

**Minutes of the Meeting of  
PERTON PARISH COUNCIL  
held at the Perton Civic Centre on  
Monday 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2016 at 7:00pm**

Present PE Davis (Chairman)  
Mrs R Heseltine (Vice-Chairman)  
Mrs G Davis  
Mrs L Turner  
Mrs P Allen  
Mrs A James  
AK James  
R Moreton  
AA Bourke  
NP Caine  
D Glynn  
R Simonds  
C Evans

Parish Clerk – Tony Tappenden & Parish Clerk Designate – Becky Hodgetts  
Members of the Public present: Fifteen

23/17 **PUBLIC OPEN SESSION**

- a) Elizabeth Dew informed the Council that she and a number of similarly affected residents have been communicating with the County Council, formally via the complaints procedure, regarding the bussing of Perton children to Codsall High School. She said the situation at Perton is such that the three mile limit cuts through the village and depending on which side of the line each home sits determines whether or not the child has free school transport or has to pay. Accordingly the residents believe that as a minimum there must be an alternative safe walking route but their arguments to the Council on this matter have been rejected with Staffs CC affirming that the route is safe. Liz highlighted several aspects that, in her opinion make the route unsafe and she said that they have escalated the matter to the Local Government Ombudsman in the hope that they can turn things around and she asked the Parish Council for its support.
- The Parish Council were very supportive in regard to this matter and it was stated that we have, over the years, made several efforts to get the County Council to see sense over the issue but have, as yet, never succeeded.
- Several of the Members made very strong comments in support of this matter: Cllr D Glynn agreed that the road is narrow and the footpaths are, in parts, very narrow and unsafe. He said there are too many HGVs using the route and it is clear that when such vehicles need to pass each other when travelling in opposite directions that one or both need to mount the footpath in order to pass. He added that he is a member of the Institute of Advanced Motorists but in spite of this does not like even driving along this section of road. Cllr Mrs P Allen said the situation is very frustrating as the first complaints were made many years ago but the County Council will not budge on their stance. She said that recently our local MP had become involved, there have been numerous letters and protests over the years coupled with reports, photos and traffic counts over a thirty year period. Cllr A Bourke agreed that the matter had been ongoing for years and that we need an approach that has not been taken before. He said that our MP Rt.Hon.Gavin Williamson had been trying to get the portfolio holder involved and maybe we need direct confrontation with the portfolio holder and Director to challenge their position. Additionally he said parents won't let their children walk the route due to the danger and length and therefore they drive them to school which adds to the known issues at the traffic lights on the A41. Cllr NP Caine said that the walk takes him in excess of 45 minutes and if pushing a wheelchair or pram the route would probably have issues with the DDA and H&S compliance, he said that possibly Heath House Lane could be made one-way to improve safety.

Cllr AK James said that the walk is too far regardless of safety and he had written to Cllr Ben Adams on the matter but most of the route actually falls in to Codsall PC and they will not support us. He added that nobody is listening to us or our MP and we should take the matter to the Ombudsman. Cllr Mrs R Heseltine agreed that this has been an ongoing problem which is now deteriorating further due to degeneration of the footpath, double decker buses and HGVs and many pot holes. Cllr Mrs P Allen said maybe we should take this up with the Ombudsman either as a joint or separate complaint and provide the evidence we have together with the traffic survey information. Liz Dew said that the Ombudsman has stated that it is not their role to adjudicate on the safety of the route but want to know if the County Council has properly and fairly considered the matter. Cllr NP Caine quoted from the rules of route assessment and the Clerk read aloud a key passage from the letter received from Cllr Ben Adams last year following our previous complaint on the matter, he said it was a clear that they fully repudiate every issue put to them and do not want to get any further involved in the issues if they can avoid it..

With the Chairman's permission and the support of all the Members Cllr Mrs R.Heseltine made a special announcement. She asked Cllr AK James to stand and be recognised stating that he had been tirelessly involved for twenty five years with Perton Playing Fields Association and having now stood down Rita said she was very pleased to present him with a small award personally from the PPFA committee. Keith responded with thanks and said that it has been a pleasure to serve since the early days when Perton was built. He received a warm round of appreciative applause from all present.

24/17 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Naomi Caine and MD Francis.

29/17 **STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

*In accordance with Standing Order 10a-vi it was agreed to change the order of business and conduct agenda item 29/17a at this point.*

a) **School Walking Route – Cllr D Glynn**

In consideration of the matter discussed in the public open session and following a seconded proposal, on a vote by show of hands it was unanimously **RESOLVED** that the Clerk will write to the LG Ombudsman to articulate full support with the residents that the walking route is unsafe and unfairly assessed and supporting evidence can be provided as necessary. Additionally, following a seconded proposal, on a vote by show of hands from which Cllr NP Caine abstained as he is also a member of Codsall PC, it was otherwise unanimously **RESOLVED** that the Clerk will write to the Chairman of Codsall PC requesting that their members complain to Staffs CC in support of PPC regarding the safety of the school walking route at Heath House Lane and ask that the matter be highlighted by their County Councillor RJ Marshall.

*Five members of public departed at the close of the public session.*

25/17 **POLICE MATTERS**

**Police Report**

The May Report was previously distributed with the agenda.

Cllr Mrs P Allen noted from the report that there has been a significant increase in certain significant offence groups involving injuries and violence and said it was unfortunate that there was not a police presence at the meeting to explain these items. Following a brief discussion on this topic it was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk will write to Insp Giles Parsons to request some feedback and information on the increases to

specific offence groups and also to ask if it is possible to produce a report for Perton that excludes Pattingham and restate that police presence is always welcome at Parish meetings.

26/17 **DECLARATION OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY AND OTHER INTERESTS**

Cllr Mrs P Allen declared personal and prejudicial interest in cheques 104881 paid to her and 104888 paid to D.P.Allen. Additionally she declared personal interest in agenda item 28/17diii relating to a grant request by PPFA as she is a Trustee of that organization.

Cllr AK James declared personal and prejudicial interest in cheque 104882 paid to Down to Earth Grounds Maintenance Ltd.

27/17 **MINUTES**

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 9<sup>th</sup> May, 2016**

Cllr A.Bourke observed that at Minute 8/17 it had been agreed that four dates will be agreed for future Management Committee meetings and asked if these can be provided at the next meeting.

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> May, 2016 be confirmed as a true record and the Chairman of the Council duly signed them.

28/17 **FINANCE**

a) **Draft Minutes of the Finance Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> June, 2016**

**RESOLVED** that the draft minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> June, 2016 together with the income statement for May 2016 be accepted for information.

b) **Accounts for Payment**

**List of Payments since last reviewed at the meeting of the Council on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2016**

			£
02/05/16	STO	Kalidescope Limited	48.00
02/05/16	DD	SSDC Non -Domestic Rates	1479.00
03/05/16	104881	Mrs P.Allen - Deposit Refund	200.00
05/05/16	Bank Chg	Co-Op Auto Cheque Encashment Fee	1.50
05/05/16	104882	Down to Earth Grounds Maintenance Ltd	108.00
06/05/16	BACS	Wages Week 5	1188.24
09/05/16	104883	N.Guidotti - Deposit Refund	150.00
10/05/16	DD	Npower - Electric	294.46
10/05/16	104884	Community Council of Staffordshire	25.00
11/05/16	104885	Ricoh Capital Ltd	195.06
13/05/16	BACS	Wages week 6	1183.68
13/05/16	BACS	Staffordshire CC Pension Fund	2628.41
13/05/16	BACS	Inland Revenue	3282.13
17/05/16	DD	BT One Bill (Broadband & Telephony)	115.83
20/05/16	BACS	Wages Week 7	1223.99
20/05/16	BACS	Halls SMS	116.33
24/05/16	DD	Npower - Gas	513.01
24/05/16	104886	South Staffordshire Council	173.33
24/05/16	104887	Ricoh UK Ltd	52.76

24/05/16	104888	David Allen Handyman	100.00
24/05/16	104889	Arts Alive - Flicks in the Sticks	300.00
24/05/16	104890	Wombourne Printers Limited	86.40
24/05/16	104891	Signs Now UK Ltd	160.34
24/05/16	104892	Cheque Not Used (Spoiled)	0.00
26/05/16	104893	Post Office Ltd	231.42
27/05/16	BACS	Wages Week 8 / Month 2	6288.54
31/05/16	DD	Veolia ES (UK) Limited	98.20
<b>TOTALS</b>			<b>20243.63</b>

c) **Budget-to-date 2016/2017**

The information was noted without query.

d) **Applications for Grant**

i. **Friends of Perton Middle School**

It was noted that the grant request included items such as toilets and changing facilities and the members agreed that infra-structure requirements are definitely the responsibility of Staffordshire County Council. Cllr AK James said that he has also received a grant request from this organisation via the Community Fund in regard to the provision of outdoor table-tennis facilities and possibly PPC could help support this. **RESOLVED** that the grant request will be deferred until next month. The Clerk will contact the applicant and inform them of the situation regarding infra-structure and ask them to be more specific and provide a list of sports type of equipment up to the value of approximately £500.00 that will benefit a large number of pupils and to also inform them that they are welcome to attend the next meeting in support of their application.

ii. **Up for a Chat**

The Clerk explained the background and recent history of this group. **RESOLVED** that the requested grant of £ 30.00 will be made via Perton Library and the Clerk will also inform them that if the continuation of the group is dependent on financial support the PC will be happy to consider further grant applications.

iii. **Perton Playing Fields Association**

There was a brief discussion about future plans for the Pavilion and Playing Fields and Cllr C Evans provided a brief overview of intentions and said it would be a good idea for PPC Members to visit the Pavilion to better understand the problems and opportunities. Cllr NP Caine asked if an increase in grant monies would be helpful. The Clerk said that this is a decision for the Council but urged caution as the PPFA already accounts for 50% of the grants budget and any increase would be better agreed at the annual Precept meeting.

**RESOLVED** that a half year grant of £2000.00 will be made.

29/17 **STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

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

County Council Report for Perton Parish Council Meeting on 13<sup>th</sup>.June 2016.

The County Council has delivered a notification that a major Highway Improvement scheme in Edward Road, Perton commences on 6<sup>th</sup>.June 2016. Access will be maintained to properties there and a letter to all occupiers in that area affected by the works is to be delivered.

I have attended a meeting with the Highways Manager to discuss outstanding items

concerning road and traffic lights control within the Division of Perton. The main issue being the A41 junction. The traffic Engineer, Martin Fenlon has been asked to provide a time and date to meet at this site that is at an appropriate time and date to observe the traffic flow and monitor the early morning congestion that has received complaints from commuters in Perton village. This matter is still ongoing as adjustments are checked to establish and assess the situation. Other matters that were included in these discussions covered the progress of the County Safety Officer on his suggestions relating to the Chicane on the Parkway at St.Andrews Drive. I Have asked for an update to be sent for this issue.

The Community Fund for 2016 is now in operation and applications have been received from some organizations in the Perton Division. Local projects that qualify on the basis that they are for the benefit of Community projects and need some financial assistance to carry out these services, will be considered. I have a smaller budget this year, but hope to help as many applicants as possible.

A meeting of the members of the Youth Strategy team are to meet and progress with the policy to provide facilities in Perton. A plan is to be formulated by County Council advisers and the Youth Voluntary organizations to promote this action for the village.

Keith James.

Member for the Perton Division of Staffordshire County Council.

Cllr Mrs P Allen asked for more details regarding the Edward Road highway improvements to which Cllr AK James said that this is a major refurbishment of the surfaces following complaints from residents in the area.

Cllr AA Bourke asked if it is true that the County Council is looking to withdraw support for school crossing patrols and if so is this Perton specific or county wide. Cllr AK James replied stating that it appears that budgets are changing and it seems likely that schools will now have the responsibility to finance these patrols if they wish to have them and this situation will prevail across the county. Cllr Mrs P Allen said that she was aware that the crossing patrols people had recently had a meeting to discuss this matter and there could be issues arising for the schools.

## 30/17 **SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

### a) **Summer Sussed Programme**

The Clerk said that this year the timescales for a decision were even more compressed than previously but he had managed to move the deadline for Perton PC from 10<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> June. There was a brief discussion about the two principal choices on offer but it was felt that the voucher scheme in the recent past had not been well supported by Perton people and this year's programme at the Leisure Centre's showed no significant improvements for Perton residents. **RESOLVED** that Perton PC will again opt for a programme of local events for local children. The Clerk's office will put together a programme very similar to last year's arrangements but seek to remove the least popular sessions.

### b) **Report from District Councillors**

District Council Report for Perton Parish Council Meeting on 13<sup>th</sup>.June 2016.

Since the last report I have delivered, there has been a change of Chairman at the District Council after the Annual Meeting in May. Cheslyn Hay Councillor, Mr. Bernard Williams is the new occupant of the post and Councillor Mrs. Val. Chapman is the Deputy Chairman for the ensuing year.

The Planning Committee have received an application for a ground floor extension at Perton Orchard on Pattingham Road to accommodate a Swimming Pool. Other planning proposals include use of land next to Kingswood Park Homes for the storage of Touring Caravans and one mobile home for residential purposes. There was also delegated

approval for an extension in Idonia Road.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting covered the progress of changes and the financial effects to the District Council Efficiency and Income Reviews. Also included were the projections of Investment contributions and the reduction of expenditure items in the main areas considered by this report.

Challenge Panels reports and proposals were put forward for adoption to improve the methods employed by the Council in several areas of the administration that the members of the District Council had suggested for the review of services to residents of South Staffordshire.

Keith James.

Member for Dippons Ward of South Staffordshire District Council.

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

10.05.2016 The Annual Council meeting. The new Chairman of South Staffordshire Council for 2016/2017 is Bernard Williams and Val Chapman is Vice- Chairman. The Chairman's charity is to be The Steve Bull Foundation.

16.05.2016 Planning Committee Training Session.

17.05.2016 Members' Tour of the Council Departments. Interesting and informative tour of the Council Offices. Excellent opportunity to view work conditions and speak to Officers and employees and to witness the professional manner in which the vast amount of work undertaken each day by the Council is dealt with. The re-organisation of office space and departments appears to be most successful.

Member Engagement Session: Housing Enforcement/ Environmental Protection.

Planning Committee: A very long, involved and impassioned meeting because of the planning application by DX which would affect Essington. The application was refused.

20.05.2016 Let's Work Together event which offered 3 modules - the South Staffordshire Cycling Scheme, Listening to Local People about Local Health or Social Care Provision and The Good Life. As always, these sessions aim to promote a healthier and happier life style by signposting people to organisations, clubs, societies, volunteer groups, friendship groups, charities, etc. where they can seek help /advice. The Good Life web site is regularly updated and is worth viewing. Phil Davis and myself also took the opportunity of promoting the Perton Village Show to those attending!

24.05.2016 Member Engagement Session: Licensing

Overview and Scrutiny Committee. A very interesting meeting where the report of the Annual Efficiency and Income Summary was given, questioned and discussed. Also, the half year update on the Challenge Panel progress.

Rita Heseltine.

Cllr R.Moreton said that, aside from items already mentioned, he had attended the launch of the new fire station and said this is a great facility and it is great to have it on our doorstep.

Cllr Mrs P Allen said that 'The Good Life' is a worthwhile project from the District Council and we should support this by displaying their posters. The Clerk said that we already do this but they can be slow in getting new posters to us.

Cllr AA Bourke said that he had attended several meetings including the Annual meeting and reported that he was now a member of the Standards committee.

Cllr NP Caine reported that he was concerned about grass cutting issues at Perton Playing Fields and said he has been appointed to the Audit committee.

## 31/17 **CLERK'S REPORT – JUNE 2016**

Matters ongoing / resolved as at 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2016

### Email Distribution

- 12<sup>th</sup> May From Steve Winterflood SSDC - letter regarding Election costs
- 12<sup>th</sup> May Newsletter from Matthew Ellis, Police and Crime Commissioner
- 12<sup>th</sup> May SSDC Let's Work Together Training Agenda - Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May
- 16<sup>th</sup> May From Wayne Coombe/ Sarah Garner SCC – update on Youth

- 25<sup>th</sup> May Strategy
- 25<sup>th</sup> May From SSDC Sam Osbourne – Summer Sussed Offer
- 3<sup>rd</sup> June From Staffs CC: Rights of Way Guide
- 6<sup>th</sup> June From PPC: Planning Application 16/00430/FUL
- 7<sup>th</sup> June From Paul Lai – Government Petition: Suicide Prevention
- 7<sup>th</sup> June From SSDC Masterclass – New Economic Foundation
- 8<sup>th</sup> June From SSDC Lucy Macdonald – Fly posting issues

#### Other Matters

- Gavin Williamson MP held his surgery on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May, whilst granted free use of the room by the Parish Council, Mr Williamson has insisted that he be invoiced.
- June 'Perton News' update emailed to Perton Place.
- 24<sup>th</sup> May – Children's Playground signs were replaced due to age and poor condition.
- The Chairman is representing Perton Parish Council at Codsall Parish Council Civic Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2016 and South Staffordshire Council's Armed Forces Ceremony on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2016
- Despite a recent reminder we are still awaiting SSDC Quote for future maintenance of the two roundabouts on The Parkway.
- Productive meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> June with Lucy Cox of SCVYS: Lucy is to prepare the proposal in conjunction with Sarah Garner with the objective of securing the remaining youth funding circa £13k. Draft proposal to be submitted to PPC.
- 1% pay rise agreed and implemented wef 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016
- Still awaiting Steve Winterflood response to PPC request regarding possible location of Skate Park adjacent to Muga.
- PCC Matthew Ellis has accepted the PPC invitation to visit and has agreed to attend the meeting on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2016.
- Co-Op Bank and CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund change of signature mandates were completed and posted on 2<sup>nd</sup> June.
- Anders Square planters delivery rescheduled from Sun 12<sup>th</sup> June Wed 15<sup>th</sup> June
- External Audit submission was finalised and posted on 9<sup>th</sup> June.
- Defib Training: To date only eleven 'expressions of interest' have been received in regard to AED /BLS training of which one requires a midweek session, two require midweek evenings, three can attend midweek day or evening and four for Saturday plus one can do any time. Additionally we have still not received a response from our Community Response Officer at WMAS concerning our queries about pricing and potential volunteer liability given that the course is non-certified.
- Verbal report received on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> June concerning a 14 year old child that fell from the climbing frame in the children's playground and sustained a broken arm.
- Reported issue of overgrown bushes at rear of Sandown School which are impacting safe passage of pedestrians along footpath from Anders Sq past rear of school fields.

#### 32/17 PLANNING COMMITTEE

Planning Applications received from South Staffordshire Council and reviewed by the Parish Council Planning Committee since the last Parish Council meeting held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May, 2016.

Application No.	Proposals
16/00299/FUL AMENDED	Proposed two-storey side extension to existing semi-detached dwelling - <b>11 Idonia Road, Perton, Wolverhampton WV6 7NQ</b>

Perton Parish Council raised no objections to the above proposals.

Application No.	Proposals
16/00252/FUL AMENDED	Moving garden boundary treatment closer to the highway to create larger garden - <b>6 Lytham Road, Perton South Staffordshire WV6 7YY</b>

Perton Parish Council has reviewed the amended plan and fails to see how changing the materials of the boundary structure improves the fact that the open aspect will be lost.

Similar retrospective applications have been refused (15/00660/FUL & 13/00532/FUL) and permission given to reinstall the fence 2mtrs back from the pathway.

The Council strongly object to the proposals which are detrimental to the openness of the street scene policy and need to remain to be seen consistent.

**DECISIONS** - The following decisions received from South Staffordshire Council:

Application No.	Proposals	Decision
16/00248/FUL	Demolition of pair of semi-detached dwellings with proposed new dwelling and garage - <b>The New Cottages, Pattingham Road,</b>	<b>GRANTED</b>
16/00306/FUL	Two-storey side extension - <b>8 Cranbrook Grove, Perton</b>	

33/17 **YOUTH STRATEGY: UPDATE**

The Clerk informed the Members that he and four PPC Councillors had met with Lucy Cox of SCVYS on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June and she had been very helpful and agreed to draft the proposal based on our inputs. Once she has completed the document she will need to have it checked by her own management team and then it will be forwarded to us to determine the next steps.

34/17 **PERTON PARKWAY LITTER PICKS – CLLR MRS G DAVIS:**

Cllr Mrs Gillian Davis said that she had received lots of support with the clean for the queen programme and then provided details of the next tidy up events and asked that PPC support her as before. She said that all are invited to be involved and hoped that she would again be allowed to use the PPC litter collecting gear and this was agreed. Cllr R. Moreton observed that when the grass is cut the grass cutters should first clear the site of litter but this seldom happens. Cllr AA Bourke said this is a great idea and noted that the next event was scheduled to start at the Pavilion on 25<sup>th</sup> June and suggested that this was maybe a good time for PPC members to check out the Pavilion issues as previously mentioned by Cllr C Evans. Cllr Mrs P Allen said that there are a number of residents that quietly and regularly clear specific areas of the village and said that these people should be publically thanked and supported. **RESOLVED** that PPC will seek to identify the current independent litter pickers at Perton and offer to make available proper collection tools to aid their efforts.

35/17 **CORRESPONDENCE:**

a) **Toilet Twinning in Africa**

The Members reviewed the letter and a brief discussion followed. Cllr C Evans explained the process of twinning in the context of this request. Cllr R. Moreton said he was



concerned about any possibility of damage occurring to the newly tiled toilet walls and the Clerk agreed that this was a significant point.

**RESOLVED** that the Clerk will respond in writing to the application stating that the Parish Council are happy to support the twinning by displaying the framed certificates but these must be provided to the Clerk's office who will determine final positions and arrange fixing .

**DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING** - Monday 11<sup>th</sup> July 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 8.40pm

**Chairman - 11<sup>th</sup> July, 2016**