

**Minutes of the Special Meeting of
PERTON PARISH COUNCIL
held at the Perton Civic Centre on
Wednesday 3rd December 2008 @ 7:00pm**

Present Mrs CM Young [Chairman]
AA Bourke [Vice-Chairman]
Mrs P Allen
Mrs PN Pitt
Mrs R Heseltine
DJ Billson
AK James
NP Caine
D.Fereday

County Councillor - RJ Marshall
Parish Clerk – Tony Tappenden

119/09 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were offered and accepted from Cllrs Mrs A.James, Miss C Duffell, A K Black, D Heseltine and District Councillor R Moreton.

120/09 **PERTON YOUTH CLUB**

Cllr A.K.James reminded the members that, given the County Councils decision to close Perton Youth club at the end of the current financial year, the Parish Council has been considering various options to take over the Youth Club and that the major issue is regarding the existing premises which are in very poor condition and would require large amounts of money to repair to a suitable standard. Accordingly he outlined a new proposal for the Members consideration in respect to adding a new extension to the existing Pavilion building at Gainsborough Drive. He explained that considerable work had been done in terms of evaluating this option and stressed that there were numerous benefits since this location is already the home base for the Cadets and Scouts, is protected by security fencing and we already have 'title' to the existing building, additionally initial discussions with SSDC indicate that they would support the project in respect to planning permission and other aspects.

Cllr Mrs P.Allen informed the Members that in consideration of the official survey report it was clear that the existing premises were in very poor condition and she proposed that before any other decision is taken the decision should be made not to spend any money on the existing premises other than any small amounts necessary to keep it open pending a more permanent solution.

Cllr D.Billson said that Staffs CC had already agreed in principle to extend the existing arrangements for up to one further year whilst new premises were made available.

RESOLVED that no PPC funds will be spent on the existing premises other than small sums that may be necessary to keep them open on a temporary basis pending the provision of an alternative solution.

Cllr Mrs P.Allen outlined another option centred around some work she had done in respect to the provision of replacement modular building on the existing site. She quoted some initial costs in respect to both refurbished buildings and new supply but said that she would favour an extension to our own property at the Pavilion given that there would be no issues

concerning the running of a County Council facility on District Council owned land.

Cllr A.K.James also expressed some concerns regarding the responsibility for actually running the club once the premises issue was fixed.

County Councillor R.J.Marshall said that the County Council would still commit to running the club and would hire the 'premises' on a rental basis on at least two sessions per week.

Cllr A.A.Bourke said that this was good but we need a commitment in writing from the County Council that this arrangement will continue for years to come.

Cllr D.Billson said that Kim Jones, Head of Youth Service had been involved in discussions on this project and was very supportive and had committed to oversee an application in respect to a £50k grant from the youth bank. Additionally he said that the CLP are likely to commit a further £20k and Chris Fridd had told him that Kim Jones was also likely to ring fence a further £50k from other areas. On top of this Graham Bott, Deputy Head of Youth Service was hoping to utilise some funds earmarked in 'revenue' budget for this capital project. Rolf Levesley at SSDC has also pledged his support and Sarah Poxon in the Planning Department has made available copy plans of the previous Scout extension as a possible template for the new extension.

Cllr A.K.James also explained that as maintenance of the existing Pavilion was covered by the PPFA this arrangement would apply to any extension to the facility.

Cllr D.Billson said that he had approached the builder of the original Scout extension (Naseby Builders) and they had suggested that to replicate this a figure of £150k / 160k is likely but to budget £200k.

Cllrs Mrs P.Allen / A.K.James both agreed that since the existing building was already shared by Scouts and Cadets the Youth Club facility should have its own entrance for both practical and security reasons.

Cllr D.Billson said that for this to move forward at pace Kim Jones would require by mid December a business case showing support from PPC and a timeline of key events. Rapid attention to planning issues could / should see building work commence by March / April 2009 with occupation by September.

Cllr A.A.Bourke asked if there was a security issue at the Pavilion site compared to the school site and queried the need to provide improved lighting and possibly CCTV.

Cllr A.K.James said that the existing users had experienced no issues and that lighting in the area had been improved very recently.

RESOLVED, following a unanimous vote by show of hands, that Perton Parish Council will adopt the extension of the Pavilion as its preferred solution in respect to new premises for Perton Youth Club. This option will be the prime project in respect to the exploration of planning permission, fund raising and overall viability.

The initial actions will require:

- 1) Cllr R.J. Marshall to seek agreement from County Council to maintain the existing facility whilst PPC seeks to complete the new project plus gain a commitment for future hire of the facility for long term youth club management.
- 2) The Clerk will obtain three quotes in respect to the provision of architectural plans for the extension at the Pavilion and place order as soon as possible in order that building costs can be established and project funding sought and secured.

- 3) Cllr D.J.Billson will arrange a site visit at the Pavilion with Youth Club representatives to ensure that the plans reflect the space and other needs of the club. The meeting is likely to be scheduled for Saturday 6th or 13th December and when set the Parish Clerk will notify all Members so that they can attend if available.

The meeting closed @ 8.15 pm

Chairman
12th January 2009