

**Minutes of the Meeting of
PERTON PARISH COUNCIL
held at the Perton Civic Centre on
Monday 9th February 2009 @ 7:00pm**

Present Mrs C M Young [Chairman]
AA Bourke [Vice-Chairman]
Mrs P Allen
Mrs R Heseltine
Mrs PN Pitt
Mrs S.Bott
DJ Billson
AK James
AK Black
NP Caine

District Councillor – R Moreton
Parish Clerk – Tony Tappenden
NPU - Insp Andrew Chapman
Express & Star - Rita Maman
Members of the Public present : 8

155/09 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were offered and accepted from Cllrs Mrs A James, Miss C Duffell, D.Fereday, D.Heseltine, SK Bott, County Councillor RJ Marshall, SSDC Local Strategic Partnership - Sherminder Dhillon and Mathew Viney from W'ton Chronicle.

156/09 **PUBLIC OPEN SESSION**

1) Mr Burrows & Mr Kucharczyk, both from Gainsborough Drive, said that following on from previous complaints to the Parish Council there are again many issues arising as a result of the continued failure of the access control bollard at the buses only lane. Since the recent re-profiling work was completed the lane now merges with Gainsborough Drive over a gentle curve and as a result illegal traffic comes on to Gainsborough at high speed which has caused many near miss incidents, also local taxi firms now treat this road as a normal access route with reduced fares compared to the normal access route. Additionally it was stated that during the recent long spell of snow and icy conditions the bus lane had not been gritted causing problems for all vehicles including those using the lane for legal access.

The clerk said that he had received an e-mail from a Gainsborough Drive resident a few days earlier making the same points and this had been forwarded to both Staffs CC Highways and the NPU for action.

Mr F.O'Leary, a member of public, asked Insp Chapman if PCSOs had jurisdiction over the bus lane traffic and Insp Chapman said he would confirm this point as he was very new on the area and wanted to be 100% sure before giving a commitment.

RESOLVED that the Clerk will write to Staffs CC Highways and request a report on the 'working availability' of the access bollard over the last eighteen months and to request a response as to when a permanent fix will be provided.

157/09 **S.STAFFS LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP- SHERMINDER DHILLON**

This session was postponed due to the presenter being unwell; it will be re-arranged for a future session.

Inspector Andy Chapman introduced himself to the Members and stated that having taken over responsibility for Wombourne NPU from Pat Shannaghan he now has good hopes for the area believing that he is in a position to take advantage of the good state of affairs left by Pat Shannaghan.

a) **Police Report**

Reported Crime Figs- Perton- 12/01/09 - 02/02/09

Rowdy / ASB behaviour...	20
ASB Vehicles...	1
Criminal Damage...	0
Damage to M/V...	2
Burglary dwelling...	1
Burglary other building...	0
Attempt/Theft of M/V...	6
Theft from M/V...	0
Theft Other...	3
Assaults...	3
Robbery...	1

1. The nuisance calls for this period were about average. Again the hot spots are Browning Grove/ Manston Drive, around the alleyway. There were a few reports of eggs thrown at houses. Also Anders Square and Gainsboro' Drive had a few reports. There was another nuisance report involving mini moto's. One local youth has been given a Section 59 warning re use of bikes around Idonia and Dippons Lane area.
2. It was excellent that there was no mindless criminal damage, other than two vehicles. One of which was just the tyres being deflated. However on the down side, theft of vehicles was high. Three older Vauxhalls were stolen and one attempted, which is unusual. I would ask owners of Vauxhalls to take as much preventative action as possible.
3. The burglary and robbery were linked to the theft of vehicles. During the burglary two vehicles were taken with keys, along with a flat screen television. The robbery involved a courier being pushed away and her vehicle stolen. This occurred in the Edgehill Drive area, where also the postman had his bike pinched, however this was later recovered in the Gainsboro' Pavilions area. There were no burglaries to other buildings reported.
4. The thefts also included shop thefts where the same offender has been caught on CCTV. I'm confident the offender will be identified and brought to justice.
5. There were 3 reported assaults. None thought serious and in fact on two occasions the injured parties did not wish for any police action.
6. There were no sexual offences, drug issues or dog issues reported.

Any information please contact Perton's Neighbourhood Team via voicemail 08453 303132 - PC Duncan Lampitt (04259), PC Frank Hossack (03537), PCSO Teresa Wilkes (08861), PCSO Rachel Street (08862) and PCSO Ashley Tooth (016722).

Cllr A Black asked in connection with report item no. 1, if an offence was caused only when the mini-moto is driven on the road. Insp. Chapman said that it wasn't necessarily to do with use on the road and that any form of anti-social use would bring about the Police warning with possible seizure of the mini-moto if the offence should be repeated.

Cllr AK James said that in his opinion the alcohol ban seemed to be working to which Insp. Chapman replied that, so far, in his brief period on the area he had seen a number of anti-social reports but these were typically not about alcohol and it was fair conclusion to say that the DPPO was effective.

Insp. Chapman outlined his view of the near term future saying that he hoped to have more visible resource to provide at Perton and said we should be seeing considerable more of PC's Duncan Lampitt and Frank Hossack. He commented that since the last day of the report there had been 39 anti-social incidents reported and this was primarily to do with youths throwing snow balls during the recent bad weather and youths congregating in Anders Square during weekend evenings. He said that he is going to flood the area with visible policing at these times until the youths get the message.

Cllr DJ Billson said that a big issue is that although we potentially have 2 PC's and 3 PCSO's there are many times when there is nobody at all on duty.

Cllr A Bourke agreed that this was an issue and that policing should be more visible at key times of the day and at weekends. Insp. Chapman agreed that it was important to match policing levels to problem levels but also reminded Members that all segments of the population deserve cover as well.

Cllr CM Young said that it was important that Anders Square received adequate visible policing but it was also very important that policing in Perton extends beyond Anders Square. Insp. Chapman replied that in fact most requests for police help are generated from Perton Centre but he did agree that this was fair point.

Cllr Mrs P Allen informed the Members and Insp. Chapman that the youth drop-in centre at the Church had temporarily been suspended since the numbers attending had risen to over 60 but they do not have enough staff to cover this and there is currently an appeal in place for more help.

b) **Letter from Chief Supt. Nick Baker**

The letter from Chief Supt. Nick Baker was noted and it was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk will write to the Chief Supt. and thank him for the efforts of Insp. Pat Shannaghan and asked that these thanks be passed on.

c) **E-mail from Inspector Pat Shannaghan**

The information was noted.
Insp. Chapman thanked the Council for their time and left the meeting.

159/09 **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Cllr NP Caine declared personal and prejudicial interest in cheque no. 103725 and also personal interest in Perton Carnival. Cllrs Mrs P Allen and A Black expressed personal interest in Perton Carnival.

160/09 **(a) MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 12th JANUARY, 2009**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 12th January 2009 be confirmed as a true record and the Chairman of the Council duly signed them.

(b) MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL PRECEPT MEETING HELD ON 7th JANUARY, 2009 (including outline budget for 2009 /10)

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Parish Council Precept meeting held on 7th January 2009 be confirmed as a true record and the Chairman of the Council duly signed them.

c) MINUTES OF THE MANAGEMENT MEETING HELD ON 19th JANUARY, 2009

Following guidance sought from Lin Robinson at South Staffordshire Council the Management Committee meeting of 19th January 2009 is void since a quorum was not present. The business of this meeting will be transacted at a future date and time.

161/09 **DRAFT MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the draft minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on 3rd February 2009 together with January income statement be accepted for information.

162/09 **STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

a) **County Councillor's Report**

A lot has been happening in the last month. It could be a coincidence, but the County elections are getting near – less than four months away.

The Cabinet at the County did agree a budget that required a council tax rise of 3.5% for the financial year 2009/2010. The opposition (Conservative) group has proposed an alternative budget which requires only a 2.0% rise and this has caused “panic” in the Labour controlling group who have now sent out an urgent message to all County officers to “find more savings”.

This does beg the question that why was this not done earlier? If more savings are found it will be good news, but, like many examples recently (more PCSO's, extra highway maintenance etc) this is another case of this Council being OPPOSITION LED!

There will be a full scale debate in the Council Chamber on Thursday 11th of February.

The Cabinet has recently approved the first part of “Building Schools For the Future” (BSF for short). This is part of a national programme of approximately £45 million of which Staffordshire's share is about £750 million. This first stage of BSF only relates to Tamworth and will be completed in about 2012. The rest of the county is intended to be Newcastle and Cannock in 2013 / 2014, East Staffordshire and Stafford in 2014 / 2015, Lichfield, Staffordshire Moorlands and South Staffordshire in 2015 / 2017. This order is

not “set in stone” and it is quite possible that if certain projects can be justified that they may be moved earlier. The point is that all clusters of schools will be looked at and where appropriate, changes will be made....

On local highway matters, our contact will be Mr Mark Keeling. I have asked him if there is any chance of Perton having a speed indication device (S I D). He said it was possible if we could justify it, but the County’s policy is to usually only leave them in place for a relatively short time. While we are on Highways, there is now a new system for sorting out Highway maintenance. It is called PROJECT VISTAH and is supposed to be both cheaper to run AND the jobs will get done quicker....time will tell, but the new system seems to have been shuffled in so quietly that some of the cabinet did not know what it was!

As far as the Youth situation is concerned, David Billson and I are meeting Kym Jones (Head of Youth Service) on Friday 13th to try and sort out whatever funding is possible. One or two other recommended possibilities are:

Staffordshire Environmental Fund – 01785 811600 ask for Keith Williams or John Dutton;

Awards for all is a well known route for funding;

Staffordshire Community Foundation. This is based in Stoke and rarely gets applications from anywhere in South Staffs. THEY WOULD LOVE TO GIVE SOME OF THEIR UNSPENT FUNDS TO US. The web site is www.staffsfoundation.org.uk or alternatively telephone 01782 683000. They can give grants to Community groups of up to £5000. The one small catch is that they can not fund “statutory organisations such as Parish Councils) but they would fund the Perton Playing Fields Association, so this is well worth a follow up. I am sure that the Parish can think of a few ideas that may qualify.

[There is a major Youth event at Stafford on Saturday the 14th of Feb. I will be attending and will report in the March meeting](#)

“Flicks in the Sticks” is more of a District matter, but it has been very successful in Pattingham where they are having another showing later this month. I am confident that, if it is the wish of the Parish Council to try it once in Perton, we could get some funding from the CLP if we are willing to put in a small bit of funding from the “Parish Pot”. There is still money in the CLP so a fast move here will probably be successful.

Two bits of general news regarding Staffordshire:

The yearly increase in people claiming Jobseekers Allowance has gone up by 68.6% in Staffordshire as a whole from November 2007 to November 2008. The % change in South Staffordshire was 52.7%. These figures compare badly with the West Midlands region as a whole which has gone up by 29.3% and the country as a whole which has risen by 33.9%

The Mineral core Strategy has been consulted on and, having started with 35 possible quarries there are now 48 possibilities in Staffordshire as a whole! Another consultation process will start in September 2009 on the preferred sites. Our nearest possible quarry is in Seisdon so it is not a great issue here in Perton, but I feel it is still something that the County should do something about because Staffordshire is “Told” by the Government that Staffordshire is expected to provide about 60% of all the sand and gravel requirements for the west midlands region which goes from Stoke to Coventry to Solihull to Worcester to Herefordshire to Shropshire. This seems very unfair when you consider that Staffordshire gets NOTHING for doing this large tonnage (6.6 million Tonnes per year).

Finally, my sincere apologies for not being able to come in person to this months meeting.

Cllr Robert J Marshall.

Cllr DJ Billson provided a brief overview of the youth club project stating that he was meeting with Kim Jones and Graham Bott on Friday 13th February with a view to determining what funding could be made available. He was able to say that a Youth Bid was currently under construction and whilst this years funds (08/09) had actually been allocated there may in fact be some unspent money that we could still obtain. He also said that at a recent meeting with Simon Hobbs and Richard Coggins it was indicated that generally all parties are keen to proceed with the new premises.

The Members agreed to accept the report.

163/09 **SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

a) **Staffordshire County Council and European Parliamentary Election.**

This information was noted.

b) **Proposed Diversion of Public Footpath No 22**

It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk will write to South Staffordshire Council indicating that Perton Parish Council wish to support both the Rambler's Society and other Perton Parishioners in their objection to the re-routing of this Public footpath. The objection is based on the belief that the Members feel that this application is simply a case of the property developer seeking to enhance the value of the land and also on the basis of the fax from Marjorie Cashmore which suggests that such a diversion could, in fact, be illegal.

c) **Correspondence Objecting to above Diversion**

Due to the nature of this information it was considered prior to item b) above and the Clerk also handed out an additional fax received from Marjorie Cashmore.

d) **Health Awareness Day**

The correspondence was noted.

e) **District Councillors Report**

- Cllr AK James reported that the mobile home at Southfork which was the subject of comments last month had now been given the all clear by South Staffordshire Planning Officers who have advised that this type of mobile home is acceptable as long as you don't eat in it.
- Cllr Mrs R Heseltine advised that she had attended a number of meetings including a regulatory and scrutiny meeting that had included some useful and valuable feedback from Staffordshire Police.
- Cllr R Moreton informed the Members that the Parish games were due to start again in the near future with the table tennis event on March 7th.

Strategic Services Report; Feb 2009

There is to be a restructuring of the Staffordshire Tourism Association. The change will mean that each District Council will be able to buy in what information it requires. At the present time each of the eight districts pays a flat rate. Hopefully this will reduce the amount South Staff pay.

There is to be a complete restructuring of the Supporting People Budget. The new scheme will be far more flexible and be able to cater for a wider public.

There have been three housing meetings, covering aspects of the credit squeeze and the effects it is having on local families.

The Chief Executive Mr Rolf Levesley will be leaving the authority in June and I have been selected as part of the interview panel for the new incumbent. It is anticipated that the appointment will be made towards the end of March.

At the Regulatory Meeting on 26th January permission was given for the building of the new prison at Featherstone. This will create around 1200 jobs. Following representation from myself the contractors bidding for the contract (All local) have indicated that small local firms will be asked to tender for some of the work.

Comprehensive Area Assessment will take place of the Audit Commission Examination in the near future. A seminar has been held explaining the procedure.

I have three CPL meetings

I have had 14 meeting involving the proposed youth facility and investigating possible funding streams. Things are progressing well.

On commenting on this report Cllr Billson added that in respect to item 1 concerning tourism, South Staffordshire's website will now only list accredited people and hotels and with regard to item 2, the Supporting People Budget relates to support for individual people in their own homes.

Cllr Mrs P Allen was interested to know, if given the local housing situation coupled with the credit squeeze, if there is anything being done to encourage people in large homes to down size where appropriate.

164/09 **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Planning Applications received from South Staffordshire Council and reviewed by the Parish since the last Parish Council meeting on Monday 12th January, 2009.

Application No.	Proposals
08/01228/FUL	Replacement dwelling Amber Verde, Pattingham Road, Perton, South Staffordshire
09/00003/FUL	Two-storey side extension 21 Raglan Avenue, Perton, South Staffordshire
09/00020/FUL	Two storey side & rear extension 9 Foster Green, Perton, South Staffordshire

The Council raised no objections to the above proposals.

08/01181/FUL	Stables, tack room, hay store and access drive Land at Westcroft Road, Perton, South Staffordshire
--------------	--

The Council raised no objections to the above proposals subject to the conditions for leisure use.

DECISIONS - The following decisions received from South Staffordshire Council:

Application No.	Proposals	Decision
08/01118/FUL	Conservatory and utility room extension - Border Cottage, Pattingham Road, Wightwick	Grant of Planning Permission
08/01114/FUL	Replacement of front boundary fence and entrance with new stone wall and entrance - Long Ridge, Pattingham Road, Perton	
08/01140/FUL	Two-storey side extension and conservatory - 64 Leasowe Drive, Perton	
08/01127/FUL	Two storey side and single storey rear extension - 4 Clover Dale, Perton	Refusal of Planning Permission

165/09 **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 12th January 2009

02/01/09	STO	Kalidescope Limited	47.00
02/01/09	DD	SSDC Non -Domestic Rates	1247.00
05/01/09	103719	John Ellis Associates Limited	287.50
05/01/09	103720	Perton Place	55.00
06/01/09	BACS	Wages Week 40	1789.98
07/01/09	103721	The Society of Local Council Clerks	231.00
07/01/09	103722	IRIS Business Software Ltd	200.93
12/01/09	103723	OCS Group UK Limited t/a Cannon	31.98
12/01/09	103724	Goodwin & Price Ltd	1955.00
12/01/09	103725	Ricoh UK Ltd	222.31
14/01/09	BACS	Wages Week 41	1115.09
14/01/09	BACS	Inland Revenue	2235.65
14/01/09	BACS	Staffordshire CC Pension Fund	1325.78
19/01/09	103726	Mrs H.M.James - Deposit Refund	50.00
19/01/09	103727	Nobisco Limited	88.65

20/01/09	103728	MGD Solutions	196.00
21/01/09	BACS	Wages Week 42 - Month 10	4062.87
21/01/09	103729	Veolia ES (UK) Limited	123.05
26/01/09	DD	Unicom	56.10
26/01/09	DD	Drinkmaster Ltd	164.15
26/01/09	103730	RHF Heating Co Ltd	103.75
26/01/09	103731	Harlequin Panto Productions - Deposit Refund	250.00
28/01/09	BACS	Wages Week 43	1278.52
28/01/09	DD	British Gas - Electricity	428.03
28/01/09	DD	British Gas - Gas	722.10
		TOTALS	18267.44

b) Budget-to-date 2008/2009

The budget report circulated with the agenda was noted.

166/09 **CLERKS REPORT – FEBRUARY 2009**

Matters ongoing / resolved as at 9th February 2009

- Perton Youth Club relocation – Letters sent to Bill Gates – Microsoft and John Caudwell on 29th January requesting financial support.
- £350.00 received from LMIS for Youth Club Premises Survey. Larger grant for Plan prep / Planning Permission / Building Regulations agreed in principle.
- Community Safety – Second South Staffordshire Face to Face Session on 16th March 2009 at Codsall Council Offices from 11.00 am to 1.00 pm with buffet lunch.
- Community Sustainable Energy Programme – Grant of £1242.00 processed by CSEP for Marches Energy Agency review, also £362.00 paid by Staffs CC leaving agreed £100.00 for PPC payment.
- Shropshire Council – Local Development Framework for Shropshire: Consultation – Core Strategy Issues and Options. From 26th January to 9th March via www.shropshire.gov.uk/shropshire/planning.nsf.
- The Traffic Commissioners Modernising Agenda distributed with meeting agenda together with statement on A2Z bus firm loss of licence.
- Keith Elder (Wild about Perton) to introduce Director of Staffordshire Wildlife Trust to Perton First School on 23rd Feb to discuss Geese issues. RSPB has provided a useful response to queries raised with them which I have passed to Perton First School plus very useful document from Jack H.Berryman Institute (again from Keith Elder) entitled 'Managing Problems Caused by Urban Canada Geese', both distributed with agenda.
- Contacted Sainsburys Manager regarding Lighting issues and Pigeon issues, their response: 'both of these issues have been identified and are in the process of being dealt with'.
- Cllr R.J.Marshall copied information to Clerks Office which he intends to post to Irene Lunn concerning the traffic problems in Severn Drive.

Cllr A Bourke queried the last item in respect to the traffic issues in Severn Drive and the Clerk read out the note that was sent from Cllr R Marshall to the affected residents.

Cllr NP Caine said that he had been dealing with Mark Cooper, Manager at Sainsburys for the rectification of a pot hole in the car park which has now been completed. There are also some lighting issues at night time which Cllr Caine will continue to pursue with Sainsburys and Neil Harvey from the District Council.

167/09 **OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE MADELINE MOORE ROOM**

RESOLVED that the Clerk will contact the nursery via Phil Pritchard and advise acceptance of the 50/50 contribution for the new plaque to rename the Bradford Room and with regard to the Park bench would suggest that possibly the funds collected by the children should be used to purchase a larger plaque given the size of the inscription and that the balance of funds could be donated to Perton Parish Council who would be prepared to allow utilisation of one of the new park benches for the fixing of the plaque.

168/09 **FLASHING 'SPEED CONTROL' SIGNS – CLLR MRS P.ALLEN**

It was noted that the County Council Highways division are expanding their stock of Speed Indication Devices (SID) from 4 to 6 next financial year and that there are several locations around The Parkway that would benefit from these signs for a short duration.

RESOLVED that the Clerk will write to Mark Keeling, Traffic Management Officer at Staffordshire County Council to request urgent consideration for a SID to be located on the Parkway near the Chicane and also on a stretch from Stephenson Drive to Sainsburys.

169/09 **REQUEST FOR GRANT**

(a) **CODSALL COMMUNITY ARTS FESTIVAL**

RESOLVED that a grant of £100 be offered.

(b) **PERTON FRIENDSHIP CLUB**

RESOLVED that no grant be offered since their request is thought to be inappropriate and they already receive concessionary rate for their room bookings.

(c) **PERTON CARNIVAL 2009**

RESOLVED that a grant of £350.00 be provided to cover Insurance requirements.

170/09 **PROPOSED MEETING DATES 2009 / 2010**

The proposed meeting dates were approved.

DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 9th March 2009 @ 7.00 pm

The meeting closed @ 8.55pm

Chairman
9th March 2009