

**Minutes of the Meeting of
PERTON PARISH COUNCIL
held at the Perton Civic Centre on
Monday 14th July 2008 @ 7:00pm**

Present Mrs CM Young [Chairman]
AA Bourke [Vice-Chairman]
Mrs R Heseltine
Mrs A James
DJ Billson
A.K James
SK Bott
AK Black
D Fereday
D Heseltine (from 7.50pm)

County Councillor – RJ Marshall
District Councillor - R Moreton
Parish Clerk - Tony Tappenden
Members of the Public present : 21
Mrs B Toth, Perton First School and Consort

48/09 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were offered and accepted from Cllrs Mrs P Allen, Mrs PN Pitt, Mrs S Bott, Miss C Duffell, N.P.Caine and Matthew Viney from Wolverhampton Chronicle.

49/09 **PUBLIC OPEN SESSION**

- 1) Mr Shaw raised an issue on behalf of many members of the Public concerning the school busing arrangements between Perton and Codsall. It was stated that many of the members of public attending the meeting had also been at the Public Meeting last Thursday and requested any available updates.

Cllr RJ Marshall said that one of the principal issues was in respect to Heath House Lane being a suitable, safe route in respect to school travel. He said that it had not been officially walked in the last year or so and needs re-assessment as a safe route. He said that Colin Davies, County Council Highways Legal Representative, had suggested that a formal question be put at the meeting on Tuesday 22nd July regarding these issues. Additionally, there was a possible solution under consideration pending the introduction of direct debits that would allow a number of pre-dated cheques to be submitted although one member of public queried why submit 10 cheques in one go, rather than make regular payments by cheque. It was also said that previously such a system had existed and the matter had got worse not better.

Cllr AK Black passed a number of photographs to Cllr Marshall which showed various safety issues on this walking route. A member of public stated that previously a child had been killed whilst walking to school on this route. Cllr AA Bourke said that no Perton parent should be forced to pay until this road is made a safe walking route and that it had been shown that bus travel from Perton to Codsall via West Midlands Travel, though being longer and requiring four buses there and back, would cost only £215 per school year which is a major saving against the County Council's costs. He also stated that promises made over 12 months ago by the County Council were neither implemented nor followed through. He suggested that subject to firm

proposals these should be progressed chased via the Clerk's office. Cllr DJ Billson stated that Staffordshire County Council were £400 million in the red and were making many negative decisions that were impacting Perton, such as the closure of the Youth Club, and school bus travel had gone up by 30% last year, a further £30% this year, even though the route is a death trap. Another member of public stated that many school buses on the route travelled half empty and therefore a lot of unnecessary cost was being incurred. Cllr AJ James asked Cllr RJ Marshall how many buses were deployed to which the answer was seven and it was suggested that this was clearly more buses than required. Cllr RJ Marshall committed to provide a statement to the Members at the next meeting in September regarding capacity and cost of the buses on the school route.

Emma Birch again speaking for members of the public said that it was very important to focus on objective arguments, for example where the County Councils own guidelines are not met, rather than focus on the emotional aspects. Cllr RJ Marshall agreed saying that the County Council's own Legal Representative had stated that the route is deemed safe if a parent is walking with the child!

RESOLVED that Cllr JR Marshall will liaise with Emma Birch to determine the full range of issues and the best form of approach.

50/09 **PERTON FIRST SCHOOL – BENITA TOTH PRESENTATION**

The Chairman presented a certificate of appreciation, Parish Council plaque and a bouquet of flowers to Mrs Benita Toth in recognition of her work at Perton First school and her service to Perton parishioners marking her retirement from the school.

51/09 **POLICE MATTERS**

a) **Police Report**

Reported Crime Figs- Perton- 06/06/08- 07/07/08

Rowdy / ASB behaviour.....	40
ASB Vehicles.....	3
Criminal Damage.....	6
Burglary dwelling.....	0
Burglary other building.....	1
Theft of M/V.....	2
Theft from M/V.....	0
Damage to M/V.....	3
Assaults.....	1
Theft Other.....	9
Robbery.....	0
Dog Incidents.....	2

1. Rowdy and anti-social behaviour/ nuisance reports were higher than usual. Again the hotspots remain as Gainsborough Drive/ The Pavilions, Anders Square, Spenser Ave and Browning Grove. This was to be expected as youths have been reported for drinking alcohol around the village, since the alcohol restrictions. The vehicle ASB involved mini moto's and vehicles using the bus lane.
2. The criminal damage reports included the office window of the Civic building. In a separate incident a youth was arrested and is helping with police enquiries and another two local youths are to be interviewed over damaging a vehicle and a

- window following a party.
3. There were no burglary dwellings this month. The burglary other building involved the taking of a pedal cycle, as did 2 of the reported thefts. This is the 3rd month where bikes have been taken. It is recommended all push bikes etc are kept under lock and key.
 4. The theft of motor vehicles included an unattended quad bike and an unattended abandoned vehicle. There appears to be an alarming trend where old vehicles left off road, or vehicles left following accidents, are being recovered by offenders for their scrap value.

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

- b) **Correspondence from Insp P.Shannaghan**
The correspondence was noted.
- c) **Correspondence from Sir Patrick Cormack MP**
The correspondence was noted.
- d) **Correspondence from NHS S.Staffs PCT ref Perton Clinic Issues**
The correspondence was noted.

Cllr AA Bourke stated that the problems at Gainsborough Drive and the Pavilion area, particularly on Friday and Saturday nights, seemed to be continuing. Commenting on the response from Insp. Shannaghan to messages posted on the Parish Council's Website Guest Book, he was most disappointed in what he felt was a very poor response. It was generally noted that whilst the Inspector said that part of the responsibility rested with the Parish Council to provide facilities for the youths, such facilities were now being provided but were already being damaged due to lack of appropriate policing. Cllr Fereday stated that many of the problems were caused by kids from out of the area and Cllr AK James said that given these circumstances it was vital there was proper coordination between the forces. Cllr DJ Billson commenting on the correspondence from Insp Shannaghan said that he felt it was an unbelievable response and asked where are the prosecutions?

Cllr Bott providing an update regarding Friday nights stated that recently there had been some noticeable decline in anti-social behaviour at the Playing fields but was unable to say whether this was just a blip or a trend. He further said that Mark Evans of Tettenhall Police Force had said that the alcohol ban at Perton had now caused additional issues at the Bird in Hand Public House but although a meeting had been held to discuss cross-border operations, South Staffordshire Police were noticeable by their absence.

Cllr Black said Insp. Shannaghan's response was particularly disappointing given that he appeared to be happy to let the youth club pick up the issues. The Clerk informed the members that the letter sent to the Chief Constable which was requested at the June meeting had neither been acknowledged nor replied to.

RESOLVED that the Clerk will write to both the Home Secretary Jacqui Smith and the Shadow Home Secretary to make them aware of our concerns.

52/09 **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations offered.

53/09 **MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 9th JUNE, 2008**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 9th June 2008 be confirmed as a true record and the Chairman of the Council duly signed them.

54/09 **DRAFT MINUTES**

- a) **RESOLVED** that the draft minutes of the Playground Committee Meeting held on 30th June 2008 be accepted for information.
- b) **RESOLVED** that the draft minutes of the Management Committee Meeting held on 30th June 2008 be accepted for information.
- c) **RESOLVED** that the draft minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on 1st July 2008 together with June income statement be accepted for information.

55/09 **STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

- a) **Additional Footpaths – Section 53 Modification Order Application – Landowner to be identified**

RESOLVED that prior to formal application via Section 53, we will attempt to identify the landowners in order to suggest that they consider 'designation' of existing pathways.

- b) **Proposed Toucan Crossing – The Parkway / Pear & Partridge**

The information was noted and approved.

- c) **School Bus: Perton – Codsall Cllr A.A.Bourke**

Cllr AA Bourke made only limited reference to this matter given its comprehensive cover during the open session but he did also read some relevant comments contained in a letter sent to Staffordshire County Council School Administration & Transport Service from Mr Dew. A copy of which is also in the Clerk's office.

RESOLVED that the Clerk will chase Staffordshire County Council regarding the introduction of a Direct Debit scheme as soon as possible and that Cllr Marshall will progress matters concerning the actual safety of the walking route.

- d) **Perton Youth Disco**

The Clerk informed the Members that in spite of the publicity given no tickets had been sold and Chris Fridd of the County Youth Service had said that Youth Club attendance had been very low across South Staffordshire and therefore it had been hard to get the information across and he also believed there was a clash with an event at Codsall High School.

RESOLVED that the disco will be postponed and reviewed at the next Management meeting.

e) **'County Councillors Report**

County report for Perton Parish meeting 14 – 7 – 2008

Due to the issue being called in by the opposition, the proposal to develop the car park in Tipping Street, Stafford will have another report from Cabinet in September or October.

The “call in” of the massive rise in charges for social care accommodation resulted in an all-party decision for the Cabinet member to “think again”. I do not expect any change in the decision.

A large number of performance indicators came out on Monday 7th. MDATM

Progress has been made on keeping open the Perton Youth Club. MDATM

There may well be a strike on the subject of pay by council workers on 16th and 17th of July.

A youth club has been opened in Pattingham

There will be serious traffic problems from 21st of July due to resurfacing of the Histons Hill crossroad in Codsall. MDATM

I am deliberately holding back any LMIS Spending in case it is needed for the Youth club. I consider this to be the most important issue in Perton at present.

Cllr Robert J Marshall

Cllr Marshall passed around a number of sheets detailing performance indicators and drew particular attention to the fact that one such target was to hit 75% of all target but the actual performance was only 53%. With regard to the youth club Jim Brady had committed to ‘buy-in’ for at least two evenings per week. Cllr DJ Billson informed the Members that Jim Brady had recently received a real ‘ear-bashing’ from both himself and Cllr Marshall concerning the Perton youth club, the major concerns include the lease of the existing building, the possibility of sub-leasing and also the use of the premises outside of normal school hours. Cllr Billson said it was very important that they receive written assurance on these points before any formal decision can be made regarding the next step.

At this point Cllr RJ Marshall offered his apologies and left the meeting at 8.05pm.

56/09

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

a) **Shale Paths Report**

The Council received the report and said they hoped its recommendations would be implemented as soon as possible. Cllr SK Bott said that aside from the condition of the paths themselves, many paths were almost impassable due to overhanging branches and this was particular the case of the ones near Gainsborough Drive. **RESOLVED** that the Clerk will write to Howard Medlicott at the District office to request support reference these overhanging branches and also to inform him of a washed-out path in Gainsborough to the zebra crossing where the top surface is very loose and potentially dangerous. Additionally the Clerk will write to Mr. T. Harding to update on progress.

b) **Summer Sussed Programme Concerns - Information**

The information was noted and Cllr DJ Billson informed the Members that there are additional activities to be run in Perton by the youth service.

c) **South Staffordshire Local Strategic Partnership – Locality Member Forum Meeting**

The information was noted and it was recognised that only the event on the 3rd September is relevant for Perton Members.

RESOLVED that registrations are passed via the Clerk's office.

d) **District Councillors Report**

Strategic Services Portfolio Report

I have had meetings with the Perton Youth Group chaired by Simon Hobbs. The decision by the County is that under no circumstances will they be funding the running of the Youth Club after 31st March 2009. A separate body will have to be set up to finance the running.

I together with the Clerk had a meeting with Howard Medicott over the issues with the paths. The outcome was that in certain areas the paths would be raised so that water runs off onto the grass verge.

There is a separate issue at Troon Court where the District has had requests to close pedestrian access from residents of Troon Court. At the moment this links the pathway to both the upper and lower lakes. The District is consulting with residents as to what action they wish.

I have had an initial meeting with Narinder Reehal who is the new co-ordinator for the learning partnership. I have further meeting scheduled in what I see could be a real benefit to our area.

A recent course of Local Development training has just been completed for all district councillors.

Village Appraisal Schemes have now been completed for Wheaton Aston, Blymill, Lower Penn and Pattingham. These are out for consultation prior to the management plan being drawn up.

The Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Forum has submitted its response to the findings of the Traveller and Gypsy Survey (T & GS) and the Eco Towns Proposals. With respect to the findings of the T&GS it has turned out that the more sites you have the more you are going to get. In South Staffs we have around 90 and the recommendation is that we have a further 90. This is to be contested. We have lodged our objection to Eco Towns both through the Forum and the Regional Spatial Strategy. It would appear from the feedback we have received that government is back tracking on these proposals.

There was a full day Spatial Planning seminar at Codsall for the Executive and Senior Management Team in order to bring everyone up to date with the latest government thinking and the issues to be addressed

Cllr DJ Billson

- Cllr AK James informed the Members that a new ruling at Codsall means that District Councillors who are also Parish Councillors must now declare an interest in any matters arising that have previously been resolved at Parish level. Additionally he stated that the appeal lodged by Mr Nedic of Southfork had been partially allowed and finally issues passed to him from Cllr Mrs S Bott regarding issues at Perton Playing Fields will be forwarded to the appropriate department at the District Council.
- Cllr D Fereday advised the Members of certain communication difficulties being experienced between the KOSSMIC organisation and Perton Schools and it was suggested that he act as go between on their behalf.
- Cllr R Moreton provided the Members with an update on the Inter Parish Games stating that the last two events had been cancelled which meant the competition had closed with Wombourne in 1st place, Brewood & Coven in 2nd place and Perton in 3rd place which is a considerable improvement on last years position.
- Cllr Mrs R Heseltine stated that she had been dealing with various issues and complaints regarding the quality and frequency of Perton grass cutting.

57/09 **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Planning Applications received from South Staffordshire Council and reviewed by the Parish since the last Parish Council meeting on Monday 9th June 2008.

Application No.	Proposals
08/00553/FUL	Conservatory 7 Lytham Road, Perton, South Staffordshire WV6 7YY
08/00580/FUL	First floor side extension and pitched roof over existing kitchen 8 Elmley Grove, Perton, South Staffordshire WV6 7RW
08/00590/FUL	Single storey rear extension 5 Cocton Close, Perton, South Staffordshire WV6 7ND
08/00604/FUL	Conservatory 7 Stanley Court, Perton, South Staffordshire WV6 7TG
08/00636/FUL	Double extension 9 Melrose Drive, Perton, South Staffordshire WV6 7XH

The Council raised no objections to the above proposals.

08/00528/FUL	Single storey kitchen extension Tudor Lodge, Pattingham Road, Perton, South Staffs WV6 7HD
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The Council raised no objections to the above proposals subject to green belt constrictions.

08/00517/FUL	Two storey rear and ground floor side and rear extension 29 Mallory Road, Perton, South Staffordshire WV6 7XN
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The Council raised no objections to the above proposals subject to 'no windows in the side elevation' being made a condition of the proposed extension.

DECISIONS - The following decisions received from South Staffordshire Council:

Application No.	Proposals	Decision
08/00451/FUL	Alterations and extensions to roof to provide first-floor accommodation with dormers - 9 Vanbrugh Court, Perton	Grant of Planning Permission
08/00397/LUP	Rear single storey extension - 35 Leasowe Drive, Perton	
08/00467/FUL	Side and rear extension - 2 Cook Close, Perton	
08/00481/FUL	2 storey extension & garage conversion - 56 Mercia Drive	
08/00482/FUL	2 storey side extension – 36 Itchen Grove, Perton	
08/00373/FUL	Erection of four stables and one hay store The Stable Barn, Hollies Lane, Pattingham	Refusal of Planning Permission

58/09 **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 9th June 2008

02/06/08	STO	Kalidescope Limited	47.00
02/06/08	DD	SSDC Non -Domestic Rates	1247.00
02/06/08	103603	Mr Derek Walker	270.00
04/06/08	BACS	Wages Week 9	1151.98
04/06/08	BACS	Stafordshire CC Pension Fund	1342.85
04/06/08	BACS	Inland Revenue	2408.00
06/06/08	103604	MGD Solutions	392.00
09/06/08	103605	Mr A.J.Mazzone	150.00
11/06/08	BACS	Wages Week 10 Part	1098.73
16/06/08	103606	Veolia ES (UK) Limited	99.45
16/06/08	103607	Nobisco Limited	95.75
17/06/08	DD	Severn Trent	53.88
18/06/08	BACS	Wages Week 11	946.73
18/06/08	103608	South Staffordshire District Council	2184.33
23/06/08	103609	OCS Group UK Limited	32.68
23/06/08	103610	ADT Fire & Security Plc	123.38
23/06/08	103611	Mr M.Woolridge	150.00
25/06/08	DD	Unicom	55.42
25/06/08	BACS	Wages Week 12 Part	483.32
25/06/08	BACS	Wages Week 12 Part	4227.43
26/06/08	103612	Aircover	293.75
26/06/08	DD	BT Business Broadband	69.75
26/06/08	103613	Brisol Limited	97.88
28/06/08	DD	British Gas - Electricity	365.84
28/06/08	DD	British Gas - Gas	244.01
		TOTAL	17631.16

b) Budget-to-date 2008/2009

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

59/09 **CLERKS REPORT – JULY 2008**

Matters ongoing / resolved as at 14th July 2008

- **Polite Request from Chairman: Would all Councillors unable to attend any meeting please tender 'Apologies' by midday latest on the day of the meeting.** This way reserves can be bought in as / when appropriate.
- Designated Public Places Order (Alcohol Ban) came into force on 18th June 2008.
- SSDC Lease for Muga is now complete. Signed & Sealed.
- Accounts, Annual Return and Annual Governance Statement for year ending 31st March 2008 submitted to Audit Commission on 26th June 2008.
- SSDC (Howard Meddlcott) using Perton Place Ad Mag June Edition to consult with Perton Public regarding stile access from Troon Court to Penk pathway. Copy letters received from public so far only supporting retention of the stile access.
- A volume of correspondence received from Y4 'literacy curriculum' pupils at Sandown First School arguing for / against pedestrian crossing at the 'Pear & Partridge'. Reply sent offering thanks, encouragement and info regarding Staffs CC proposal for a Toucan Crossing.
- Muga / Playground 'Container of Equipment' still outstanding. SSDC are likely to buy and site container and grant aid PPC for sports equipment. Perton Village Nursery also gifting PPC certain items obtained via Sainsburys Voucher programme.
- Budgetary Quotes for Perton Civic Centre still outstanding.
- SPCA June 2008 Newsletter Distributed to all Councillors
- Letter distributed from Caretaker Graham Hawthorne in respect to his role as a 'bone marrow donor' to Anthony Nolan Trust.

RESOLVED that the Clerk will liaise with Graham Hawthorne in order that appropriate publicity is given to this matter both on the Parish Website and also via the Chronicle and the Express & Star, in line with Anthony Nolan Trust guidelines.

60/09 **PERTON PLAYGROUND & MUGA OFFICIAL OPENING ON SATURDAY 6th SEPTEMBER**

The Clerk reported to the Members that whilst the MUGA had not yet been officially handed over and is still incomplete there is already some evidence of miss-use and damage. Cllr DJ Billson said that part of the design consideration was the location of the existing CCTV and it is important that this facility is utilized. Cllr AK James said that given the earlier comments noted from Insp. Shannaghan it was ironic that the facilities that we are providing do not have Police presence to monitor correct use. Cllr James also suggested that, associated with the Fun day launch, it would probably be a good idea to also use this day to launch the recent PPFA project. Following various discussions on this matter it was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk will write to Mr Hinton, current Chairman, South Staffordshire District Council to formally invite him to the Open day and it was further agreed that the Parish Council will match the funding generated by the Sainsburys Bag Pack day towards the Fun day arrangements.

61/09 **GRANT APPLICATION**

a) **Perton & Codsall Utd F.C.**

RESOLVED that a grant £200 be provided.

62/09 **SAINSBURYS CAR PARK – DISABLED DRIVERS SPACES – CLLR MRS R.HESELTINE**

Cllr Mrs Heseltine informed the Members that the rear car park at Sainsburys had dedicated parking spaces specifically for the disabled but these slots outside the card shop had a potential hazard insofar as the kerb had not been 'picked out' to improve visibility. It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk will write to Sainsburys Manager to bring this to his attention and ask if the kerbs can be painted.

63/09 **CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD 2008 / 09**

RESOLVED that the programme will run again during 2008 / 09 and the prizes will be the same as last year's programme.

64/09 **ALLOTMENTS – CLLR S.K.BOTT**

Cllr SK Bott informed the Members that all local allotments surrounding Perton Parish are now 'choc-a-block' and the provision of allotments, if possible, would be a benefit to many people. Cllr DJ Billson said that at Codsall Parish there was a waiting list of 35 Perton residents looking to take up allotments and he had taken this matter up with both Howard Medicott and Hayden Jones who have agreed to conduct a review of available suitable land. They will also check the area covered by the current PPFA lease. Cllr D Heseltine said that at Cheslyn Hay where he is a District Councillor, the allotments were a continuing topic and are the bane of their lives both in terms of on-going expense and security issues.

RESOLVED that this item will be reviewed again at the September meeting.

65/09 **STANDING ORDER NO 66.**

Local Government Act 1972 - Exclusion of Press and Public - to RESOLVE that the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that they are likely to involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in the appropriate paragraph(s) Section 1[2] Public Bodies/Admission to meetings Act 1960.

PRIVATE SESSION:

a) **Parish Clerk Appraisal & Recommendations.**

The Parish Clerk left the room for these discussions.

The Chairman informed the members that, following the agreement at the June parish meeting, the appraisal with the Clerk was conducted on 1st July 2008 by the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Cllr S.K.Bott. The appraisal had been a worthwhile exercise for all concerned and the outcome was very positive. As a result the Chairman recommended the following course of action to be implemented from 1st April 2008.

- a) The Clerk will move from his current LC3 SCP 42 to new Substantive Benchmark range of SCP 43-47, commencing at SCP 43.

- b) In recognition of the hours worked over and above those for which he is contracted the Clerk to be awarded five working days extra holiday this year and that this be reviewed annually.

Following some discussion on the appraisal and recommendations the Clerk was called back in to the meeting and informed that the Council has **RESOLVED** that the recommendations as stated above will be implemented and back-dated to the 1st April 2008.

The Clerk thanked the Council for bringing this matter to a speedy and satisfactory conclusion.

DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 8th September 2008 @ 7.00 pm

The meeting closed @ 9.20 pm

Chairman
8th September 2008