



PIRBRIGHT PARISH COUNCIL

Highways & Environment Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd July 2008 in the Parish Shop at 7.30pm.
Those present were Cllr R. Nevins, Cllr J. Bohling Cllr R. Richmond, Cllr A. King, Cllr B. Clinton, Cllr J. Standing and Lindsay Graham (Clerk).

1. To Elect a Chairman of the Committee

Cllr A. King was unanimously elected as the Chairman of the Committee.

2. To Receive Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest on Any Agenda Item below

2:1 There were no apologies for absence.

2:2 Cllr King made a personal declaration of interest on item 6.

3. To Review the Terms of Reference for the Committee

Some minor amendments to the Terms of Reference were proposed and will be agreed at the next meeting.

4. To Discuss Flooding Issues

4:1 The Clerk had read the executive summary of the independent review conducted by Sir Michael Pitt on the 2007 summer floods in parts of England. Some of the conclusions are of a general nature and could therefore be applied to Pirbright.

- *The Environment Agency should be a national overview of all flood risk, including surface water and groundwater flood risk, with immediate effect.*
- *The Government should develop a single set of guidance for local authorities and the public on the use and usefulness of sandbags and other alternatives, rather than leaving the matter wholly to local discretion*
- *Property-level resistance and resilience can also help minimise damage from floodwaters. Resistance measures are aimed at keeping water out of buildings, or at least minimising the amount that enters by the use of barriers such as door guards to seal entry points. Resilience measures are aimed at minimising the damage when a building is flooded, thereby facilitating the quickest possible recovery*
- *The Review was unable to obtain any significant evidence that sandbags were particularly effective during the 2007 summer floods in providing protection to individual households.*

4:2 Worplesdon Parish Council will be holding a flood-information fair on 12th September and has invited Pirbright, Normandy and Ash to participate and publicise it in their parishes. Members considered the request by Worplesdon PC's clerk to contribute financially and this will be decided by the next meeting of the Hall & Finance Committees. It was also agreed to place an entry in the September issue of PeriNews and to contact individual residents who might be at risk from flooding.

5. To Approve the Work for the Sandpits Car Park

Members have accepted the principle of the revised scheme to incorporate keyhole kerbing along the demarcation line between the right of way and car park and apply planings to the surface in preference to tarmac. However it was agreed to conduct a site visit on **Thursday 24th July at 7pm** to determine the exact area of the car park before the work is commissioned.

6. To Discuss Tree Maintenance on Parish-owned Land

6:1 A neighbouring resident at the Sandpits site has expressed concerns about an oak tree that overhangs the track and her front garden. Members agreed that the Parish Council would remove dead wood from the tree and the discretionary work of crown lifting and trimming would also be considered if the resident offered a financial contribution.

6:2 Members agreed that the Parish Council's policy should be to conduct an annual review of all trees on the Green and Sandpits and remove dead wood where health and safety is an issue.

7. To Consider the HGV Ban Proposed for Cobbett Hill

7:1 Members of the Guildford Local Committee approved the proposal for a 7.5 tonne weight restriction of HGVs for Cobbett Hill Road at its meeting on 18th June 2008.

However, Derek Lake has subsequently contacted the Parish Council to state that there is no funding for this project in the current financial year. It will add it to the list for next year, and he is sure that the Committee will approve this. The HGV ban will then be formally advertised and any formal objections received at that stage would have to go back to the committee if officers cannot resolve them.

7:2 Members agreed that this gives time for Pirbright to mount objections to the proposal and prepare a petition in support of the objections.

8. To Review the Work on the Malthouse Lane BOAT

The remedial work on the BOAT has been completed to a high standard. The next stage is the legal process for implementing the Traffic Restriction Order, which begins by publishing a Notice of Intention to 8th August. The objection period lasts until 8th September and representations will be reported back to the October meeting of the GLC, at which the final decision will be made on whether the BOAT will be closed to vehicular traffic.

9. To Review Ongoing Maintenance Issues

9:1 An up-to-date table of ongoing maintenance issues had been circulated to members, who were concerned about the items that had been reported to SCC Highways but were yet unresolved. These include blocked gulleys along Cemetery Pales and The Green as well as the uncut verge in Billesdon Road, although this might be due to lack of agreement with the MoD about responsibility.

9:2 The table will be updated regularly and resolved items now removed from it.

The meeting ended at 9.05pm.

Signed.....

Date.....