

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

Present Mrs CM Young [Chairman]
Mrs P Allen
Mrs PN Pitt
Mrs RA Heseltine [District Councillor]
Mrs A James
Mrs S Bott
Miss C Duffell
DJ Billson [District & County Councillor]
AK James [District Councillor]
AA Bourke
N.P.Caine from 8.45 pm
D Heseltine
S Bott

District Councillor R Moreton
Parish Clerk - Tony Tappenden
NPU PCSO Tim Woodall
Members of the Public present: 12

89/10 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs D Fereday and AK Black.

90/10 **PUBLIC OPEN SESSION**

- 1) Two residents from Severn Drive requested an update regarding the flooding saying that it was sometime now since the Parish Council committed to provide a public meeting on this subject. Cllr DJ Billson said that there was plenty going on behind the scenes and at a recent meeting between Severn Trent and representatives from the County and District Councils, Severn Trent had stated that they had no liability in this matter but then subsequently agreed to have a detailed look at the water holding tank. The Chief Executive of South Staffordshire wrote to Severn Trent and they had agreed to fully remodel the existing tank based on all the current information. A response is expected within three weeks and at that time a public meeting will be arranged.
- 2) A number of residents said that they were very unhappy about the proposals to build an extension at Perton Sports Pavilion and not just with the extension itself but the planning process that they feel is excluding their views. Cheryl Thompson said that this area has very poor lighting, no CCTV, is very remote and a poor location for young kids, adding that there is already a lot of noise and problems in the area and she and many local residents also feel there is a big issue concerning costs and suggest that the Civic Centre should be utilised because it has spare capacity and is in a central location.

Helen Morris said that she had attended the recent Regulatory meeting and she feels that the residents position has got worse because there appears to have been a change of use on the building since the original application. She said that as the site is in green belt this should automatically restrict the use but now it appears that the conditions are to be relaxed to greatly expand the nature and times of use.

Mr Peter Smith-Rhodes said that it was important that before any final decisions are made there should be a rationalisation of existing services and a re-appraisal of the facilities at the Civic Centre. He said there was a need to understand what consideration has been given to other locations and what is in fact the real need that has to be resolved. He added that there would also be some impact to the wild life in the event that the Pavilion extension went ahead.

Another gentleman said that he did not wish to be seen as a 'NIMBY' but this area has a history of issues and is a location where youths commonly assemble and drinking and drug taking is rife and the crowds are often there until 2.00am. He expressed concern that the new application will attract yet more young people to the area and asked why the existing youth club could not be re-furbished or, as others suggest, centralised at the Civic Centre.

Yet another resident from Beverston Road said that he endorsed all that had been previously said but also stated that when he bought his home he was happy to live adjacent to a sports field but over the years there had been a steady increase and concentration of problems in the area and he had recently had to submit an insurance claim following a brick being thrown through his window. He said it is a regular occurrence for incidents to be reported to the police who some times attended and some times did not. He said it was a contradiction in terms to require special circumstances to build on green belt land only to then request relaxation in the conditions to enable all comers at all times. He closed by saying that language from the football teams had got much worse over recent years and whilst they try to turn a blind eye to the current problems they are horrified to see a proposal that looks to overlay the existing situation with yet more potential problems.

Cllr Mrs P Allen responded saying this is a very difficult issue because we have been trying to provide a youth club for years and the existing Portakabin is aged and falling to bits and it is better to replace the building rather than have yet more kids on the street. She said that the residents of Gainsborough Drive feel just the same about the club as the residents of Beverston Road and whilst the Parish Council is not insensitive to the issues they are doing their best on behalf of Pertons' young people and she additionally said that the club would be difficult to accommodate at the existing Civic Centre for a number of reasons.

Cllr Mrs P Pitt said that the youth club already exists and the current location at the Middle School is running okay and generates very few complaints these days, she added that the new proposed site would be difficult to police and allow poor access for emergency vehicles and such like.

Cllr AA Bourke said the decision made in principal on 20th October is a poor decision because whilst none of the Members has a problem with the youth club there is no business plan that covers the new provision and he cannot understand why, when the costs to repair the current building are so low, we would have to spend much more of the rate payers money to provide a new building. He said we have no idea of the running costs of the building and the school site is the best and ideal location. He said that rate payers are being asked to pay in excess of a £180,000 for a new building whilst the County Council's own estimate last year stated that in the region of £40,000 was needed over the next 8 years in order to correct the current building.

The Chairman addressed the residents stating that she hoped they all felt that they had been given a fair hearing and had to close the session at this point but welcomed them to stay for the debate on the agenda item and indeed the whole meeting.

- 3) A resident raised a question for the Police saying that on the 24th October she was travelling from town to Perton and was worried when around 25 youths that had come from the Birmingham bus were coming onto Perton apparently looking for trouble. She asked what can be done about these types of gangs coming in to Perton Village particularly when they are in numbers and intent on causing problems. PCSO Tim Woodall responded saying that it was a constant issue with gangs coming from outside the area but normally such people were more local rather than from Birmingham.

Cllr S Bott asked what can the Police do in such circumstances and the PCSO said that PCSO's in general have no powers as such but Police Constables do. He said that the individual resident needs to make a quick assessment and if they feel the matter is an emergency they should report via 999 but otherwise phone the normal number and provide as much information as possible.

91/10 **POLICE MATTERS**

a) **Police Report**

Reported Crime Figs Perton: - 06/10/09 – 03/11/2009

Rowdy / ASB behaviour...	36
ASB Vehicles...	2
Criminal Damage...	5
Damage to M/V...	0
Burglary dwelling...	1
Burglary other building...	0
Theft of M/V...	0
Attempt or Theft from M/V...	5
Theft Other...	9
Assaults...	2
Robbery...	1
Drugs...	0

1. The figures for this period do include the Halloween period hence the ASB and damage reports are higher. The reports include fireworks, gangs of youths, and mindless idiots kicking fences and smashing plant pots. One youth is helping officers with enquiries about the damaged to the plant pots. With it being Halloween the hot spots were all over the village. As for the nuisance motor cyclists, one local youth received a Section 59 warning regarding his use of one.
2. There was only one reported burglary, which was of an empty dwelling. Pleasingly, no vehicles were stolen either from burglary or otherwise. However on one evening we had 4 vehicles interfered with, presumably by the same offender. Again there were no burglaries to other buildings.
3. There were 2 reported assaults. Neither serious but were linked to groups of youths, from parts of Wolverhampton. These youths appeared over the half term week and were also believed responsible for the street robbery where a mobile phone was stolen.
4. There were no reports or detections of drug offences. However information has been received about pockets of youths in vehicles smoking cannabis. This matter is being looked into, along with the issues with the bus lane.

Any information please contact Pertons Neighbourhood Team via voicemail 0300 123 2345 - PC Duncan Lampitt (04259), PC Frank Hossack (03537), PCSO Teresa Wilkes (08861), PCSO Ashley Tooth (016722) and PCSO Woodley (016748).

The Clerk informed the members on behalf of PCSO Theresa Wilkes that a parishioners 'Street Meeting' will be held at Civic Centre on Monday 30th November 2009 from 1.00 to 3.00 pm.

Cllr D Heseltine asked, in respect to item four above, what had happened resulting from the investigations but PCSO apologized saying that he was not able to provide any additional information on this point.

Cllrs Mrs P Allen said that she had found the updates via the OWL system to be useful.

PCSO Woodall provided a brief overview of his remit stating that part of his role includes getting local kids 'involved'. With this in mind he regularly attends the Aikido Club in both Codsall and Wombourne and now has basic funding for 8 taster sessions (four in Codsall and 4 in Wombourne) for 20 people. Aikido is a martial art and is discipline based and these sessions will cover basic discipline and etiquette, transport will be laid on for Pertons participants. He also mentioned that there was some local interest in painting the 'temple' walls and that there was a police preference for transparent walls to aid security.

92/10 **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Cllr AK James declared personal and prejudicial interest in both cheque 103875 payable to Down to Earth Grounds Maintenance Ltd and also agenda item number 16 regarding a quotation from the same company.

Cllr NP Caine declared personal and prejudicial interest in both cheque 103872 payable to Ricoh UK Ltd and also agenda item number 18 regarding a grant request from Rob Pearson.

Cllrs Mrs S.Bott and S.Bott declared personal and prejudicial interest in agenda item 8(a) regarding Pertons Youth Club only insofar as it relates to the proposed Pavilion extension.

93/10 **MINUTES**

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 12th OCTOBER, 2009

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

94/10 **MINUTES**

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 20th OCTOBER, 2009

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Special Parish Council meeting held on 20th October 2009 be confirmed as a true record and the Chairman of the Council duly signed them.

95/10 **DRAFT MINUTES**

a) **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on 3rd November 2009 together with income statement for October be accepted for information.

a) **Perton Youth Club**

Cllr DJ Billson informed the meeting that at the recent Regulatory meeting the Perton Parish Councillors were not able to participate due to the predetermination rules and that the Planning department had not consulted with the Parish Council as we are the applicant but did in fact seek some information from the Youth Service. He said that the matter had been deferred to the next Regulatory meeting as they were seeking a relaxation on some of the imposed conditions and Cllr AA Bourke read aloud the conditions which this Council is seeking to overturn.

Cllrs Mrs S Bott and S Bott said they thought that the discussion was more specifically to do with the youth club rather than the extension and therefore left the room having previously expressed prejudicial interest. Cllr S Bott offered his apologies and said that he was not in a position to return to the meeting.

Cllr AA Bourke then referred to Cllr DJ Billson's email to the County Council which stated that the youth club was being re-built and this would save the County Council money whilst in reality passing the burden of cost on to the Parish Council. He said it was very presumptuous for Cllr Billson to state that the youth club would be built as a matter of fact and drew attention to the County Council's response which stated that the provision of Youth workers is in fact the main issue. Cllr Billson responded saying that the Parish Council had previously agreed unanimously to the new building and he was simply requesting clarification with the portfolio holder as had been requested by the Parish Council. The Chairman, Cllr Mrs CM Young, said that this was incorrect and that the unanimous decision was to view the Pavilion as the preferred site for evaluation and much had changed since this decision was made but nonetheless it was never a decision to proceed.

Cllr AK James said the original decision was subject to the Labour controlling County Council statement of intent to close and that this threat of closure may now have gone away and indeed if the County Council decide to keep the existing facility open then we are back to the status quo so we need to know as soon as possible the outcome of the County Council's evaluation.

Cllr Billson suggested that Cllr Bourke had changed his mind and was simply soliciting votes from members of the public but Cllr Bourke responded saying that on the 11th May he had asked County Councillor R Marshall if the Conservatives would change the closure decision given their new position of power and on the 8th June he had highlighted the shortfall of the building fund and requested clarity and direction so it was unfair to state that he had changed his mind. Cllr Mrs P Pitt said that whilst the original unanimous decision had been to evaluate rather than an agreement to build it was a fact that much had changed since that time. Cllr Mrs P Allen agreed that it was difficult to make a judgement call without full knowledge and we need more details before we can proceed. Cllr D Heseltine reminded the members that the deadline for response to South Staffs Council Planning office in respect to the letter regarding clarification of intended use was 12th November.

The Clerk spoke to the members asking that they be circumspect in this issue as there were two significant strands to this matter. Firstly in terms of 'do we want it – do we need it' the discussions to this point had been primarily emotional aspects based around the original expected loss of the youth club and that with the change in circumstances at the County Council they should be able to inform us if the youth club will close or not and

the timescales associated with the current building, nonetheless having planning permission was a positive position even if it is never used. Secondly he said that the financing aspects should be carefully considered: at the current time we do not have the money to commission the build of the extension and at such time that we do have the money we should fully understand what running costs are anticipated along with a management process together with expected incomes in order that we fully understand both our capital and revenue position.

It was proposed that we write to the Planning Office outlining our intended full use and requesting that conditions 4, 5 & 8 be dropped. An amendment to this was put forward stating that only conditions 4 & 5 be dropped but this only received two votes following a show of hands. The original proposal was then voted on and this was carried with seven votes.

RESOLVED that the Clerk will write to South Staffs Council Planning Office stating that we require full use of the extension as a youth club and community hall and requesting that conditions 4, 5 and 8 be dropped. The Clerk will additionally write to Staffordshire County Council to state our concerns regarding the financial and operational aspects associated with this project and urge them to make their decisions on this matter as a matter of urgency and communicate this decision to us as quickly as possible.

b) **Flooding – Severn Drive / Itchen Grove**

This matter was dealt with during the public open session.

c) **Alleged Public Footpath from Byway 6 to Footpath 22 – Request from parishioner**

RESOLVED that the Parish Council is happy to support this request and the Clerk will write a letter to Staffs County Council requesting that the priority of this application is raised and the review date brought forward.

d) **Open Invitation & Consultation – Shaping Care Services**

The information was noted and Cllr D Billson urged as many people as possible to attend as this is such an important matter.

e) **County Councillor's Report**

Cllr D.Billson advised that:

- He had attended a 'Supporting People' Consultation
- He has made visits to children's homes in Newcastle and remarked on the fact that when these children, who tend to be cheerful and resilient, attend school there are many visible signs that set them apart e.g. they have a child protection officer assigned to them and that makes them appear to be a 'special case' and possibly a target for bullying.
- His portfolio interest 'Staffs Fire & Rescue' are adjudged to be the top unit of its kind in the country and incorporate a top rated Diversity unit.

97/10 **SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

a) **Easter SUSSED Children's Activities 2010**

Cllr D Heseltine advised the meeting that he was aware that at least three local Parish Councils already charge a fee in the region of £1 to £1.50 per child per session.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council will commit to all three Easter Sussed activities at a total cost of £285.00. A charge of £1 per child per session will be levied.

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

b) **Summer SUSSED Children's Activities 2010**

RESOLVED that the Parish Council will commit to Package 3 which provides four weeks worth of activities based on one activity per day at a total cost of £1200.00. The activities are to be split between the Civic Centre, Muga and Pavilion locations and additionally the Clerk will write to the head-teachers of the three Perton schools to determine whether the school facilities (playing fields, toilets and hall if poor weather) could be accessed for some sessions. A charge of £1 per child per session will be levied.

c) **District Councillors' Report**

Cllr Mrs R.Heseltine reported as follows:

Prior to the Regulatory meeting held on 13.10.09 there was a presentation on the Civil Contingency Plan which gave details of what actually constitutes an emergency / major incident and the management of such and the agencies involved.

On the 14.10.09 I attended the Locality 4 Forum organised by South Staffordshire Local Strategic Partnership. Andy Johnson (Director of Planning & Strategic Services) took the lead on the Transport Review while Inspector Andy Chapman was in attendance to deal with policing issues. Well worthwhile attending these meetings and if you have the opportunity, then you should do so.

On 03.11.09 I attended the launch of the Health & Well Being Strategy at South Staffordshire Council. There was a regulatory meeting also on 03.11.09. Many of the applications referred to Gypsies and Traveller sites/pitches. Also on the agenda was the opportunity pertaining to the Youth Club. Since I and the other Perton Parish members who are also Perton Councillors had an interest in this, we left the chamber and took no part in the relevant proceedings.

Today I attended the 2009 South Staffordshire Parish Summit. Each delegate had the opportunity to attend 2 workshops where there were questions and answers plus information sessions. The summit gives the opportunity to swap information and knowledge with other parishes. I attended workshops on Open Space Design and Participating Budgets.

I have arranged a date to accompany the Pest Control officers. More information to follow.

And finally I had the privilege of laying the wreath on behalf of Perton Parish Council at Sundays Remembrance Service.

Cllr D.Billson reported that:

A consultation paper is out now regarding gypsies and travellers. There is an interim policy based on the extension of existing sites.

He attended a presentation on Rural Transport.

The original planning agreement for the i54 Technology Park allowed for access to 15000 sq metres from Wobaston Road with the remainder of the site to be accessed by a new motorway. A new proposal suggests significant road improvements on Wobaston Road that will then allow access from this route to 50000 sq metres.

The Village Design Guide is now complete.

That a company acting for 'Wrottesley Estates' was one of many companies to respond to a 'Sites Call' and had submitted an application to build opposite Perton Golf Club.

Attended a presentation on Farmers Markets which are apparently hard to start but a thriving aspect is Market Gardens and large allotments where surplus product is often sold off at Parish Halls and buildings.

He attended the Locality Forum

That an extra care facility for the elderly is to be constructed at Essington to house thirty five people and will incorporate rented bungalows and a multi bed care block. Something similar will also be provided in the south of the county.

Cllr A.K.James reported that from the Regulatory Forum regarding Gypsies and Travellers there were four applications for sites which had all been refused despite the advice of the officers as Central Government have pre-stated that refusal decisions will be over-turned. The Councillors are very worried that Travellers will always get the edge over ordinary people.

Cllr R.Moreton reported that he had attended a number of the previously mentioned meetings and presentation and reminded the Members that the Inter-Parish Games Presentation evening will take place at Perton Civic Centre on Friday 27th November and tickets could be obtained from South Staffs Council and also there is a ticket application form available with the Clerk.

98/10 **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

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

Application No.	Proposals
09/00731/FUL	Side extension over garage - 2 Kingswear Avenue, Perton

The Council raised no objections to the above proposals subject to no objections from their neighbours.

DECISIONS - The following decisions received from South Staffordshire Council:

Application No.	Proposals	Decision
09/00460/FUL	Kitchen extension - East Trescott House, Bridgnorth Road, Trescott	Grant of
09/00545/FUL 09/00568/FUL) 09/00569/LBC) 09/00582/COU	Replacement garage - Amber Verde, Pattingham Road Conversion of garage into gymnasium – Trinity Cottage, Jenny Walkers Lane, Trescott Change of use to café (A3) - Party Time, 29 Anders Square,	Planning Permission

99/10 **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 October 2009

01/10/09	DD	SSDC Non -Domestic Rates	1310.00
01/10/09	STO	Kalidescope Limited	47.00
01/10/09	103856	John Ellis Associates Limited	287.50
05/10/09	103857	OCS Group UK Limited t/a Cannon	34.09
05/10/09	103858	Mrs L.Powell - Deposit Refund	50.00
05/10/09	103859	Mrs A.Connor - Deposit Refund	50.00
07/10/09	BACS	Wages Week 27	1379.63
07/10/09	103860	S.G.S. Systems Ltd	80.49
07/10/09	BACS	Teltech Communications	59.80
09/10/09	103861	Staffordshire Pension Fund	1006.11
12/10/09	103862	Mrs S.Newey - Deposit Refund	50.00
13/10/09	103863	Perton Playing Field Association	2000.00
14/10/09	103864	MGD Solutions	196.00
14/10/09	BACS	Wages Week 28	1560.69
14/10/09	BACS	Inland Revenue	2839.09
14/10/09	BACS	Staffordshire CC Pension Fund	1689.94
16/10/09	103865	N.Staffs Fire Extinguisher Maintenance Service	223.98
19/10/09	103866	Friends of Perton First School - Deposit Refund	150.00
21/10/09	BACS	Wages Week 29 / Month 7	4387.97
22/10/09	103867	Hi-Tech Security Print Ltd	44.05
23/10/09	DD	Unicom	51.66
23/10/09	103868	Clive Rathbone (British Legion Poppy Appeal)	38.00
26/10/09	DD	Drinkmaster Ltd	164.15
26/10/09	103869	Mr Daniel Long - Deposit Refund	135.00
27/10/09	103870	Nobisco Limited	57.07
27/10/09	103871	Audit Commission	1667.50
28/10/09	BACS	Wages Week 30	1244.98
28/10/09	DD	British Gas - Electricity	264.04
28/10/09	DD	British Gas - Gas	48.99

28/10/09	DD	Veolia ES (UK) Limited	136.74
29/10/09	103872	Ricoh UK Ltd	654.59
29/10/09	103873	Eastern Shires Purchasing Organisation	32.41
29/10/09	103874	Brisol Limited	190.25
29/10/09	103875	Down to Earth Grounds Maintenance Ltd	92.00
TOTALS			22223.72

b) **Budget-to-date 2009/2010**

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

100/10 **CLERK'S REPORT – NOVEMBER 2009**

Matters ongoing / resolved as at 9th November 2009

- 19/10 – Thank you note received from Mrs Hazel Revell following re-opening of 'gated' footpath at Cranmoor Lodge.
- The Community Council of Staffordshire Annual Report 2008 / 2009 available in Clerks Office.
- 3 new dual litter recycling bins have been installed in Anders Square replacing standard bins in area.
- Anders Square CCTV Camera moved to new adjacent location following survey by SSDC crime reduction partnership.
- Audit Commission: Audit Fee scale charge rises from £875 last year to £1450 this year due to higher band income / expenditure (Playground / Muga). Expect similar next year due to Pavilion project.
- NALC settlement implemented and back dated to April 2009: 1.25% (SCP 4 to 10) and 1% (SCP10 to 49) pay award for 2009 / 10. Plus minimum paid holiday entitlement is now twenty one days (replacing twenty) with a further four days after five years continuous service.
- Details received from South Staffordshire Council regarding BT launch of new scheme to offer Councils opportunity to adopt 'little used' red kiosks. Full Info in Clerks office.
- Notification received from Children & Lifelong Learning Directorate regarding 'Governor' vacancies at Perton First School (2) and Sandown First School (1). Details with Clerk.

(NB: Cllr Mrs R.Heseltine volunteered to be nominated for Governor at Perton First School and Cllr Miss C.Duffell volunteered to be nominated for Governor at Perton Sandown.

101/10 **SPEED CUSHIONS, THE PARKWAY – CLLR ALAN BLACK**

As Cllr A Black was again not present at the meeting it was agreed that this matter be deferred until such time as he requests for it to be re-introduced to the agenda.

102/10 **PRECEPT INCLUSIONS FOR 2010 / 2011**

The Clerk reminded the members that whilst he will prepare an outline agenda for consideration early in the new year this will comprise the known standard items and expenditure and will be based on a forecast outturn for the current year. They in turn should consider any project items that they wish to be included and the appropriate budgetary sum.

103/10 **CIVIC CENTRE RE-VALUATION**

The information was noted.

104/10 **QUOTATIONS – PLAYGROUND TURFING**

Cllr AK James left the room for the duration of this agenda item.

RESOLVED that the quotation from Down to Earth Grounds Maintenance Limited be accepted in the sum of £675.00 plus vat.

105/10 **PARISH ACCOUNTS**

- (a) **Audit Commission – Certified Annual Return for Year Ending 31st March 2009**
The members were pleased to note that again there were no matters arising from the external audit and passed on their thanks to the Clerks office for their efforts in achieving this.
- (b) **Financial Statement for the half-year ending 30th September, 2009**
The half yearly statement was noted and accepted.

106/10 **GRANT APPLICATION FOR GRANT – ROB PEARSON, LAKESIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH**

Cllr NP Caine left the room for the duration of this agenda item.

RESOLVED that on this occasion no grant will be offered and the Clerk will inform Rob Pearson that the Council may be willing to be involved in some way in a future reciprocal visit but in this instance he had already departed on the trip, grants can only be offered to organisations rather than individuals and a good source for support of this type would be Perton Charitable Trust.

107/10 **CORRESPONDENCE**

a) **'On or In' Perton**

There was a brief debate on this issue and it was generally agreed that whilst we may live on an estate we in fact live 'in' the village of Perton.

DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 14th December 2009 @ 7.00 pm

The meeting closed @ 9.20 pm

Chairman
14th December 2009