

PILNING & SEVERN BEACH PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting held on Monday 2nd June 2008, commencing at 7.00 pm,
at SEVERN BEACH School

COUNCILLORS Mr I Humphries (Chairman), Mr J Black, Mrs N Bendall,
PRESENT (9) Mrs N Chappell, Mr S Cooper, Mr D Humphries,
 Mr D Nethercott, Mr N Webb, Mrs C Woodhouse.
 + Mr I Roberts.

Also Present:- J C Rawlinson (Clerk), Mr P Tyzack (South Glos Councillor) and 10 members of the public (Mrs Frances Barr MBE of Beach Road, Mrs Gill Cox of Ableton Lane, Mrs Becky Cooper of Northover Court, Mrs Jane Davey of Ableton Lane, Mrs Jacqueline Hood & Mr Barry Hood of Northover Court, Mr Stephen Peet of Cross Hands Road, Mr Ian Roberts of Little Green Lane, Mr Alan Webber and Mrs Charlene Webber of Northover Court). Also in attendance: Insp Simon Ellis and PC Daryl Lodge, Avon & Somerset Constabulary.

1. APOLOGIES for ABSENCE

None, all members being present.

Mr Ian Roberts was invited to fill the casual vacancy on council (Proposed CW, seconded DN, all agreed). S Glos have confirmed no requests for an election were received, and council agreed to co-opt Mr Roberts whose application was drawn to the attention of members at the May meeting. Having previously been issued with the relevant information, Mr Roberts was able to complete a Register of Interests, and after signing the Acceptance of Office book was asked to join members at the table. Mr Roberts previously served on council from June 1999 to May 2003.

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Insp Ellis, responding to DN, stated that he had no problem with mobile 'phone numbers of officers being made available to the public. It was, however, an individual choice, officers being free to retain their anonymity should they choose. It is vital, however, that initial contacts concerning a crime should be made through the officially advertised numbers rather than with officers through their mobiles. First contact with individual officers could lead to problems or delays. Officers might be 'switched off' or not on duty at the time.

The force is currently engaged in an initiative which targets anti-social behaviour, and, in particular, youth-associated crime. The unit is fully operational on Friday and Saturday evenings, and results to date have been encouraging. Meanwhile the motor bike initiative continues.

DH praised the recent efforts of the Police, asking that the monthly surgery at SB should continue, despite the odd occasion when no one had turned up to speak with the officer. DH felt it to be useful, enabling people to act on impulse as they passed by. PC Lodge confirmed his commitment to attend each month. Even if no one were to attend PC Lodge found post mistress Heather Davolls to be a useful source of local information and a good 'sounding board' for suggestions. PC Lodge advised those present of the 'local stroll' at 9.30 on Monday 16th June, and all are invited to attend.

Insp Ellis was thanked for his attendance, and he and PC Lodge left the meeting at around 7.25 pm.

**The Chairman asked that members join in remembering
Mr John Padbury of Albert Road, recently deceased.**

2a MINUTES of the PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of 6th May 2008 were approved as a true record.

1. NW 2. DH All agreed.

2b MINUTES of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Clerk read through the minutes of the meeting of 6th May. Agreed these be accepted as a true record. Mrs Barr MBE, who had been unable to attend the meeting, expressed her thanks for the efforts of all parish councillors. A rider to this effect has been added.

3. ACTION/RELATED MATTERS

3 – 1 Schools

Clerk has been in contact with Barrie Keast and a copy of Robert Griffin's email has been provided for the school governors.

Ray Wiggins has expressed an interest in attending the next meeting (7th July) and the group will include an architect involved in building the new school. Accordingly this meeting will commence at 6.30 pm.

3 - 2 Church Road

The church authority confirmed there is a prospective buyer for the church road site and they intend to ascertain how firm his intention is before coming back to us with details of the size and price of the site. The land is being treated as a development site and based on this is likely to be out of range for a parish council purchase.

3 - 3 Village Halls/Playing Fields

Clerk has provided Gill Cox with letters expressing council intent with regard to financially backing the SB VH committee proposals to lay on gas supplies and improve the heating system.

3 - 4 Parish Plan

Arrangements to meet with an IT specialist have not yet been made. CW is to liaise with JD.

3 - 5 Allotments

A draft of the new allotment regulations has been distributed to members. Following further contact by Mrs J Sellick a suggestion was made regarding the placement of fires on the site. Accordingly the Clerk asked members to consider an addition to the regulations, requiring that occupants immediately adjacent to the cemetery should only be permitted to light fires on the gravel bank to the north side of their plots. This would further reduce the possibility of nuisance at the cemetery. Agreed a sentence to this effect should be incorporated.

3 - 6 Bus Services, Shelters & Signs

The damaged standard across from Severnwood Gardens has been removed. CW has been informed that the official stopping point is actually on the Severnwood Gardens side of Ableton Lane. The raised area across the road is only for rail link and school buses. Clerk is to contact S Glos for clarification. Through the PP Steering Group some residents have requested the installation of a shelter at this site.

3 - 7 Footpaths

Mark Shearman has proposed the removal of the kissing gate at the Bank Road end of the church path due to the difficulties experienced by mothers with prams, and the need to cater for the disabled. This would perhaps encourage the biker brigade, who have previously caused problems here. At present a Cranmoor Green resident with a key is opening the gate twice daily for the 'school run' and access is currently not a problem. Council opposition is to be notified.

3 - 8 ICI/Zeneca & other Industries

The Parish Plan Group has been approached by concerned residents regarding the proposal to close the ICI club in October. They have passed on these concerns to council and Rhona Allgood is to be contacted to confirm whether there are any other options. It was indicated that the club was not open to the general public, but to members and associates only. Due to a downturn in business some of the site is scheduled for closure and the loss of the club may be inevitable.

3 - 9 Grass Cutting

Agreed this service is far from satisfactory, despite assurances expressed in correspondence. Cuttings are not being removed, despite Area Forum promises.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

Audit/Precept

12371.01 Confirmation of tax payments by HMRC.

Avon Local Councils Association

12372.02 ALCA Newsletter, June edition - circulated.
 12373.03 Booking form: councillors workshops.
 12374.04 Training session: Quality Councils, and, The Power of Wellbeing.
 12375.05 Planning day: "How Much do you Know?".
 12376.06 Volunteers sought for Joint Local Access Forum.
 12377.07 Training briefing note T04-08: The Power of Well Being.
 12378.08 Legal briefing L10-08: Involvement in the Health Act 2007.
 12379.09 Briefing note P11-08: Review of Economic development/regeneration.
 12480.10 Briefing note P10-08: Financial Services Compensation scheme.
 12481.11 Briefing note P09-08: Participatory Budgeting, a draft strategy.
 12582.12 Car allowances for 2008/09, based on January pump charges.

Building-New Development-Housing

12583.13 S Glos Core Strategy: the challenge of delivering 30,800 new homes.

- 12584.14 Bus Services, Shelters & Signs
Partnership meeting (4T&VLC Transport), Filton on 26th June.
- 12585.15 Elections/Applications for Parish Council
S Glos confirm no requests received to fill casual vacancy on council.
- 12586.16 Employment/Opportunities
Summer Seminars, University of Gloucestershire.
- 12587.17 Environment/Conservation
Environment Forum meeting, 11th June in Bradley Stoke.
- 12588.18 EF report, on meeting of 7th February.
- 12589.19 Gardener's Club offer to maintain a planter at Redwick.
- 12590.20 Ecojam 'boree on 4th June at Create Centre, Bristol.
- 12591.21 Climate change, options for renewable energy.
- 12592.22 Minutes of Enviro Link Group meeting, 12th February.
- 12593.23 Agenda for EL Group meeting, Old Down, 10th June.
- 12594.24 Footpaths
Modification of definitive map, ORN 9, variation sought.
- 12595.25 Access problems on Bank Road/Cross Hands footpath.
- 12596.26 Grass Cutting
Response to expression of concern re services.
- 12597.27 Health Authority and Care Services
Joint Health Scrutiny Committee: the Orchard View proposals.
- 12598.28 ICI/Zeneca & Other Industries
PowerLines, issue 5 – circulated.
- 12599.29 Local Facilities & Amenities
Proposals re closure of ICI club.
- 12600.30 Parish Projects & Related Matters
Parish Plan newsletter – copies distributed.
- 12601.31 Minutes of PP Steering Group meeting, 23rd May.
- 12602.32 Playgrounds/Youth Activities
Wicksteed safety report: copies to village halls.
- 12603.33 Komplan of Milton Keynes: Seminar programme.
- 12604.34 Police
Response re bikers, from Insp S Ellis, A&S Constabulary.
- 12605.35 PC Lodge invitation to meet on 16th June for local survey.
- 12606.36 Email report on local incidents.

Railways

- 12607.37 Rod Lees complains of service shortcomings.
12608.38 Response by Andrew Haines re guards on trains.
12609.39 Response from Helen Young re rail subsidies.
12610.40 FoSBR newsletter and associated pamphlets.
12611.41 Delivering a Sustainable Railway, Dept of Transport leaflet – circulated.
12612.42 Extract from Rail White Paper, concerning rail fares.

River, Seawall & Environs

- 12613.43 *Severn Tidings*, issue 10 – copies distributed.

Roads/Road Signs

- 12614.44 Response from Mark Shearman re sign at Ableton Lane/A403.

South Gloucestershire Council

- 12615.45 Local Code of Conduct complaints process.

Street Furniture & Lighting

- 12616.46 Neptune of Winchester, price guide 2008.
12617.47 Glasdon of Blackpool, recycling bins brochure.
12618.48 Glasdon, seating brochure.

Voluntary/Community Groups

- 12619.49 Volunteer director required by S Glos Environmental Body.

Waste Dumping/Disposal/Landfill

- 12620.50 Fly Tipping Strategy Consultation.
12621.51 Fly Tipping Strategy Consultation Summary.
12622.52 Fly Tipping Strategy, Consultation draft, May 2008.

Planning

- 12623.53 Delegated decisions, w/e 30th April 2008.
12624.54 Response from Steve Webb MP re new Planning Commission.

Accounts/Donations

- 12625.55 PC World, computer software. Item 5-3 refers.
12626.56 Grass Cutting Services. Grass cutting (May). Item 5-4 refers.
12627.57 Wicksteed Leisure, play inspection. Item 5-5 refers.
12628.58 Victim Support, donation request. Item 5-6 refers.
12629.59 The Village Players, donation request. Council helped out with the funding of new steps as recently as January this year. However, Clerk recommended that council should not consider a loan but make up the shortfall in the funding requirement (£416). It should be made clear, however, that in the near future the players would need to become self-sufficient in their financial requirements. 1. DN 2. JB, 9 For, 1 Abstained (CW). Payment to be made when it becomes necessary.
12630.60 Letter of thanks, S A R A, Item 5-14, minutes of 6th May, refers.

5. ACCOUNTS for PAYMENT

5 - 1	£ 757.00	J C Rawlinson	Clerk – Wages (May)	112
5 - 2	£ 50.00	J C Rawlinson	Petrol	111
5 - 3	£ 24.98	P C World	Computer software	111
5 - 4	£ 400.00	Grass Cutting Svs	Grass cutting (Apr)	LGMP/PHA
5 - 5	£ 94.00	Wicksteed Leisure	Play inspection	LGMP
5 - 6	£ 200.00	Victim Support	Donation	137
5 - 7	£ 1611.61	Wales & West Utilities	Gas supply, SBVH	LGMP
	<u>£3137.59</u>			

Payments in accordance with Local Government Act 1972, sections as shown, except:

- 5 - 4 (part), 5 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, s19
 5 - 4 (part) Public Health Act 1875, s164

Items 5-1 to 5-3, inclusive, paid as one cheque.

The accounts above were approved for payment.

1. SC 2. NW All agreed

Current bank balance, prior to payments above

£19,618.60 (interest to March 31st only)
£26,000.00 First precept payment
£45,618.60

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Diane Crawford of 3 Northover Court has spoken with the Clerk on the 'phone. With a newly born baby she expressed regret at being unable to attend. Mrs Crawford wished it to be known that she raised strong objections to the proposals listed in *In View*.

Mrs Webber spoke of her concerns over the proposals. Because of the current knife culture and the generally aggressive behaviour of many teenagers she felt the council were encouraging gangs to congregate by promoting unsupervised activities. The 'new' youth shelter is already being abused. Users spend more time on the roof than inside on the bench. Bad language is commonplace. Drink is consumed there and the usual method of disposal for empties is to smash them on the tarmac area. Residents are horrified by proposals for a bike/BMX track as teenage bikers do not create a safe environment for toddlers. The idea of a bowling green is welcomed as it would bring the generations together. Rubbish is regularly deposited on the field and recent winds swept some of this into adjacent gardens, though the situation is not as bad as when the original play area by the fence was in operation. At that time it was a routine for those congregating at the site to throw their rubbish into gardens, on one occasion almost causing personal injury. Facilities installed close to the boundary with Northover Court would encourage a return to the even more intolerable conditions that previously existed.

Mr Peet confirmed the point concerning bad language which can be heard from his garden. Approaches to those concerned have merely led to further abuse.

Countering all of the above, Mrs Cox commented that she lived immediately adjacent to SB VH and at no time had she been subjected to any such problems.

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (cont)

Whilst it was necessary on occasions to go onto the field and 'police' some of the activity, a well-modulated approach had always led to a cessation of the unwanted behaviour.

It was suggested that supervision is required, and that a park ranger and/or a youth club would help. A Play Officer from S Glos is to be invited to attend and advise on a course of action.

7. AGENDA

7 - 1 Severnside Development

Though there are rumours relating to development proposals for Marsh Common, no planning applications have been submitted. Unfortunately much of the tree and hedgerow growth in the area has been removed - an illegal action.

The pile-driving at the site, previously giving much cause for concern, has been brought under control by the use of muffling apparatus. The noise has now been considerably reduced. The hours of operation are limited to 8.00 am to 6.00 pm.

7 - 2 Village Halls

DN reported that 3 quotes have now been obtained in respect of plans to upgrade the heating at SB VH. Efforts are continuing in bringing all these hopes to fruition.

7 - 3 Parish Plan Update

JD wondered if the land at "Hambleton" in Ableton Lane could be utilised for allotments. The steering group is involved in efforts to set up a regeneration group in Pilning, similar to that which was so successful in 'improving' the shopping area at SB. Local schools have been involved and it is hoped a childrens' group can be involved in a 'clean-up' operation. Distribution of the newsletter has been delayed as permission from the owner to use the Kings Arms as the Farmer's Market venue is still awaited.

7 - 4 Playgrounds/Youth Activities

NB was not successful in her efforts to obtain a grant from Oldbury Power Station. Clerk reported that the tennis net has again been removed from Pilning field.

7 - 5 Northover Court

Access through the gate is not yet legally settled. It has been ascertained that a key was supplied for parish council use. Unfortunately this key was sent to the council solicitor around the time he was leaving the company. DN suggested we request a replacement key from Mr Hood. Agreed, 5 For, 4 Against (NC, DH, IH, IR), 1 Abstained (SC). Meanwhile Clerk has written to Clarke Wilmott requesting the refund of funds lodged with them and the 'missing' key.

7 - 6 Village Matters

Roads/Roadsigns - DH informed council of the large pothole that has appeared outside 133 Marsh Common Road. IR asked about the central white line on Ableton Lane that has not been replaced since the road was resurfaced

7 - 6 Village Matters (cont)

Travellers – SC stated that the clear up at the Mongan site had come to an end with 2 caravans still on-site and debris still needing to be cleared.

Footpaths – JB asked whether the path from Gorse Cover Road to Beach Avenue could be cleared. Clerk confirmed he had written about this last year, even offering help with the payment if necessary. As it is still not done he will write again. NB has noted the excessive amount of weed growth on the sea wall. Action to be taken.

Local Facilities & Amenities – JB has been asked about maintenance of the toilets at SB. Having checked on them he confirmed that whilst they were regularly cleaned they would benefit from redecoration. This problem arose last year and it was expected that some improvements would be made. Clerk to make contact again.

Code of Conduct – In answer to DN's enquiry as to whether the disk had yet been obtained, Clerk confirmed that he had not yet done so but now had the email address which would allow him to.

Website/IT – SC asked about councillor profiles on the website. Despite a request from the Clerk that all old information should be deleted, outdated info was still listed. Further contact to be made.

Cemetery/Churches – There have been recent incidents of graffiti on monuments and whilst efforts have been made by Mr & Mrs Barr to clean off the offensive lettering it is important that vigilance is observed. Mrs Scott (the memorial to her daughter Maxine is one of those involved) has suggested, through her daughter Kay, an *In View* article to make people aware of what is going on. It was suggested that advertising the graffiti problem may lead to others deciding that this is an outlet for them to express themselves. NW commented that it was more likely that the 'vigilant' public would read the article, rather than the 'villainous' graffiti artists. It was agreed not to publish this information. If the problem persists this lack of action may be reconsidered.

Building-New Development-Housing – IH informed members that builders at Plot 7 had filled the drainage ditch. The drainage authority will be asked to investigate.

Schools – Householders either side of the entrance to Pilning playing fields have questioned the parish council and their involvement in the compulsory purchase of part of their gardens. Both NC and IH have been separately approached about this and both have rightly denied any knowledge of, and involvement in, this process. Householders were also wrong in pointing to PT as the source of this information. PT confirmed that whilst discussion within S Glos Council had been held, no decision had been reached in this matter, and at no time had he informed anyone that their land was to be purchased.

7 – 7 Reports

S GLOS COUNCIL – PT commented on recent press reports listing attendance at meetings by councillors. He was shown to have attended just over 50 meetings during the year and cited this as a good reason to ignore much of that printed in the press, this being a figure to which he could aspire within a single week.

RAILWAYS – PT confirmed the railway land at SB has been sold at a London auction, fetching something over £400,000. Obviously a speculative purchase, planning permission will need to be sought.

SCHOOLS – PT spoke of a recent meeting with residents and parents. An internal timetable is now established. As for the school itself, completion is expected sometime in 2010/2011.

