

**Minutes of the Meeting of**  
**PERTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**held at the Perton Civic Centre on**  
**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2007 @ 6:30pm**

Present: Mrs R Heseltine [Chairman] – From 7.05 pm  
Mrs CM Young [Vice Chairman]  
Mrs P Allen  
DJ Billson  
AK Black  
Mrs S.Bott  
AA Bourke  
NP Caine – From 8.30 pm to close  
Miss C.Duffell  
Mrs A James  
AK James  
Mrs PN Pitt

Also Present: Parish Clerk – Tony Tappenden  
RJ Marshall – County Councillor  
R Moreton – District Councillor  
Members of the Public present : 8  
Matthew Viney - Journalist from Wolverhampton Chronicle  
Tom Edwards – Journalist from Express & Star  
PC Frank Hossack  
PCSO Rachel Street

97/08 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were offered and accepted from Cllr S Bott and Cllr D Heseltine.

98/08 **PUBLIC OPEN SESSION**

- 1) Mr Phil Pritchard provided the members with an update regarding the playground make-over, stating that he is aware that £10,000 will not fix all the problems but will be a good contribution to a future project. He stated that public support has been excellent and he had received good support from the Parish office and many local residents. Additionally, he knows that local parents will be keen to be on any future committee which focused on providing an update to the playground.

Cllr A Bourke said that the Council were well aware that the playground needs fixing but currently funds for this are limited. Additionally, he said that Cannock District Council had recently spent large sums of money on playgrounds in their area and felt that the model used in South Staffordshire was far from ideal. Cllr Mrs P Allen offered thanks to Mr Pritchard for his vigorous efforts in chasing this grant.

- 2) Mrs Holt complained that the green area beyond Spenser Avenue by the Bromford Housing development is a shameful mess and is a continuing location for rowdy youths and associated littering. Cllr Mrs P Allen confirmed that she was well aware of these issues and stated that the wall around the Bromford Housing area is a convenient seating place for local youths and Cllr Mrs C Young stated that it was very important that these youths which are our youths are educated to take litter home. Cllr AK James stated that while this was true there are existing laws in place regarding littering and it is very important for these to be enforced. **RESOLVED** that the Clerk will write to Bromford Housing to make them aware of these issues and to request they implement regular litter picking in this area.

- 3) Mr Morris raised an issue regarding the Bus Lane stating that whilst the barrier was still out of action there was continued and regular access from drivers using the Buses only lane, additionally he stated that the footpaths from the Wrottelsey Arms pub to Jedburgh drive were in poor condition and required resurfacing. Cllr DJ Billson advised that with regard to the Bus Lane the new bollard had been installed and available for just 3 hours before being taken down since the electronic sappers had been lost or thrown away due to months without use. Cllr RJ Marshall stated that new sappers had recently been ordered and in theory the bollard should be back in use within two weeks since this was the delivery time for the sappers. Mr Marshall also stated that the issue with the footpath was a continued problem and suggested that each time Mr Morris became aware of Council contract vehicles using this path he should contact Mr S Poyser at South Staffordshire District Council to make him aware of the problem.
4. Tina Davies stated that yet again the underpass at Harald Close had been cleaned of graffiti and the problem in general was now showing signs of improvement. The Clerk said that on Friday last the lower lake subway had also been cleaned but within two days this was again covered in new attacks of graffiti, additionally, he stated he and Mike Green, from MGD, would be meeting with the Managing Director of ICS on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> October to view the surface problems at the Cheriton Grove subway.
- 5 Three residents from Severn Drive produced a petition regarding safety issues in Severn Drive with a request that the Council consider introducing some form of traffic calming in Severn Drive and in particular close to the Chicane area and zebra crossing.  
**RESOLVED** that the Clerk will write to Staffordshire County Council Highways to request an investigation of the traffic issues in Severn Drive in consultation with both Councillors and local residents.

99/08

## **POLICE MATTERS**

a) **Police Report**

Reported Crime Figs- Perton- 08/09/07- 08/10/07

Rowdy / ASB behaviour	16	Note 1
ASB Vehicles	0	
Criminal Damage	0	
Burglary dwelling	0	
Attempt Burglary dwelling	0	
Burglary other building		
TWOC/ take vehicle	0	
Theft of M/V	2	Note 2
Theft from M/V	1	Note 3
Damage to M/V	2	Note 4
Theft Other	2	Note 5
Assaults	1	Note 6
Robbery	0	
Drug Offence	0	

1. Rowdy and anti-social behaviour/ Criminal damage figs are reasonable for this period. Hot spot areas for ASB still remain too concentrated around Anders Sq/ Lakeside, Spencer Avenue and Gainsborough Drive for nuisance youths. Browning Grove for football issues and Lingfield Drive for mini moto's. Flamingos restaurant has also been the target for several reports of ASB that have taken place outside the restaurant, constant attention has been paid to Anders Square by Police and PCSO'S whilst on patrols.

2. Theft of Motor Vehicle 2 cars were reported stolen. One car from Cornovian Close and one from Cosford Close.
3. Theft from Motor Vehicle 1 report. A pair of ladders was stolen from a commercial van in Sandown Drive this occurred overnight.
4. Vehicles belonging to the staff at Flamingos restaurant were damaged as was a car parked in Richmond Drive this car had its rear window smashed overnight nothing was taken from the car.
5. Theft other covers all types of thefts, from pedal cycles to shop theft. 2 incidents's to report, 1. A female was arrested and cautioned for shop theft from Sainsbury's, 2. A purse was taken from a handbag of a customer in Sainsbury's.
6. The one reported assault relates to a domestic incident.

Lastly, we suggest parishioners are vigilant and leave nothing on view in their vehicles and anyone seen acting suspicious in the early hours should be reported.

With Halloween and Bonfire night swiftly approaching we remind parishioners to be aware of children knocking doors etc.

Regarding ASB in Perton Library I 8862 and Teresa have received a letter from the manager at the library stating that our presence in and around the library has made a difference to the number of reports of ASB they get. I am pleased that the ASB record sheet I gave to the library has worked. All reports of ASB are recorded by the library staff, I and PCSO Wilkes read the reports then speak to the individuals involved.

PCSO 8862 STREET 08/10/2007

Cllr AK James observed that whilst we have apparently extra police cover we do not appear to have any additional visible policing. He further stated that littering is an increasing problem and the police should start to tackle this issue vigorously. PC Frank Hossack stated that fixed penalty fines could be issued to anyone above 16 years old and Cllr DJ Billson asked how many such tickets had recently been issued to which PC Hossack stated 2/3 in recent months.

b) **Alcohol Ban**

Cllr DJ Billson stated that the accusation concerning the District Council previously squashing this ban was totally unfounded and that the Council were committed to working with the Parish to ensure speedy introduction of such a ban. Cllr Miss C Duffel informed the members that Sainsburys at Perton had recently requested an extension to alcohol sales from 6 am – 12 pm.

**RESOLVED** that PC Hossack will do the necessary work to update the previous evidence of local alcohol abuse and liaise with Maggie Quinn to ensure that the Designated Public Places Order (DPPO) gets pushed through at pace. Where possible the Perton litter warden will also produce a dossier of photographs showing evidence of alcohol abuse.

c) **Correspondence**

The correspondence from the new Chief Constable CP Sims was noted.

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.

100/08 **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Cllrs AK James, A Black, Mrs S Bott, Miss C Duffel, D Fereday, Mrs R Heseltine, Mrs P Pitt and Mrs P Allen all expressed personal interest in cheque number 103438 relating to Perton Playing Fields. Cllrs Mrs A James, Mrs P Pitt and AA Bourke all declared a personal and prejudicial interest in agenda item 9b in respect to litter issues in Anders Square. Cllr NP Caine declared personal and prejudicial interest in cheque number 103432 in respect to NRG Group.

101/08 **MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2007 be subject to minor modification and re-issued at the next meeting.

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on 4th September 2007 be accepted for information.

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on 2nd October 2007 be accepted for information.

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Management Committee Meeting held on 3rd September 2007 be accepted for information.

102/08 **PARISH PLAN REPORT**

(a) **Action Plan:**

Cllr Mrs P Allen produced a revised version of Parish Plan 'Appendix C' relating to action items required as a result of the Parish Plan information. She took the members through the document on a point-by-point basis and then offered the final document for acceptance as the formal Draft Action Plan.

Following discussion on certain action items, Cllr AK James stated that a considerable issue with respect to a private facility for leisure would be concerning where the land would come from for such a facility since the Parish Council had no land assets of its own. Cllr DJ Billson informed the members that following large volumes of historic work he was hoping to present proposals concerning Perton leisure facilities at the next Parish Council Meeting.

**RESOLVED** that following Parish Council vote the Action Plan as presented be accepted as the Draft Report and Action Plan and will be subject to overall modification and ratification to certain issues in respect to both ownership and timescale. This will be reviewed at the next monthly meeting.

**RESOLVED** that Standing Order No. 79 (length of meeting) be suspended.

(b) **Litter Issues:**

Cllr DJ Billson stated that he had recently tried to trace Bryant Builders concerning overgrown shrubbery and litter issues on an un-adopted area on Perton. He stated that Bryant's now come under Taylor Woodrow and that many of the issues regarding litter and overgrown shrubbery were associated with un-adopted land.

The members discussed aspects associated with littering around Anders Square which is also un-adopted as far as the Council is concerned. Cllrs A Bourke, Mrs P Pitt and Mrs A James left the room as these discussions developed.

Cllr NP Caine queried how much time is spent on behalf of Johal Dairies in respect to litter picking around Anders Square and when had they last been required to pay an increase. He also informed the members that PCF would be doing a two hour litter pick this coming Saturday.

**RESOLVED** that the Clerk will write to South Staffordshire District Council to seek to identify all of the un-adopted land areas and paths across Perton Village and will additionally write to Johal Dairies to seek their views as to whether or not additional litter picking is required in their area of Anders Square.

(c) **MUGA / Borrowing Approval / Grant & Loan / Management / SSSC Formal Requests:**

Cllr DJ Billson stated that as of Friday last, Katie White of SSSC had said that there were no issues concerning the Perton portion of the Lottery Bid. He also stated that given the issues regarding loan permissions the MUGA project could in fact proceed without the need for a loan subject to the District Council providing a 25K grant to supplement the Lottery Funds of £60,000. The decision on the lottery funding is expect in the first week of November. This with the cash already committed will cover the cost of the project.

The Clerk distributed a statement to all members showing the current financial position of both the MUGA project and the Playground Enhancement project and also detailing the specifics requirements in respect to both the District Council, the Grants and Loans Scheme, and the DCLS Loan Approval process.

**RESOLVED** that the final decision on these matters be held over until we have a formal decision regarding Lottery funding. Additionally, Cllr DJ Billson will liaise with SSSC Chief Executives Office, to ensure that his previous agreements with Mrs Juniper were both known and agreed with the Chief Executive Department.

(d) **Childrens Playground / Goodyear Appeal:**

The Clerk advised that a recent quotation from SMP had identified an excellent scheme costed out at approximately £70,000. As of 2 pm today, our lead on the Goodyear Appeal website was still 20% but following the introduction of an alternative telephone number for voting purposes it was impossible to know how many votes were being cast via this route.

103/08 **STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

(a) **County Councillors' Report:**

On Thursday there will be a debate at the full County Council meeting on the subject of Job Evaluation and its massive cost (both immediate and ongoing). More details on this at the Parish meeting.

The decision on Care Home closures will take place at a special cabinet meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> November.

The decision to sell off county farms was called in by the Conservative opposition and the policy has been amended to take in to account option b) as well as option c) – more details at the meeting.

Two of the Direct Payment conferences have taken place (at Newcastle and Stafford). The next is at Cannock on 11<sup>th</sup> October and the last at Alrewas on 19<sup>th</sup> October. The first two went well with positive feedback from all who attended.

The latest on the A464/A41 junction is that Wayne Mortiboys is currently doing a design scheme and this will be ready for Christmas for elected representatives to be consulted on. The need for something to be done seems to have been accepted, but we must keep on this subject to ensure that the money is in place when the scheme is agreed – (money is going to be scarce!).

Perton bus link: This was put back on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> September. It lasted 3 hours!! The problem was that all of the bus companies had not got their Zappers (probably thrown them away...) so the County had to remove it again. The Zappers were ordered from ATG and the delivery was months!! The cost is also prohibitive and Dave Wright has not got the money in his budget so is going to recharge the bus companies. More details at the meeting.

Staffordshire has a new Police Chief – his name is Sims

Final subject is youth Service. The rumour persists that many youth clubs in Staffordshire will be closed. This conflicts with the Governments statement the 'there should be a youth club in every village' but money is tight etc. Need to have a very frank discussion on where we go on this regardless of whether Perton is on the hit list or not.

Cllr Robert J. Marshall

(b) **Youth Services Report:**

**Youth Service Update – October 2007**

Youth Service Re-structure

The Youth Service re-structure is financially driven. The outcome will be a smaller Service. Alongside the Service re-structure we are implementing an Asset Management Plan.

The final round of interviews is taking place week beginning 8<sup>th</sup> October. The New Youth Service structure will be live from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2008. In South Staffs the impact with regard front line delivery will be minimal as we have protected, and in some areas have been able to increase, front line youth work delivery.

Prior to the implementation of the Asset Management Plan in Perton village I anticipate maintaining the current level of provision; that being three evening per week youth club activity complemented by the work of the detached team.

Asset Management Plan

On 2<sup>nd</sup> October representatives from Youth Service, Communication, Estates and Property together with the Cabinet Support Member for the Youth Service formed Youth Service Asset Management Planning Board.

The purpose of this Board is to agree the appropriate action needed to implement the Youth Service Asset Management Plan agreed by Cabinet on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2007. The Project Board will monitor and manage the implementation of the Plan.

The Asset Management Plan recognises that a proportion of Youth Service premises are either too old, therefore not fit for purpose and/or are situated in the

wrong areas. Cabinet has therefore agreed to sell premises that are not fit for purpose and to reinvest capital receipts in order to modernise the remaining premises and to enable alternative methods of youth work delivery.

In Perton I will bring together, within the next two weeks, a Negotiations Workstream group. This will be a small group consisting of Youth Service Divisional Manager, Senior Youth Worker, District Partnership Development Officer, C&LP Coordinator, and an Elected Member (Robert Marshall has expressed an interest).

The purpose of the Negotiations Workstream group is to consider, and develop a strategy and action plan for the withdrawal from the current premises and the development of future provision. The group will consider:

- Timescales
- Negotiating/involving interested parties/young people
- Youth Work delivery implications
- Key challenges – communications
- Risk factors

I would very much welcome the opportunity of discussing the implications of the above with the Parish Council at a future meeting.

Richard Coggins – Youth Service Divisional Manager

Cllr RJ Marshall expressed concerns that had come to his attention concerning the ongoing viability of Perton Youth Club since his information suggested that this was earmarked for closure.

**RESOLVED** that the Clerk write to Jim Brady to invite both him and Richard Coggins to the next meeting to discuss the future of Perton Youth Centre given his previous assurance that no centre will close until alternative premises are provided. The members feel that the timing of this issue is critical.

104/08 **SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE COUNCIL**

(a) **Councillors' Report:**

Cllr AK James stated that with regard to the A464 junction he had been assured by Wayne Mortiboys that money was in the budget for a project next year.

Cllr R Moreton informed the members that he had recently attended a seminar regarding Locality Working. The seminar indicated that South Staffordshire was split into areas and local service representatives were to share issues and actions via regular meetings.

Cllr DJ Billson explained that Locality Working comes about due to groups having similar issues but not sharing solutions and budget needs. The County has two boards with five areas in South Staffordshire. He also reported attending a tourism meeting at Weston Park to review the five year plan, also attending a new housing group for South Staffordshire Housing Association and umbrella organisation, Staffordshire/Stoke Planning Forum and Stafford DNP Board Meeting.

105/08

**PLANNING COMMITTEE**

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

Application No.	Proposals
07/01017/FUL	Disabled shower/toilet facility <b>25 Meon Grove, Perton, South Staffordshire</b>

The Council raised no objections to the above proposals.

07/01004/FUL	Two storey extension <b>26 Avon Close, Perton, South Staffordshire</b>
07/01027/FUL	Single storey rear extension <b>32 Ennerdale Drive, Perton, South Staffordshire</b>

The Council raised no objections to the above proposals subject to no external building work being carried out on a Sunday.

Application No.	Proposals
07/00963/FUL	First floor side extension <b>4 The Wheatlands, Perton, South Staffordshire WV6 7XP</b>

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

1. the frosted glass being made a condition to the extension for the duration of the development;
2. no objections from their neighbours.

106/08

**ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**a) **List of Payments:**

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

**List of Payments since last reviewed at the meeting  
of the Council on 10th September 2007**

01/09/07	STO	Kalidescope Limited	47.00
01/09/07	DD	SSDC Non -Domestic Rates	1199.00
04/09/07	BACS	Wages Week 23	1005.00
04/09/07	BACS	Inland Revenue	2259.82
04/09/07	BACS	Staffordshire CC Pension Fund	1085.28
06/09/07	103432	NRG Group UK Ltd	42.78
06/09/07	103433	South Staffordshire District Council	180.00
06/09/07	103434	Eastern Shires Purchasing Organisation	8.04
07/09/07	103435	Staffordshire Pension Fund	309.96
07/09/07	103436	Computacenter (UK) Limited	68.08
11/09/07	BACS	Wages Week 24	967.85
11/09/07	103437	Veolia ES (UK) Limited	130.75

11/09/07	103438	Perton Playing Fields Association	2000.00
11/09/07	103439	Victim Support Staffordshire	50.00
13/09/07	103440	Mr B.S.Rai-Deposit Refund	300.00
14/09/07	103441	Drinkmaster Ltd	78.13
14/09/07	103442	Nobisco Limited	74.38
17/09/07	DD	Severn Trent	125.06
17/09/07	103443	South Staffordshire District Council	391.96
17/09/07	103444	Mr M.Linton-Deposit Refund	300.00
18/09/07	BACS	Wages Week 25	1132.38
19/09/07	103445	OCS Group UK Limited t/a Cannon	30.56
19/09/07	103446	The Midland News Association Ltd	116.34
21/09/07	103447	Brisol Limited	276.48
24/09/07	DD	Unicom	61.29
25/09/07	BACS	Wages Week 26	3638.82
25/09/07	103448	Mrs D Patterson - Deposit Refund	150.00
25/09/07	103449	R King - Deposit Refund	50.00
27/09/07	DD	BT Business Broadband	105.71
29/09/07	DD	British Gas - Electricity	321.02
29/09/07	DD	British Gas - Gas	22.16
		<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>16527.85</b>

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

The budget figures for income and expenditure up to 31/08/2007 were noted.

107/08

**CLERKS' REPORT – OCTOBER 2007**

**Matters ongoing / resolved as at 8<sup>th</sup> October 2007**

- S.Staffs Citizens Advice Bureau AGM at Wombourne Civic Centre on 19<sup>th</sup> November 7.00 pm.
- Concessionary Travel – New Bus Passes from April 2008 – Pass Photo sessions at Perton Civic centre on 12<sup>th</sup> Oct and 29<sup>th</sup> Oct. Full details in Clerks office.
- Letter of thanks from Victim Support Staffordshire in respect to £50.00 grant.
- Perton General Litter Issues – Acknowledgement dated 17<sup>th</sup> September together with background information. No formal response as yet.
- Community Paths Initiative grant now under active consideration in respect to Perton Walkers Map – Rights of Way info is key.
- Current Account 'Change of Signatory' forms now complete and returned to Co-Operative Bank on 2<sup>nd</sup> October.
- Final forms signed off and returned to Alliance & Leicester on 2<sup>nd</sup> October in respect to On-Line 'Community Instant Reserve Account'.
- Raymond John Disco Roadshow booked for 2007 New Years Eve @ £420.00.
- The Community Council of Staffordshire Annual Report for 2006 – 07 in Clerks Office.
- Wolverhampton College – No take up of courses offered for Perton Civic Centre.

108/08

**CHRISTMAS LIGHTS**

The Clerk informed the members that Sainsburys had sent a purchase order to F1 Metal Fabrications to cover the cost of the lights damaged with the felling of the trees in Anders Square. F1 are holding this as a credit to Perton Parish 2007 spending.

**RESOLVED** that if possible this year's lights will be restricted to the existing lamp-post fabrications in Anders Square and the lighting up, including Christmas tree, of Perton

Civic Centre. Additionally, the Clerk will write to Sainsburys requesting that they take direct responsible for illuminating their own store.

109/08 **PRECEPT INCLUSIONS**

**RESOLVED** that the members will review spending plans and projects for the forthcoming year with a view to providing budget input at the next meeting.

110/08 **REQUEST FOR GRANT:**

a) **South Staffordshire Citizens Advice Bureau:**

**RESOLVED** that the current Civic Centre room will continue to be made available at no cost to the Advice Bureau. Additionally, the Clerk will inform CAB that a cash grant may be considered in the event that the Perton CAB sessions are reinstated to the former one day per week.

**DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2007 @ 7.00 pm

The meeting closed @ 10.05 pm

**Chairman**  
**12<sup>th</sup> November 2007**