

Present A.A.Bourke [Chairman]
Mrs C.M Young
Miss C Duffell
Mrs S.Bott
Mrs P.Allen
Mrs R Heseltine
Mrs PN Pitt
DJ Billson
AK James
NP Caine
S.Bott
D. Heseltine
AK Black from 8:50 pm

District Councillor - R Moreton
Parish Clerk - Tony Tappenden
Deputy NPU Commander, Sgt Matt Walker
NPU PC Duncan Lampitt
South Staffordshire District Council: John Littleton
Members of the Public present: Eighteen

119/11 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Mrs A James, D.Fereday and AK Black who advised he would be either late or absent.

120/11 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

The Chairman opened the meeting with a statement advising the assembly that Bilbrook Parish Councillor Ken Mackie had passed away on 19/12/2010 and said that he was previously a member of Wrottesley Parish Council and called upon Cllr A.K.James to say a few words.

Cllr A.K.James said that Cllr Mackie had been a great friend of Perton over the years and was a good Councillor at both Parish and District level. He said that Cllr Mackie had been a keen influence on the establishment of Perton Parish Council and that he will be remembered.

The Chairman advised that the funeral will take place in Codsall at St Nicholas Church at 1:00 pm on 11th January. He then called upon the entire assembly to stand and one minute of silence was observed as a mark of respect.

a) Presentation from SSDC Environmental Enforcement Officer: John Littleton

John opened his presentation stating that environmental enforcement now comes under the Public Health Protection team. He provided an interesting overview of the main areas of enforcement which includes littering, dog fouling and fly tipping and pollution. In particular regard to fly tipping, he said that last year there had been 1.3 million incidents recorded nationwide at a total cost of £58 million, of these, 455 occurred in South Staffordshire with a cost slightly exceeding £32,000. Within the presentation he said that under certain conditions there is also the power of stop and search stating that much of the work is done in conjunction with the local police force and he outlined some of the strengths and weaknesses of the operation. He said that one of the big issues is scrap collectors and they must always be licensed but subject to this proviso his team's only power is to stop amplified sound. He also said they do a lot of work in connection with abandoned vehicles but this does not include taxed vehicles which are not

regarded as abandoned. He said that much of the work includes the removal of burnt out vehicles and these are usually removed within 24 hours but his team does not have the power to remove vehicles that are dangerously parked. Another interesting point is that collectors of charity bags must also be licensed but there are four charities exempt from this. He said that new laws now mean that households have a duty of care in respect to the disposal of their rubbish which means that if they are paying third parties for rubbish removal they must be satisfied that the removal operator is correctly licensed and will dump the rubbish in an appropriate way. He said that one of the main powers is fixed penalty notices which can be issued in respect to litter, dog fouling and household waste. He called for questions and one parishioner asked what powers he had over gypsies and John said that such matters as gypsy camps comes under the planning enforcement group but if gypsies are dumping rubbish that would fall within his remit. Cllr. Mrs P Allen said that in respect to dog fouling there was a significant issues around Cosford Court and parishioner Lynn Harris said that dog fouling is a significant issue in many areas not just Cosford Court but the schools and the Lakeside area. John replied stating that the Council Website can be used to report these matters and if they advise him via email of hotspot areas, then he will ensure a leaflet drop is carried out but also advised that enforcement is difficult not the least because there is only 1.5 enforcement officers. PC Duncan Lampitt said that if it helps he could use the PCSO's to assist with the leaflet drop. Cllr AK James said that it is most useful to utilise the District Press Officer to get the message across stating that stories regarding people who have been caught and fined will act hopefully as a deterrent to others. John said that all of the press releases go to the Express & Star but they are not always particular helpful in giving such matters newspaper space, but he said the Council's own website carried much information along with the ability to report issues. A parishioner asked if it was possible for the public refuse sites to be opened longer particularly in summer, County Councillor DJ Billson said these sites are controlled by the County Council but as they are cutting back on staff extended hours are likely to be difficult. Cllr Mrs P Allen said that when the dumps are closed people often just dump their rubbish at the gates and it would be useful to move the notice which displays opening times nearer to the road.

b) Questions from Members of the Public

The Chairman asked if all the members of public present were concerned with policing matters and as this was agreed he then opened the Policing session and invited Mr John Nolan to speak. John opened this session stating that he lived in Mercia Drive and introduced Jennifer Simpson from Idonia Road, he repeated the issues described at the December meeting stating that they have a two year log, showing 43 incidents which included attacks on property, damage, threatening behaviour and attempted break-ins and he said that whilst the police seemed to view this as snow related incidents it is in fact year round behaviour that is causing them problems. He said that last month he had asked the Parish Council for help on three points and since this time had become aware of visible police patrols at key times which had improved the situation over Christmas and the New Year. He added that proactive policing has been successful so far and he hoped the patrols would continue. He said that over the two year period numerous phone calls to the police had produced inconsistent responses and highlighted the fact that Perton has just one neighbourhood PC and two PCSO's to provide 24 hour cover, 7 days a week. He mentioned that at the December meeting, Keith Stubbs from the Fire Service had provided a very interesting presentation detailing proactive measures from the Fire Service and the way they interface with partners and the public, and said it would be very useful to have a similar presentation from the Police to define their level of patrols, resources, availability and general interface to the public. Jennifer Simpson then addressed the Members and thanked them for their help to date stating that things had improved to some degree but added that there had been two incidents recently, one last Wednesday when PCSO Theresa Nicholls was actually in the house at the time and then pursued a group of some 30 people who treated her with abuse and unpleasant behaviour. She said that these matters had already caused her to lose a job and a relationship, but she now has a new job and said she would not

tolerate any more aggravation and was keen to get her life back on track and made the point that under the equality and diversity rules, stated on various websites, she must be seen as a victim and not be treated as a villain which has always been part of the problem.

Neighbourhood PC Duncan Lampitt responded by introducing Sergeant Matt Walker who was acting as stand-in for Inspector Ian Gould who advised earlier in the day that he was unable to be present. He said that Sgt. Walker was an experienced police officer having spent four years on the response team and as such is not part of the Neighbourhood Policing Unit. He said that in October there had been a very useful PACT (Partners and Communities Together) meeting which had brought the Idonia issues to the forefront and since that time he had made 20-30 visits to Jenny to offer reassurance and was therefore disappointed at the way the matters are now being scrutinised and the way he was being demonised.

Another parishioner stated that they have constant problems with motor bikes and on one occasion on ringing the police regarding an incident was told that PC Lampitt would attend, however, they have never seen PC Lampitt who did not respond as promised. PC Duncan Lampitt said that he had never heard of this incident and if he had not been told he could not be blamed. Following some debate around this issue he said he knew one of the youths concerned and if they are revving a bike on their own drive this is a noise issue and should be dealt with by the environmental group rather than the police. There was considerable discussion about who is and who is not responsible for certain matters and Cllr S Bott clarified the points stating that this is like a jigsaw puzzle where a key piece is missing. He said the problem is the number of times things are reported in specific areas but there is no follow-up, the key question is what action is actually taking place, he said that it is one thing to have a quiet word with some kids but others need to be treated in a much firmer way but this never seems to happen.

PC Lampitt said that those in the meeting room would not like it but we are all living in cloud cuckoo land if we don't realise that nothing can happen unless they get more involved. He said that it is not sufficient to simply receive a statement that such and such a person did such and such a thing, he needs evidence and people to support him before any matter can ever get to court. Cllr S Bott responded by saying the Police force need to be firmer to stamp out such behaviour and to show that it will not be tolerated, jobs must be taken to court and made an example of. Sgt. Matt Walker interjected saying that they are doing what they can and these problem areas have improved but there is a general problem in society. He said that the Police generally have a commitment to resource any anti-social report within one hour. Cllr S Bott said the statement is fine but we are talking about breaking doors down in the middle of the night and issues that have persisted over two years. Sgt. Matt Walker asked if we actually have anyone who has witnessed these issues, stating that we can't put people in court if we don't know who they are. Mr Nolan stated that the Police invariably do not come quickly enough and if after two years they don't know who is causing these issues then they should.

Cllr A Bourke reminded Sgt. Walker that we had heard earlier that a call came in at midnight but the police did not turn up till midday the following day and that resident's generally feel they are not getting the support that they deserve and they pay their taxes and yet get no return for their money. Cllr D Heseltine said that the situation is exacerbated because PCSO's can't work after 10pm and either way have very limited powers and the jobs know this. A parishioner then stated that PC Lampitt was shaking his head dismissively and did not seem willing to accept responsibility for the policing of the area. PC Lampitt said that if a youth is on his own land, the police cannot do anything but he said that figures generally show a reduction in problems. He said that Perton is a village with high numbers of youths and no facilities at all and yet despite this there had only been 31 reports of damage in 2010. PC Lampitt was clearly frustrated that confrontational parishioners were not letting him get his message across and this only led to more confrontation on both sides which were not at all reconciled.

Cllr Mrs S Bott said that on Perton she has had personal involvement in this type of issue and despite the fact that there had been no damage to herself or her property the incidents had really frightened her and greatly impacted the quality of her life. She said that a recent article in the Express & Star had highlighted the fact that many victims of anti-social behaviour had slipped through the cracks and the Home Office had recently stated that a new approach is needed to protect vulnerable people. She informed the Members that eight Police Forces, including West Mercia, will change the way they respond to calls over a seven month pilot project designed to help identify and protect vulnerable victims. The Express and Star quoted Crime Prevention Minister James Brokenshire who said "It is essential those who raise the alarm and ask for help are listened to and their complaints acted upon promptly." Sgt. Matt Walker said he was aware of this initiative and that Mr Nolan would be classed as vulnerable due to the history of this matter.

Sgt. Walker went on to say that the Police provide Perton with 24 by 7 coverage from three locations, the principal two being Wombourne and Codsall, and Kinver occasionally. He said that the PCSO contract detailing hours of work and responsibilities is outside of his control but in respect to calls reported he confirmed that the principal call handling centre is at Stafford and the calls would only be routed north in the event that Stafford was overloaded, none the less, the response time should be the same. Parishioner Lynn Harris addressed both the Police and fellow parishioners in respect to the earlier comment that youths had nothing to do, she said that she has been attending Perton Parish Council meetings for five years and had seen the Parish Council work very hard to get funding and to complete the project for the Multiple Use Games Arena (MUGA) and they have also retained the youth club despite the pressures to close it. She said that the police at the time of this project stated the MUGA was a critical resource and it would stop much of the bad behaviour but now we have it we still have problems. She said local people should get more involved and come to meetings and be more responsible and that the parents of the children are always the first line of responsibility.

One of the parishioners asked PC Lampitt if he had ever approached the boy referred to in respect to the motor bike issues, to which PC Lampitt said he had. Mr Nolan said that he had to take issue with PC Lampitt's incident figures stating that the figures had increased by 100% over the last few months and that the statistical evidence is none the less only a small part of the story. Cllr Mrs P Allen said it would be a good idea for the Parish Council to make a room available for the Police to hold a surgery to specifically meet with the residents of Mercia and Idonia in one month's time by way of follow up. PC Lampitt said he was not in a position to diary such a meeting at the immediate time but that he runs regular surgeries and very few people attend.

Cllr DJ Billson said that many of the figures are misleading and that you can see a significant increase in problems in the area over the last two or three years. PC Lampitt said that if the Council think this is such a bad area and he is doing such a poor job they should install cameras in the area in order to aid matters. Cllr A Bourke said we support the Police but in this instance there is an issue that is not being resolved and cameras would not aid the matter particularly when Inspector Gould's response to the Council's letter in December suggested that tolerance was required in this matter and this is not something we can give under the current circumstances. Sgt. Walker agreed that tolerance is only part of the issue but kids will be kids. Cllr Billson said that cameras are not needed since the increased police presence over recent weeks has clearly shown that matters have improved. Cllr S Bott said that it was important for the police to realise that issues such as these need not just the normal leg work but required constant follow-up action. Cllr Mrs P Allen reiterated her request that the Police meet with the affected residents in one month's time and Sgt. Matt Walker responded by saying that all residents with issues should come to the regular Police surgeries. PC Lampitt said that residents should also note that these so called jobs are not outsiders but are Perton kids and the children of Perton residents. He further stated that Perton is a still a lovely place to live and we are not being burgled or facing other more

serious crimes on a regular basis.

As this session was well over the allotted time period the Chairman said that it was now important to move forward and terminate the current session but to ensure that the Police follow up with a specific meeting for these residents in 4-6 weeks time when the matter can be reviewed and discussed further if required, and he said that the Parish Council would be happy to provide a room to enable this to happen. PC Lampitt agreed that he would arrange this meeting and inform the Clerk as to the time and date.

121/11 POLICE MATTERS

a) Police Report

Perton Parish Council Police report meeting 10th January 2011
Period covered 07/12/2010 – 04/01/2011.

Beat areas CF24 Mercia
 CF25 Richmond
 CF26 Central
 CF27 Leasowe

	Cf24	Cf25	Cf26	Cf27	Totals
Anti Social Behaviour	7	1	7	4	19 (-17)
ASB vehicle	0	0	0	0	0 (-)
Criminal Damage	0	0	0	1	1 (-5)
Damage M Vehicles	0	0	0	1	1 (-2)
Burglary Dwelling	0	1	1	0	2 (+1)
Burglary Other Bldg	0	0	0	0	0 (-5)
Theft M Vehicle	0	0	0	1	1 (-)
Theft from M Vehicle	0	0	0	0	0 (-)
Theft other	0	0	2	0	2 (-4)
Assault	0	0	0	0	0 (-1)
Robbery	0	0	0	0	0 (-)
Drugs	1	0	0	0	1 (-)

ASB

The reported ASB reduced by 17 incidents even with a period of snow which accounted for 7 reports. This means over a month we had only 19 calls re nuisance youths. Unfortunately when they are not throwing snowballs, the new trend for the idiots is moving plant pots around, which also resulted in the criminal damage report. When you take into account the xmas and new year festivities and the amount of alcohol consumed the figures are pleasing. Again there was no anti social behaviour involving motor vehicles, bikes or cars.

Burglary Dwelling

There were two reported burglary dwellings. One was only an attempt via the garage and no entry gained. The other was more of local youths using a void premise as a location for a party. No property stolen but minor damage caused, however plenty of forensic evidence left. Considering the burglaries around the rest of the area with all the xmas presents in homes, again the figures are pleasing. Also pleasing was no burglary other buildings, ie sheds, schools or shops.

Vehicle Crime

Again vehicle crime was excellent or should I say the lack of it. One vehicle stolen where the owner has left his vehicle unattended with the ignition on to defrost. One vehicle damaged, where I presume a drunken idiot has walked over it. And for this time of year amazingly no thefts from motor vehicles.

Violent Crime

There were no robberies and unbelievably no reported assaults. Again considering the alcohol consumed over the festivities this is excellent. The local youths from the minor snowballing assault of last month have been helping police with the enquiries.

Other

The drugs matter resulted from a group being stop searched in an underpass due to the smell of cannabis. One local adult male was dealt with for possessing cannabis. Just to top off a good month all-round even the shoplifting reduced and the bus lane policing is having an effect. Only 6 motorists dealt with for using bus lane in 7 separate checks.

Any information please contact Pertons Neighbourhood Team via voicemail 0300 123 2345 - PC Duncan Lampitt (04259), PCSO Teresa Wilkes (08861), PCSO Ashley Tooth (016722).

At this point of the meeting both Sgt. Walker and PC Lampitt left the meeting together with the majority of parishioners.

122/11 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

123/11 MINUTES

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 13th DECEMBER, 2010

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 13th December 2010 be confirmed as a true record and the Chairman of the Council duly signed them.

124/11 DRAFT MINUTES

- a) RESOLVED that the minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on 5th January 2011 together with income statement for December be accepted for information.

125/11 STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

- a) Perton Youth Club
Cllr D.Billson advised that there is no new information on this topic.

- b) Flooding – Severn Drive

Cllr DJ Billson advised the Members that he has very recently received an update on this topic. Cllr Billson referred to an email sent to Steve Poyser at SSDC from Richard Wozmirski of Aecom Limited who has been acting on behalf of Severn Trent on a consultancy basis. The email stated that the on-site flow and rainfall monitoring study has now been completed and the studies together with modelling details have been passed for independent verification. On completion of verification there will be a feasibility study regarding the various options which will then be put to Severn Trent's Approvals Board. Once a preferred scheme is adopted it will be allocated to a framework Contractor for detailed design and estimates. Cllr Billson advised that whilst this all sounded quite positive the down side at the current time is that the construction stage will not commence until financial year commencing 2013. Cllr Billson said he would produce a leaflet and circulate to the affected homes. Cllr Mrs P Allen said it would be a good idea to write to Severn Trent to express concern regarding delays in the resolution and funding of these winter flooding issues. Cllr Billson responded saying that, in this instance, whilst he understands the sentiment expressed the problems arise as a result of flash summer storms and Cllr S Bott said we should not overlook the insurance implications for the residents so affected.

RESOLVED that the Clerk will write to Severn Trent Water and copy to Steve Poyser at SSDC to ask if anything can be done to improve the timescales on this issue.

c) County Councillors Report

Cllr Billson reported that it had been a very quiet month in many ways but it was worth reporting that under the new Localism Bill which is currently under review there may well be some significant changes in respect to predetermination and campaigning rights. He said that if the Bill goes to completion campaigning will then be allowed but matters must remain open until final determination.

Cllr A Bourke said that he was aware of a recent accident in Heath House Lane and asked as a result of this is there anything yet fixed in respect to School Transport and payments allowed for this via direct debit. Cllr Billson responded saying that he believed that there would soon be the introduction of up to ten payments per year via direct debit.

Cllr Billson also reported that starting in February there would be a new consultation looking at two-tier schooling systems. In closing this agenda item Cllr NP Caine asked if Pendrell Hall Adult Education Centre has been sold to which Cllr Billson replied that it hadn't to his knowledge.

126/11 SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

a) District Councillors Report

- Cllr R Moreton said that it was generally very quiet at District level but that he had written to both Inspector Ian Gould and MP Gavin Williamson in respect to the issues heard at length earlier. He had also spoken with Lesley Baird who will liaise with Insp. Gould in order to try and get the outreach workers more involved with the local youth issues.
- Cllr Mrs R Heseltine, AK James, DJ Billson all said that there was nothing to report this month as it was very quiet at District level and many meetings had been cancelled due to bad weather.

127/11 PLANNING COMMITTEE

Planning Applications received from South Staffordshire Council and reviewed by the Parish since the last Parish Council meeting on Monday 13th December, 2010.

Application No.	Proposals
10/00957/FUL	New storey-and-a-half side extension, comprising kitchen and entrance hall with bedroom and en-suite above - 12 Moor Park, Perton WV6 7YP

The Council raised no objections to the above proposals.

DECISIONS - The following decisions received from South Staffordshire Council:

Application No.	Proposals	Decision
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10/00804/COU	Change of use from retail [A1] to veterinary surgery [D1] - Perton Pets & Gardens, 12 Anders Square, Perton, Wolverhampton WV6 7QH	Grant of Planning Permission
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128/11 **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

a) **List of Payments since last reviewed at the meeting of the
Council on 13th December 2010**

01/12/10	STO	Kalidescope Limited	47.00
01/12/10	BACS	Wages Week 35	1197.68
01/12/10	104047	Mrs C.Jones - NY Eve Tickets Deposit Refund	30.00
03/12/10	104048	ESPO	119.07
03/12/10	104049	Nobisco Limited	78.23
06/12/10	104050	Mr R.Bates - Deposit Refund	200.00
08/12/10	BACS	Wages Week 36	1307.25
10/12/10	104051	IRIS Business Software Ltd	509.95
13/12/10	104052	MGD Solutions	196.00
13/12/10	BACS	Inland Revenue	2665.87
13/12/10	BACS	Staffordshire CC Pension Fund	1848.58
15/12/10	BACS	Wages Week 37	1207.04
15/12/10	104053	1st Perton Scout Group	160.00
15/12/10	104054	The Society of Local Council Clerks	234.00
16/12/10	104055	Nobisco Limited	78.23
16/12/10	104056	RHF (Heating) Co Ltd	185.20
21/12/10	BACS	Wages Week 38 / Month 9	4193.48
24/12/10	DD	Unicom	52.97
24/12/10	BACS	Wages Week 39	979.44
24/12/10	DD	Severn Trent Water	418.92
28/12/10	DD	British Gas - Electricity	569.76
28/12/10	DD	British Gas - Gas	696.63
28/12/10	DD	Veolia ES (UK) Limited	88.54
28/12/10	DD	BT Business Broadband	44.06
		TOTALS	17107.90

b) **Budget-to-date 2010/2011**

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

Cllr AK Black joined the meeting at this point.

129/11 **CLERK'S REPORT – JANUARY 2011**

Matters ongoing / resolved as at 10th January 2011

- Bilston Corridor Area Action Plan (AAP) – An Issues Paper and summary leaflet have been produced for public consultation. These documents can be found at: www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/environment/planning/policy/ldf/bcaap.htm
- SSDC Andy Cousins confirmed that line of site trees between the youth Shelter and Anders Sq CCTV have been cut back.

- SSDC Neil Harvey comment regarding Anders Sq lighting:

I have recently supplied Steve Poyser with a site plan depicting the lighting columns throughout the site, where he has expressed an interest in having the lighting columns inspected and tested where the dutyholder is not known – with the view to incorporating the said lighting into our own scheme of maintenance. This would obviously reap great benefits to all concerned.

- SPCA December 2010 Newsletter Distributed at meeting.
- Affordable Rural Housing: A practical guide for parish councils – From the Rural Housing Alliance is available in Clerks office.
- Copy of Codsall Parish & Community Plan 2011 to 2014 available in Clerks office.
- Staffordshire Fire & Rescue Service: Copy of Autumn 2010 Safety Plan Newsletter available in Clerks office.
- SSHA: Copy of News Extra Winter 2010 plus Local Offer Performance Figures Update Winter 2010, both available in Clerks office.

There was a brief discussion about the lighting in Anders Square and Cllr Mrs P Allen said there was also an issue with many of the paving slabs in Anders Square, parts of which by the Church are owned by the District Council. The Clerk said he would follow up these issues with Neil Harvey and Steve Poyser, and Cllr DJ Billson said he would also chase Steve Poyser regarding these matters..

130/11 **NOTICE BOARDS: KINGSWOOD & TRECOTT – CLLR A.K.JAMES**

Cllr AK James said that the Parish Council notice board at Kingswood which is free standing is now very dilapidated and needs to be either refurbished or replaced and additionally there is now no notice board at all at Trescott although the site still exists for wall mounting a new board opposite the ford.

RESOLVED that the Clerk will look into these matters and provide repairs or replacements as required.

131/11 **CORRESPONDENCE**

a) **Staffordshire Office of the Lieutenancy: The Queen's Diamond Jubilee 2012**

Cllr Mrs P Allen said that if we were to provide a Beacon the highest or most suitable point would be on the playing fields but the Clerk said that at this time there was no requirement to make a decision and in due course we should expect to hear from the Pageantmaster and then if we are on the appropriate Beacon line then we may be invited to consider the provision of a Beacon.

Chairman, A Bourke thanked the Members for their participation and patience with regard to the public open session and the police debate and the Members generally agreed that he was absolutely right in giving this matter the time he allowed. However, this provoked more comments regarding the confrontational nature of the discussion and it was generally felt that the Police in attendance had done much to exacerbate matters rather than reconcile differences.

RESOLVED that the Clerk will write to Inspector Gould to advise him that the policing session had not been very positive in terms of outcome and to invite him to the next meeting in order to determine a more positive way forward and further explore the partnership opportunity.

DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 14th February 2011 @ 7.00 pm

The meeting closed @ 9.05 pm

Chairman
14th February 2011