



PIRBRIGHT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council meeting held in the Parish Shop on Tuesday 6th January 2009, at 7.30pm. Present were Cllr R. Nevins (Chairman), Cllr J. Bohling, Cllr B. Clinton, Cllr M. Jackson, Cllr A. King, Cllr R. Richmond, Cllr J. Standing and Lindsay Graham (Clerk).

1. To Receive Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr M. Nevins and PCSO Catherine Wheeler.

2. To Receive Members' Declarations of Interest on Any Agenda Item Below

Cllr King made a personal declaration re Item 8:2.

3. To Approve Minutes of the Previous Meeting as a True Record

It was resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday 25th November 2008 should be approved and the Chairman signed them.

4. Police Matters—To Receive Reports of Crime in the Parish

No report was available.

5. Communications—To Discuss Communications Sent & Received Since the Previous Meeting

A summary of items 5:1-5:17 had been circulated in advance to members.

5:1 GBC (Keith Chesterton, Chair Guildford Walking Forum) has written about Walkfest 2009, to take place between Saturday 18th July and Sunday 2nd August. Members approved the route proposed and tested by the Chairman and Clerk. The Clerk will attend the meeting to discuss details with GBC on 7th January.

5:2 Mr Taylor (Hedleys) has responded to PPC's queries about use of the Sandpits car park and the discrepancy about the width of the SWT right of way. He confirmed that it would be possible for the Parish Council to lay down rules for use of the car park, including the maximum length of stay. Members discussed this issue in more detail under item 8:2.

5:3 PPC has responded to Surrey Wildlife Trust's complaints that parked cars are still blocking the Trust's right of way across the Sandpits site, explaining the various issues faced by the Council and suggesting the demarcation of a hatched area at the SWT entrance. SWT has replied, asking about the area of the site to be top dressed.

5:4 PPC has replied to a complaint about the reduction in the area of the Sandpits site allowed for parked cars, explaining some of the background to the use of the site and that the new arrangement is in order to comply with the legal requirement to keep the rights of way clear.

5:5 PPC has written to thank the Heathland Project for Christmas trees supplied for Lord Pirbright's Hall and the Parish Shop.

5:6 The Royal Surrey County Hospital has written to seek support for its campaign to seek NHS Foundation Trust Status, and offering an opportunity to members to seek more information if they wish.

5:7 GBC (Electoral Services) has made a provisional booking for LPH on 4th June 2009 for the European Parliamentary and Surrey County Council Elections.

5:8 PPC has written to SCC (Countryside Legal Team) to express concerns about the decision by the Planning and Regulatory Committee not to proceed with the permanent close of the Malthouse Lane BOAT, stressing the lack of attempt to test the recommendation against the six specific criteria laid down under the Road Traffic Regulation Act of 1984. Members discussed this item and the SCC reply under item 8:4.

5:9 PPC has written to a resident of Mill Lane to request that overhanging foliage should be trimmed outside his property. No reply has yet been received, but members agreed to wait a little while longer before pursuing it because of the current icy weather.

5:10 PPC has again asked GBC why the multiplying formula applied to the Band D calculation for the parish's council tax in 2009/10 has decreased from 2008/9. The reply was inconclusive although it does appear to vary through the MoD contribution.

5:11 GBC has invited PPC to attend a "community assembly" on Thursday 5th February 2009 (2-5pm) as part of the Guildford Local Strategic Partnership. The vision from the event will inform the development of the Sustainable Guildford Strategy and Guildford Development Framework and assist in identifying the principal challenges and issues to be addressed. It was not certain that any PPC member would be available to attend.

5:12 Knowl Hill School has invited members to its 25th anniversary celebrations on Wednesday 28th January. Cllr R. Nevins and Cllr A. King will attend.

5:13 Cllr Glynis Preshaw (Brookwood member on Woking BC) and a frustrated commuter have notified PPC about continued late openings of the Cemetery entrance to Brookwood Station. It is definitely the responsibility of SW Trains to ensure the door is opened on time, with backup (not always available) from Cemetery staff. Cllr Preshaw is pursuing the matter with SW Trains.

5:14 A regular bus user, who campaigned for the restoration of the stop near Swallow Pond, has reported that some drivers will not stop on the run to Guildford. There is no physical stop on that side of the road but a notice on the pond side does state that buses will also stop opposite. This has been passed on to SCC and has already been acknowledge for action.

5:15 A resident who uses a mobility scooter has requested SCC to install dropped kerbs at points near the school and at the end of Blind Lane.

5:16 Pedestrians in School Lane have commented that a replacement lamp standard has been installed too far into the footway and presents a hazard. It does line up with one further down towards the traffic lights but the footway is wider at that point. Members agreed that the issue should be raised with SCC Highways.

5:17 The Department for Communities & Local Government has sent a consultative document about the Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity and invites comments for submission by 12th March 2009.

5:18 Representatives of Pirbright Tennis Club (Nick Williams and George Scott) visited the Parish Council informally on 9th December in its role as landowners of part of the Sandpits site, and therefore neighbours of the club, to inform PPC's members about the club's intention to create a third court on the site. No opinion or comment could be made by members about the proposal until official plans are received from GBC for consideration by PPC's Planning Committee.

6. *Hall & Finance*

To Approve Cheques Issued During December

The list of cheques issued during December was approved and signed by the Chairman.

7. *Planning*

To Receive the Minutes of the Planning Committee

Minutes of the meetings held on 25th November and 9th December had been circulated to members. Cllr Bohling commented that the various objections for extensions at Spring Acre in Rowe Lane had now been addressed. An extension at 9 Bullswater Common Road that had been resubmitted was still considered too large.

8. *Highways & Environment*

8:1 To Receive the Minutes of the Highways & Environment Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 9th December had been distributed to members in advance. Cllr Bohling had expressed concern that it had been necessary to postpone one of the items to a future meeting and suggested that the remit of the committee might be too large. Members agreed that this should be fully assessed at the annual meeting of the Parish Council in May.

8:2 To Consider Parking at the Sandpits Site

8:2:1 Following the advice received from Mr Taylor (item 5:2), members agreed unanimously to restrict all-day parking at the Sandpits site. A new sign will be erected stating that parking is for tennis court users only and other users should be restricted a maximum stay of 2 hours.

8:2:2 No firm decision has yet been taken about when the car park will be top dressed but members agreed that it is unlikely that the right of way beyond the drain would be included.

8:3 To Agree the Strategy for Future Improvements for Road Safety

8:3:1 Members resolved unanimously to accept that Pirbright Arch improvements have taken up Phase II of the safety scheme and also agreed the policy that future road-safety improvements will be prioritised and separately addressed.

8:3:2 A chart of items listed under Phase II has been reconfigured to reflect the new policy and will be considered in detail at the next meeting of the committee.

8:4 To Discuss the Resolutions Made by the Guildford Local Committee on Safety Improvements at Pirbright Arch and Countryside Access

8:4:1 Members welcomed the proposals agreed for the improvements at Pirbright Arch, scheduled for February 2009.

8:4:2 Although SCC’s Countryside Legal Team’s manager has justified the refusal to implement a Traffic Regulation Order on the Malthouse Lane BOAT, the discussion on Countryside Access at the recent GLC meeting suggest that the policy might be reviewed and that members of the committee would support more strenuous action to protect BOATs.

8:5 To Agree a Date for the Next Meeting of the Committee

It was agreed that the next committee meeting should be held on Tuesday, 10th February 2009.

9. Transfer of Gas Governor Lease

The legal documents for the transfer of the lease from NG Gas to Southern Gas Networks were signed by the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Clerk.

10. Football goal posts

The Parish Council formally accepted custody of the football goal posts from Pirbright Football Club. One of the posts is now in place on the former football pitch for informal play.

11. Newsletter

To Consider Items for the February Issue

Items will include thanks to the football club for the goal posts, an update on the cemetery gate at Brookwood Station, with a suggestion that problems should continue to be reported to PPC.

12. Chairman’s Conclusion

12:1 The children’s party, organised with the Parochial Church Council on 30th November, was a great success and likely to be repeated next year. Several delightful thank-you notes, written and illustrated by children, have been received.

12:2 The Chairman announced that the Social Club on the Green will officially close on 31st January. It has been confirmed that the site has been purchased by the Primary Care Trust with the intention of transferring the medical practice there. It is believed that this would also enable the creation of a pharmacy and other medical treatment rooms.

12:3 A sum of £10,000 has been received by Surry County Council from the Institute of Animal Health, made under Section 106, for ongoing painting and other maintenance of Pirbright Arch.

12:4 A grant of £2.5K is still available from Cllr M. Nevins’s GLC budget for minor improvements at Fox Corner, which should be agreed as soon as possible.

12:5 A Village Watch Newsletter, covering Worplesdon and Normandy, is calling for stringent enforcement against planning violations. It is feared that the dwellings that have been built without planning permission may be allowed to stay in order to comply with SCC’s requirement to create more sites for Travellers’ dwellings. Cllr M. Nevins has recommended PPC to watch out for early signs of similar activity within Pirbright parish.

12:6 Members approved the calendar of meeting dates for 2009.

12:7 The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on 27th January 2009.

The meeting ended at 8.50pm.

Signed.....

Date.....