

**Minutes of the Meeting of
PERTON PARISH COUNCIL
held at the Perton Civic Centre on
Monday 8th February, 2016 at 7:00pm**

Present R Moreton (Chairman)
PE Davis (Vice-Chairman)
Mrs R Heseltine
Mrs P Allen
Mrs L Turner (arrived @ 8.00pm)
Naomi Caine
AK James
NP Caine
MD Francis
D Glynn
R Simonds
AA Bourke

Parish Clerk - Tony Tappenden
Police: SC Jorja Whittingham.
Police Contact Centre: Lisa Cope (Head of Contact Services) & Sarah Wakefield
(Contact Centre Manager)
Members of the Public present: 11

137/16 **PUBLIC OPEN SESSION**

Brenda Watts repeated her call from previous meetings to have speed humps installed on The Parkway between Gainsborough Drive and Coleridge Drive to combat speeding motorists. She said that she has written to Mark Keeling from Staffs CC Highways division but was disappointed because as yet no reply has been received. She added that whilst speed cameras may be brought in to the area on occasions they are not a long term solution. Additionally she complained that Cllr AK James had said that there is no money for this sort of work but each time there is a Tough Guy competition traffic is diverted towards Tinacre Hill where numerous traffic calming measures including humps have only recently been installed. Cllr NP Caine said that the area to which Brenda is referring comes under control of Wolverhampton City Council and this cannot be used as an indicator in regard to what may or may not be possible via Staffordshire County Council. There was a brief discussion regarding this ongoing concern and Brenda Watts said she would once again refer the problem to Rt.Hon.Gavin Williamson MP to request that he takes some action.

Elaine Bickley said that a neighbour of hers was very concerned about the humps and traffic measures introduced by Wolverhampton City Council, as just mentioned, and said that the new controls also include weight restrictions. She said as a result more goods vehicles were now utilising Wrottesley Park Road and causing traffic problems which is of concern. Cllr NP Caine explained the different routes and the actions taken which he felt were in part generated by spite. Cllr Mrs P.Allen explained what has happened and why and that the publicity on this had been widespread, additionally she explained the history and the logic behind this action.

Mr Sam Payne said he wished to raise three points. Cllr NP Caine raised a point of order noting that Sam Payne is a candidate in the pending by-election and queried if he could speak. A brief discussion followed and it was agreed that the questions could be put as long as there was no political content.

Firstly Sam said that he was concerned to note that a local social media site was portraying the Parish Council as corrupt and asked what the Parish Council has to say to parishioners on this matter. Chairman Cllr R.Moreton responded saying that the site referred to is not under the control of the Parish Council and the Parish Council totally

disassociates itself from anything stated on the site, that aside there is no comment to make.

Secondly Mr Payne said he was concerned about dog mess which seems to be increasing, particularly in the segment of The Parkway between Coleridge Drive and Richmond Drive and asked if more dog bins could be provided. Chairman Cllr R. Moreton said that generally this problem again seems to be on the increase but bins are not really the issue as any bin can be used as a dog bin and there are lots of bins around The Parkway. Cllr Mrs P Allen agreed that there are numerous bins but several of them are in the wrong place and need to be relocated. Cllr NP Caine said that the bin removed by the police should be reinstalled. Cllr A Bourke responded saying that the contents of this particular bin had been used as ammunition in a hate crime and in any case if dog walkers don't pick up then more bins won't change their behaviour. Cllr D. Glynn said that lockable bins exist and these would solve part of this problem.

Sam Payne made his final point stating that he had become aware that over the Christmas / New Year period there had been an armed robbery at Sainsbury's and asked why residents were not informed about this. There was a brief discussion on this topic which indicated the matter was generally common knowledge and Cllr M. Francis said that the term 'armed' is quite emotive but it doesn't necessarily mean serious gun crime and SC Jorja Whittingham said that she was aware that the story had been widely publicised and carried in the Express & Star and reported on social media.

138/16 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Mrs A James and also Mrs L Turner in respect to anticipated late arrival.

Chairman Cllr R. Moreton said that, on the subject of apologies, he wished to place on public record the following statement from Perton Parish Council to Andy Law in regard to his resignation last year:

We apologise unreservedly for any unintended distress caused to you and your family and agree that your resignation was made and accepted on the basis of 'Personal Reasons'.

139/16 **POLICE MATTERS**

The Clerk distributed a letter from Inspector Giles Parsons, South Staffs LPT Commander received on 4th February, which detailed two alterations regarding how local police will engage with Parish Councils and included a revised form of crime summary report. Cllr NP Caine observed that in Fradley where he is Parish Clerk they receive no police reports at all. Cllr Mrs P. Allen asked SC Jorja Whittingham if she could provide any additional detail on the reported six cases of violence against the person but Jorja had no additional information to give. There were no other matters arising.

Lisa Cope and Sarah Wakefield were introduced and welcomed to the meeting. Lisa stated that some while ago she had received a complaint from Cllr D. Glynn who subsequently visited the contact centre and as a result of his visit he was impressed and felt there would be interest across the Parish Council in regard to the operation of the 101 service. Lisa provided a brief overview of the history of the contact centre stating that they are now emerging from fairly painful times. She explained that the control room deals with 999 emergency, 101 non emergency calls and despatch, obviously this has to be biased towards the 999 service. Originally there were two centres geographically separated which gave both operational and staff resourcing issues as they operated as independent silos and had performance problems. Then the two units were merged in to one unit located in Stafford and early on there were issues related to staff availability and training which took a long time to solve and the situation was also difficult as the centre was managed by police officers which were continually changing so there was little continuity. Lisa said that the centre is now run by police civilian staff and most of the problems have been resolved. She said staffing is now

fairly settled and trained and they operate with 174 full time equivalents on a five shift rota and are already seeing significant benefits with 101 but more training is needed on 999. The emergency service has a maximum ten second answer time which is maintained but call answering on 101 has an average answer time of 59.6 seconds but this can be significantly impacted when the 999 service is in high demand such as can happen when there is a number of simultaneous calls reporting the same problem. Lisa handed over to Sarah Wakefield who explained the details of the 101 call answering service. Sarah said that upon dialling 101 a caller first receives a number of options; these include a possibility to connect with other police forces as many callers do not actually want Staffordshire police at all. She said that typically callers are not regulars so the instructions have to be straightforward and she outlined the different options noting that a routing to the control room will connect to a live agent, she added that last December they introduced a new capability to enable a caller to request a call-back when queue times are long due to high demand, this service is available until 10.00pm when the queues tend to be quieter Lisa then provided some handouts providing a technology overview which includes an introduction to SPIRIT (Staffordshire Police Instant Resource Identification Technology) and some curious information about unusual calls that get answered plus a comment about their new website which is coming soon. Lisa asked if there were any questions:

Cllr D Glynn thanked the ladies for their time and information and gave a brief overview of what he had seen at the contact centre which he said was very impressive.

Cllr Mrs P Allen said that due to the issues explained people had lost confidence in 101 and people can now witness an incident but not bother to call 101 due to confusion or lack of confidence, she asked if it is proposed to re-launch the service. Lisa replied that this is the intention and there will be a national campaign and the website will be used to aid the re-launch. She also said she is doing more visits to Youth Clubs, WIs, and Parish Councils etc to get the message across that the service is now right.

Cllr NP Caine asked if there is a charge to call 101 to which Lisa replied that a flat rate of 15p per call is levied.

Cllr P.Davis said older people can sometimes get confused about whether or not they should call 999 or 101 and asked if there would be consequences if they dialled 999 in error. Lisa said that as long as the calls to 999 are not intentionally malicious or purposeful time wasters there are no problems.

Cllr D.Glynn said, as a Neighbourhood Watch Controller, that the advice he gives is that a crime in progress warrants 999 but a call for advice is 101.

Cllr Mrs P.Allen suggested to the District Councillors present that this topic should be highlighted in the SSDC Review paper.

There were no additional questions so Chairman Cllr R.Moreton said this had been a useful session and we appear to be going in the right direction. He thanked Lisa, Sarah and Jorja for attending and they all departed at 7.48pm.

140/16

DECLARATION OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY AND OTHER INTERESTS

Cllr Mrs P. Allen declared personal interest in agenda item 143/16di & ii & 143/16f regarding the grant applications from both PFFA and Perton Carnival and personal and prejudicial interest in cheque 104840 paid to D.P.Allen.

Cllrs Mrs R Heseltine, Mrs L Turner, Naomi Caine, R.Moreton, AK James, PE Davis, R Simonds and NP Caine all declared personal interest in agenda item 143/16e concerning room hire dispensation for Rt.Hon . Gavin Williamson MP.

Cllr Mrs R Heseltine declared personal interest in agenda item 143/16dii & 143/16f regarding the grant applications from Perton Carnival.

Cllr R.Moreton declared a probable prejudicial interest in agenda item 154/16 concerning the proposal for the new Parish Clerk and said he will leave the room for this session.

MINUTES

141/16 MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 11th JANUARY, 2016

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 11th January, 2016 be confirmed as a true record and the Chairman of the Council duly signed them.

142/16 MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 18th JANUARY, 2016

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 18th January, 2016 be confirmed as a true record and the Chairman of the Council duly signed them.

143/16 FINANCE

a) Draft Minutes of the Finance Meeting held on 2nd February, 2016

RESOLVED that the draft minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on 2nd February, 2016 together with the income statement for January 2016 be accepted for information.

b) Accounts for Payment

List of Payments since last reviewed at the meeting of the Council on 11th January 2016

			£
04/01/16	STO	Kalidescope Limited	48.00
04/01/16	DD	SSDC Non -Domestic Rates	1467.00
07/01/16	BACS	Wages Week 40	1281.89
07/01/16	104834	Mr S Mills - Deposit Refund	200.00
07/01/16	104835	John Ellis Associates Limited	250.00
07/01/16	104836	Edge IT Systems Limited	513.60
08/01/16	104837	Arts Alive - Flicks in the Sticks	300.00
11/01/16	104838	OCS Group UK Limited t/a Cannon	99.68
15/01/16	BACS	Staffordshire CC Pension Fund	2074.00
15/01/16	BACS	Inland Revenue	2374.55
15/01/16	BACS	Wages Week 41	1182.60
18/01/16	104839	MGD Solutions	196.00
18/01/16	104840	D.P.Allen	255.00
18/01/16	DD	BT One Bill (Broadband & Telephony)	111.00
18/01/16	104841	Lockhart Catering Equipment	64.65
18/01/16	104842	Staffordshire Parish Councils' Association	20.00
20/01/16	DD	Npower - Gas	1251.20
22/01/16	DD	British Gas - Electric	386.16
22/01/16	BACS	Wages Week 42 / Month 10	4545.06
25/01/16	104843	ESPO	158.66
25/01/16	DD	Drinkmaster Ltd	171.29
28/01/16	DD	Veolia ES (UK) Limited	140.28
29/01/16	BACS	Wages Week 43	1351.20
		TOTALS	18441.82

c) **Budget-to-date 2015 / 2016**

The information was noted without query.

i) **Application for Grant – PPFA Second Half**

d) **RESOLVED** that the second half grant of £2000.00 will be made to PPFA

ii) **Application for Grant – Perton Carnival 2016**

Cllr Mrs P.Allen left the room for this item.

RESOLVED that a grant of £300.00 will be made to Perton Carnival

e) **Room Hire Dispensation for Surgeries: Rt.Hon.Gavin Williamson MP**

RESOLVED that Rt.Hon.Gavin Williamson MP will be permitted use of a room at Perton Civic Centre at no charge on condition that the room use is during normal opening hours on weekdays only and the use of the room is confined to local surgeries.

f) **Application for Concessionary Room Hire – Perton Carnival 2016**

Cllr Mrs P.Allen left the room for this item.

RESOLVED that Perton Carnival will be permitted the concessionary hire rate.

144/16 **STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

a) **Report from County Councillor AK James**

A meeting at the Gailey Depot of the Highways Section of the County Council included an update from the Manager, Mark Keeling to take up issues brought up at the site meeting he attended with the County Safety Officer and members of the Parish Council concerns on the 18th. January 2016.

A report based on the suggestions that were raised is to be sent covering the height of the speed humps and any remedial work required and the position of the traffic line entering the Chicane. Also the re-surfacing of the damaged areas on the road surface there.

Other matters discussed were improvements and surfacing of footpaths. Edward Road is to be attended to and other footpaths assessed including Anson Close where there are problems with raised water stop hatches on the sidewalk.

In connection with the standing water along the A41. I handed in a photograph and a letter sent to Gavin Williamson by a resident showing the problem. As this is a main road it is a priority need to be repaired. I have been assured that this work will be carried out as an urgent requirement.

An e mail has been received from the County Council advising that there is to be a transfer of route the 152 Bus to Arriva Service 10S. This arrangement concerns a review of School transport provision in Perton that is being linked to the public system. Arriva will provide on a set schedule a service that entails a time table around the Parkway. Two 86 seater Double decker buses following each other to Codsall High School in the morning and a return service in the afternoon to coincide with the school timetable there. Notices of the route are available and stops shown.

Keith James.

Member for the Perton Division of Staffordshire County Council.

Cllr Mrs P Allen said, in regard to the chicane site meeting, that the contractor had

shown some common sense and if the improvements suggested are carried out this should help. Cllr D Glynn said that the humps are starting to break up; he also observed that we have been told that the humps have been provisioned at the maximum permissible height yet the humps at Oaken Lane are much bigger and the new humps provided locally by Wolverhampton City Council are huge. There was a brief discussion about local variations in road hump sizes and Cllr AK James said that at the chicane the local contractor was not the normal Amey but suspected they had contracted it on to a third party. Cllr NP Caine said at Bilbrook the humps are full width kerb to kerb and suggested there may have been a change in the law. Chairman Cllr R. Moreton said that these matters require a balancing act in order to provide a level of traffic control but minimise noise and prevent vehicle damage. Cllr M. Francis said that humps always increase traffic noise levels and the problem actually requires the education of motorists. Cllr Naomi Caine said that towards the Pear and Partridge pub the hump sizes vary and at Wombourne humps have been removed. Cllr AK James said that with the end of the financial year approaching this may cause a delay in remedial work.

145/16 **SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

a) **Police Accountability Forums**

RESOLVED that the PPC representatives for the Police Accountability Forum on Wednesday 13th April will be Cllrs Mrs R. Heseltine and R. Moreton.

b) **Section 215 Notice – David Pattison**

There was a brief discussion regarding the success or otherwise of the notice and generally the consensus was that there has been partial compliance and a close watch will be kept on the property.

c) **Report from District Councillors**

Since the last Parish Council meeting I have attended the following:-

12.01.2016 Wellbeing Select Committee

13.01.2016 Visit to Four Ashes Incinerator Plant. Once again, as with the visit to the recycled waste plant at Aldridge, to see how the waste generated by the residents of South Staffordshire is dealt with at Four Ashes was fascinating. The way the facility has been designed and the scale of it is quite amazing. From its living roof to the virtually odourless processing plant was a real eye-opener. The operation of the giant grabbers takes place by 2 men in swivel chairs from a room similar to the deck of the Starship Enterprise! The plant itself seems to consist of giant stainless steel tubes, furnaces and walkways – all spotlessly clean. It's very satisfying to know that South Staffordshire's grey bin waste is dealt with in such an effective and environmentally efficient way – producing electricity along the way.

14.01.2016 Standards and Resources Committee

15.01.2016 New Year New You event. Opportunity to talk to providers of and/or experience various wellbeing therapies and products. Also many organisations present for information. It was also possible to book an appointment to have a fitness check, which was well worth doing. This event was open to the public.

18.01.2016 Along with other councillors met with Simon Keeling of the highways dept. of the County Council at the chicane about the newly installed speed humps.

19.01.2016 Planning Committee

21.01.2016 Fraud Awareness Training
Flooding Briefing

26.01.2016 Overview and Scrutiny Training
Overview and Scrutiny Committee

29.01.2016 Let's work Together event

This covered the following training modules:-

- a. Community Support Project (South Staffordshire Community Volunteer Action)

- b. Advocacy for people who experience disability, vulnerability, distress and social exclusion. (POhWER)
- c. Screening for the elderly and vulnerable to reduce hospital admission and reliance on front line services, (Fire and Rescue Service)
- d. Brainstorming session on volunteering.
- e. Promotion and update of the Good Life initiative. (SSC)

Rita Heseltine

The County Council Community Liaison Officer, Sarah Garner visited the District Council on 2nd. of February for a Local Priority Meeting. It was an opportunity to raise the subject of the Youth Project in Perton as she informed me that the money held by the County Council for this purpose was likely to be withdrawn at the end of the Council's Financial year at in March. I explained that the Parish Council had not been able to go forward as Alan Harding the Head Teacher at Perton Middle school had not made a decision on the redundant buildings for future use. Members of the Parish Council had met with him on the 27th.November last year and an undertaking to look into the position and let the Council deputation have an answer. To establish a time table and progress with our plans to create a Youth facility. Sarah will contact the Education officer, Narinder Reehall with our plans and ask for advice on the situation.

Work has been carried out on the Traffic Lights on the A41 and Heath House Lane. I understand this was to improve the traffic flow at Peak times of the day. Any feedback on whether this happens would be appreciated by myself for future discussions with the County Highways.

A Meeting of the Silver Poplars Residents Association is to be held at Perton Civic Centre on February 3rd.2016. This meeting of Parishioners from Kingswood have requested my attendance to discuss issues affecting their Community. Topics are matters concerning the Library Service, Bus Shelter removal on the A41 serving the residents of Perton Parish and Codsall.

Keith James.

Member for Perton Dippons Ward of South Staffordshire District Council.

Cllr AK James asked the Clerk if there has been any feedback from the Federation Schools Headmaster in respect to usage of facilities at Perton Middle School as the funds set aside could be at risk and he is awaiting information on this from Sarah Garner. The Clerk said there has been no response as yet. Cllr A Bourke said whilst we have some money in the budget we have no plan for youth services and said we need a strategy. It was agreed that Youth Strategy will be included on the March agenda.

Cllr NP Caine reported that he has attended various meetings and one to one meetings with Heads of Department. He also said the solar panels project at SSSDC was now complete and mentioned that the District Council has parking issues at Codsall. He added that he has requested support from SSSDC in respect to lighting issues at Anders Square.

Cllr A Bourke reported that he has attended Planning and Scrutiny meetings and the Budget Review. He said that he would be interested to view the Incinerator Plant as mentioned by Cllr R Heseltine and also said he was pushing forward issues arising from a tour of local paths and lanes which are overgrown.

Cllr R.Moreton said he had nothing to add to that already mentioned.

Matters ongoing / resolved as at 8th February, 2016

Email Distribution

- 12th Jan From Angling Trust / SSDC – Concerning future plans for Perton Lower Lake.
- 12th Jan From SPCA – Local Councillor Training Course
- 12th Jan From SSDC CEO – Queen's 90th Birthday Beacons
- 12th Jan From SSDC - Let's Work Together training: Friday 29th January 2016
- 12th Jan From Clerk - Angling Trust / SSDC / PPC meeting set for 18th January.
- 14th Jan From SSDC John Littleton – Richmond Drive property / 215 order
- 14th Jan From Carlo Hossack – Response to SSDC John Littleton / 215 order
- 18th Jan From Staffs Playing Fields Assoc – Local Planning System
- 20th Jan From Staffs Playing Fields Assoc – Petition
- 21st Jan From Clerk – Good Councillor Guide 2016
- 4th Feb From SSDC – Masterclass Save the Date – Modern Slavery

Other Items / Update

- Alison Moreton and Rebekah Hodgetts attended SPCA VAT Training session on Tuesday 12th January 2016.
- SSDC Andy Cousins has agreed to attend PPC March meeting which is near the start of the grass cutting programme.
- Defibrillator installation completed on 14th January 2016 and kit registered with Cardiac Science. Now awaiting Keith Dawson, Community Defibrillator Facilitator for West Midlands Ambulance Service to register with 999 service and co-ordinate training programme.
- 15/1/16 – Met with Katy Warren from Healthwatch: Agreed programme of support to interface with Civic Centre visitors.
- Gainsborough Drive Bus shelter has been vandalised – Contacted Staffs CC to ensure time table information and stop flags are displayed at each of the seven shelters in order to make them more 'lived in'. Flags should be installed by mid February subject to weather!
- No response as yet from Alun Harding in respect to PPC request for Perton Middle School update.
- Bus Lane access bollard has been 'turned off' though appears to be fully functional. Are bus operating companies deploying buses without transponders?
- PPC has received an Invoice from SSDC in the sum of £4258.38 + Vat in respect to the landscape works at the South roundabout. (Original estimate from Hayden Baugh-Jones was a maximum of £6500.00)
- Assa Abbloy, as discussed last month, attended to fix issues with auto front door and post visit the door was left fully disabled due to hydraulic fluid from leaking seals damaging the control unit. We received an invoice in the sum of £1195.00 plus a verbal quote of at least £350.00 to replace the control unit. Escalated to Service & Sales Manager UK – Door fully fixed on 5/2/2016 and total bill reduced to £850.00.

There was a discussion regarding the item on the Clerks report referring to the invoice for planting work at the South roundabout. The District Councillors noted that their allowances contributed to the costs for this work but all agreed that the work had not been done to an acceptable standard, that it had not come close to reaching expectations and some felt the roundabout should be cleared and grassed over, it was also stated that the Staffs Council Review magazine should be invited to come and photograph the work!

RESOLVED that the Clerk will write to inform SSDC that Perton Parish Council is not prepared to pay the invoice until a plan is presented to put the work right following a site meeting with Andy Cousins and Cllr Mary Bond.

147/16 **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Planning Applications received from South Staffordshire Council and reviewed by the Parish Council Planning Committee since the last Parish Council meeting on Monday 11th January, 2016.

Application No.	Proposals
15/01096/FUL	First floor extension to existing dwelling - 1 Cranmoor, Perton, Wolverhampton WV8 2JN
16/00053/FUL	Two-storey side extension - 29 Sutherland Grove, Perton, Wolverhampton WV6 7PA

Perton Parish Council raised no objections to the above proposals.

DECISIONS - The following decisions received from South Staffordshire Council:

Application No.	Proposals	Decision
15/01096/FUL	First floor extension to existing dwelling - 1 Cranmoor, Perton	GRANTED

148/16 **ELECTION COSTS**

The Clerk informed the Members that the re-charge invoice in respect to the May 2015 Elections has finally been received in January 2016 in the sum of £9736.66, and this figure was much higher than expected and as it was received post Precept meeting this leaves us no opportunity to make additional financial provision. The Clerk said that he had requested and obtained a breakdown of the cost elements but this simply shows a bunch of items that make up the total figure but does not justify why prices have escalated so much. He said that given the situation he had requested a forecast of costs applicable for the pending 2016 By-Election which has now been received and estimated at £4414.00.

The Chairman noted that this more or less wipes out the Precept increase that has been agreed for 2016 / 17 and he said the topic has been passed to Scrutiny Committee for review. Cllr NP Caine said Codsall PC have similar issues and have arranged a meeting with Steve Winterflood to discuss. There was some discussion on the matter and there were a number of comments suggesting that there had been a great deal of incompetence particularly at the count and this would have significantly impacted staff costs.

RESOLVED that the Clerk will write to Steve Winterflood, Chief Executive at SSDC, to detail our case and causes for concern and state that the invoice will not be paid until a satisfactory explanation is received, noting that the issue is to be reviewed by the Scrutiny Committee. The Clerk will also distribute the May 2015 election costs breakdown to all PPC Members.

149/16 **CLEAN FOR THE QUEEN – CLLR P.DAVIS**

Cllr P.Davis provided an overview of the programme stating that in recognition of the Queen's 90th birthday there is a national campaign to tidy up the country over the weekend of 4th, 5th and 6th March and he provided some very illuminating and worrying statistics about the rubbish that is collected off the streets each year and the cost of doing this. He said our local effort will take place on Saturday 5th March between 10.00am and midday and will commence at Perton Pavilion at 10.00am. He said the

Scouts will be involved as will the Rt.Hon. Gavin Williamson MP and he said all are welcome.

RESOLVED that PPC will adopt this programme as an official Parish Council function.

150/16 **SUMMER PLANTERS / XMAS TREES: QUOTATION**

There was a discussion regarding the provision of these facilities and it was generally agreed that the planters have been very well received over the last couple of years and would now be sorely missed, but there was a comment regarding the Christmas trees being not overly impressive. The Clerk explained that the two services are offered as a bundle from the same supplier with a cost advantage for taking both. In regard to the Christmas trees there is little competition for this type of facility and the issue with solar powered lights is always going to be that they won't match mains powered illuminations which are much more expensive, difficult to install and introduce several issues in regard to connectivity which is why we opted for a manageable solar alternative. There was a further comment that the Clerk should seek to secure fixed pricing for the next three years if possible.

RESOLVED that the quotation be accepted for both the planters and the solar Christmas trees in the sum of £4860.00 which includes all installation, maintenance and take down services. Prior to placing the order the Clerk will seek to secure pricing on a three year basis.

151/16 **DEFIBRILLATOR - UPDATE:**

The Clerk explained the issues that have arisen since the original decision to install a defibrillator which has been impacted by current budgeting issues with NHS / West Midlands Ambulance Service which in turn has impacted the WMAS support for training etc.

RESOLVED that the Clerk will make every effort to have the defibrillator registered with the 999 callout system and will seek to arrange a suitable training programme direct with our coordinator.

152/16 **NEW BUS SHELTER LOCATION COMPLAINT:**

The complaint was noted and discussed in some detail. Cllr Mrs P Allen said the dwelling from where the complaint originated was definitely included on the consultation schedule and letter that was sent to all homes within the determined proximity of each shelter position. Additionally she said each shelter position was clearly marked and even the grass verges had been trimmed as required to accommodate the new shelters.

RESOLVED that the Clerk would write to the householder in response to the complaint stating the position of the Parish Council in regard to this matter and why it is not prepared or able to consider relocating the shelter.

Exclusion of the Press and Public during confidential items

That under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

IN CAMERA SESSION – STAFF ITEMS (commenced @ 9.15pm)

153/16 **VACANCY - CIVIC CENTRE:**

a) **Job Description**

RESOLVED that the job description was accepted and the vacancy will be advertised locally utilising PPC notice boards and the Clerk will oversee the recruitment to fill the vacancy as required.

b) Presentation to Retiring Employee

RESOLVED that a collection will be made from PPC Councillor at the next meeting which will then be supplemented by PPC in the sum of £50. The cash will be used to purchase a garden centre voucher which will be presented at the Annual Parish Meeting together with a PPC plaque in recognition of 24 years service.

154/16 **PARISH CLERK - REPLACEMENT PROPOSAL**

Cllr R. Moreton left the room for the entire session and Cllr P. Davis took over the Chairmanship of the meeting.

There was renewed discussion regarding the detail of the proposal and there were views expressed both in favour and against the proposal. It was noted that Parish Councillors are elected to make decisions taking in to account what is best overall for Perton and the Parish Council. Following this discussion it was proposed and seconded that the proposal as shown should be amended to reduce the duration of the stated training period but this garnered only three votes by show of hands and was thus defeated. There followed a proposal which was seconded to accept the proposal as is and there was a vote by show of hands which produced six in favour, four against plus one abstention. The Clerk said that the Council should consider that the position be ratified subject to a satisfactory interview with the appropriate candidate.

RESOLVED that the proposal be accepted subject to ratification at a formal interview and an interview panel was agreed together with time and place details which the Clerk will confirm ASAP.

It was noted at the request of specific Councillors that those voting against acceptance of the proposal were: Cllr Mrs P. Allen, Cllr Naomi Caine, Cllr A. Bourke and Cllr M Francis. Cllr N Caine abstained.

DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING - Monday 14th March 2016 @ 7.00 pm

Crime and Disorder Implications

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, places a duty on a local authority to consider crime and disorder implications and to exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions and to do all that is it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder in its area.

Where relevant any decisions noted herein have taken this duty of care into consideration.

The meeting closed at 10.00 pm

Chairman - 14th March, 2016