

# PIRBRIGHT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting on held 28 April 2015 in the Parish Shop at 7.30 pm.

Members present: Cllr R. Nevins (Chairman) Cllr M. Jackson

Cllr E. Eason Cllr C. Newman Cllr S. Fidgett Cllr R. Richmond

Cllr M. Hobbs

In attendance: L. Graham (Clerk)

# 1. To Receive Members' Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr K. Witham (SCC) and Cllr G. Jackson (GBC).

2. To Receive Members' Declarations of Interest on Any Agenda Item below No Declarations of Interest were received.

#### 3. MINUTES

#### 3:1 To Approve the Minutes of the Meetings Held in the Previous Month

**ACTION:** the Chairman signed the minutes of the meetings held on 31 March and 14 April 2015, which were unanimously approved by Members.

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

- **3:2:1 Independent Internal Audit:** the independent internal audit of the accounts and governance has been arranged for Wednesday 6 May.
- **3:2:2 Bench repairs:** the contractors installing gas pipes for the Pirbright Institute redevelopment have repaired two of the derelict benches on the Green pro bono, as a community project.
- **3:2:3 Extension of the Green Licence:** GBC has stated that inclusion of the playing fields in the licensed area of the Green cannot be considered a minor variation and an application for a full variation or a new premises licence would be required. The organisers of the Scarecrow Festival have now agreed to move the location of the dog show on to the main Green. The GBC Licensing Compliance officer has offered to make a site visit and offer advice for future events.
- **3:2:4 Tree felling:** four trees around the Green have been felled with consent from GBC under the dead/dying/dangerous provision of Section 212 of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990.

### 4. REPORTS (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)

# 4:1 To Receive Reports of Crime in the Parish

No reports were received.

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

None were received because the councillors had made their reports to the Annual Parish Meeting on the previous evening.

# 4:3 To Receive a Report on Activities at Lord Pirbright's Hall

The work to construct the new Green Hut began on schedule on 20 April and the grounds works have been completed. Members were concerned to hear about the theft of a hired dumper truck from the site. It is hoped that the project will be completed by September.

# 4:4 To Receive the Minutes of the PeriNews Review Meeting

Following a meeting attended by Cllr Nevins and Clerk with members of the PPCC and PeriNews production team, a quote has been obtained to print a separate pull-out calendar of the month's events for distribution with each newsletter.

**ACTION:** it had been suggested that local businesses might sponsor the sheet, but members felt this might prove difficult and the cost is too high. The print of the calendar has been increased to 9pt for the May edition and it was proposed that a limited number could be printed for people to pick up at the Church. It could also be uploaded to the Parish and Church websites.

#### 5. COMMUNICATIONS

# 5:1 GBC & SCC issues

**5:1(1) Gole Road safety measures:** in response to a request from Cllr Hobbs, SCC's Highways Engineer will arrange for vegetation to be cut back to improve visibility for pedestrians, as part of the safety scheme. His colleague, who oversees the maintenance of VAS in the county, has also advised him that there is a [replacement] VAS available, which will be put up at the new location. The total funding available should be adequate for a new VAS facing the opposite direction. **ACTION:** for further discussion under 8:1.

**5:1(2) Ethical Standards:** GBC is providing training for GBC & Parish Councillors and Clerks. **ACTION:** it was agreed that the clerk might attend with the new member when appointed.

**5:1(3)** Registration of disclosable pecuniary interests: GBC's Democratic Services Manager has sent a reminder about the requirement for returning members and co-opted members of the new Parish Council to complete a register of interests form, so that it may be uploaded to the PPC website, with a link from the GBC website.

ACTION: for further discussion under 10:3.

**5:1(4) Playground equipment:** GBC has finally given the go-ahead for purchase and installation of a trampoline in the LPH children's playground, to be funded from a s106 agreement. *For information* 

**5:1(5) Parish & Town Ward programme:** GBC has invited suggestions for tasks to be done by a two-man crew during two days of work, such as washing signs or preparing an area for wild flora, that would not usually be included in regular street cleaning or parks & countryside duties. **ACTION:** for further discussion next month—applications have to be submitted by 26 June.

#### 5:2 Other issues

**5:2(1) Pirbright Institute Redevelopment:** the Institute's Director of Capability has sent PPC a Memorandum of Understanding, instead of a Section 106 agreement on the recommendation of GBC's planning case officer. It details how the Institute & PPC could identify and collaborate on future projects in the village, as the Masterplan develops, by assisting with one local project for every major new building (over 1000 sq.m.) to be built on the site, over a period of 15 years. **ACTION:** for further discussion under 7:2.

**5:2(3) Jay Miller's Circus**: the circus would now like to visit from 17-20 September. **ACTION**: members agreed to this change of date, subject to suitable ground conditions.

**5:2(4) The Old Forge:** the developer is anticipating that completion of the houses will be at the end April, but has raised concerns about ownership of the grass verge alongside Greengates, which is currently used for casual parking with no one taking responsibility for its ownership. He is proposing installation of a low key landscaping/turfing solution, possibly behind bollards. **ACTION:** members suggested that the area could be kept for parking, which is at a premium in this area, and that shingle could be laid to make it good, in preference to installation of bollards.

**5:2(5) Fishing on the pond:** a member of the public has emailed to ask about PPC's authority and its reasons for banning fishing on the pond on the Green.

**ACTION:** the Clerk has explained that the area to which the correspondent refers is land owned by the parish of Pirbright and that it is registered as village green under the trusteeship of PPC. A report to explain the background to the ban was attached to the response.

**5:2(6) Concrete posts on the cricket ground:** a member of the public has emailed to comment on the condition of a concrete post near the cricket ground, stating that it is a health and safety risk.

**ACTION:** the groundsman will be asked either to make the post safe or to remove it completely.

**5:2(7) Sandpits rights of way:** the owners of Bexon have written to request a reduction in their obligation to pay 15% of the maintenance charges on the access track to their property. **ACTION:** for discussion under item 8:3.

#### 5:3 Issues raised at the Annual Parish Meeting

**5:3:1 Trees:** several questions were raised about the tree felling around the Green and one resident praised the contractor for his expertise. Other residents were concerned at lack of notification [although it was shown as an agenda item for the March meeting] and would have preferred the trees to be pollarded or otherwise maintained to extend their lives. [The Parish Council was satisfied that correct procedures had been followed in obtaining advice from several sources and applying to GBC for consent to fell.]

**ACTION:** Members were reminded that another Horse Chestnut on the little Green, diagnosed with ganoderma, had received two picus tests to detect the extent of the disease; it was then pollarded in 2006 and finally felled in 2011, at a total cost of £2010. However, notices of intent to fell might be fixed to affected trees if the situation arises again.

**5:3:2 Blind Lane water logging:** the lane was wet, muddy and almost impassable in places during the winter and one resident suggested that the surface should be raised. [This would need to be done by the landowner.]

**5:3:3 New play equipment:** when would it be installed? [It will need to be done to fit in with the work on the new Green Hut.]

**5:3:4 Litter:** it was suggested that residents form a work party to litter pick around the parish. [This was not well supported in the past.]

#### 6. FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES

**6:1 To Approve Payments Made in March & April 2015 & Bank Reconciliations for the month ACTION:** Members approved the payments schedules for March & April and they were signed by the Chairman, with the bank reconciliations and submission of the month's PAYE return to HMRC.

**6:2 To Approve the Financial Report and the Receipts & Payments Accounts for 2014-15 ACTION:** Members approved the financial report and receipts & payments accounts for 2014-15.

#### 7. PLANNING

7:1 To Receive the Submissions on Applications of the Planning Committee
Submissions on recent applications were included in the minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting (3:1).

**7:2 To Discuss the Pirbright Institute's Masterplan & Memorandum of Understanding**Members welcomed the proposed MoU and its commitment to undertake projects to be benefit of community, but considered that the scale and nature of any contribution sought should be related fairly to the scale of development at the Institute.

**ACTION:** discussions will be required to assess what would be reasonable to expect, in comparison with community infrastructure levies. It is hoped that contributions might include measures to cope with extra traffic generated across the parish, and projects such as the Sandpits car park surfacing.

# 8. <u>HIGHWAYS & ENVIRONMENT</u>

8:1 To Receive an Update on the Road Safety Scheme Phase 2, including Gole Road

**8:1:1** Cllr Richmond reported that the installation of the pedestrian refuge in Guildford Road, near LPH had been postponed because it cannot be finished in time for the election on 7 May.

ACTION: Cllr Hobbs will contact SCC for the new start date.

8:1:2 The plans for new measures near Cowshott Bridge in Gole Road are now under way.

# 8:2 To Receive a Report on the SDR and VAS

The SDR is soon to be installed in Gole Rd near Goal Farm.

# 8:3 To Review the Progress on Resolving Issues at the Sandpits Site

Following PPC's decision at the March meeting to proceed with the scheme, based on an access track 6m wide with marked spaces for 22-23 vehicles, SWT has accepted the proposal as a working solution, while maintaining its legal right of way as 8m wide.

**ACTION:** to respond welcoming SWT's acceptance of the scheme with assurance that use of the bays along the middle of the site will monitored and reviewed if problems are caused. The next step will be to secure quotes for repairs and resurfacing work. Further discussions will then be required with all the rights of way holders about their contribution to the costs.

# 9. **NEWSLETTER**

# To Agree Items for the June Issue

A plea for care over bonfires after the heathland fires on the ranges, news about the refurbished benches and encouragement to residents to submit comments online to GBC about the Pirbright Institute, will be items for the June newsletter.

# 10. CHAIRMAN'S CONCLUSION

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

The Chairman and Clerk have been invited to attend the Magna Carta celebrations at Runnymede.

# 10:2 To Note Items for Inclusion on the Agenda for the Next Meeting (19/05/15)

Because of a previous engagement for the Magna Carta, the Chairman requested that the date of Annual Meeting changed to Monday 18 May. The agenda will include nominations for the Chairman and members of committees, plus ideas for future projects to be carried out by the Parish Council and cleaning projects for the GBC scheme.

#### 10:3 To Discuss Governance Processes for the New Parish Council

Members noted the memo from GBC about the requirement to register their disclosable pecuniary interests before taking office in the new Parish Council on Monday 11 May.

The meeting ended at 8.50pm.	
Signed	Date

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