to Choice Travel and ask them why they do not adhere to schedules and also point out that this gives passengers a cost issue in regard to provision of return tickets. The Clerk will also write to Staffordshire CC to make them aware of this issue.
- 2) A resident again raised the issue of the high cost of travel for Perton pupils going to Codsall High school. He stated that the second instalment of £252.00 was due in November and that he is appalled at the high cost of this transport and the unfairness as to who pays and who does not together with the inflexibility of Staffordshire County Council in terms of introducing a payment scheme to spread the financial load across the year. In response County Cllr RJ Marshall stated that the County Inspectors were imminently due to walk the route to test its suitability as a 'safe route' to school. He further suggested that maybe Perton Parish Council should consider establishing themselves as a financial go-between in respect of paying the fees for Perton residents having difficulty in finding the lump sum and then collect these loans from residents over the year. The Clerk advised that almost certainly a Parish Council would not have the legal powers to do this as they are limited to support communities rather than individuals. The resident was advised to pay what he can and to follow up with Andrew Marsden at Staffordshire County Council regarding his difficulties with any outstanding amounts.

- 3) A group of residents from Severn Drive provided an update to flooding issues raised last month stating that they had now received letters from Severn Trent who apparently accept no blame and that the District Council did not appear to be interested. Following some debate it was stated that Severn Trent say they have received no flood reports since March 2004 although it seems likely that there is some confusion as to whether or not the flooding is caused by the sewers or the storm drains.
RESOLVED that the Clerk will seek to arrange a site meeting involving Severn Trent Water, Staffordshire County Council and the District Council Engineers division in order to determine the root cause of the problem and to establish whether or not recent work at Perton Upper Lake could be having an effect on this problem.
- 4) A resident from Cabot Grove raised concerns about being overrun with geese in the area of Cabot Grove and Cook Close and said that this was due in part to certain residents that were feeding the birds and therefore encouraging them to come in to the area. Despite polite requests to refrain from this the people concerned continue to feed the birds and the problems in the area are mounting with rats now appearing regularly.
RESOLVED that the Clerk will write to the District Council to determine if it is illegal to feed these birds and to seek their support in dealing with this problem and to further write to the local housing associations to request their co-operation in asking residents not to feed the local geese population. The Clerk will also contact Wolverhampton Chronicle to see if they are prepared to provide a wider coverage of this issue.

85/09 **POLICE MATTERS**

a) **Police Report**

Reported Crime Figs- Perton- 06/09/08- 06/10/08

Rowdy / ASB behaviour...	37
ASB Vehicles...	1
Criminal Damage...	0
Damage to M/V...	3
Burglary dwelling...	0
Burglary other building...	0
TWOC/ take vehicle...	0
Attempt/Theft of M/V...	0
Theft from M/V...	1
Theft Other...	4
Assaults...	2
Robbery...	0
Sex Offences	1
Drugs	0

1. There were plenty of nuisance calls for this period. However the hot spots are varied due to the displacement through the alcohol ban. Certainly the football nuisance has stopped since the MUGA. The Police team now has Sect 27 Dispersal Powers, which are being used for the hot spots.
2. The figures for the priority crimes of robbery, criminal damage, burglary, theft of and from vehicles were excellent. Only one theft from vehicle involved goods being left on view. The damage to vehicles seemed to be targeted rather than mindless damage.
3. The reported assaults were of a minor nature and the offenders are known and will

be dealt with. The thefts involved shop theft, one incident of theft of lead and one theft from a waste skip.

4. The one sex offence was of a possible flasher. A male was seen baring his backside around the lower lake. Offender not traced but may well have been caught short as opposed to deliberately trying to cause distress.

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

It was noted that the return meeting of Chief Superintendent Nick Baker and Inspector Pat Shannaghan is still outstanding; we are currently waiting for time and date options from Nick Baker's office to be provided. It was requested by some of the Councillors that this meeting takes place during the evening due to non-availability during the day.

86/09 **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Cllr Mrs P.Allen declared personal interest in cheque 103643 paid to PPFA in respect to her role as trustee.

Cllr Mrs P Allen and AA Bourke declared a personal and prejudicial interest in agenda item 20 regarding Grant Request – The Church at Pertons.

Cllr A.K.James declared personal interest in cheque 103638 paid to Down to Earth Grounds Maintenance Limited.

Cllr N.P.Caine declared personal and prejudicial interest in cheque 103645 paid to Ricoh UK Ltd.

87/09 **MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 8th SEPTEMBER, 2008**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 8th September 2008 be confirmed as a true record and the Chairman of the Council duly signed them.

88/09 **DRAFT MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the draft minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on 7th October 2008 together with September income statement be accepted for information.

89/09 **STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

a) **Bus Shelters – Grant reservation requires location and costs:**

Further to some discussion on this point no location was provided for immediate attention other than the existing shelter on the A41 at Kingswood which is inside the boundary of Codsall Parish Council.

RESOLVED that the Clerk will contact the Clerk at Codsall to request that some renovation be considered at this shelter location.

b) **Local Services Review – Bus Operators**

The information was noted; however, Cllr Miss C Duffell said that the 880 service was shown as moving from Choice Travel to A2Z Travel although this did not appear to have happened. It further transpired that there have been some issues associated with A2Z Travel and that the matter was due to be reviewed in three months.

c) **County Councillor's Report**

County Report for Perton Parish 13-10-2008

This has been a month with quite a few developments. The highlights(?) are as follows:

There has been some progress towards the saving of our Youth Club. There does not seem to be any opposition from the Governors and I have got an E-Mail which confirms this view from the Chairman.

On the same subject, there has been a thorough assessment done on the building – I will give more details at the meeting.

The W2R (incinerator) will go to the County planning committee in November. A full debate will be held on this at the County Council meeting on Thursday which I will report on at the meeting.

Sir Patrick Cormack convened a meeting for all interested parties on Friday 3rd October at the District offices at Codsall to debate all matters relating to the Youth Service. I would be doing him a disservice if I did not report that Dave Billson got far and away the loudest cheer of the day when he had a real go at the County officers on their “short sighted approach to Youth Clubs” (I would have said the same if I had been called first...!)

A bit of blatant political manipulation at the County – MDATM.

No obvious progress on the Standing order subject with regard to the School bus transport beyond the “promise” that it will be in place for next school year (I am sure I heard this before somewhere..) and on the safer route to school there is progress of a sort, but not entirely satisfactory – MDATM.

I will also update the Parish on Severn Trent / County Highway / Flooding matters.

Robert J Marshall

With regard to walking the route in respect to Codsall High School, Cllr DJ Billson offered to be involved in the walking review party.

It was also stated in a recent press article that Staffordshire School Crossing Patrols are to be assessed. Cllr RJ Marshall agreed to investigate this to find out what is behind this potential assessment.

Cllr NP Caine raised an issue concerning gated access across the footpath at Dippons Lane and Cllr Marshall was able to confirm that he is investigating this with the ‘Rights of Way’ Division.

RESOLVED that the Clerk will contact South Staffordshire Council to request the latest definitive map of footpaths and bridle paths.

Simon Hobbs and Richard Coggins proved an update to the Members in respect to progress on Perton Youth Issues. The main points are as follows:

- The project has now been running for six months and is therefore half complete.
- There is an intent to re-run the speed conference event and to include a number of service providers in the event.

- Engaging with Pride of Perton group.
- Targeted Youth facility is 'fast track' in December.
- Youth centre is ok for the current fiscal year and they are looking at the constitution and costs for the future management group.
- County Council Youth Offer is still in development.
- Developing Youth forum.
- Info, Advise and Guidance in liaison with local schools.
- 17th November – meeting a Youth Centre regarding constitution.

Following some discussion on this point it was strongly suggested that the Parish Council would need documentary evidence showing youth centre costs covering the last five years, together with a written statement from the County Council stating what they will and will not provide in the future.

RESOLVED that:

- 1) Cllr RJ Marshall will investigate and advise as to how much of Perton Middle school is currently moth-balled.
- 2) Simon Hobbs and Richard Coggins will produce a written statement from Staffordshire County Council showing the running costs of the Youth Centre over the last five years together with a statement of future commitments and exclusions.
- 3) The Clerk to establish the cost of carrying out a structural survey on the current youth premises in time for the next Parish meeting.

90/09

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

a) **Allotments Review**

Cllr DJ Billson informed the meeting that he was still awaiting feedback on this matter from both Hayden Jones and Howard Medlicott who are currently still reviewing suitable land availability.

b) **District Councillors Report**

Portfolio Strategic Services Report. Oct Mtg

There have been several meetings with Simon Hobbs and others regarding us retaining the youth club. Some progress has been made in respect of access to the site. Cllr Marshall has spoken to the governors who have verbally agreed to the continuance of the club in its present form. However this still needs to be ratified in writing.

Following a Regulatory Meeting it is now virtually certain that Sainsbury's will be building the new Supermarket in Wombourne.

As you are aware the MUGA and Playground was officially opened on 6th September 2008. I must say that everyone who has visited the site has been very impressed. I have sent thanks on behalf of myself and the rest of the council members to Katie White and Patrick Davies for the excellent support they have given the parish throughout the project.

I together with other councillors from across Staffordshire have had a meeting with David Kidney and Post Office officials expressing our concern over the closures. It is quite clear that unless Post Offices can become profitable further closures are a real possibility.

The Conservation and Design Awards have now been judged with presentations to the winners taking place on 22nd October.

Together with Cllrs Moreton, Fereday and James I had a meeting with the new management company looking after Smiths Wood. It is apparent that the Wrottesley Estate who owns the wood was not aware of the recent felling which according to our information was instigated by the previous managers. They were looking for the parish to have a financial input into the management of the site in return for access. We are going to have further discussions to see if we can get a non-financial deal.

The South Staffordshire Regeneration Awards took place on 30th September. South Staffs was entered in four categories and walked away with three.

The official opening of the lake improvements took place on 1st October.

Rodbaston College has now amalgamated with Tamworth and Lichfield and Cannock Colleges to become the South Staffordshire College. This amalgamation will give better opportunities to our young people not only in horticulture but other courses such as animal welfare, plumbing, building, equine and farming.

Together with Cllr Marshall and the Parish Chairman Cllr Christine Young I attended a conference called by Sir Patrick Cormack following our representations over the closure of youth facilities. Member of the County Youth Service were in attendance and were left in no doubt whatsoever as to our anger over the decisions made.

Cllr Billson

Cllr Billson additionally stated that previous reports detailing drug and alcohol abuse were in fact based on synthetic estimates rather than any accurate information. Additionally, he said that in respect to the spatial strategy and following additional surveys there were no plans to increase the 3,500 future dwellings already earmarked for South Staffordshire.

- Cllr AK James provided an update on two items related to local planning. The first related to the Southfork appeal; it has been agreed that the height of the pillars at the house must be reduced down to 2 metres, the external wall was reduced to the height of 1 metre simply by using a process of 'banking up' and also the replacement of trees under the existing TPO must be complete by the 31st December, 2008. Secondly, the refused extension at 31 Cornovian Close will be subject to a site meeting on 14th October.
- Cllr D Fereday referenced a recent meeting with the managers of the Wrottesley Estate and said that the utilisation report was to follow.
- Cllr Mrs C Young also advised members that at the Patrick Cormack conference, last Friday, the MP was given the very strong message that Perton Parish Council is not happy with the current youth affairs situation.

91/09 **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Planning Applications received from South Staffordshire Council and reviewed by the Parish since the last Parish Council meeting on Monday 8th September, 2008.

Application No.	Proposals
08/00900/FUL	Conservatory 16 Oatlands Way, Perton, South Staffordshire WV6 7XW
08/00934/FUL	First floor side extension 29 Edward Road, Perton, South Staffordshire WV6 7NA
08/00911/FUL	Two storey and single storey side extension and conservatory 31 Cornovian Close, Perton, South Staffordshire WV6 7NU

The Council raised no objections to the above proposals.

DECISIONS - The following decisions received from South Staffordshire Council:

Application No.	Proposals	Decision
08/00656/FUL	Block of 3 stables and one hay store - The Stable Barn, Hollies Lane, Pattingham	Grant of Planning Permission
08/00679/FUL	Construction of new access road from public highway - Hampton Court Nursing Home, Wrottesley Park Road, Perton	
08/00681/FUL	Two storey side extension - 7 Troon Court, Perton	
08/00715/FUL	Replacement of existing single-skin underground tanks with three 60,000 litre double-skinned underground tanks - Sainsburys Petrol Filling Station, Coleridge Drive	
08/00758/FUL	Side extension, infill wall to existing carport and conservatory 11 Arundel Grove, Perton	
08/00770/FUL	Conservatory- 6 Churnet Grove, Perton	
08/00730/FUL	New roof and alterations - West Winds, County Lane, Kingswood	Refusal of Planning Permission
08/00795/FUL	Two storey and single storey rear extensions - 7 Gainsborough Drive	Proposals Withdrawn

92/09 **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 8th September 2008

01/09/08	STO	Kalidescope Limited	47.00
01/09/08	DD	SSDC Non -Domestic Rates	1247.00
02/09/08	BACS	Wages Week 22	1096.07
02/09/08	103638	Down to Earth Grounds Maintenance Limited	94.00
08/09/08	103639	Mrs S.Webster	200.00
08/09/08	103640	Mrs J.De Rosa	150.00
08/09/08	103641	South Staffordshire District Council	180.00
09/09/08	103642	Post Office Limited	244.20
09/09/08	103643	Perton Playing Field Association	2000.00
09/09/08	103644	Veolia ES (UK) Limited	99.45
09/09/08	103645	Ricoh UK Ltd	227.14
10/09/08	BACS	Wages Week 23	1516.12
15/09/08	103646	South Staffordshire District Council	423.38
15/09/08	103647	South Staffordshire District Council	895.80
15/09/08	103648	Promarco Promotions Limited	323.13
15/09/08	103649	McNaughton Graphical Papers Ltd	80.37
16/09/08	103650	MGD Solutions	196.00
16/09/08	BACS	Staffordshire CC Pension Fund	1263.12
16/09/08	BACS	Inland Revenue	2149.83
17/09/08	BACS	Wages Week 24	1085.44
17/09/08	103651	Performing Right Society Ltd	632.77
24/09/08	BACS	Wages Week 25 & Month 6	3947.97
24/09/08	103652	Eastern Shires Purchasing Organisation	85.34
24/09/08	DD	Unicom	61.11
29/09/08	DD	British Gas - Electricity	234.39
29/09/08	DD	British Gas - Gas	0.00
29/09/08	DD	BT Business Broadband	69.75
30/09/08	103653	South Staffordshire District Council	4700.00
30/09/08	103654	South Staffordshire District Council	2350.00
30/09/08	103655	Nobisco Limited	58.32
30/09/08	103656	Gemini (Telford) Ltd	205.14
30/09/08	103657	Audit Commission	1028.13
30/09/08	103658	Dell Corporation Ltd	722.20
30/09/08	103659	Brisol Limited	208.72
		TOTALS	27821.89

b) Budget-to-date 2008/2009

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

93/09 **CLERKS REPORT – OCTOBER 2008**

Matters ongoing / resolved as at 13th October 2008

- Following letter to PPC in September from Mrs I.Hickman concerning overgrown paths the work to clear was completed by SSDC on 15th Sept.

- VAT refund (£32,365.06) on playground and Muga delayed due to investigation by HMRC Public Bodies Group – Payment now fully agreed.
- NHS draft Constitution from South Staffordshire NHS PCT is available in Clerks office for consultation or via www.southstaffordshirepct.nhs.uk by 17th October 2008.
- Big Lottery Community Sustainable Energy Programme grant request submitted on 24th September 2008, some issues now resolved.
- The Making and Enforcement of byelaws. Consultation document in Clerks office.
- South Staffordshire Citizens Advice Bureau Annual Report 2007-2008 in Clerks office.
- New PC delivered and installed on PPC Network and old unit now set-up as network back-up repository.
- South Staffordshire NHS PCT Annual Report 2007/08 in Clerks office.
- Community Council of Staffordshire Annual Report 2007/08 in Clerks Office.
- SPCA Report and Accounts for 2007/08 in Clerks Office.
- Letter of thanks received from Perton & Codsall Utd. F.C. from Club Treasurer Barry Newman in respect to PPC grant of £200 from July meeting.
- Letter from The Ramblers' Association Staffordshire Area on file in Clerks office detailing agreement in respect to Temporary Closure Order FP22.
- SSDC Parish Liaison Meeting on 15th September – Copy of PowerPoint slides of Regional Spatial Strategy in Clerks office.
- Staffs CC Actuarial Strain payments are NOT affected by demise of Madeline Moore.
- Sainsburys agreement secured in respect to external placement of rubbish bins including Sundays.
- Additional Footpaths – Section 53 Modification Order – Awaiting Land Owner details from Cllr N.P.Caine.
- Update to Staffs CC Introduction of Direct Debit for Perton School Bussing: details distributed at meeting.
- Consultations on Issues and Options for:
 - 1) The Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Waste Core Strategy
 - 2) The Staffordshire Minerals Core Strategy
 Dates and details in Clerks Office.

- Inter Parish Games Presentation Evening at Wombourne Civic Centre on Friday 14th November. Tickets £4.00 each via Leisure Services on 01902-696600.
- SSCVA – Community Action Network (CAN Meeting) on Thursday 6th November @ Codsall 10.00 am to 12.30 pm. Application form in Clerks Office.

94/09 **PARISH ACCOUNTS**

(a) **Audit Commission – Certified Annual Return for Year Ending 31st March 2008**

The Council noted that there was no comment from the Auditor in respect to the Return and passed formal commendation to the Clerk's office for delivering the accounts on time and with no negative feedback.

(b) **Financial Statement for the half-year ending 30th September, 2008**

The half-year financial accounts having been circulated with the agenda were noted.

95/09 **PLAYGROUND & MUGA**

(a) **Proposed Signage for Acknowledgements and 'Rules of Play'.**

Following some debate regarding the layout of the two signs the Council **RESOLVED** to accept the signs as presented.

(b) **Quotation for above**

RESOLVED that the quotation for £443.76 plus, either £298.00 or £210.00 for erection, be accepted and the Clerk will liaise with the provider in respect to the best method of erecting the signs.

(c) **Additional Seating – Cllr D.J.Billson**

RESOLVED that the quotations from South Staffordshire Council be accepted in respect to three additional benches to be sited within the Playground at a cost of approximately £1462.50 together with the supply and installation of three picnic benches adjacent to the MUGA at a cost of £2025.00.

96/09 **MADLINE MOORE MEMORIAL – CLLR D.J.BILLSON**

RESOLVED that the current Bradford Room be renamed the Madeline Moore Room. This will be subject to prior approval by Mr Moore and the Clerk will write to request his permission at some appropriate time in the future.

97/09 **CHRISTMAS LIGHTS – INSTALLATION QUOTE**

RESOLVED that the quotation from Goodwin & Price in the sum of £1700.00 for both installation and removal be accepted, and the Clerk will request that the lights are available for switch on by Friday 21st November, 2008. Additionally, the Clerk will contact Sainsburys, who are under new management, to ensure that their previous approval to utilise Anders Square lamp posts is still applicable.

98/09 **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – TO ADOPT THE MODEL PUBLICATION SCHEME**

RESOLVED that the Model Publication Scheme be adopted subject to any necessary amendments, as advised by SLCC, to ensure that it is appropriate to Council activities.

99/09 **PRECEPT INCLUSIONS FOR 2009 / 2010**

The Members noted the need to now consider next year's budget and Cllr AK James said that particular consideration should be given to maintaining the current level of precept bearing in mind the various financial problems of the nation that are obviously affecting Perton, and the Members generally agreed on this point.

100/09 **NEW YEARS EVE**

(a) **Ticket Prices**

RESOLVED that the ticket prices be held in line with the 2006 and 2007 price of £10/Adult and £5.00/Child (4-12 yrs).

(b) **Cause**

RESOLVED that any profits arising will be directed towards Perton Youth facilities.

101/09 **PERTON CIVIC CENTRE EXTENSION – BUDGET ESTIMATES**

The budget estimates were noted and it was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk will contact South Staffordshire Council to obtain renewal of existing Planning permission.

102/09 **GRANT REQUEST – THE CHURCH AT PERTON**

Cllr Mrs P Allen made a statement to the Members concerning the nature of the planned works at the Church and also provided an explanation of the accounts and answered various questions from the Members.

Cllrs Mrs P Allen and AA Bourke then withdraw from the meeting.

RESOLVED that Standing Order No 79 (*length of meeting*) be suspended.

Whilst it was recognised that this is effectively a community project it was **RESOLVED** to defer any decision pending further investigation and additional information including a costing breakdown of the proposed project.

103/09 **CORRESPONDENCE**

(a) **Severn Trent Water – Flooding at Severn Drive**

The Council noted the correspondence and this matter was discussed at length during the public session. It was further suggested that the Clerk contacts OFWAT to see if they can bring any pressure to bear on this situation.

(b) **Hatherton Parish Council – Incinerator at Four Ashes**

Following much debate regarding the pros and cons of this incinerator project the motion was put to a vote which was carried unanimously with the exception of Cllr NP Caine who

abstained. It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk will write to Hatherton Parish Council to inform them that Perton Parish Council regrettably cannot support their proposal for a reduced sized incinerator since it is felt that the larger incinerator will provide considerable economic benefits to South Staffordshire. However, the Parish Council do have great sympathy regarding the transportation of waste into the area and would be more than willing to support any proposals to govern such traffic by restriction to motorway access.

(c) **SPCA – Offer of Meeting with Staffordshire County Council**

RESOLVED that the Clerk will request SPCA to arrange a meeting at Perton to cover Youth facilities and school transportation and any other relevant matters.

DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 10th November 2008 @ 7.00 pm

The meeting closed @ 10.15 pm

Chairman
10th November 2008