

Minutes of the Meeting of
PERTON PARISH COUNCIL
held at the Perton Civic Centre on
Monday 2nd April 2007 @ 7:00pm

Present A.K.James [Chairman]
Mrs.R.Heseltine [Vice Chairman]
Mrs P.Allen
Mrs. P.N. Pitt
Mrs P.C.Bromley
Mrs A.James
Mrs J.R.Williams
Mrs P.M.French
D.Billson
A.A. Bourke
N.P.Caine
C.J.Bromley
R.J.Marshall
R.French
S.Bott

Parish Clerk: Tony Tappenden
Members of the Public present : Fourteen
Journalist from Wolverhampton Chronicle – Katy Muench
Neighbourhood Police PCSOs – Rachael Street and Clare Clifton

222/07 **APOLOGIES**

No apologies were offered or required.

223/07 **PUBLIC OPEN SESSION**

Mrs Ann Rust spoke for a group of local residents all concerned about the policy of Staffordshire County Council with regard to charging of pupils for bus transport between Perton and Codsall High School. There has for many years been concern regarding the three mile rule which means that children within the three mile line have to pay but those beyond do not. This stems back to the time when there was a commitment to build a High School at Perton which was then overturned with pupils then having to be bussed to Codsall High School. The new policy now means that the cost, which has risen dramatically to £300.00 per year, has to be paid as a lump sum. Additionally the situation is worsened since a fare paying pupil is not necessarily guaranteed a seat since the County Council must first fulfil their statutory obligations to children that live beyond the three mile limit prior to assessing spare capacity to carry fare payers. The questions from Mrs Rust and her group are:

- 1) Why do Perton children either pay nil or £300.00?
- 2) At a level of £300.00 why is there no payment plan?

Cllr R.J.Marshall explained the history of this issue but also stated that the base issue is money and that other parts of South Staffordshire are similarly affected. He

stated that the non-availability of a payment plan is unreasonable and that the ancillary issue of sixth formers receiving a subsidy is by way of encouragement for them to stay on at school. He stated that he would like to see all of Perton become exception to the three mile line but that the issue is money related.

Cllr Mrs P.Pitt said that the transportation should be free for all at Perton since it only became a requirement when the County Council decided against building a high school at Perton.

Cllr A.Bourke said that payment should surely guarantee a seat and since there was no cycle route or 'Safe Route' as per Perton first and middle schools then it was unreasonable to expect a child to walk if no seat was available.

Cllr D.Billson stated that whilst the Parish Council would all agree on the desire to 'exempt' Perton we are subject to Central Government policy and having spent £114k on Perton 'Safer Routes' and with the County Council having £340M of debt it was unrealistic to expect this situation to change.

Cllr Mrs P.Allen queried the policy of coaches in respect to 'Safe Routes' and felt that a child on a school coach must have a seat and seatbelt available.

RESOLVED that the Clerk contact Staffordshire County Council to query the policy with regard to safety and availability.

Mr Malcolm Samways spoke of the concerns of Park Home residents at Silver Poplars at Kingswood. This item was listed under agenda item 18 - Correspondence from PHRAA. It was agreed to cover this matter during the public session in order to enable the visitors to 'have their say'.

He stated that the Tree Preservation Order procedure is being broken and that they were not satisfied with the response from South Staffordshire Council. The TPO is worthless and there is still no replanting taking place and concrete now exists in some of the replanting areas due to the construction of a swimming pool. Additionally the wall is still under construction in 'green belt' land and typically this work continues when SSDC is closed.

Cllr A.K.James responded saying that the Chief Executive at SSDC had involvement with this case and the matter would be conducted in the correct way but that the underlying issue was the legislation regarding Park Homes.

Cllr Mrs P.Allen asked firstly if the residents had proper legal representation and if the swimming pool had official planning permission. Mr Samways confirmed that they do have access to legal representation however this facility is used sparingly due to the high cost and that the pool did not require planning permission.

RESOLVED that the Clerk will send a letter to Sir Patrick Cormack requesting that consideration be given to reviewing the law in respect to Park Homes. Prior to posting the Clerk will first submit to PHRAA to confirm their approval of the content.

224/07 **POLICE MATTERS**

A) Police Report

PCSOs Rachael Street and Clare Clifton offered apologies from PC Frank Hossack and provided verbal updates to local policing issues:

- 1) Theft of Motor Scooter from Corsers Court – Two boys charged
- 2) Section 30 Dispersal Order now in place – Allows move on and group dispersal

- 3) Action Plans – Gainsborough Drive and Pavilion Car Park targeted. Also Anders Square
- 4) Fixed Penalty notice issued to owner of litter in Bluebell Wood.
- 5) Special attention to Bus Shelter graffiti
- 6) School Parking – Quiet for two weeks
- 7) Scramble Bike issues.

Cllr S. Bott said that Section 30 introduction was welcomed but queried how the youths would know of this in advance. – Detailed information is displayed within Perton Civic Centre and Anders Square notice boards and also posted on certain lampposts around the area by the police themselves.

Cllr A.Bourke drew attention to the fact that only those of age sixteen and under can actually be taken home.

Cllr A.K.James was interested to know if this Section 30 would succeed or fail with regard to football games in Perton Centre. The PCSOs were able to advise that they had moved on two games and twenty footballs had been confiscated.

Cllr Mrs P.Allen said that she believed that gangs of 10 / 12 year olds were still an issue but that the situation was possibly improving. The use of the Library Room would be a definite plus.

The PCSOs left the meeting at this point.

Any information can be left on our voicemails, in confidence, on 08453 303132. (04259 PC Lampitt) (03537 PC Hossack)(08861 PCSO Wilkes)(08862 PCSO Street).

225/07 **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Cllrs A.K.James, Mrs.R.Heseltine, Mrs. P.N. Pitt, Mrs P.C.Bromley, Mrs J.R.Williams, C.J.Bromley and R.French all declared personal interest in cheque 103332 in their capacity as members of the Perton Playing Fields Association.

226/07 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the draft minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 12th March 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 5th March 2007 be accepted for information pending formal acceptance at the next Management Committee meeting.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on 6th March 2007 be confirmed as a true record following previous acceptance and sign-off by the Finance Committee. The Clerk distributed the final 2006 / 2007 Income figures.

227/07 **CLERKS REPORT APRIL 2007**

Matters ongoing / resolved as at 2nd April 2007

The Clerk distributed the latest update to the report

- New Drain Request – Sandown Drive. Agreed by Staffs CC Highways Division – Awaiting completion on 2007 / 2008 budget. April target. (David Wright)
- Landscaping @ Livingstone Avenue – Staffs CC awaiting quotation from SSDC. (David Wright)
- Harald Close Subway Repainting – Now Complete -Bob Allen Highways Development – Structures. Cleaning Kit for above left by Contractor in Clerks Office
- St Andrews Drive Chicane – Site Meeting on 20th March with Simon Cartledge and local residents.
 - Redundant light now removed
 - Refresh existing road markings on South side of chicane and lay edge of carriageway markings around kerbed build-outs to emphasise chicane: The Clerk distributed a copy plan showing the intended areas for improvement.
- Lakeside bench at rear of Livingstone Avenue now relocated.
- Request for litter / dog bins @ Lower Lake:
 - 2 bins to be provided
 - Also requested dog bins for locations around The Parkway – one / two bins will be provided. Free standing litter bins may also be used as dog bins.
 - Clear up of Dippons Lane at the rear of Mercia Drive (27/3/07). Awaiting feedback
- New Bus Shelter – Gainsborough Drive
 - Contribution of £1302.00 now received from Staffs CC
- Perton Walkers Map – Now complete and available. The Clerk distributed a copy of the map to members.
- Section 30 Policing (Dispersal Order) put into effect from Monday 19th March 2007 for six months.
- Section 137 Expenditure: Limit for 2007 /2008 is £5.64 up by 3.6% from 2006/2007 level of £5.44.
- Bridgnorth District Council - Local Development Framework; Statement of Community Involvement adopted March 2007

The Council took the opportunity to offer thanks to Cllr R.J.Marshall for the keen efforts he had personally made to bring about the painting of the Harald Close

subway and also the ongoing works at St Andrews chicane.

Cllr Mrs P.Bromley said that she was still unhappy with this junction as it was confusing and potentially unsafe for motorists.

Cllr R.J.Marshall said that the focus of the junction had always been primarily with regard to 'Safer Routes' and cyclists.

RESOLVED that Clerk will contact Wayne Mortiboys at Staffordshire County Council to state that whilst the works provided an improvement for both pedestrians and cyclists it was encouraging aggressive driving and should be re-evaluated from a drivers perspective.

RESOLVED that the Clerk will contact Bob Allen at Staffordshire County Council to thank him for the painting works at Harald Close subway and request similar treatments at the two remaining subways.

228/07 **PORTMAN BUILDING SOCIETY**

The Council considered the response to the Clerks letter regarding closure of the Perton branch and were far from satisfied with the comments made and justification offered. At the appropriate time the Council will seek to close its accounts when suitable alternative arrangements can be made.

229/07 **PARISH MEETING ATTENDANCE FORM- CLLR N.P.CAINE**

Cllr N.P.Caine advised that it is now common practice for District Councillors to 'sign – in' on an attendance sheet and this was possibly a good idea for the Parish Council to adopt.

The general reaction from the members indicated that this was probably unnecessary since the meeting minutes record who is and who is not at the meeting and any additional process would simply provide the same information with an additional administration requirement.

RESOLVED that Cllr A.K.James will investigate and advise accordingly.

230/07 **BLACK COUNTRY JOINT CORE STRATEGY – STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT EVENT 17th APRIL.**

RESOLVED that Cllrs A.K.James and D.Billson will attend this event and will visit on the 2.30 pm session.

231/07 **GARDENS- CLLR D.J.BILLSON**

Cllr D.Billson suggested that Perton should consider running a garden competition.

RESOLVED that given the pending elections this item will be postponed for the new Council in May.

232/07 **NEW YEARS EVE CHARITY / COMMUNITY BENEFICIARIES**

A) Traffic Island Re-Planting – Planting Schedule and Layout

RESOLVED that, in consideration of the planting schedule and layout, the Council will proceed with the project as quickly as possible and contribute a maximum of £500.00 which remains from the New Year Disco profits.

233/07 **THE LICENSING ACT 2003 – THIRD STAGE MONITORING**

RESOLVED that Cllr D.Billson would complete the questionnaire and return to the Clerk for onward posting.

234/07 **PARISH PLAN - REPORT**

The members reviewed the draft copy of the Parish Plan Report, Analysis and Action document. It was agreed that the document needs to be distributed to key stakeholders but it first needs to be checked and accepted by Perton Parish Council.

RESOLVED that the next steps for the Parish Plan Report be considered by the new Parish Council in May. Meanwhile a draft copy will be posted on the Council website and all new Councillors will receive a copy prior to the May meeting.

235/07 **SOUTH STAFFS DISTRICT COUNCIL**

A) MUGA Update

Cllr R.J.Marshall confirmed that we had not lost the Lottery money grant via SSDC and it was necessary for the project to be fully scoped and defined in order that we can move forwards. We need to decide size and needs via a consultation exercise and develop a costed project that includes the full plans and including all facilities such as skate park and netball court.

Much debate followed on these points since it is felt that there is much confusion about scoping and project ownership and that we are not being consulted.

RESOLVED to defer until the next meeting.

B) Councillors Report

Cllr D.Billson referenced problems with dogs and mess at the top playing field and suggested that more fixed penalty notices should be issued.

Cllr N.P.Caine – Nothing to report

Cllr C.J.Bromley – Nothing to report

Cllr Mrs P.C.Bromley – Nothing to report

Cllr A.K.James advised that the £20k that had been budgeted for 2007 / 08 in respect to the Parish Council underwriting of the Playing Fields drainage project would now not be required since this money had been provided from another source, accordingly this money could now be diverted to the MUGA project if appropriate.

Cllr R.J.Marshall, on behalf of Perton Parish Council, offered special thanks to Cllr A.K.James in respect to his tenacious efforts which resolved the funding requirements for the Playing Fields drainage project.

Cllr A.A.Bourke queried the reason why Perton have to pay for SSDC Sussed events but other Parishes get some of them free. Cllr R.J.Marshall committed to investigate this and report back.

Cllr S.Bott queried who was responsible for recent hedge cutting in areas by the top playing fields where cuttings and debris had been left in the area. Cllr N.P.Caine committed to investigate this and report back.

236/07 **STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

A) Youth Provision at Library room

Cllr R.J.Marshall said that Monday and Wednesday are now the key days and Thursday is a free night at the Library. The LMIS money was provided on the basis of matched funding and he was still chasing to find out what is going on.

RESOLVED that the Clerk will again contact Richard Coggins regarding the day and duration and also the LMIS grant conditions and to inform him that the Council are of the opinion that Perton Youth Provision is a disgrace.

B) County Councillors' Report

Cllr R.J.Marshall reported as follows;

- 1) With regard to care homes there had been a legal challenge and the closures were subjected to judicial review. However the challenge had failed though there may be another. Meanwhile the closure programme will proceed with a minimum three months consultation per home.
- 2) In respect to Bilbrook Household Waste site it was reported that they were receiving waste diverted from the Wolverhampton site at Showell Road. This comes about because white vans and trailers require a permit to tip and these are only issued to Wolverhampton residents. However the reverse is not true at Bilbrook thus they receive local traffic plus that diverted from Showell Road. Given the recent and ongoing increases in Landfill tax this matter will be subject to review in order to close the loop hole.

Cllr Mrs P.Allen queried if it was possible for the elderly and / or disabled to receive help negotiating the steep ramps at Bilbrook. Cllr R.J.Marshall committed to investigate this and report back.

237/07 **CORRESPONDENCE**

A) Park Home Residents Action Alliance.

This item was dealt with during the public open session since delegates from PHRAA were present.

238/07 **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Planning Applications received from South Staffordshire Council and reviewed by the Parish since the last Parish Council meeting on Monday 12 March 2007.

Application No.	Proposals
07/00205/FUL	New detached dwelling - Land adjacent to 9 Guthrum Close, Perton, South Staffordshire

The Council raised no objections to the above application subject to:

1. the materials matching existing building;

2. meeting the minimum space required for a 2 bed property;
3. no trees being lopped on public open space;
4. it conforming to space around dwellings and car parking space/length.

07/00217/FUL	Two storey side extension - 37 Wykeham Grove, Perton, South Staffordshire
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The Council raised no objections to the above application subject to:

1. usual street scene and building line requirements;
2. the materials matching existing building.

07/00219/FUL	Bedroom and porch extension - The Latter House, Pattingham Road, Perton, South Staffordshire
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The Council raised no objections to the above application subject to green belt conditions affecting size, and is within the 30% limitations.

07/00233/FUL	All weather tennis court - Far Park, Pattingham Road, Perton, South Staffordshire
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The Council raised no objections to the above application subject to no objections from their neighbours and it not being detrimental to the street scene.

07/00253/FUL	Conservatory - Arbretta, Holyhead Road, Kingswood, South Staffordshire
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The Council raised no objections to the above application subject to green belt and footprint regulations.

07/00266/AGR	Erection of fibrous cement and concrete agricultural storage building - Bradshaws Farm Shop, Wrottesley Park Road, Perton, South Staffordshire.
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The Council have reviewed the above application and emphasise that the building is for agricultural use only and should conform to Agricultural requirements.

239/07 **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

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

			£
01/03/07	STO	Kalidescope Limited	47.00
06/03/07	BACS	Wages Week 49	1088.67

09/03/07	103327	Mrs K.Brown - Event Deposit Refund	150.00
09/03/07	103328	Viking Direct Limited	35.99
09/03/07	103329	Codsall Community Arts Festival	100.00
09/03/07	103330	R.Weatherington	250.00
09/03/07	103331	Veolia ES (UK) Limited	112.00
09/03/07	103332	Perton Playing Fields Association	2000.00
13/03/07	BACS	Wages Week 50	1091.80
17/03/07	DD	Severn Trent	125.06
19/03/07	103333	Mrs M.Ferretti - Event Deposit Refund	150.00
19/03/07	103334	Fire Safety Training Limited	74.91
19/03/07	103335	Welbeck Sports	165.22
19/03/07	103336	Nobisco Limited	15.22
19/03/07	103337	SSDC	270.00
21/03/07	BACS	Wages Week 51 (Part)	3545.67
		TOTALS	9221.54

Cllr N.P.Caine queried cheque 103330 and the Direct Debit associated with Severn Trent, the Clerk was able to provide satisfactory explanation regarding these expenses.

DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 14th May 2007 @ 7.00 pm

The meeting closed @ 9.10 pm

Chairman
14th May 2007