

Minutes of the Meeting of
PERTON PARISH COUNCIL
held at the Perton Civic Centre on
Monday 9th October 2006 @ 7:00pm

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

Members of the Public present : Nine
Journalist from Wolverhampton Chronicle – Chris Moriarty
Neighbourhood Police – PC Duncan Lampitt
Barbara Juniper - SSDC

99/07 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were offered and accepted from Mrs. A James

100/07 **PUBLIC OPEN SESSION**

- 1) Summer Chillout 2006 Report. This item was deferred since Rachael Martin intends to meet with Cllr Mrs P.Allen prior to delivering an update to the Council in November subject to formal invitation.
- 2) Mr Fred O'Leary thanked Cllrs Mrs P.Allen and A.A.Bourke for allowing him opportunity to raise his issue concerning Perton Footpaths. He believes that Perton has some excellent footpaths / walks but that the opportunity is not fully exploited since most cul-de-sacs do not have road signs at the closed ends so it is difficult to link up the walks due to a lack of orientation. Steve Gallis at Baggeridge Country Park has assisted with the mapping of two routes and is working on two more but additional road signage would be very helpful. However Cllr Mrs R.Heseltine stated that this was an old topic and many signs had previously been provided. Fred disputed this but said if it were the case then the provided signs did not co-incide with the location of paths. The matter was deferred pending the agenda item later in the meeting.
- 3) Mr Parry, 2 Cheshire Grove, stated that he was interested in agenda item 8 concerning the central sports pitch. He wished to know how much control the Council would have particularly with opening and closing times. Cllr D.Billson

stated that the area was designated as a play area since Perton Village was built but any future development was dependent upon funding and that future decisions would certainly be covered in the local press. Cllr R.Marshall stated that any future flood lighting would be subject to time control. Mr Parry stated that his particular concern was regarding any possible skate board park and the noise that would obviously come from this activity. He would happily have the park in his front garden if he could be assured that it would close at 9.00 pm.

- 4) Tina Davies provided an update to the issues at Harald Close subway stating that there was a lot of mess and smashed bottles. However her main concern was the subway at Lower Lake where a child had apparently fallen as a result of a removed or broken grate covering a drainage hole. She stated that Cllr Mrs P.Pitt had been very helpful in obtaining some rapid attention to the problem but it was felt that as the grate was not properly bolted down there could be similar problems in the future.

RESOLVED that the Clerk would write to David Wright at Staffs CC Highways to request resolution to the problem.

- 5) Mr Morris of Oatlands Way raised three issues:

- A) He required to know who was responsible for the Bus Lane where there are a number of issues concerning overgrown nettles and trees.
- B) In Gainsborough Drive school buses were stopping at the grass verge since there is no footpath provided, this leads to muddy and unpleasant conditions for all concerned.
- C) At the rear of the Library at Cheshire Grove there is a tree on its side which has been a problem since April and despite reports to South Staffs Council by phone in May, June and July there has been no resolution to the problem. There is an associated problem of a blocked drive.

RESOLVED that Cllr R.J.Marshall would investigate these issues and report back to Mr Morris.

- 6) Further to the Parish Meeting in September Mr Sharp again voiced his concerns regarding the two weekly cycle for collection of grey bin refuse. Apparently a neighbour in Leasowes Drive had a bin infestation of some ten thousand maggots which had penetrated living areas of the address and had cost £200.00 to clear up. This problem has now passed but the underlying issue continues. A local Environmental Officer had recommended that certain food waste should be bagged and kept in the freezer until a day or two prior to the bin collection. Cllr A.A.Bourke stated that South Staffs Council argue that to provide a weekly grey bin collection would cost an additional £400k yet he felt that if weekly collections were provided just for the hot summer quarter then logically the cost should reduce to just £100k. He also said that in the current year the Council had stated that an additional £483k had been collected in Council tax and simply added this to the existing surplus now at £3.7M which he suggested may be in order to cut Council Tax next year which is an Election Year. Cllr D.Billson stated that the two week collection policy was a Central Government policy and all Councils were being instructed to implement two weekly collections over the coming winter months. Cllr A.A. Bourke stated that Wolverhampton Council continued to operate weekly collections and that another Council were providing an extra bin specifically for waste food and that each Council was able to make its own decision. Mr Sharps view was that if the Council were

able to declare £3.7M of reserves then the net result is probably that Council Tax payers are being asked to pay more than they should.

RESOLVED that Cllr R.J.Marshall would consult with Mr Sharp to explain the Financial arrangements at Staffs District / County level with respect to budget management and surplus.

101/07 **POLICE MATTERS**

POLICE REPORT

a) Police Report

Reported Crime Figs- Perton- 11/09/06- 09/10/06

Rowdy / ASB behaviour.....	13 #1
ASB Vehicles.....	7 #1
Burglary dwelling.....	2
Burglary other building.....	0
Theft of M/V.....	0
Theft from M/V.....	1
Theft Other.....	3 #2
Drugs.....	2 #3
Offensive Weapon.....	1 #3
Assaults.....	2 #4
Shop Theft.....	4 #5
Robbery.....	0
Criminal Damage to M/V.....	3
Criminal damage.....	0
Sex Offence.....	0

1. Rowdy and anti-social behaviour figs are lower for nuisance youths', however nuisance vehicles are still a concern. One youth responsible has been warned, and another is to be visited with a view to receive S 59 Warning. In a bid to tackle ASB, two Perton establishments, selling alcohol, were visited by trading standards/police, in connection with Operation Lakeside with positive results. Also the Health Centre has been subject of a full security report and recommendations, and the middle school has taken some steps, re the access to their playing field, to prevent further nuisance.
2. There have been 3 pedal cycles reported stolen this month again. I would ask for more care in leaving bikes about. It seems we have a bike thief, who will steal them from unlocked positions all over the estate. Anyone seen acting suspicious near a pedal cycle should be reported. At present there is a line of enquiry ongoing.
3. The two drugs crimes were for possession of cannabis, and the offenders received 'street cautions'. This resulted from regular visits to one of the complaint areas. Another youth received fixed penalty ticket for possessing offensive weapon.
4. Of the two assaults, one offender has been arrested over one matter, and enquiries are ongoing for the other.

5. There have been 4 reports of shop thefts or attempts. Two youths were detained on one occasion and are being processed. Police will endeavour to be a high profile presence in Anders Square. The good news is the two PCSO's for Perton, are soon to join us in December.
6. On a positive note, another youth has successfully been given an ASBO. Following his prolific anti social behaviour, he is now prevented from areas of Perton, and causing any public order in the village.

b) Anti-Social Behaviour – Perton Middle School

The letter dated 18th September from Head teacher Mr KRT Jones was noted and accepted. Cllr R.J.Marshall stated that the gap in the fence was now repaired and the situation is improving.

c) Anti- Social Behaviour – Perton Clinic

The letter dated 18th September from Mr W.Price, Chief Executive of SW Staffs PCT was noted and accepted.

Duncan also advised the meeting that the Police Post within Perton Civic Centre had recently had the security gates fitted and was now just awaiting the provision of a secure computer link.

Cllr D.Billson welcomed the positive update regarding the Police Post but expressed concern regarding the continued anti social behaviour with vehicles, particularly in Church Road by the Civic Centre where parents and small children are regular visitors to the nursery. Duncan states that one or two drivers and vehicles are particularly well known but the Police need specific witness statements including vehicle registration numbers in order to follow up the complaints.

Cllr A.A.Bourke stated that at the recent Police Liaison Meeting Inspector Pat Shannaghan had said that once the Police Post was utilised then Police presence will be much greater with the Neighbourhood Officers having much less need to visit Codsall Police Station. Duncan agreed this would be the case. Cllr S.Bott queried the integration of the new PCSOs. Duncan explained that they will initially be mentored by himself and Frank Hossack. Perton is an area of low crime but relatively high nuisance so the PCSOs will, in time, greatly aid the 'high visual presence' which will deter the nuisance element. They will be additional eyes and ears of local policing, supporting Duncan and Frank initially directly and then on their own albeit on the same shifts as the two main officers and in continuous radio contact.

PC 4259 Lampitt/ PC 3537 Hossack can be contacted for any enquiries or information on voicemail 08453 3031232 (04259 PC Lampitt) (03537 PC Hossack)

102/07 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllrs Mrs P.Pitt and A.A.Bourke both declared personal interest in the agenda item concerning the planning application for Bradshaws Farm Shop. Cllr A.K.James declared personal interest in cheque number 103198 to DowntoEarth. Cllr

N.P.Caine declared personal interest in cheque number 103179 to NRG Group and Cllr R.J.Marshall declared personal interest in cheque number 103201 to Frank Mari. All members of PPFA declared personal interest in cheque 103191 to PPFA.

103/07 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the draft minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 11th September 2006 be confirmed as a true record following an amendment to include Cllr Mrs P.Allen in the declaration of interest concerning application for grant for PPFA and the Chairman of the Council duly signed them.

RESOLVED that the draft minutes of the Special Meeting held on 25th September 2006 be confirmed as a true record and the Chairman of the Council duly signed them. Cllr R.J.Marshall expressed apologies to the meeting concerning the confusion regarding a site meeting at The Parkway chicane immediately prior to this meeting. A suggested date and time had not been confirmed to the Clerks office for onward confirmation to the members.

RESOLVED that the draft minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 7th September 2006 be confirmed as a true record and the Council accepted them.

104/07 **CENTRAL SPORTS PITCH– Youth Matters**

Cllr D.Billson informed the meeting that the opportunity was progressing but lots of issues had arisen that would need to be overcome and there was currently no definitive start date. Further discussion was deferred to the end of the meeting.

105/07 **NEW BUS SHELTER, GAINSBOROUGH DRIVE – Cllr N.P.Caine**

Following consideration of the letter dated 18th September from Simon Cartledge Cllr N.P.Caine stated that the new shelter was required between the telephone kiosk and the post box and that on completion of the shelter it was possible to reclaim 25% of the expenditure from the County Council. However Cllr D.Billson was sure that in spite of the comments contained in the letter there had definitely been a commitment from Staffs CC for this shelter to be incorporated into 'Safer Routes'.

RESOLVED that Cllr D.Billson will take up this issue with Simon Cartledge and report back at the next Parish Council Meeting.

106/07 **PARISH PLAN QUESTIONNAIRE**

The Clerk provided an update on progress to date.

- A) Plan distribution is now 100% complete
- B) Completed plans have been collected from all drop off locations.
- C) To date approximately 325 questionnaires have been returned of which some have been 240 entered on to the software system. Around 10% are returned anonymously.

107/07 **PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS – Cllr N.P.Caine**

Cllr N.P.Caine advised that several residents often commented on the need for additional regular pedestrian crossings. Specific areas mentioned include the road by the 'Pear & Partridge' where there are numbers of school children affected, also the top end of Richmond Drive and additional sites on the Parkway. Cllr R.J.Marshall advised that all of the crossing works had been funded via 'Safer Routes'.

RESOLVED that Cllr N.P.Caine would circulate details of proposed sites to all members to allow inspections as appropriate and the item would be added to next months agenda for re-consideration.

108/07 **ACCOUNTS / STATEMENT OF ASSURANCE 2005 / 2006**

At the last Parish Meeting it was agreed that the Accounts and Statement of Compliance would be 'signed off' by Council at the Parish Council meeting on Monday 9th October subject to any queries on being submitted to the Clerks office by Friday 29th September latest, no queries have been submitted.

RESOLVED that the Accounts for year ending March 2006 as presented together with the Statement of Assurance are accepted and approved by the Council and the Chairman duly signed the Statement of Assurance.

109/07 **PERTON VILLAGE ROAD MAPS**

A budgetary quotation from MGD Solutions for refurbishment of the existing map displays was considered following the successful conclusion by MGD of the initial programme to refurbish bus shelters. The Clerk advised that this was a slightly difficult task to accomplish since the work required skill sets other than simply refurbishment and painting due to the sourcing of the correct maps.

RESOLVED that the Clerk would further attempt to provide an alternative option and then proceed with the refurbishment or replacement as appropriate.

110/07 **INTER-PARISH GAMES 2006**

The games report was considered and accepted together with additional information concerning the presentation evening.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council would accept the cost of the tickets for those Parish participants that wished to attend the presentation.

111/07 **MEMORIAL BENCH**

The copy letter from Andy Cousins to Mrs C.Parry dated 28th September regarding the request and quote for a memorial bench was considered.

RESOLVED that the request to site a memorial bench in the playground be allowed as per the terms of the letter.

112/07 **GRANT APPLICATION – Parish Walks Leaflet (Community Paths Initiative) Cllr P.Allen**

Further to item raised by Mr O'Leary during the public session it was felt that the

ideal solution would be the production of a map of Perton that shows the relevant walks and the link ups between the walks. This could be produced as a leaflet and then posted to the Parish website to permit local downloads and prints as required by walkers.

RESOLVED that the Clerk seeks to obtain a grant via Community Paths Initiative to allow the production of the maps as required.

113/07 **REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY – Cllr P.Allen**

The RAFA 'Battle of Britain' dedication was attended by Cllr Mrs R.Heseltine (Vice Chairman) who laid a wreath on behalf of the Parish and Cllr Mrs P.Allen.

RESOLVED that next year the 'Order of Service' will be distributed in advance to Council members by way of alert for the event.

114/07 **SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

A) Elections 2007

The Council noted the information distributed. There was some concern voiced that Perton Middle School should not be used as a Polling Station due to cost and logistics particularly as it is felt that the central location of the Civic Centre could probably suffice for all local polling needs. **RESOLVED** that the Clerk will write to Philip Hardy at SSDC to express the concerns of the Council.

B) Councillors Reports

Cllr D.Billson informed the meeting that the 'Local Development Framework' is going through but will be some 2 / 3 years before it becomes policy. Meanwhile he is Chairing a Licensing 'Best Value' Review.

Cllr Mrs P.Bromley attended a brief seminar on a local crime project and future projections; she feels the system is currently failing.

Cllr N.P.Caine reported a local area agreement regarding Staffordshire Partners and an £11M funding pool the outcomes being four national and one local project.

Cllr A.K.James advised that the District had recently refused the felling of an Elder tree'

Cllr A.A.Bourke queried the availability and timing of the £200k Big Lottery Fund and requested that the information regarding Council budgets and surpluses promised to Mr Sharp earlier in the meeting should in fact be delivered to the entire Council meeting. He stated that the reserves may be utilised to reduce Council Tax next year which is an election year. Cllr R.J.Marshall stated that the Council Tax levels were already the 4th lowest in the country and there had previously been a public statement restricting rises to a maximum of 3% for the next few years.

RESOLVED that Cllr R.J.Marshall will provide information on budgets / surpluses at the November Parish meeting.

115/07 **STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

Councillors Report

Cllr R.J.Marshall stated that at County levels the financial position was very difficult and they would need to utilise £7.5M of reserves. He was very disappointed to

report that school bus transport for over sixteens with disabilities or learning difficulties would no longer be free in order to save £65k whilst at the same time they were committed to spend £330k on a feasibility study for a new Arts space in Stafford which will cost in the region of £20M. With regard to Social Care & Health there is a new idea for a proposed restructuring plan which will mean the reduction of a large number of middle management jobs which it is felt will deliver large efficiency improvements and ongoing cost reductions by reducing the decision making chain and process. Under the plan the District Councils will each have a District Director to make the required decisions.

Cllr Mrs P.Pitt raised the issue of the drain grate covers at Lower Lake subway and Cllr R.J.Marshall committed to check and report back at the next meeting.

116/07 **CORRESPONDENCE**

a) Codsall Community Arts Festival

The letter of resignation from Dr and Mrs Woodward was noted.

117/07 **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

a) Bradshaws Farm shop 06/01043/VAR and 06/01044/OUT

Cllr A.K.James informed the meeting that 'Condition 9' relates to ancillary sale of food either from the farm or not from the farm. They are looking for A1 approval to sell anything. The new site needs reconsideration due to impact to 'Green Belt'. Cllr D.Billson said that Peter McHugh was dealing with the application and that both applications would have to be returned as invalid due to a lack of key information; they will be subject to fresh applications.

Cllr Mrs P.Bromley expressed concern that two traffic access points would double the issues relating to local traffic safety giving two potential collision points. Cllr Mrs P.Allen said that opening times were also being extended to give trading times from early to late. Cllr C.Bromley said that for traffic management and safety an access road should be created at the traffic island roundabout and he also observed that the large trailer was still parked at the existing location.

b) Planning Applications received from South Staffordshire Council and reviewed by the Parish since the last Parish Council meeting on Monday 11th September 2006.

			Date Returned
47	06/00936/FUL	Single storey extension to side and front 35 Idonia Road, Perton, WV6 7NQ	19/09/06
48	06/00980/FUL	Replacement front wall & Merging of 2 access to 1 Slingwood House, Pattingham Road, WV6 7HD	22/09/06
49	06/01002/FUL	Single storey side extension 3 Bader Road, Perton, WV6 7UY	22/09/06
50	06/01010/FUL	Two storey extension 16 Kingswear Avenue, Perton, WV6 7RJ	22/09/06

51	06/01022/FUL	First Floor side extension 10 Stephenson Drive, Perton, WV6 7YB	22/09/06
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Cllr A.A.Bourke raised concern regarding the telephony transmission masts at The Parkway / Shackleton Drive stating that it is important that if another mast is erected to correct the location of an existing mast then the redundant mast should be removed. Cllr N.P.Caine committed to investigate and follow up.

118/07 **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

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

			£
12/09/06	103177	Claremont Green Account - Event Refund	300.00
13/09/06	BACS	Wages Week 24	752.97
13/09/06	BACS	Inland Revenue	2439.38
13/09/06	BACS	Staffordshire County Pension Fund	992.27
17/09/06	DD	Severn Trent	93.52
19/09/06	BACS	Wages Week 25	1046.82
21/09/06	103178	Derek Walker Internal Audit	192.00
21/09/06	103179	NRG Group UK Ltd	235.91
21/09/06	103180	SSDC - Annual Licence Fee	180.00
21/09/06	103181	Veolia ES Onyx Ltd	111.53
21/09/06	103182	N.Fincham - Event Refund	150.00
21/09/06	103183	J.Mason - Event Refund	50.00
21/09/06	103184	D.Bromley - Event Refund	50.00
21/09/06	103185	N.Thacker - Event Refund	150.00
21/09/06	103186	Magrini Limited	45.83
21/09/06	103187	Nobisco Ltd	30.43
21/09/06	103188	ADT Fire and Security plc	111.63
26/09/06	DD	Unicom	59.81
27/09/06	BACS	Wages Week 26	3452.37
27/09/06	103189	Promarco Media Division Ltd	1844.75
27/09/06	103190	MGD Solutions	2171.50
28/09/06	DD	British Gas - Electricity	331.83
28/09/06	DD	BT	105.71
01/10/06	DD	SSDC Non -Domestic Rates	1169.00
01/10/06	STO	Kalidescope Limited	47.00
02/10/06	DD	Shell Gas Direct Ltd	440.21
03/10/06	103191	Perton Playing Fields Association	2000.00
03/10/06	103192	Mrs Marchant - Event Refund	150.00
03/10/06	103193	The Performing Rights Society	545.99
03/10/06	103194	Perton Place	55.00
03/10/06	103195	Cannon Hygiene Ltd	19.25
03/10/06	103196	Wardles	17.04
03/10/06	103197	John Ellis Associates Limited	293.75
03/10/06	103198	DowntoEarth	94.00

03/10/06	103199	Brisol Ltd	198.90
03/10/06	103200	PPC - Transfer to Building Society	40000.00
03/10/06	BACS	Wages Week 27	1149.78
03/10/06	BACS	Inland Revenue	2667.96
03/10/06	BACS	Staffordshire County Pension Fund	1132.39
04/10/06	103201	Frank Mari Decorative Metalwork	795.00
04/10/06	103202	R.Weatherington	620.00
04/10/06	103203	Screwfix Direct Ltd	429.54
04/10/06	103204	Besam Limited	3348.75
04/10/06	103205	ADT Fire and Security plc	141.00
		Total Expenditure	70212.82

DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 13th November 2006 @ 7.00 pm

The meeting closed @ 9.54pm

Cllr. A.K.James
Chairman
13th November 2006