

**Minutes of the Meeting of
PERTON PARISH COUNCIL
held at the Perton Civic Centre on
Monday 14th January 2008 @ 7.00pm**

Present: Mrs R.Heseltine [Chairman]
Mrs C. Young [Vice Chairman]
Mrs P Allen
Mrs PN Pitt
Mrs S.Bott
Miss C Duffell
D.J.Billson
AK James
AA Bourke
NP Caine joined the meeting at 8.55 pm
AK Black
S.Bott
D.Heseltine

Also Present: RJ Marshall – County Councillor
R Moreton – District Councillor
Parish Clerk – Tony Tappenden
Members of the Public present : 9
Mathew Viney – Reporter Wolverhampton Chronicle
Daniel Wainwright – Reporter Express & Star

149/08 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were offered and accepted from Cllrs Mrs A.James, D Fereday and Neighbourhood Police Team.

150/08 **PUBLIC OPEN SESSION**

- 1) Mr Fred O’Leary informed the Members of an organisation called the Local Access Forum whom do good work promoting walking and matters relating to Countryside and Rights of Way.

151/08 **POLICE MATTERS**

a) **Police Report**

Reported Crime Figures Perton
11 December 2007 – 14 January 2008

Rowdy / ASB behaviour	13	Note 1
ASB Vehicles	0	
Criminal Damage	2	
Burglary dwelling	1	Note 2
Burglary other building	0	
TWOC/ take vehicle	0	
Theft of M/V	0	
Theft from M/V	3	Note 3
Damage to M/V	1	
Assaults	2	Note 4
Theft Other	3	Note 5
Robbery	0	Note 6
Drugs	1	

1. Rowdy and anti-social behaviour/ Nuisance figs are respectable considering

this period included the high spirits and usual alcohol related problems of Xmas and the New Year.

2. There was a nasty and serious burglary in December, in the early hours at Shackleton Drive. Anyone with any information should contact the Chase CID office through the switchboard 08453 302010.
3. Priority crime such as theft of and from vehicles was good again. Of the 3 reports of theft from M/Vs, one was of wheel trims being stolen and another was of number plates being removed. Theft of number plates is very prevalent in Staffs and West Mids areas. Crime reduction officers do advise motorists obtain the 'anti tamper' screws for number plates, to help reduce this type of crime.
4. Pleasingly only two assaults were reported, bearing in mind Xmas and New Year are traditional times for fighting due to alcohol consumption. One of the assaults was dealt with by the school, as it involved pupils in school time. The other, enquiries are in hand to deal with the offender.
5. Of the 3 reports of theft. One is disappointing as a flat packed shed was stolen from the Pavillions at Gainsboro'. What makes it disappointing is that it was to be used for the local football teams for storage. Enquiries are in hand to trace the persons responsible. Any info please to PC Lampitt.
6. There were no robberies, possibly due to work which has been carried out by SSDC at Dippons Lane, to improve lighting and prevent further crimes. The lane was an area of poor lighting and ideal for such offences. The drugs offence was an offence of possession of Cannabis and the offenders were dealt with by way of Street Caution.
7. As for the enquiry at the last Parish meeting regarding the Laser Speed Device. It is still being put to use and will continue to be so. However the use of the flashing speed signs would be of use around Edgehill/ Richmond and Manston Drive, where it is not so suitable for the use of the Laser Device. Also as for the boys caught causing graffiti on the Harald Drive subway, both received a reprimand.
8. Information can be left for Perton Neighbourhood Police team on our voicemails: - 08453 303132. (04259 PC Lampitt) (03537 PC Hossack)(08861 PCSO Wilkes)(08862 PCSO Street). The Staffordshire Police control number is 08453 302010, and Crimestoppers 0800 555 111

PC 4259 Lampitt 14.1.2008

Cllr Mrs P Allen mentioned that item 2 carried no date for the offence and also queried the absent of both PC's and PCSO's. Additionally in respect to item 7 it is necessary to make a formal request for the installation of flashing speed signs and the Clerk was able to conform that he had written to Staffordshire County Council Highways with such a request.

Cllr S Bott queried the reason for hedge cutting referred to item 6 and following some discussion it was agreed that the hedges had been cut following a Police request in order to improve natural surveillance of the area following various incidents. Cllr Bott replied that the hedge will re-grow and the answer is surely additional lighting.

RESOLVED that the Clerk will investigate the possibility of improved lighting initially via Staffordshire District Council.

b) **Designated Public Places Order (DPPO)**

The members discussed the content of Maggie Quinn's letter dated 7th January, 2008 in respect to the DPPO Consultation.

RESOLVED that the Clerk will respond to M Quinn:-

- Agreeing that the Parish Council will accept reasonable costs regarding Public Notification in the Express & Star and also the notices to be placed around the designated area. In respect to the notices we will seek to find out if we can provide these our selves from a more cost effective source.
- That with regard to consultation we will aid in this process and the Clerk will seek to find out the appropriate form of words, time-scales and method of response.
- We will also advise that the field which is accessed by Bodiam Close must be included in the DPPO area.

Cllr Mrs CM Young was interested to know how the ban would be Policed, once introduced.

152/08 **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Cllrs Mrs P Pitt and A Bourke declared personal and prejudicial interest in item 14 concerning Anders Square Litter Warden, and Cllr NP Caine declared a personal and prejudicial interest in cheque no 103503 concerning NRG.

153/08 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the draft minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 10th December 2007 be confirmed as a true record and the Chairman of the Council duly signed them.

RESOLVED that the draft minutes of the Management Committee Meeting held on 7th January 2008 be accepted for information.

RESOLVED that the draft minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on 8th January 2008 be accepted for information.

154/08 **PERTON CHILDRENS PLAYGROUND**

After discussion it was **RESOLVED** to:-

- unanimously to accept South Staffordshire District Council proposal to project manage the playground installation as well as the MUGA.
- hold a special Council meeting on Friday 18th January at 6.00 pm to determine the preferred Supplier for both the MUGA and the Playground equipment following the receipt and analysis of three bids, and then take the preferred Supplier options to Public display and consultation.

155/08 **STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

COUNTY REPORT FOR PARISH

There are three main items of information.

- 1) Job Evaluation seems to have taken another turn for the worse. The latest estimate for the cost that the County Council will have to raise is an astonishing 94.6 million! This is about 10 million more than the last estimate which we were confidently told was the worst it could possibly get! The explanation seems to be that we may have to pay back pay to employees who have already left!

- 2) The wider discussion on County finances is about the proposed Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS). The latest proposals put forward at the Cabinet meeting on January 2nd call for about 22.2 million worth of cuts / savings in the next financial year, 12.5 million in 09/10 and 20 million in 10/11. The Council have been helped enormously by the latest settlement because the amount of Government grant that we receive will go up by 7.4% this year, 4.9% next year and 4.6% the year after. These figures compare with the shire county average over the next three years of 5.4%, 4.0% and 3.8%. There will be a long discussion on the state of the County's finances in a Corporate Policy Scrutiny meeting on Friday 11th - more details at the meeting.
- 3) The good news is that the county council's Social Care and Health department have been awarded 2 stars (out of a possible 3). This is a really good piece of news and it represents a big effort from a very big number of people.

County Councillor Robert J. Marshall

Additionally, Cllr Marshall advised as follows:-

- that the bus lane barrier was now working and is as yet un-vandalised but the control box does appear to have suffered some early vandalism and the Police have been requested to provide covert cameras. In respect to the Capital Programme to tarmac the path on the bus lane, this has unfortunately been put back.
- that the crossing at Coleridge Drive has now been finished but it is very hard to see what has actually been done. More work is required to provide a proper designated crossing but this form of work requires prove of need.
- **Youth Issues:-**
 - 1) Existing Youth Club has been given a 12 month stay of execution
 - 2) Staffordshire County Council will run a Summer Youth Programme
 - 3) Integrated Youth Pilot Work Shop will take place on the 31st January and 28th February.

Cllr Miss C Duffell advised that the Coleridge Drive crossing is poor due to its location in regard to the Sainsbury's crossing and truck driver access.

Cllr A Bourke stated that the bus lane barrier is not now working and also advised of numerous bus related issues. Cllr Marshall said he would report the barrier fault.

Cllr Mrs P Allen welcomed the news that the Youth Club was to stay open for a period of time but expressed concern that the building had already been condemned as not fit for purpose and she additionally queried requirements associated with the Library and the use of the LMIS suggesting that it had not been spent as per the original commitment. Cllr Marshall responded saying that the Library is on the Agenda for discussion at the 31st January meeting and he will report back at the February meeting.

156/08

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

(a) **MUGA**

This item was covered under item number 154/08.

(b) **Leisure Centre / Fitness Suite – Cllr DJ Billson**

Cllr DJ Billson provided some background to the statement that was delivered on his behalf at last month's meeting and defended the situation stating that like the MUGA funding, it required a great deal of effort and he was disappointed to see that his bid had failed. He further stated that his efforts behind the scene was with positive intent to provide facilities for Perton and that it was more sensible to chase some form of viable option as a starting position rather than seek to fund a project

that would never get the appropriate backing. He felt that certain comments in the minutes of the previous meeting were both rude and insulting considering the District Councillors were working continuously to provide facilities for Perton.

Cllr Mrs P Pitt said that the Parish Plan indicated a requirement for a Leisure Centre and not a Fitness Centre. Cllr A Bourke said that the Councillors had been kept in the dark regarding this bid and that the previous Perton Fitness Suite had gone out of business and that fitness suites tend to be popular when provided within a Leisure Center.

Cllr S Bott said that people putting forward ideas and actions should not be knocked and Cllr A Black stated that the Council should recognise the positive efforts made-to-date by Cllr. Billson.

Cllr Billson finalised this matter by saying that his efforts had not been a 'knee-jerk' reaction to the parish plan which was only completed by 12% of the population which is roughly the same number that travel to Codsall Leisure Centre.

(c) **Sussed Out & About – 2008 Programme**

Cllr RJ Marshall fulfilled his obligations from the previous meeting by reporting on the utilisation of free SUSSED events. There are two types of activity which are either of a sports or arts nature. Arts events are fully funded and free to all on a first come, first served basis. Sports events are chargeable regardless of locations and again available to all on a first come, first served basis. SUSSED 'Out & About' events are funded specifically by a Parish Council and are available only to people within the Parish.

RESOLVED to accept the full 2008 SUSSED 'Out & About' programme.

(d) **Councillors' Report:**

- Cllr R Moreton informed the members that he had attended recent meetings at the District Council and witnessed first hand some of the debate relating to the Perton Fitness Suite proposal and said that Cllr Billson should be congratulated for getting this project such high visibility within South Staffordshire Council given the difficulties experienced. The most profitable aspect of a leisure centre is the fitness suite and to obtain level 2 recognition is a great achievement and should be recognised as such given the difficulty of the process.

- Cllr D. Billson reported as follows:

- chaired a Best Value Review of the Development Plans and Conservation Service. This has recommended that the role of the Conservation Officer be detached from his other responsibilities and concentrated on Design and Conservation of our village's centres together with advice to Planning on Listed Buildings.

- Altogether there were seventeen recommendations. The report and recommendations will be placed before the Scrutiny Committee and Full Council prior to being adopted.

- Shoal Hill Nature Reserve has been officially declared a Nature Reserve and is included in the Area of National Beauty.

- attended the Anti Social Behaviour Group and made representations on behalf of Perton for the funding for Youth Provision.

- attended the meeting with Jim Brady and others where I stated my concern as to the closing of the youth Club in the village. Further Meetings to take place.

- attended the Regional Housing Conference in Birmingham where we were informed that Baroness Andrews on behalf of the government, responded to our

submission for housing in phase two of the Regional Spatial Strategy recommended increasing the figure of houses to be built be increased from 365,000 to 400,000. Further work is in progress to support our original figure.

- chaired a meeting of the Infrastructure Providers as part of the completion of the Local Development Framework. This work was recommended by Government Office West Midlands as evidence for our Preferred Option. Submissions are required by 21st January and the full report in February.

- attended a Board Meeting of the Destination Management Partnership in Alton Towers where a lot of the discussion was around the Olympics in 2012, and the possible benefits it would bring to Staffordshire. There is a very good chance that the Pakistani Teams may be stationed in the area. It is felt that if this is so then some of the smaller Asian Countries may follow suite.

- casual meeting with Simon Hobbs where I mentioned funding from the Closing Gaps for Communities Fund. There was between 6-7K still in the fund for South Staffordshire. The old rules meant that we were not eligible but the rules have just been changed which may alter that. I have asked to be kept informed so that I can make an application on behalf of Perton.

- at my request the directional arrows have now been painted on the Pear and Partridge Island, which should reduce the accidents there.

- Cllr AK James reported that he had spent much time dealing with complaints regarding Silver Poplars which are on-going. These concern, primarily, the wall that was built without appropriate permission and the lack of subsequent enforcement and the replacement of trees subject to TPO's which are now part of the owners landscape action plan.

(e) **Perton Playing Fields - Signage**

Cllr NP Caine requested that this item be deferred but following a show of hands it was agreed by all except Cllr Caine to proceed with the matter. The Councillors were happy to accept the cost quotation provided by the Clerk in respect to the provision of the signs, but there was some debate concerning acceptable wording for the signs. Cllr S Bott expressed concerns that the Council would look very foolish if they proceeded with the words as provided and the Clerk explained that he was seeking direction from the District Council regarding appropriate by-laws and control orders.

RESOLVED to postpone any final decision pending a formal response from the District Council.

157/08

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Planning Applications received from South Staffordshire Council and reviewed by the Parish since the last Parish Council meeting on Monday 10th December, 2007.

07/01318/FUL	Single storey side extension 5 Naseby Road, Perton, South Staffordshire WV6 7SL
07/01313/FUL	First floor extension over existing garage 26 Edward Road, Perton, South Staffordshire WV6 7NA
07/01338/FUL	First floor side and ground floor rear extensions 79 Leasowe Drive, Perton, South Staffordshire WV6 7TX
07/01343/FUL	Two storey side extension 3 Cornmill Grove, Perton, South Staffordshire WV6 7XU
07/01369/FUL	Two storey rear extension 4 Sutherland Grove, Perton, South Staffordshire WV6 7PA
07/01347/FUL	Two storey side extension 2 Wye Close, Perton, South Staffordshire WV6 7QT
07/01355/FUL	Extension over garage 2 The Pastures, Perton, South Staffordshire WV6 7UJ

07/01379/FUL	Garage extension 15 Franklyn Close, Perton, South Staffordshire WV6 7SB
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The Council raised no objections to the above proposals.

07/01342/FUL	Two-storey and single-storey side extensions and conservatory 31 Cornovian Close, Perton, South Staffordshire WV6 7NU
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The Council raised no objections to the above proposals subject to the window being opaque glass.

DECISIONS

The following decisions received from South Staffordshire Council:

Application No.	Proposals	Decision
07/01095/FUL	Two-storey side and single storey front extensions 43 Melrose Drive, Perton	Grant of Planning Permission
07/00792/FUL	Conversion of stable building to form 4 dwellings with associated landscaping Stable Buildings at The Bradshaws, Holyhead Road, Codsall	Grant of Planning Permission
07/01121/FUL	Extend garage, new pitched roof and front garden wall - 6 Dunster Grove, Perton	Grant of Planning Permission
07/01120/FUL	First floor side extension 5 Berkeley Close, Perton	Grant of Planning Permission
07/01133/ADV0 7/01134/FUL	Installation of illuminated sign Installation of Automated Teller Machine 7 Anders Square, Perton (Martins Newsagents)	Grant of Planning Permission

The Clerk distributed details to the Members regarding the introduction of a new standard electronic planning application form and new information requirements for the validation of planning applications by local planning authorities.

Cllr Mrs P Allen flagged concerns reference the extension to the Wrottesley Arms and requested it to be called in at District Level.

158/08

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

a) **List of Payments:**

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 10th December 2007

			£
03/12/07	STO	Kalidescope Limited	47.00
03/12/07	DD	SSDC Non -Domestic Rates	1199.00
05/12/07	BACS	Wages Week 36	1130.62
05/12/07	BACS	Inland Revenue	3103.75
05/12/07	BACS	Staffordshire CC Pension Fund	1588.59
05/12/07	103503	NRG Group UK Ltd	227.14

05/12/07	103504	A.C.Design & Construction (UK) Ltd	1562.75
12/12/07	BACS	Wages Week 37	1113.61
17/12/07	DD	Severn Trent	53.85
18/12/07	103505	Veolia ES (UK) Limited	81.08
18/12/07	103506	Perton Place	55.00
18/12/07	103507	Nobisco Limited	74.26
18/12/07	103508	Audit Commission	1028.13
18/12/07	103509	Plyvine Catering Limited	20.89
18/12/07	103510	The Society of Local Council Clerks	203.00
18/12/07	103511	MGD Solutions	196.00
18/12/07	103512	S.G.S. Systems Limited	440.63
18/12/07	103513	Saimol Trading Company	1650.88
18/12/07	103514	J.Mills - Deposit Refund	50.00
18/12/07	103515	Mr R.Dickens	420.00
18/12/07	103516	Post Office Limited	192.63
19/12/07	BACS	Wages Week 38	3659.16
19/12/07	BACS	Wages Week 39	960.58
26/12/07	DD	BT Business Broadband	13.28
27/12/07	DD	Unicom	60.34
28/12/07	DD	British Gas - Electricity	531.32
28/12/07	DD	British Gas - Gas	486.96
		Total	20150.45

b) **2007 / 2008 Budget-to-date:**

The budget figures for income and expenditure up to 31/12/2007 were noted.

159/08 **CLERKS' REPORT – JANUARY 2008**

Matters ongoing / resolved as at 14th January 2008

- PayPoint – Tim Highland at Sainsbury informs us that Payzone terminal replaced previous PayPoint facility. Mrs Brenda Brownhill informed.
 - Staffs CC Highways Division (David Steptoe) has completed work on Coleridge Drive 'dropped' crossing opposite No 29 with disabled access. Have subsequently received petition for crossing.
 - Insurance claim of £1260 (less £125.00 excess) submitted to Allianz Cornhill in December 2007 in respect to flood damage to ladies toilet on 20/07/07. Cheque for £1135.00 received on 3/1/2008.
 - Submission of SMP quotation on 19th December to 'Haslimann Taylor PR' in respect to Goodyear £10k contribution to playground.
 - South Staffordshire Housing Association commit grant of £2000.00 towards Perton Childrens Playground.
 - Staffordshire Fire & Rescue Service – 2008-2011 plans contained within Staffordshire Safety Plan – Consultation Edition located in Clerks office. Questionnaire via www.staffordshirefire.gov.uk available until 12/2/2008.
 - West Midlands Region Spatial Strategy Phase Two Revision Draft Submission is available for consultation from 7/1/2008 to 28/3/2008 via www.wmra.gov.uk
 - SPCA Newsletter distributed.
 - Graham Hawthorne PPC Caretaker to become Bone Marrow donor via 'The Anthony Nolan Trust' – minor fiscal and logistical impact to PPC.
- RESOLVED** that:-
- (1) the Clerk will write to Mr G Hawthorne on behalf of the members to

express their full support and offer their congratulations in respect to this situation which they regard as a fine thing to do.

(2) the Council accept any minor fiscal and logistical impact to the Centre during this period.

- Cllr A Bourke introduced another concern on behalf of a parishioner who was unable to attend the public session. The matter relates to the lack of a footpath between St. Andrews Drive and the bus stop on the Parkway at Shackleton Drive, at the current time it is necessary to cross the road twice to reach this bus stop. **RESOLVED** that the Clerk will write to Staffordshire County Highways department to seek a solution to this problem.

160/08 **REQUEST FOR DONATION – SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE**

RESOLVED that the correct procedure should be followed in respect to this request and therefore the Clerk will send a standard Grant Application Form and request appropriate accounts.

161/08 **CORRESPONDENCE**

(a) **Compton Hospice**

The details of this correspondence was noted and it was further **RESOLVED** that following a formal request the Civic Centre facilities will again be provided free of charge.

(b) **Alcohol Ban – Objection**

The correspondence was noted but it was generally felt that this view far from reflects the opinion of the majority.

162/08 **LITTER WARDEN – ANDERS SQUARE / JOHAL DAIRIES**

Cllrs Mrs P Pitt and A Bourke left the room for this item.

The Clerk stated that he was still awaiting feed back from First City regarding their response to the Anders Square Litter issues. Cllr Mrs P Allen stated that it was very important to keep on top of this issue and requested that it be subject to continued review.

DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 11th February 2008 @ 7.00 pm

The meeting closed @ 9.30 pm

Chairman
11th February 2008