

PILNING & SEVERN BEACH PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting held on Thursday 28th April 2011, commencing at 2.00 pm
in PILNING Village Hall

COUNCILLORS PRESENT (6) Mr I W Humphries (Chairman), Mrs F C A Barr MBE,
Mrs N A Chappell, Mr D T A Humphries,
Mr I L Roberts, Mrs C E Woodhouse.

Also Present:- J C Rawlinson (Clerk).

1. APOLOGIES for ABSENCE

None. All those summoned were in attendance.

The meeting was called to discuss 2 specific matters: the new allotments at Severn Beach; and, the grant of easement across the bridge onto the school grounds.

ALLOTMENTS

The allotments at Severn Beach are in use, all plots having been let but there is an option to open up further plots in due course. IWH was critical of activity at the former club house building. As he indicated, the lease required that the building should be secure and unused, yet the security board had been removed from the doorway and people had been seen entering and leaving the building. Clerk informed members that the water connection had been made within the building and, of necessity; access into the building had been required. Some of the leaseholders had taken the opportunity to help in clearing debris and painting some of the surfaces. The premises had only been opened when work required it. Clearance of the encroaching brambles and demolition of the outside ramshackle hut exposed the rear door. For security this had been removed and the gap blocked up. Any work carried out had been done voluntarily and all costs were being borne by Mr Robin Kirby.

IWH was critical of the Clerk, believing that he had exceeded his authority; incurring costs that had not been authorised by council. Clerk responded by claiming that he always promoted and enhanced the role of the parish council, using his initiative when carrying out work on behalf of the council. Four water tanks have been installed rather than 3, as agreed in the lease. He had looked at the benefit to allotment holders in providing the extra tank. Two tanks had been costed at £500 and on this basis 4 tanks had been installed at a cost of £1000. This is extremely good value for money. The cost of pipework, plinths and extra work being paid for by Mr Kirby.

IWH was also critical of 2 skips being obtained without reference to the parish council. Clerk responded by stating that common sense had dictated the need for a skip to be provided, there being much metal, glass and many stones found on the 'unimproved' site. The skip had been filled within 7 days and accordingly the Clerk had arranged for a second skip to be obtained. This is now almost full but council will not sanction use of a third skip, despite the Clerk's recommendation.

No further financial outlay on the site is to be allowed without direct permission of council first being obtained. However, it was agreed that enquiries could be made with S Glos regarding the possible use of the club house building. Any use would be conditional upon costs being borne by the allotment users. Meanwhile a sign is to be placed on the door of the building, advising the need for the building to remain closed, pending the outcome of the enquiry above.

ST PETER'S SCHOOL

The new school has been in use for 2 months but matters concerning the right of access across parish council land are still not yet resolved. Ian Lyons has sympathised with the parish council but indicates that a dispute between contractor and sub-contractor at the site has led to the delay.

This is wholly unsatisfactory. Clerk asked to write to Mrs Amanda Deeks, Chief Executive at S Glos, particularly stressing the need for urgent action regarding the 2 danger points – the concrete plinth, a motor hazard; and, the mesh fence and the gap between it and the concrete base, a hazard for children.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED @ 3.05 PM

Signed..... Dated..... JCR

(<http://sites.google.com/site/pandsbpc>) – parish website

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