



PIRBRIGHT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council meeting held in the Parish Shop on Tuesday 2nd January 2007, at 7.30pm. Present were Cllr Clinton (Chair), Cllr King, Cllr R. Nevins, Cllr Denison, Cllr Jackson, Cllr Michael and Lindsay Graham (Clerk). Cllr M. Nevins, PCSO Catherine Wheeler, Mary Laker and Julian Bohling were also present.

1. To Receive Parishioners' Questions

There were no parishioners' questions.

2. To Receive Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest

2:1 Apologies were received and accepted by the Council from Cllr Richmond, who is on holiday.

2:2 There were no declarations of interest.

3. To Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting

3:1 It was resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 28th November 2006 should be approved, and they were signed by the Chairman.

3:2 Re Item 11, the Clerk told members that an inspection about the diseased horse chestnut tree on the Little Green had been carried out by a third contractor, and on his advice the tree has now been reduced by one third.

4. To Approve Cheques Issued During Previous Month

It was resolved that the list of cheques issued during December as per the attached sheet should be approved and the list was signed by the Chairman.

5. To Discuss Correspondence Sent & Received During Month

5:1 Correspondence summarised as per the attached sheet had been circulated to members.

5:2 Re item 5:3, Cllr King requested more details about the Bakewell legal case and its effect on rights of access across the village green and commons. The Clerk will supply Cllr King with a copy of Mr Taylor's explanatory letter.

5:3 Re item 5:4, Cllr M. Nevins said that the Guildford Local Committee might not necessarily agree with Woking's doubts about whether pedestrian phased traffic lights should be installed at Pirbright Arch. Members agreed that the apparent low numbers of pedestrians and cyclists using the Arch were because of the danger, and that the case for installation of phased lights is worth fighting for. Cllr Nevins will discuss it with Tim Hart, Head teacher of the Village Primary School, and suggested that PPC should attend and speak the meeting of the GLC at which it will be discussed (possibly in March).

5:4 Re Item 5:10, Members considered that Adam Owen's proposal to place logs on each side of the BOAT could be effective in preventing 4 x 4 vehicles and quad bikes from driving on the common.

6. To Discuss Police Matters

6:1 PCSO Catherine Wheeler reported on five crimes in Pirbright village (criminal damage, theft and assault) and seven crimes in Pirbright Camp.

6:2 Cllr M. Nevins said that he had discussed with PC Dave Thomas the nuisance of heavy lorries, many belonging to Royal Mail, speeding over the humps in Cemetery Pales. PC Thomas has asked for information about times, dates and registration numbers of the offending vehicles, perhaps taken over the course of a week. If the case is strong enough, he will contact Royal Mail and ask that the lorries be rerouted.

6:3 Volunteers are currently being trained for Community Speed Watch. The next step is for them to learn to use the equipment at selected sites around the village.

7. To Receive Report of Planning Committee

7:1 The minutes of the meetings held on 28th November and 12th December had already been circulated to members and were accepted by the Parish Council.

7:2 Cllr King told members that appeals against the decision of the Bisley Camp market and extension at #11 The Gardens had both been dismissed.

7:3 Cllr M. Nevins told the Council that a further report about Special Protection Areas in the Thames Basin Heathland is expected from Natural England and that the GBC interim strategy would then be reviewed.

7:4 GBC's enforcement team is investigating the placement of a mobile home in a field at Stoney Castle.

7:5 The enforcement team will be asked to investigate the activities at Rails Field, which are expanding on to MOD land.

7:6 Cllr M. Nevins has visited Mazamboni Farm at Furzehill Place, and reports that there are several issues to be investigated by the enforcement team.

8. To Discuss any Highways Issues

8:1 Trevor Cobley had passed on to the Council an email from Richard Linegar, of the Highways Department, stating that contractors will attend to potholes in Church Lane when they are next in the area, probably in the first week of February. Members agreed to make a list of all outstanding potholes around the parish to be added to the list. Cllr M. Nevins said he would obtain a list of the dates and criteria for work in Pirbright by the Community Gang.

9. To Receive Report of the Hall & Finance Committees

9:1 The minutes of the meeting held on 6th December had been circulated to members and were accepted by the Parish Council.

9:2 Re item 1:6, Cllr Jackson told members that the scheme to collect plastics for recycling had now begun.

10. To Adopt the Audited Accounts for Financial Year 2005-6

10:1 The Parish Council resolved unanimously to adopt the Audited Accounts for the year 2005-6 (proposed by Cllr King and seconded by Cllr Jackson).

10:2 Members noted the recommendation by the Auditors that the Fidelity Guarantee in the insurance policy should be increased in line with financial holdings. The Clerk reported that this has now been done, with an increase to £75,000.

11. To Approve Precept for Financial Year 2007-8

Members unanimously approved the Precept for the Financial Year of 2007-8 at £39,269, giving a class D rate of £32.78 (proposed by Cllr King and seconded by Cllr R. Nevins).

12. To Approve Remedial Work in the Playground

12:1 Copies of alternative proposals for improving the ground surface in the playground had been distributed the members.

12:2 The Council resolved to accept the estimate of £3,713 from K. Watts Construction Ltd.

13. To Receive Report of Sandpits Committee

13:1 Cllr Michael reported that the PPC and PTC solicitors are in touch and matters are moving along.

14. To Discuss Interim Improvements to the Sandpits Car Park

14:1 The Parish Council has received complaints about the potholes and general condition of the car park at the site, but it was resolved that nothing could be done until the area is owned by PPC.

14:2 Mr Taylor will need to be consulted about the Parish Council's legal responsibilities for public safety in the car park.

15. To Discuss Flood Control

15:1 The Clerk reported on a telephone conversation with Dennis Batchelor of GBC, who has been in touch with several landowners, including the MOD, about maintenance of ditches. The work carried out in Vapery Lane appears to be improving the problem there, although a watch will be maintained. Mr Batchelor has now confirmed that it is the legal responsibility of riparian owners to be responsible for ditches, allowing water to enter, flow through and leave their land. Cllr M. Nevins said that the proposals in the original report on the floods of 13th August from Mr Batchelor have now been scrapped and a new report is awaited.

15:2 The Council resolved to arrange a meeting during February between Mr Batchelor and affected residents to discuss further measures.

16. To Discuss the Newsletter

16:1 The Chairman, Cllr King and the Clerk will be meeting members of the Parochial Church Council on Monday evening to discuss the newsletter in order to find a way of separating the Church News from the Parish Council and other village news, so that they might be printed on the Internet. An extra factor will be the need to meet the requirement of a Parish Council newsletter if PPC decides to apply for Quality Council status some time in the future.

16:2 It was resolved to listen to the PCC suggestions at the meeting and report back to the Parish Council at the 30th January meeting.

16:3 Items for the newsletter will include the new PPC websites, flood control, recycling and Community Speed Watch.

17. To Receive Councillors' Questions

17:1 Cllr Nevins has offered £2,500 from his allocation towards making improvements at Fox Corner. These could include replacement of damaged signs, improvements to the parking area in Berry Lane and replacement and resiting of the notice board. It was agreed that the Chairman would walk the area with Julian Bohling and draw up a list of suggestions to be passed on to Cllr Nevins.

17:2 Fox Corner residents are being affected by blocked road drains near Rickford Mill on the A322 (in Worplesdon parish). Cllr M. Nevins confirmed that this had been reported to GBC.

17:3 Cllr Jackson reported that trees in Cemetery Pales, opposite "Mowbray" are hanging on the telephone lines. This will be reported to SCC and GBC.

17:4 The Chairman asked members to consider whether they intend to stand again in the election in May, the end of the current term of the Council. An item will be placed in the newsletter asking residents to consider standing at the election.

The meeting ended at 9.20pm.