

**Minutes of the Meeting of  
PERTON PARISH COUNCIL  
held at the Perton Civic Centre on  
Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2008 @ 7:00pm**

Present Mrs CM Young [Chairman]  
AA Bourke [Vice-Chairman]  
Mrs P Allen  
Mrs PN Pitt  
Mrs S Bott  
Mrs A James  
Miss C Duffell  
DJ Billson  
AK James  
SK Bott  
AK Black  
NP Caine joined meeting at 8.08pm  
D Fereday

County Councillor - RJ Marshall  
District Councillor - R Moreton  
Parish Clerk – Tony Tappenden  
PC – Frank Hossack  
PCSO – Ashley Tooth  
Matthew Viney - Chronicle  
Elizabeth Joyce – Express & Star  
Members of the Public present : 3

121/09 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were offered and accepted from Cllrs Mrs R Heseltine and D Heseltine.

122/09 **PUBLIC OPEN SESSION**

- 1) Rachel Lander, the coordinator of the Friday night drop in centre at Perton Church provided the members with a brief overview regarding the drop in sessions to clarify what they are and what they are not in order to avoid any confusion arising in respect to Perton Youth Club. Rachel explained that these sessions do not constitute a youth club, they simply share what they have (drinks, crisps etc) and there is no cost involved. There are about 30 kids in attendance on average who come because they enjoy the sessions and feel safe. Rachel said that there is no intention to apply for any kind of funding and they will simply continue to do what they currently do.

The Chairman thanked Rachel for the clarification and thanked her additionally for the good work being done.

- 2) A member of public commented on some lights that were out on Sainsburys Car Park near the fuel forecourt, she said that she had reported this to Sainsburys. Additional discussion indicated that there are also issues with lighting levels near the chip shop and on the Wrottesley Arms Car Park.  
**RESOLVED** that the Clerk will flag these concerns to the Sainsburys Manager and Neil Harvey ay SSDC respectively.

a) **Police Report**

Reported crime figures for Perton - 4/11/08 to 30/11/08

Rowdy /ASB	18
ASB vehicles	0
Criminal Damage	4
Damage to M V	1
Burglary Dwelling	0
Burglary O.Bldg	0
TWOC (vehicle)	1
Attempt theft MV	0
Theft from MV	3
Theft other	0
Assault	1
Robbery	1
Sex Offences	0
Drug Offences	1

notes

1. Nuisance ASB areas include - Gainsborough Drive car park - Browning Grove - Sainsbury's Store (local 17yr old in breach of ABC - acceptable behaviour contract) Sainsburys filling station bus shelter (drinking) - Lingfield Grove i.e footpath between Anders Square and Gainsborough Dr - Bader Road litter nuisance /cans - Cheshire Grove - Perton Library.
2. Damage to fence panels Formby Avenue. Wing mirror to vehicle Avon Close and damage to front window of house in Severn Drive (repeat victim)
3. TWOC - V. Corsa taken without consent Browning Grove, recovered Cottage Lane, Fordhouses.
4. Theft from Motor vehicles - Moor Park x 1. 3 vehicles broken into Cranbrook Grove (mobile phone, parking sensor).Offenders disturbed inside neighbouring garage at 0200hrs.
5. Assault victim is 15yrs old. Offender arrested aged 15years.
6. Robbery victim - teenager in Dippons Lane. Jumped by 5 to 6 offenders for his mobile phone. One offender described as Asian. Offenders ran off towards Tettenhall Wood. Police plain clothes operation mounted 7<sup>th</sup> November at Perton. Pattern of offences with same operandi at Castlecroft Rugby club fireworks event and also in Tettenhall, Wolverhampton.
7. Drugs offence. Street warning for cannabis cigarette given to an 18yr old from Fordhouses following a report of anti social behaviour in Mercia Drive.

The neighbourhood Policing team can be contacted on our voicemail tel 08453 303132. PC Duncan Lampitt (04259) PC Frank Hossack (03537) PCSO Teresa Wilkes (08861) and PCSO Rachel Street (08862) .

In respect to item 4 above Cllr Mrs P.Allen asked if anyone had yet been apprehended, PC Hossack said that nobody had yet been connected with this incident.

Additionally with regard to item 6 Cllr Mrs P.Allen said that every year around Christmas time there were offences of this type at this location. PC Hossack said that there was a low level of street lighting in this area and he committed to take this up with the H&S Inspector at SSDC to see if an improvement was possible.

Cllr S.K.Bott asked for an update on the effectiveness of the alcohol ban and PC Hossack provided a general view indicating that there had been an improvement. He said that he and PC Lampitt had recently attended a call to Mercia Drive where one arrest for drugs had been made and alcohol had been confiscated.

With no further questions PC Hossack wished the members a happy Christmas and made a commitment to always attend the meetings when available, he and PCSO Tooth then left the meeting.

124/09 **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Cllr A.K.James declared personal interest in cheque 103683 paid to Down to Earth Grounds Maintenance Limited. Cllr Mrs P.Allen declared personal interest in the agenda item regarding PPFA in her capacity as Trustee.

125/09 **MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 10<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER, 2008**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 10th November 2008 be confirmed as a true record and the Chairman of the Council duly signed them.

126/09 **DRAFT MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** that the draft minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2008 together with November income statement be accepted for information.

127/09 **STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

a) **Perton to Codsall High School – Route Safety and Payments**

The members reviewed the letter from Staffs CC Corporate Director Peter Traves and were in agreement that this response did not reflect 'fair play'.

Cllr A.K.Black said that as an ex bus driver he was certain that there were places on Heath House Lane where it would be impossible for two coaches to pass in opposite directions let alone do so without mounting the pavement. This is due to the long wheelbase and overhang at both ends, buses do not bend.

Cllr R.J.Marshall stated that the contents of the letter were not factual since during the inspection they had seen large vehicles mounting the pavement and this was pointed out to the inspector who chose to ignore it.

Cllr A.A.Bourke said that the conclusion stated in the letter was almost certainly arrived at prior to the inspection since it contained only comments received verbally prior to the report. He also said that with regard to the introduction of the proposed Direct Debit scheme still no implementation date was provided and also there was no statement

detailing how or even if this could be used to spread payments.

Cllr Miss C.Duffell also queried the ability of two buses being able to pass; this was not seen during the review. Additionally she queried the type of licenses' held by bus drivers in respect to the collection of monies.

Cllr S.K.Bott said that this route as a walking route for children was simply an accident waiting to happen.

Cllr D.Billson said that it was unreasonable to state that parents should accompany children since most do not have the time to do so. He said it was that the pavements and the road are very narrow which is why the vehicles have to mount the paths to pass. He said the criteria for assessment were totally out of date since the last update was 1947.

**RESOLVED** that the Clerk will write to Corporate Director Peter Traves and copy to Andrew Marsden stating that we feel the report is inaccurate and unfair and that the route is dangerous and should an accident occur PPC will hold him personally responsible.

b) **Perton Bus Lane Closure**

The information provided by Rob Kinsey was noted.

c) **County Councillor's Report**

*Cllr R.J.Marshall apologised for being unable to provide a written report in advance.*

The Waste to Resource project (W2R) has now been approved by the Planning Committee. Although not quite certain, it is very likely to be ready to be installed and ready by 2013. There are four contractors quoting for the Building and running of the plant.

The county have made (what I consider to be a very short-sighted decision) regarding the DPO or CPO's.

The number is to be reduced from six to four from April 2009. As a result of this, our own District Partnership Officer, Simon Hobbs has decided to take Voluntary redundancy. I feel this is a big loss. The consequence of this is that we will share a DPO with Stafford Borough from April 2009.

The Cabinet "noted" a very big and important report on the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS). There were a lot of councillors (including Myself) who called in this decision. This will be discussed on Tuesday afternoon.

The latest CSCI (Commission for Social Care Inspection) have awarded Staffordshire Two stars for Social Care for this year just like last year. They also say that we are slowly improving, so we may be on for three stars next year. This is not a bad report, but not very good either.

The Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) has had its first draft report. This will go through the usual procedures of consultation and Scrutiny and will be voted on – and presumably approved by full council on the 12<sup>th</sup> of February.

More arguments are going on regarding the "grossly unfair" Distribution of the £2 million

that has been allocated for highway maintenance. There is not going to be any changes before the election in these spending pledges, but if there is a change in the political makeup of the Council after the June 4<sup>th</sup> election, I very much hope that I and...Whoever is your County councillor in Perton will be able to balance this injustice somewhat. Basically, I hope that more will be spent in rural areas (Perton and Pattingham are considered to be Rural areas) where it is generally acknowledged that our roads are not in very good condition.

The mineral core strategy is currently out for consultation. This is where the county look at all the possible sites for new quarries. We do not have any possible sites near Perton / Pattingham.

Councillor Robert Marshall

Additionally Cllr R.J.Marshall outlined a possible future issue (and provided written clarification from Nick Lloyd – Head of Road Safety) concerning the continuance of ‘lollipop’ men / ladies at 36 crossings with flashing lights.

Cllr A.A.Bourke said there was some confusion in this area in respect to Zebra and Pelican crossings and Cllr Marshall said that he would obtain clarification.

Cllr Mrs P.Allen said that she hoped we would argue against this move ‘in principle’ stating that this cutback would increase the potential for child deaths.

Cllr S.K.Bott wished to discuss PPCs decision made at the Special Meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> December concerning Perton Youth Club possibly relocating to Gainsborough Drive pavilion. However this matter was not on the agenda but following some discussion the Chairman made a brief statement regarding the decision that had unanimously been taken by those in attendance.

128/09 **SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

a) **Geese Issues at Cabot Grove & Cook Close**

The correspondence on this matter was noted.

Cllr A.A.Bourke said that there had been new complaints from Coleridge Drive and problems with geese persist at Perton First School. He queried if the problems were exacerbated by the measures taken around upper lake.

Cllrs Mrs P.Allen & D.J.Billson agreed that the fundamental issue is that there are simply too many geese and this has come about since Staffs Council had been restricted in the normal practice of controlling the population by ‘popping’ eggs due to bird flu. Cllr A.K.James said that with the increased population the problem is exacerbated by people feeding the birds and this practice should be controlled in the same way that littering can be controlled.

**RESOLVED** that Cllr D.J.Billson will take up this matter with South Staffs Council to see what options may be possible.

b) **District Councillors Report**

Cllr R.Moreton requested that all ‘feedback’ resulting from the recent ‘Youth Speed Conference’ should be sent to the Youth Workers ASAP.

Cllr A.K.James said that he was still dealing with issues at the Mobile Home Park at

Southfork where there had still been no reduction made to the pillars and gates.

Cllr D.Fereday informed the members that he had recently contacted the police following rowdy behaviour by a group in central Perton.

*Cllr N.P.Caine joined the meeting at this point.*

Strategic Services Report December 2008.

I have attended several meetings over the Youth Club and following the Youth Champion Event at the District where I made my feelings known in no uncertain terms progress has been made.

Together with Cllr Robert Marshall and Cllr Charlene Duffell and officers from the County Council we walked the route to Codsall High School. I have since had a report which states that in the opinion of the officers the route is safe. At the present time there will be no facilities for Direct Debits.

The District awards for Conservation and Design have been judged and the winners presented with their trophies at a presentation lunch.

Rented Social Housing is a problem in South Staffs and to try and ease the problem we have instigated a Private Landlords Forum. This will work in conjunction with the District Council and South Staffs Housing Association.

The use and installation of Fire Sprinkler Systems in private accommodation is something which in the past has not been considered a viable proposition. However following extensive testing it is now accepted as an important tool in the prevention of life and property. A date has yet to be fixed but sometime in January/February 2009 there will be a major launch and demonstration of the equipment at the District Council.

I have been part of a IdeA Peer Interview carried out at the District Offices. The verbal feedback from the examiners is the South Staffs punches well above its weight and in health issues leads the field. We await the written report which is due in the next two weeks.

I have attended a Housing Conference in Manchester.

We have held a Pub Landlords Forum in order to try and assist their businesses survive the current economic climate. It was not well attended.

I together with Cllrs. Marshall, James and Moreton have held meeting with Kim Jones County Youth Officer and a further meeting with Graham Bott. These meeting dealt with the future of the Youth Club.

Cllr Miss C.Duffell strongly supported the use of domestic sprinkler systems.

Cllr Billson also made reference to a recent report from Stafford University concerning travelers and gypsies. He told the members that planning permission had been refused at 17 out of 19 applications in South Staffordshire but these decisions had effectively over-turned following Central Government appeals. He said it is clear that such applications were being favoured and that the decision making process was not equitable to all segments of the population.

There was considerable discussion on this point and it was agreed that there was a wide variation in behaviour between Romanys and tinkers.

129/09 **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Planning Applications received from South Staffordshire Council and reviewed by the Parish since the last Parish Council meeting on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2008.

08/01072/FUL	First floor extension, new dormer window, roof light and new garage roof Trinity Cottage, Jenny Walkers Lane, Trescott, Sth Staffs. WV6 7HB
08/01118/FUL	Conservatory and utility room extension Border Cottage, Pattingham Road, Wightwick, Wolverhampton.

The Council raised no objections to the above proposals subject to green belt conditions.

**DECISIONS** - The following decisions received from South Staffordshire Council:

Application No.	Proposals	Decision
08/00944/FUL	Extension to increase sanitary provision and staff room - Bradshaws Farm Shop	Grant of Planning Permission  Refusal of Planning Permission
08/00972/FUL	Retention of timber obstacle wall - Mr Mouses Farm for Unfortunates, South Perton Farm, Jenny Walkers Lane	
08/00932/FUL	Conservatory - Symond Syde, Holyhead Road, Kingswood	

**APPEAL DECISION:** The appeal should be allowed in part and dismissed in part. The appeal for the first floor side extension is dismissed and permission is granted for a ground floor rear extension.

07/01338/FUL	79 Leasowe Drive, Perton Wolverhampton	Planning Inspectorate 13/11/08
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130/09 **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

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

**List of Payments since last reviewed at the meeting of the Council on 10th November 2008**

01/11/08	STO	Kalidescope Limited	47.00
01/11/08	DD	SSDC Non -Domestic Rates	1247.00
01/11/08	DD	Information Commissioner's Office	35.00
03/11/08	103683	Down to Earth Grounds Maintenance Limited	94.00
03/11/08	103684	Eastern Shires Purchasing Organisation	157.45

03/11/08	103685	Mr D.P.Mason - Deposit Refund	150.00
03/11/08	103686	Brisol Limited	248.37
03/11/08	103687	Mr K.Woolley	140.00
03/11/08	103688	ADT Fire & Security PLC	335.06
03/11/08	103689	ADT Fire & Security PLC	267.12
04/11/08	BACS	Wages Week 31	1270.50
05/11/08	103690	Signs Now 270	871.57
07/11/08	103682	Mrs L Chester - Additional Deposit Refund	25.00
10/11/08	103691	Mrs S Smith - Deposit Refund	50.00
12/11/08	BACS	Wages Week 32	1912.82
14/11/08	BACS	Staffordshire CC Pension Fund	1356.68
14/11/08	BACS	Inalnd Revenue	2328.33
17/11/08	103692	H Edwards - Deposit Refund	50.00
17/11/08	103693	HM Keillor - Deposit Refund	50.00
17/11/08	103694	Nr Gupta - Deposit Refund	50.00
18/11/08	103679	Perton First School PTFA - Additional Deposit Refund	140.00
19/11/08	BACS	Wages Week 33	1299.74
24/11/08	DD	Severn Trent	892.81
25/11/08	DD	Unicom	62.70
25/11/08	103695	Veolia ES (UK) Limited	102.93
25/11/08	103696	Perton Place	55.00
25/11/08	103697	MGD Solutions	196.00
25/11/08	103698	OCS Group UK Limited t/a Cannon	32.68
25/11/08	103699	Edward.M.Jones - Chartered Engineer	350.00
26/11/08	BACS	Wages Week 34 / Month 8	4476.12
28/11/08	DD	British Gas - Electricity	410.94
28/11/08	DD	British Gas - Gas	493.43
		<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>19198.25</b>

**b) Budget-to-date 2008/2009**

The budget report circulated with the agenda was noted.

**131/09 CLERKS REPORT – DECEMBER 2008**

**Matters ongoing / resolved as at 8<sup>th</sup> December 2008**

- Perton Youth Club – Letter from Graham Bott together with premises structural report from Consulting Engineer distributed to all Members w/c 24<sup>th</sup> November.
- New Years Eve tickets – Sold Out (Waiting List of about 23)
- NJC 2008 /09 pay award still in arbitration. NJC Interim Pay award paid out (circa 2.45% dated to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2008).
- 3 additional benches installed in childrens' playground on 28/11
- Following award of BRE grant Civic Centre on-site energy survey completed by Marches Agency on 28/11 – Report awaited.

**132/09 DRAFT OUTLINE BUDGET FOR 2009-2010**

The Clerk distributed a draft outline budget for 2009 /10 incorporating a close of year forecast for 2008 / 09. He explained the relevant figures and answered questions as appropriate.

133/09 **PERTON PLAYING FIELDS – CLLR A.K.BLACK**

Cllr A.K.Black informed the members:

- 1) That a drainage issue still seems to exist on pitch 2. He said that he has checked the silt trap but this seems to be ok.
- 2) That foul language is still a problem associated with one of the teams and he will suggest to Paul Chapman that the team is moved to a pitch further from the houses.

Cllr Mrs S.Bott agreed that the behaviour of some teams including spectators was appalling with foul language and spitting being the norm. Additionally she said that a planted area by the playing fields entrance at Beverston Road was very poor and needed replanting following vandalism. She has spoken to Andy Cousins from SSDC who has committed to replant. **RESOLVED** that the Clerk will contact Andy Cousins to check that the replanting work is scheduled and, if so, obtain a completion date.

134/09 **SLCC 2009 MEMBERSHIP**

**RESOLVED** that the membership be renewed for 2009 at the appropriate scale charge of £231.00

135/09 **HISTONS HILL TRAFFIC LIGHTS – CLLR N.P.CAINE**

Cllr D.Billson said that this junction was the subject of a large development project some time ago but the plan was subsequently shelved presumably due to cost.

Cllr A.K.James said that as this location is within Codsall PC we should not presume to drive this matter forward unless in support of Codsall PC.

**RESOLVED** that the Clerk will write to Codsall PC stating that we have some concerns about this junction and would be happy to give them support in the event that they should wish to approach County Highways in order to request improvements to the junction.

136/09 **CORRESPONDENCE**

(a) **BUS SHELTER - KINGSWOOD**

**RESOLVED** that the Clerk will write to Codsall PC to thank them for including this shelter on their maintenance programme but decline to take over ownership and management of this shelter since many users are from Strawmoor Lane within Codsall PC but either way it is felt that any Parish Council should retain control of its assets within the Parish boundary.

**DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2009 @ 7.00 pm

The meeting closed @ 8.57 pm

**Chairman**  
**12<sup>th</sup> January 2009**