

**Minutes of the Meeting of
PERTON PARISH COUNCIL
held at the Perton Civic Centre on
Monday 13th June 2011 @ 7:00pm**

Present R Moreton [Chairman]
Mrs C.M Young
Mrs R Heseltine
Mrs P Allen
Mrs PN Pitt
Mrs L.Turner
DJ Billson
AK James
AA Bourke
P.Adams
C Evans
B.Morris

Parish Clerk - Tony Tappenden
Members of the Public present: Six
Neighbourhood Police Team: Not present

26/12 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Mrs A James, NP Caine and DM Fereday.

27/12 **PUBLIC OPEN SESSION**

There were no matters raised in the public open session.

28/12 **POLICE MATTERS**

a) **Police Report**

Perton Parish Council Police report meeting 13th June 2011
Period covered 04/05/2011 – 06/06/2011.

Beat areas FX31 Mercia
FX32 Richmond
FX33 Leasowe
FX34 Central

	FX31	FX32	FX33	FX34	Totals
Anti Social Behaviour	5	0	6	8	19 (-)
ASB vehicle	0	0	2	1	3 (+2)
Criminal Damage	0	1	2	0	2 (-1)
Damage M Vehicles	0	0	3	0	3 (+2)
Burglary Dwelling	0	0	1	0	2 (-1)
Burglary Other Bldg	0	0	0	0	2 (+2)
Theft M Vehicle	0	0	1	0	0 (-)
Theft from M Vehicle	0	0	0	0	0 (-1)
Theft other	0	1	1	1	11 (-2)
Assault	0	0	0	0	2 (+2)

Robbery	1	0	1	0	0 (-2)
Drugs	0	0	0	0	0 (-)

ASB

All ASB reports have gone up, but this period did coincide with half term and the children were off school and up to mischief. Hot spot areas are Mercia/Gainsborough/Anders Square and are being given attention by the local officers. Also the Perton Golf club had its fair shares of issues. Should anyone see youths hanging around there after 9pm, please contact the police.

Burglary Dwelling

Two burglary dwellings occurred during the day time hours. Offenders have gone to rear of properties using or scaling the side gate and then broken in via patio doors. They target electrical goods and jewellery. I would ask all side gates to be secured and electrical goods be post coded. Any valuable/sentimental jewellery placed where not easily found by thieves. Anyone seen acting suspicious visiting houses should be reported.

Vehicle Crime

Except for 3 mindless acts of damage to vehicles, the car crime figures are excellent. No vehicles were stolen or broken into.

Violent Crime

Pleasingly there were no street robberies during this period. It is not a constant problem for us in Perton. However vigilance should always be used when alone late in the evening. Occasionally gangs of youths from other areas do visit the Dippons area targeting vulnerable people. The reported assaults are not of a serious nature. One did not wish to make a formal complaint and the other a girl has had her hair cut whilst intoxicated at a party. Enquiries are on going for that offence.

Other

Reported thefts are high again this period. On the increase are shoplifting and bilkings. Bilkings is the offence when motorists don't pay for their petrol and drive off. However not all incidents are crimes, some are just forgetfulness.

Since last meeting 14 tickets have been issued at Bus lane.

The speed strips were audited at Mercia Drive and found no issues as the average speed was only 31 mph.

There is now a yellow post box in the foyer of the civic building for post to be left for Neighbourhood police team.

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

Or email duncan.lampitt@staffordshire.pnn.police.uk

Cllr Mrs P.Allen said that she was pleased to see that the bus lane is still being monitored and that judging by the number of tickets issued this is still clearly a worthwhile activity. Cllr D.Billson noted the humour adopted in the report 'Others' section and explained to the members an issue that he had been personally involved in and how the 'forgetful' description was aimed at himself.

b) Police Consultative Committee Meeting

The information was noted.

29/12 **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Cllr Mrs P.Allen declared personal and prejudicial interest in cheque 104100 paid to David Allen – the handyman and personal interest in cheque 104102 paid to Perton Carnival.
Cllr A.K.James declared personal and prejudicial interest in cheques 104097 and 104111 paid to Down to Earth Grounds Maintenance Ltd.

30/12 **MINUTES**

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 16th MAY, 2011

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on 16th May 2011 be confirmed as a true record and the Chairman of the Council meeting duly signed them.

31/12 **DRAFT MINUTES**

- a) **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Management Committee Meeting held on 6th June 2011 be accepted for information.
- b) **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on 7th June 2011 together with the income statements for April & May be accepted for information.

Cllr Mrs P.Allen commenting on the draft minutes of the Management Committee Meeting said that removal of the Lakeside Hall floor would create a lot of dust and dust sheets should be used to control this. Also she said that it may be a good idea to deploy a structural engineer to check the floor prior to removal to avoid any unexpected problems once the floor is removed.

The Clerk said that these matters have been reviewed and there is a site meeting with the contractors on 24th June to determine some of the working details. Additionally he said that a structural engineer would not be able to comment on the condition of the sub-floor until it was exposed by the removal of the Granwood floor. It is acknowledged that there is some risk as to what may lie beneath the floor but we cannot know until the surface is removed. However Granwood have inspected the floor and their view was that the surface cracks are typical of a floor of that age and there doesn't appear to be any issues of major concern.

32/12 **STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

a) **Perton Youth Club**

Cllr D.Billson said that there have been numerous meetings the most recent of which has determined that there will be a business and asset plan prepared in order to determine ways to improve youth club facilities. The Army Cadets will be asked to part fund an ongoing solution and the plan should be complete by Sept / Oct this year. At the current time it does not look like the back rooms at the school sites are going to be made available, meanwhile the youth club continues to operate as previously.

b) **County Councillors Report**

Cllr DJ Billson reported the following items:

- In respect to South Staffordshire Council a special council meeting has determined that it is now 95% certain that there will be no compulsory retirements. Cllr Billson thanked Cllr B.Morris for his personal involvement in this matter.
- He is Perton's representative at Codsall High School.
- There is to be a significant change to the planning structure for major investment sites.
- Attended a presentation at Featherstone.
- A programme is in place to promote the provision of Superfast Broadband in

South Staffordshire. Whilst a new BT service is available in Perton there are areas of Perton that still cannot be served. It is noted that rural isolation is a problem across the County.

- The planned closure of Bilbrook Middle School is receiving a lot of focus. Other schools are to be included in the consultation and there is to be a public meeting on 16th June for affected people at Bilbrook. A second meeting is to be held at The Legion, Codsall on 4th July for parents from Perton and Pattingham but the drawback is that there is a capacity maximum of 160 people at this site and he feared that it would develop into a complete shambles and make a difficult issue even worse. He said that there is a potentially massive petition against the closure and the people are asking for the school to stay open albeit on a two tier basis.
- In respect to the consultation on Gypsy's and Travelling Showmen he said that these two groups are being treated as one even though there are significant differences in respect to the needs of each group. He said that Gypsy's are treated better in the planning regulations than normal people and that one set of rules should prevail for all. He said that he had a new set of responses to the Government consultation questionnaire which has been prepared by the District Council legal team.

RESOLVED that the PPC consultation response be updated in line with the new information provided by Cllr Billson.

Cllr Mrs P.Allen asked if the petition in respect to Bilbrook school could be available online. Also she said that the venue for the consultation meeting on 4th July is very small and why is it at Codsall and not Perton.

Cllr D.Billson said that the key aspect is for our children to get a proper education and this may well not be the case, he added that funding is a principal issue.

Cllr Mrs P.Allen said that she agreed with Cllr Billson but Bilbrook is not currently viable and in the past the 'church' angle had managed to keep the school open. She said that short term decision making is now part of the problem and it has become a very difficult 'call' for Staffordshire County Council. She said that a better location was required for the parents meeting due to capacity issues and through all of this the reputation of Perton Middle School continues to suffer.

RESOLVED that the Clerk will write to Anne Birch, Commissioner for Education and Skills at Stafford Education Dept to request that the parents meeting to be held on 4th July be moved to a more suitable larger venue.

33/12

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

a) **District Councillors Report**

- Cllr Mrs R.Heseltine provided the report below:

Since the last Parish Council Meeting I have attended the following:-

17.05.2011 The Annual Council Meeting. The new Chairman of South Staffordshire District Council for 2011/2012 is Mrs. Sonja Oatley and her designated charity for the year is The Enemy Within – The Combat Stress Appeal. This cares for UK Veterans who have been profoundly traumatised by harrowing experiences. A most worthy cause.

24.05.2011 Regulatory Committee. There were no applications from Perton residents. The main application was for a residential development in Cheslyn Hay. However, this was deferred to a later date.

31.05.2011 A Special Meeting of the Council.

- Cllr A.K.James reported that he has been in touch with the enforcement officer regarding 'Southfork' and the changing height of the front wall. He said that the wall is now higher than the approved one metre and that it must be restored to the correct level.
- Cllr R.Moreton said that he had attended the same sessions as Cllr Heseltine and was able to confirm that he has been re-elected as Vice Chairman to the Licensing Committee and had recently attended a Licence Application Hearing. He also said that in respect to the Inter Parish Games our title now looks lost due to recent results.

34/12 **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Planning Applications received from South Staffordshire Council and reviewed by the Parish since the last Parish Council meeting on Monday 16th May, 2011.

Application No.	Proposals
11/00293/FUL	Replacement of low level pitched garage roof and flat roof to rear with full height, full depth side extension to dwelling - 15 St Mawes Road, Perton, Wolverhampton WV67UN
11/00334/FUL	Rear and side extension - 18 Itchen Grove, Perton, Wolverhampton WV6 7QY
11/00329/FUL	Terracing of rear garden and extension of forecourt - Amber Verde, Patingham Road, Perton, Wolverhampton WV6 7HD

The Council raised no objections to the above proposals.

11/00362/FUL	First floor side-extension and detached double garage plus conversion of existing garage (re-submission of 11/00055/FUL) - 41 Lytham Road, Perton, Wolverhampton WV6 7YY
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The Council raised concerns that the proposed application would result in a possible over-development of the site.

DECISIONS - The following decisions received from South Staffordshire Council:

Application No.	Proposals	Decision
11/00192/FUL	Two-storey side extension - 27 Conway Road, Perton	Grant of Planning Permission

35/12 **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

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

The Clerk said that last month the value of cheque 104110 paid to ESPO had been incorrectly shown as £58.36 rather than the correct value of £90.28 and the correction is shown below.

List of Payments since last reviewed at the meeting of the Council on 11th April 2011.

01/04/11	STO	Kalidescope Limited	48.00
01/04/11	DD	SDDC Non -Domestic Rates	1289.75
01/04/11	104095	John Ellis Associates Limited	300.00
04/04/11	104096	Tettenhall Inner Wheel - Deposit Refund	150.00
05/04/11	104097	Down to Earth Grounds Maintenance Ltd	102.00
06/04/11	BACS	Wages Week 1	1272.18
06/04/11	104098	Perton Place	55.00
06/04/11	104099	Computacenter (UK) Ltd	63.53
06/04/11	BACS	Inland Revenue	2258.10
06/04/11	BACS	Staffordshire CC Pension Fund	1834.20
13/04/11	BACS	Wages Week 2	1315.00
14/04/11	104100	David Allen - the handyman	242.00
14/04/11	104101	OCS Group UK Limited t/a Cannon	40.25
14/04/11	104102	Perton Carnival 2011	250.00
14/04/11	104103	Community Council of Staffordshire	25.00
14/04/11	104104	Campaign to Protect Rural England	100.00
14/04/11	104105	Staffordshire Parish Councils' Association	722.00
14/04/11	104106	Post Office Limited	228.67
15/04/11	104107	MGD Solutions	196.00
18/04/11	104108	Mr Derek Walker - Internal Audit	260.00
19/04/11	BACS	Wages Week 3	1282.74
20/04/11	104109	Nobisco Limited	58.36
21/04/11	DD	Unicom	51.50
25/04/11	DD	Drinkmaster Ltd	171.29
26/04/11	BACS	Wages Week 4 / Month 1	4188.05
27/04/11	104110	ESPO	90.28
28/04/11	DD	Veolia ES (UK) Limited	106.10
28/04/11	DD	British Gas - Gas	767.36
28/04/11	104111	Down to Earth Grounds Maintenance Ltd	102.00
		TOTALS	17569.36

List of Payments since last reviewed at the meeting of the Council on 16th May 2011

03/05/11	STO	Kalidescope Limited	48.00
03/05/11	DD	SSDC Non -Domestic Rates	1288.00
04/05/11	BACS	Wages Week 5	1257.75
06/05/11	104112	Perton Place	55.00
09/05/11	104113	South Staffordshire District Council	74.48
09/05/11	104114	Mr I.J.Baugh Telford City Technology College Trust Ltd - Deposit	214.00
10/05/11	104115	Refund	200.00
11/05/11	BACS	Wages Week 6	1230.51
11/05/11	BACS	Inland Revenue	2418.43
11/05/11	BACS	Staffordshire CC Pension Fund	1700.84
12/05/11	104116	Nobisco Limited	73.63
16/05/11	104117	MGD Solutions	251.00
16/05/11	104118	Nobisco Limited	64.62
16/01/00	104118	Nobisco Limited	43.08
18/05/11	BACS	Wages Week 7	1180.78
18/05/11	104119	South Staffordshire District Council - Grant	500.00
23/05/11	DD	Unicom	49.27
23/05/11	DD	British Gas - Electric	30.26
23/05/11	104120	CNM Online Ltd	112.29
25/05/11	BACS	Wages Week 8 / Month 2	4359.85
26/05/11	BACS	Cllr N.P.Caine - Chairman's Allowance	504.24
28/05/11	DD	Veolia ES (UK) Limited	86.35
31/05/11	DD	British Gas - Gas	356.58
		TOTALS	16098.96

b) Budget-to-date 2011/2012

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

Cllr Mrs P.Allen asked if the agreed Parish Grant for the Police fun day for Perton had already been paid out since she had become aware that the NPU had a funding issue as Sainsburys who have contributed in the past have now withdrawn funding.

The Clerk said that the grant has been paid and referred to cheque 104119 listed above.

Cllr D.Billson said that the funding shortfall is no longer an issue as he has been able to provide the funds via the County Council grant scheme.

36/12 **CLERK'S REPORT – JUNE 2011**

Matters ongoing / resolved as at 13th June 2011

- Annual Return for the year ended 31st March 2011 was posted to Audit Commission on 12th May 2011 to meet 'required by' date of 16th May.
- Playground Self Closing Gate (by pub) has now broken again due to misuse. A permanent solution is probably only available by replacing the gate with a different type of closure mechanism.

- Flicks in the Sticks: 23rd May showing of 'The Kings Speech' was very successful with 173 attendees of which 11 were paying customers (non senior citizens). 'Hard of Hearing' induction loop was utilized. In excess of £100 collected by Friendship Club in donations for the Air Ambulance.
- Proof of purchase has now been provided as required in respect to grant of £198.00 made to Leasowe Drive Neighbourhood Watch Group.
- SPCA New Councillor Training: Three places have been reserved and confirmed for Mrs Lucie Turner, Paul Adams and Christopher Evans at the session on 22nd June 2011 at a total cost of £45.00
- PPC Chairman Cllr N.P.Caine proposes to have a Civic Sunday Reception on Sunday 18th September 2011 and initial proposition includes combined service at Perton Church followed by a reception at Perton Civic Centre. Chairman is currently away until 18th June.
- The Summer Sussed arrangements for summer 2011 were received in the post earlier today and will be added to our website and notice boards shortly.
- The Clerk read out a letter from Tony Wray, Chief Executive at Severn Trent Water which had been forwarded with a covering letter by MP Gavin Williamson: The works to alleviate the flooding problems at Severn Drive have been brought forward from 2012 to autumn 2011.

Commenting on the flooding issue Cllr D.Billson said this excellent news has been conveyed to all affected residents via a leaflet drop update.

Cllr Mrs P.Allen said that the recent Flicks in the Sticks showing of 'The Kings Speech' had received an excellent turnout and that in the future it may be a good idea to select two or three dates and films and advertise them as a block winter programme. Cllr Mrs R.Heseltine agreed that the Kings Speech had been a very popular event and very well received.

In respect to the proposed Chairman's Civic Sunday Cllr A.A.Bourke said he had reservations about this type of event and as it is now six years since the last Perton Parish Civic Sunday he asked whether or not, in the current climate of cutbacks and restraint, it is right to do this. Cllr R.Moreton said that he fully understands the concern but added that he had just attended the Codsall Parish Council Civic Sunday and it was very well received by all the attendees and it gives the Parish Council an excellent chance to thank key people delivering services within the parish.

Cllr Mrs P.Allen said that she had had one during her time as Chairman but that times change and it is now not appropriate to spend a lot of public money.

Cllr Mrs C.Young said that she fully agrees that it is the wrong time to resurrect this function although she has no issue with the church service.

Cllr Mrs P.Pitt said that perhaps the Council should ask the Chairman to proceed with the church service element but to cancel the reception aspect.

Cllr C.Evans expressed his agreement about curtailing expense and said that any reception needs to be managed on a very tight budget.

Cllr D.Billson said he also agreed generally with the comments made but reminded the members that a lot of people do a lot of good in the area and a church service together with a light buffet may well be acceptable.

RESOLVED that the Clerk will advise the Chairman that PPC are happy for a church service to be convened but extreme restraint should be exercised in respect to the reception. The matter will be added to the agenda for the July meeting to review the event and budget.

37/12 **MARSTON'S – WROTTESELEY ARMS PUBLIC HOUSE**

In reviewing the response letter from Marstons Brewery concerning The Wrottesley Arms Cllr Mrs P.Allen said that despite their claim they only own part of the car-park she was fairly sure that they own the entire car park area including that utilised by Library visitors.

RESOLVED that the Clerk will contact Sarah Poxon at SSDC Planning to request that the planning records are checked to help determine ownership.

38/12 **BROMFORD LIVING – EVENING MEETING**

RESOLVED that this meeting will be held in the Civic Centre Boardroom at 7.00pm on Thursday 30th June.

39/12 **REPLACEMENT PC FOR LAPTOP**

The Clerk explained that the laptop PC used for primarily Bookings and Invoicing is now overloaded and the battery has failed so it can only be used with 'mains' voltage. He said it would be better to replace with a permanent desktop PC and a similar specification machine to the last one ordered would be in the region of £580.00. The laptop could be reformatted and used in the Boardroom at meetings as required.

RESOLVED that a new desktop PC be ordered to replace the ageing laptop unit which will be retained as a spare.

40/12 **INVITATION TO LAUNCH OF THE PERTON WORK CAFE**

The information was noted.

41/12 **SPECIAL DISPENSATION FOR BIRTHDAY PARTY – CLLR MRS P.PITT**

Cllr Mrs P.Pitt explained that whilst 18th birthday parties were rightly not allowed in the Centre in keeping with many local function rooms she felt that a request to book a family party should be allowed since the young lady in question is a previous Young Citizen of the Year and has medical issues and other mobility issues exist within the family who have hired the hall before for family parties with no issues whatsoever.

RESOLVED that this booking request be allowed as a 'one-off' at the standard hire rate.

42/12 **CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD 2011/2012**

Despite a lack of nominees in the last couple of years there was some discussion about the merits of this programme.

RESOLVED that the Citizen of the Year award is to continue as per recent previous programmes.

43/12 **QUEENS DIAMOND JUBILEE COMMITTEE – MEETING DATE TO BE ARRANGED**

RESOLVED that the Queens Diamond Jubilee Committee will meet at 7.00pm on Monday 4th July 2011 in the Civic Centre Boardroom.

44/12 **CORRESPONDENCE**

a) **Colin Yardley**

The correspondence was reviewed and discussed. The members generally agreed that it is important that all parishioners are treated equally in respect to room hire and that where it is appropriate that particular individuals are recognized this is done so in a more traditional manner rather than a financial 'bonus' of some sort.

RESOLVED that the Clerk will write to Mr Yardley and explain that the position on the room hire for the funeral will not be overturned but this in no way reflects on Mr Harding or his family but that precedents have previously been set with other Council members.

- b) **Gavin Williamson MP**
The information was noted.

- c) **Perton Pages**

Cllr Mrs C.Young referring to the petition for a swimming pool asked who Perton Pages are and what their interest in this matter is.

The Clerk explained what he knew of them following their recent calls into the Civic Centre. Cllr A.Bourke said that whilst there are a number of 'hot' issues this matter is beyond the scope of Perton Parish Council and has been evaluated in the recent past.

Cllr Mrs P.Allen said that during the recent election campaign this was one of the biggest issues raised whilst out canvassing and the matter has been recently raised with MP Gavin Williamson in the hope that some surplus school facilities may be utilized for a leisure centre if the schools reorganization should produce some spare capacity.

Cllr D.Billson said he would love to put his faith in the County Council if a school shuts but in reality cannot see us getting a redundant school and part of the issue is that locally the schools are not made available for dual usage. He said that swimming pools are very expensive to build and manage and that a previous effort to bring a fitness suite to Perton had not been well received but either way the Councils suffer a very high net loss over the four existing Leisure Centre's each year and would not countenance more expense, particularly at this time.

Cllr Mrs P.Pitt said the fitness suite was not well received because the younger people need different facilities more akin to a full Leisure Centre such as sports hall for badminton and suchlike.

RESOLVED that the Clerk will respond to Perton Pages to state that the Council would like to see dual use of existing County Council facilities but that the school governors and Headteacher are members of the local community but are blocking the use of the facilities in this way. Additionally Cllr D.Billson will respond with a more comprehensive statement regarding the cost aspects associated with a pool and Leisure Centre but this response may take a little longer due to imminent pending hospitalisation.

DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 11th July 2011 @ 7.00 pm

The meeting closed @ 8.32pm

Chairman
11th July 2011