



PIRBRIGHT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council on 24 June 2014 in the Parish Shop at 7.30 pm.

Members present: Cllr R. Nevins (Chairman) Cllr M. Jackson
Cllr S. Fidgett Cllr C. Newman
Cllr M. Hobbs Cllr Richmond

In attendance: L. Graham (Clerk) and Cllr Witham (SCC).

1. **To Receive Members' Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr E. Eason and Cllr G. Jackson (GBC)

2.

2:1 To Receive Members' Declarations of Interest on Any Agenda Item below

There were no members' declarations of interest.

3. **MINUTES**

3:1 To Approve the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

ACTION: *it was resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 20 May 2014 should be approved and the Chairman signed them.*

3:2 To Receive the Clerk's Report (for information, unless further action is specified)

3:2:1 External Audit of Annual Return: the return for the year 2013-14 has been signed off by BDO, with no adverse comments.

ACTION: *the Annual Return will be formally adopted at the next meeting.*

3:2:2 Scarecrow Festival: despite the extremely wet conditions the previous weekend, the weather for the Festival was good and very well attended with few problems, apart from ground conditions in the Manor Field eventually proving too soft to cope with the demand for parking. The uneven base of the old Green Hut was covered by wood chippings supplied free by a local contractor, and edged with hay bales supplied by Cllr Fidgett.

ACTION: *the deposit bonds for LPH and the Green will be returned to the PPCC intact. Members congratulated Cllr Newman, Cllr Hobbs and their families for their fire-breathing dragon entry, which won a prize.*

3:2:3 Estate Agents advertising boards: while the Waterfalls boards advertising the Scarecrow Festival were in compliance with GBC's regulations, those erected by Foundations for the School fair appear not to be, with too much space allocated for advertising the estate agent, not the event.

ACTION: *to write to the school and Foundations estate agents, reminding them of the regulations.*

3:2:4 Love Where You Live Campaign: PPC's request that signs around the parish should be cleaned has been acknowledged by GBC and added to the programme of works.

4. **REPORTS (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)**

4:1 To Receive Reports of Crime in the Parish

No member of the Police was available to attend the meeting but crime statistics for the period 12/5/14 - 24/6/14 include seven crimes for the parish: one criminal damage, two robberies, two thefts from motor vehicles and two other offences. There were three non-crimes: one vulnerable adult report and two others (including drink drive and drunkenness offences).

4:2 To Receive Reports from the County and Borough Councillors

Cllr Witham has raised concerns with the Guildford Local Committee about the potential effects of the new Local Plan in the Worplesdon division and has arranged for the Chief Executive of SCC to visit the ward to take part in a Q & A session, to which members of PPC have been invited.

4:3 To Receive Updates on Activities at Lord Pirbright's Hall

4:3:1 The New Green Hut: amended plans and building control drawings have been submitted to GBC for the smaller hut (55 sq. m).

4:3:2 Bee colony: a swarm of bees arrived at the Hall over the weekend and has settled in an airbrick above the stage. Professional advice has been sought from a local bee keeper and a pest control firm, who have both suggested various options, including the possibility that the bees will move on naturally because they will need more space. In the meantime, the internal air brick has been covered with mesh, to prevent the bees from coming inside the building.

5. COMMUNICATIONS

To Consider Communications Sent & Received Since the Previous Meeting

GBC & SCC issues

5:1 Advertisement at Burners Heath: a local resident has queried the validity of an advertising banner for the Volvo dealership, placed on the heath near the Swallow Corner roundabout.

ACTION: *the query was passed on to both SCC (as landowners) and GBC (the planning authority that authorises such advertisements). The banner has now been removed.*

5:2 Flooding in Vapery Lane: a resident has written to GBC to complain about the slowness of agreed actions re ditches etc. that might have helped to prevent the flooding in the lane after the heavy rainfall on 13-14 June.

ACTION TAKEN: *Cllr G. Jackson has contacted the resident with reassurance that he will talk to officers at GBC to ensure that everything that realistically can be done is being done as soon as possible. Cllr Witham has stated that he will ensure that SCC responsibilities are being undertaken, and in accordance with the agreement between the resident and the Community Highways Officer for works to be carried out in the autumn. The CHO also visited the area this week.*

ACTION: *for further discussion under 8:7.*

5:3 Heath Mill Lane: the resident who was trying to persuade SCC to undertake repairs along the lane has now accepted that the responsibility lies with all the adjoining landowners and frontagers, some of whom would like to improve the surface while others would not.

For information

Other topics

5:4 Affordable housing: English Rural has provided information about a two-bedroom house soon to be available for rent in Cowbridge Meadow. Applicants apply directly to the Association, which draws up a short list of candidates, whose local connection will be verified by the Parish Council in due course.

For information

5:5 Twinning Vin d'Honneur: PPC has written to thank Jim and Jadwiga Grimshaw for their hard work in organising the event.

For information

5:6 Military activity in upper Mill Lane: a resident has raised concerns about military activity on the unrestricted part of MoD land at the end of Mill Lane, involving the use of firearms firing blanks. She fully appreciates the right of the MoD to conduct exercises in the area but wonders if a warning system, such as a red flag, might be implemented to prevent horse riders and walkers being exposed to sounds of the shooting.

ACTION: *to refer the issue to Major Miller who rides in the area, and ask about the protocol.*

5:7 Parish Projects 1: GBC has sent notification that applications will be required soon for Concurrent Grant Aid Schemes.

ACTION: *it was agreed to obtain quotes for improvements to the drainage and surface of the Sandpits car park and for the walk ways around the new Green Hut for approval as G.A. projects.*

Parish Projects 2: Pirbright Institute (Steve Oliver) has invited ideas for small village projects that could be undertaken by the new contractors for the next stage of construction for the Institute's new buildings.

ACTION: *to suggest repairs to benches on the Green plus a picnic table for the play area.*

6. **FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES**

6:1 To Approve PPC Payments Made During the Previous Month

ACTION: Members approved the schedule of payments for June and the Chairman signed it.

7. **PLANNING**

7:1 To Receive the Minutes of the Planning Committee

ACTION: Members received the minutes of the meetings held on 20 May and 10 June 2014.

7:2 To Finalise the Extraordinary Meeting on 30/6/14 about the Pirbright Institute Application

ACTION: the Chairman signed the agenda for the extraordinary meeting, which will be sent to the applicants, local residents and neighbouring parish councils, who have all expressed concerns about the scale of the proposals.

8. **HIGHWAYS & ENVIRONMENT**

8:1 To Receive an Update on the Progress of the Village Road Safety Scheme Phase 2

There are three areas remaining to be done as part of the scheme—Church Lane, the pedestrian refuge near Lord Pirbright's Hall and installation of a VAS in Gole Rd.

8:2 To Agree the Land Ownership & Siting of the Footway for a Pedestrian Refuge near LPH

Documents make it clear that the strip between the A324 and LPH grounds is village green, under the trusteeship of PPC, with Highways retaining 1m strip along the edge.

8:3 To Receive a Report on the SDR and VAS

Cllr Hobbs reported that the SDR has been up near White Hart for three weeks and he will erect the VAS there soon. The SDR will then be moved to Church Lane at the end of the one way system.

8:4 To Review the Policy Permitting Fishing on the Pond on the Village Green

Members considered the current policy, introduced in 2007, that permits children to fish on the pond throughout the year. Initially the policy was a great success, attracting young people of varying ages, and there were no obvious problems. It was recognised that some small children should be supervised for safety reasons so adults, provided they had children with them, were not excluded. However after some time adults appeared on the pond without children and were hostile if asked to leave. Lines began to be left with hooks caught in the undergrowth, raising concerns that ducks and geese might be injured by them.

DECISION: Members agreed to install signs around the pond, stating a closed season from 15 March - 15 June and restricting fishing to children (and supervisory adults) at other times.

8:5 To Receive a Report on the Research into the Rights of Way on the Sandpits Site

A local lawyer, who gave informal advice on the deeds for rights of way and use of the car park on the Sandpits site, although the precise width of the SWT right of way is still to be resolved.

Issues resolved were:

1. The individual rights of way are indeed different for SWT from Bexon and the Old School House.
2. The portion of repairs to the right of way to be paid by SWT and other users should be no more than the amounts specified in the deeds and in proportion to their individual rights of way.
3. The specification for 20 car parking spaces in clause 3 and definition of buildings applied to an old lease that was superseded by the sale of the former media resource centre to SWT.
4. The car park may have general use.

ACTION: to arrange a meeting with SWT and tennis club.

8:6 To Approve Tree Works in the LPH Recreation Ground

8:6:1 Two contractors have quoted for different degrees of tree works in the LPH recreation ground. Members noted that some of the work has already been carried out under a 5-day notice to GBC, to ensure the safety of those attending the Scarecrow Festival.

ACTION: to obtain a like for like quote for the higher level of work to be carried out.

8:6:2 Concerns have been raised about the safety of a large tree on private land, which is leaning by a considerable amount over the Hodge Brook and Mill Lane.

ACTION: to write to the land owner to enquire if the tree has been assessed by a tree surgeon.

8:7 To Discuss the Recent Flooding in the Parish

The heavy rain that fell overnight on 13 June caused flooding in many of the usual places across the parish, including Mill Lane, Vapery Lane, Thompson's' Close, Fox Corner and Stanley Hill. Several residents took photographs and the Community Highways Officer visited Vapery Lane to look at the problems there. It is likely that enforcement notices will be sent to riparian owners to ensure their ditches are cleaned and a culvert in School Lane will be investigated.

ACTION: the flooding will included on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting of the Flood Forum.

9. NEWSLETTER

To Agree Items for the August Issue

The Pirbright Institute Master Plan and the consultation on the Guildford Borough new Local Plan will be items for the August issue.

10. CHAIRMAN'S CONCLUSION

10:1 To Receive the Chairman's Notices and Member' Questions

10:1:1 Power to sell electricity: the national co-ordinator for Local Works has written to ask PPC to submit a proposal under the draft Sustainable Communities Act asking for the government to give all parish and town councils the right to sell electricity that they generate from local schemes.

ACTION: members suggested that the chairman reply stating that PPC does not have appropriate facilities to become involved in this scheme.

10:1:2 Surrey CC cricket: GBC has agreed that tickets for forthcoming county matches in Guildford may be offered to members.

10:1:3 Armed Forces Week: the Chairman attended the ceremony for Raising of the Flag for Armed Forces Week and gave details of the Freedom Parade up Guildford High Street by the 3rd Battalion, the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, on Armed Forces Day.

ACTION: the Union flag to be put up at LPH on Saturday.

10:2 To Note Items for Inclusion on the Agenda for the Next Meeting (29/7/14)

The Pirbright Institute Master Plan, the new Guildford Local Plan, adoption of the Annual Statement 2013-14 and approval of grant aid projects will all be items for inclusion at the next meeting.

The meeting ended at 9.23pm.

Signed.....

Date.....