

PILNING & SEVERN BEACH PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting held on Monday 5th November 2007, commencing at 6.30 pm,
in PILNING Village Hall

COUNCILLORS Mrs C Woodhouse (Chairman), Mr J Black, Mrs N Bendall,
PRESENT (8) Mrs N Chappell, Mr D Humphries, Mr I Humphries,
 Mr D Nethercott, Mr A Webber.

Also Present:- J C Rawlinson (Clerk), Mr P Tyzack (S Glos Councillor), and 7
 members of the public (Mrs Gill Cox and Mrs Jane Davey, both of
 Ableton Lane, Mrs Alison Dark of Cranmoor Green, Mrs Mandy
 Donald of Redwick Road, Mr Martin Francis and Dr Victoria
 Somper, both of Northwick Road, Mrs Barbara Matthews of
 Salthouse Farm Park. In addition, Mr Robert Griffin of Shaymoor
 Lane arrived during discussion of the agenda items, section 7.
 After the meeting with the South Glos officers, another 6 members
 of the public left the premises prior to the commencement of the
 regular business of the council.

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At 6.30 Clare Medland and Ray Wiggins, officers of South Glos Council, spoke with members concerning the progress in obtaining a site for St Peters School. Several members of the public were present, and were cautioned by the Chairman that whilst welcome to listen to what was said they would not be able to ask any questions.

A number of sites, all within the Green Belt, have been considered, though all save 2 have now been discounted. Following the report by the appointed architects the village hall fields had been identified as a feasible site. The biggest problem is that of access. The entrance from Cross Hands Road is somewhat limited, and the 2 entrances from Bank Road present unique problems of their own. Whilst the existing school site in Bank Road could be used, third party-owned land would have to be utilised.

The first consideration – whether the site is suitable – has been answered, with an emphatic “yes”. The next consideration would be flooding and foundations, both of which are easily dealt with, though the natural drainage of the field means the school would be built at the Bank Road end. Tasked with obtaining a site at the most reasonable cost, CM stated that the parish council would need to list their aspirations, a list which CW stated was already held by the Governors at Pilning School, and she expressed her surprise that this list had not already been provided.

The next stage is an extremely difficult one. Parishioners will need to reach a decision as to whether the school should be built on the site. Any benefits or compensations need to be assessed, and public expectations gauged in order this decision may be reached.

With the time now 7.04 pm, CM and RW departed, having been thanked by CW for their attendance.

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1. APOLOGIES for ABSENCE

Mr S Cooper (away on business), Mr G Moore (work commitment).

Prior to the commencement of the meeting the Chairman raised the question of good practice within the meeting. Following a complaint by a member CW had examined her role as Chairman and felt that she had, perhaps, been lax in her approach. From now on members would be expected to allow free speech, moderate their attitudes and request the right to speak, rather than simply butting in. All electronic devices should be turned off, and the District Councillor should confine his comments to the relevant slot. Members of the public should not speak, unless requested to do so.

2. MINUTES of the PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of 2nd July were approved as a true record.

1. NC 2. DN All agreed.

3. ACTION/RELATED MATTERS

3 - 1 Village Halls

Considerable progress has now been made, although much work remains to be done. The contractor severely underestimated the amount of material that needed to be removed from the site.

3 - 2 Grass Cutting

Following contact with S Glos last month grass in the area was cut within the next few days. IH questioned the response by S Glos, which, according to the Clerk, was action rather than words. IH persisted that comment was required, grass has not since been cut and S Glos policy needs to be ascertained.

After contact by Mr Roberts last month and conversation with CW, Proposed CW, seconded DN, all agreed, that monthly payment be increased to £400.

3 - 3 Cemetery/Churches

Cemetery Committee has not yet met to consider the condition of the path between Cross Hands Road and Bank Road.

3 - 4 Waste Dumping/Disposal/Landfill

NC confirmed the litter bin in Vicarage Road had only been emptied following a telephone complaint, but had not since been cleared. Clerk has written, 6/11, to ask that this newer bin be included on the schedule for weekly clearance.

3 - 5 Railways

The perennial problem with the fence on Northwick Road bridge was raised. Clerk confirmed that he had been re-directed to the relevant rail department. No response has yet been received to his letter.

DN asked if there was any further news on the Sunday rail service. Corres below confirms that S Glos support the introduction of the Sunday train. However, as current plans curtail the service at Avonmouth they can offer no financial assistance in order to extend the service to SB. DN insisted that we should not give up, and the rail authority is to be contacted.

3 – 6 Allotments

The 2 unworked allotments have now been leased to new tenants. The other plot in questionable condition has been brought up to standard.

3 – 7 War Memorial

Local residents continue to be incensed by the actions of motorists at this junction. IH, backed by CW, suggested that a roundabout should be installed at the site.

4. CORRESPONDENCEAllotments

11871.01 Comment by Kim Roberts re allotment at Pilning.

Audit/Precept

11872.02 Small community grants available from S Glos Council.

Avon Local Councils' Association

11873.03 ALCA booklet-Councils' accounts, Your Rights.

11874.04 NALC Legal Briefing note L14-07: The Smoking Ban

11875.05 ALCA Newsletter, Oct edition – circulated.

11876.06 ALCA Newsletter, Nov edition – circulated.

Bus Services, Shelters & Signs

11877.07 Ackn of comments re placement of bus stop in Redwick Road (below).

11878.08 Comment re bus shelter in Redwick Road (adj Vicarage Road).

Clerk/Clerks' Society

11879.09 Society SW Regional Conference in Bristol.

11880.10 University of Gloucestershire advertises courses in Local Policy.

11881.11 Advice Note 46/2006: "Dignity at Work".

Campaign to Protect Rural England

11882.12 AGM, 3rd November at Poole Court, Yate.

11883.13 Village of the Year awards at Cleeve VH, 24th November.

11884.14 Branch AGM, part of awards programme above.

11885.15 Agenda, election of officers, 24th November.

11886.16 Annual Report of Avonside Group.

Employment/Opportunities

11887.17 Increase in employees statutory holiday entitlement.

11888.18 HMRC "Employer Bulletin".

11889.19 Ian Roberts resigns his post as Odd Job Man. Post to be advertised.

Environment/Conservation

11890.20 DEFRA publication – "Ways to Tackle Climate Change" – circulated.

11891.21 Heritage Forum meeting at Yate. Guest speaker from Abolition 200.

Footpaths

- 11892.22 Resolved footpath issues, 3-monthly publication of achievements.
11893.23 Letter from Lindsay Saunders re issues at Pilning Rifle Range.

ICI/Zeneca & Other Industries

- 11894.24 Site stakeholder group meeting, 16th October 2007.

Local Facilities & Amenities

- 11895.25 Ackn by Camping & Caravanning Club re site at Wainbridge Bungalow.
11896.26 Application for Street Trading Consent at Western Approach.
11897.27 Back-up application for street trading as above.

Playgrounds/Youth Activities

- 11898.28 Michelle Dixon advises of youth facilities meeting at SB VH on 14/11.
11899.29 Newsletter from Safe & Sound Playgrounds of Watlington, Oxfordshire.

Police

- 11900.30 Community Policing Awards, nomination form.
11901.31 Safer South Gloucestershire, achievements and targets brochure.

Railways

- 11902.32 Comment re proposals relating to new train timetables.

River, Seawall & Environs

- 11903.33 Draft of Little Avon catchment area proposals, comment welcomed.

Roads/Road Signs

- 11904.34 Comment re missing parish sign on A403 at Northwick.
11905.35 Notified problems to be dealt with (tree boles/footpath from Gorse Cover).

Schools

- 11906.36 Invitation to Marlwood School annual speech day.

South Gloucestershire Council

- 11907.37 Cabinet meeting, 15th October in Thornbury.
11908.38 Cabinet meeting, 5th November in Thornbury.
11909.39 Appointments & Employment Committee, 15th October in Thornbury.
11910.40 Children & Young People Select Committee, 31st October in Kingswood.
11911.41 Children & Young People Strategic Partnership, 23rd Oct in Kingswood.
11912.42 Community Care & Housing Select Committee, 17th Oct in Thornbury.
11913.43 Development Control Committee, sites inspection on 26th October.
11914.44 Development Control Committee, 11th October in Thornbury.
11915.45 Development Control Committee, 8th November in Thornbury.
11916.46 Environment Strategic Partnership-, 1st November, Bradley Stoke.
11917.47 Licensing, Reg & Gen Purposes Committee, 18th October in Kingswood.
11918.48 Planning, Trans & Strat Enviro Select Committee, 17th Oct, Kingswood.
11919.49 Standards Committee, 19th in Kingswood.
11920.50 Executive Decisions, w/e 5th October 2007.

South Gloucestershire Council (cont)

- 11921.51 Executive Decisions, w/e 12th October.
- 11922.52 Executive Decisions, w/e 19th October.
- 11923.53 Executive Decisions, w/e 26th October.
- 11924.54 Executive Decisions, w/e 2nd November.
- 11925.55 Forward Plan of Executive Decision Making, Nov 2007 – Oct 2008.
- 11926.56 National Training Strategy: Continuous Professional Development.
- 11927.57 Parish Charter Review Meeting, 13th November at Yate.
- 11928.58 Notes of Charter Review Meeting held 13th December 2006.
- 11929.59 Standards Board – adopting the code. Information confirmed, 28th Oct.
- 11930.60 Draft parenting support strategy.
- 11931.61 Legal Briefing: Predisposition and the Code of Conduct.
- 11932.62 Severn Vale Area Forum, 5th September in Thornbury.

Traffic Problems/Transport Policy

- 11933.63 Mark Shearman confirms all action has been taken at Cross Hands.

Voluntary/Community Groups

- 11934.64 S Glos Senior Citizens Autumn newsletter – circulated.
- 11935.65 Senior Citizens Forum meeting, 15th November in Kingswood.
- 11936.66 S Glos Deaf Association, October newsletter – copies distributed.
- 11937.67 Introduction by new Rural Services Officer for Community Action.
- 11938.68 CVS S Glos newsletter.

Waste Dumping/Disposal/Landfill

- 11939.69 Draft Waste Reduction and Recycling Plan consultation.

Website/IT

- 11940.70 Danwood working solutions, newsletter.

Planning

- 11941.71 Delegated decisions, w/e 28th August 2007.
- 11942.72 Delegated decisions, w/e 4th September 2007.
- 11943.73 Delegated decisions, w/e 11th September 2007.
- 11944.74 Delegated decisions, w/e 18th September 2007.

Accounts/Donations

- 11945.75 Care for the Elderly, attendance/petrol allowance. Item 5-1 refers.
- 11946.76 Marlwood School, annual donation. Item 5-2 refers.
- 11947.77 Marlwood School, letter of thanks. Item 5-2 refers.
- 11948.78 Aqueous Publishing, questionnaire analysis. Item 5-3 refers.
- 11949.79 R W Vizard, repairs to BEN Fear memorials. Item 5-4 refers.
- 11950.80 AOL, Internet charges (Oct). Item 5-7 refers.
- 11951.81 PC World, Inks for printer. Item 5-8 refers.
- 11952.82 Staples, Ink for printer. Item 5-9 refers.
- 11953.83 Mr I Roberts, grass cutting. Item 5-10 refers.
- 11954.84 mlmservices, outside lighting @ SB VH. Item 5-11 refers.
- 11955.85 mlmservices, replacement electrics, SB VH. Item 5-12 refers.

Accounts/Donations (cont)

11956.86	Aqueous Publishing, youth questionnaires. Item 5-13 refers.
11957.87	G Thompson, repairs to SB play area. Item 5-14 refers.
11958.88	Sutcliffe Play, youth shelter at Pilning VH. Item 5-15 refers.
11959.89	Village Players, purchase of stage steps.
11960.90	SB Regeneration Group.
Requests by Village Players and SB Regeneration were agreed for payment at a later time, on receipt of invoices.	

5. ACCOUNTS for PAYMENT

5 - 1	£ 164.00	Care for Elderly	Travel allowance	LGRA
5 - 2	£ 25.00	Marlwood School	Donation	137
5 - 3	£1964.13	Aqueous Publishing	Questionnaire analysis	111
5 - 4	£ 345.45	R W Vizard	Ben Fear memorials	142
5 - 5	£ 674.00	J C Rawlinson	Clerk – Wages (Oct)	112
5 - 6	£ 50.00	J C Rawlinson	Petrol	111
5 - 7	£ 15.99	AOL	Internet charges (Oct)	111
5 - 8	£ 66.94	PC World	Inks for printer	111
5 - 9	£ 11.99	Staples	Ink for printer	111
5 -10	£ 350.00	Mr I Roberts	Grass cutting (Oct)	*
5 -11	£1151.50	mlmservices	Outside lighting, SBVH	LGMP
5 -12	£2937.50	mlmservices	Replace electrical system	LGMP
5 -13	£ 176.25	Aqueous Publishing	Youth questionnaires	111
5 -14	£ 590.00	G Thompson	Repairs at SB play area	LGMP
5 -15	<u>£8219.13</u>	Sutcliffe Play	Youth Shelter at Pilning	RCA58
	<u>16741.88</u>			

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

5 - 1	Local Government & Rating Act 1997
5 -10	(Playing fields -LG(MP) Act 1979, s19 (Sea wall gardens -Public Health Act 1875, s164)
5 -11, 12, 14	Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) 1979, s19
5 -15	Recreational Charities Act 1958

Items 5-5 to 5-9, inclusive, paid as one cheque.

Items 5-11 & 5-12 paid as one cheque.

The accounts above were approved for payment. 1. IH 2. DH All Agreed

Current bank balance, prior to payments listed above

£60,705.04 (Interest to June inclusive)

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mrs Gill Cox sought confirmation that funding of new play equipment at Severn Beach was agreed. This was confirmed, and council will confirm support by issuing a letter to the South Glos Environmental Body, thus ensuring payment of the grant.

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (cont)

Mr Martin Francis of Wainbridge Bungalow spoke of the rumours circulating through the parish regarding his application for a Caravan and Camping Club site, and a further application for development at High Trees in Almondsbury. Development at High Trees would be wholly dependent upon the current traveller occupants moving to properly licensed premises, and the likelihood of the Francis family wishing to have travellers moving onto land adjacent to their home was patently ridiculous. CW confirmed that this council had no involvement with any projects in Almondsbury and no rumours could have arisen from this council's comment on the C & C Club proposal. On that proposal Mr Francis suggested that a somewhat one-sided argument had been presented, by acting on the comment of one individual and not seeking comment from the other side, a valid point in the circumstances.

7. AGENDA

7 – 1 Severnside Development

Nothing to report.

7 – 2 Village Halls/Playing Fields

There was discussion of proposals for Pilning playing fields, particularly with reference to a bike track. Information obtained from Patchway Town Council was distributed. Their experiences with a BMX facility raised concerns. Although Patchway TC suggest that advantages outweigh the disadvantages it was generally felt that such provision could engender too many problems. AW suggested that a precedent had been created when proposals for a cycle track had been overturned because 'bikes and playgrounds don't mix'. Although that case related to cycles moving through the field rather than being used on a specific area it was agreed to leave this matter for now.

Following the confusion over the placement of the youth shelter it was agreed that any future projects would come to fruition only after council had voted on the precise positioning of any items to be installed.

7 – 3 Parish Plan

JD reported that 840 questionnaires and 137 youth questionnaires had been sent for analysis. Although the cost is high it is cheaper by far than the other quotes obtained. With a group currently consisting of only 7 members, though a typical parish plan group was invariably 25 to 30 strong, they could not consider analysing the documents themselves. One question alone had brought over 1700 suggestions. The group are to make a presentation to the council at the December meeting.

7 – 4 Youth Activities

NB reported on progress with regard to obtaining further equipment. Vandals have already been in action at the youth shelter. NB has been active in talking with both vandals and others in an attempt to keep everyone informed of the plans for the future, even inviting them back to her home to discuss their aspirations. NB is to advertise in *In View*, seeking help, and editor, Robert Griffin, has agreed to print a monthly article demonstrating the progress made in facility provision.

7 – 5 Traffic Problems/Transport Policy

DH drew attention to problems experienced by motorists at Bristol Bridge. On Monday 8th October the lights were stuck on red and it was over 3 hours before the problem was rectified. On Tuesday 23rd October the problem occurred again. On this occasion a 999 call was made and the fault was dealt with in less than half an hour. It was indicated that an emergency number is printed on the lights.

7 - 6 Village Matters

War Memorial– IH advised that 2 volunteers were willing to mount a low fence||| at the memorial. Wreaths could then be mounted on this, rather than being placed on the ground. Agreed this should be done.

Local Services– NC commented on a questionnaire, received from Streetcare. Filling in the options she had clearly indicated her thoughts on the generally poor quality of local services.

Weight Restrictions – AW spoke further on the problems he had previously encountered. One driver spoken to indicated that he had seen no signs and AW queried whether all the signs were in place as South Glos had stated. IH confirmed the 7.5T sign is in place at Blackhorse Hill, by the Over turning. Clerk has since travelled the lane from A38 into Tockington and can confirm the sign is also visible on that route.

Bank Road – AW suggested the use of legislation authorising the clean-up of untidy land in order the Mongan site could be dealt with. Despite previous requests no action has yet been taken. This tactic has previously been used to clear cars from a property in New Passage Road.

7 – 7 Reports

SEVERNSIDE SAFER & STRONGER COMMUNITY GROUP – NB confirmed her attendance at the most recent meeting of the group, finding the experience helpful and illuminating.

JUNCTION AT MARSH COMMON – PT reported that a High Court decision is still awaited and a revised application has been submitted, despite there being a number of unresolved issues.

RIFLE RANGE – The meeting between the new owner and RoW officer has proved inconclusive. The owner has drawn attention to anomalies on the original definitive map. He is seeking to have these resolved before any decisions are made regarding gates and improvements to routes.

CROSS HANDS – Suggested earlier that a roundabout be established at the site. PT has met with highways officers who, once the reactive signs are in place, will be assessing the effect the zebra and signs have had on local traffic and will be reporting accordingly.

BRISTOL BRIDGE – PT advised that structural surveys have shown the bridge to be strong enough to allow 2 heavy lorries to cross, though the road width would obviously limit such a manoeuvre. Work is currently being carried out to repair the wall on the western side of the bridge. His concern here is the safety aspect. Children from Marsh Common cannot safely cross the bridge, there being no realistic provision for pedestrians. His suggestion is that a separate footbridge should be provided.

SEVERN ESTUARY – PT is due to attend a meeting at Clevedon at which this topic will be considered.

