

PILNING & SEVERN BEACH PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting held on Monday 3rd November 2008, commencing at 6.30 pm,
in SEVERN BEACH School

COUNCILLORS Mr I Humphries (Chairman), Mrs N Chappell, Mr S Cooper,
PRESENT (7) Mr D Humphries, Mr D Nethercott, Mr I Roberts, Mr N Webb.

Also Present:- J C Rawlinson (Clerk), Mr P Tyzack (South Glos Councillor) and 8 members of the public (Mrs Frances Barr MBE of Beach Road, Mrs Gillian Cox of Ableton Lane, Mr Russ Cartmel of Riverside Park, Mrs Jane Davey of Ableton Lane, Mrs Barbara Matthews of Salthouse Farm Park, Mr John Miller of Salthouse Farm, Miss Sherry Lewis and Mr John Webb of Redwick Road. Also in attendance: PC Daryl Lodge, Avon & Somerset Constabulary.

1. APOLOGIES for ABSENCE

Mrs N Bendall (personal reasons), Mr J Black (work commitment), and Mrs C Woodhouse (unwell).

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At 6.30 pm, prior to the commencement of the meeting, Ray Wiggins and Wayne Matthews of S Glos Council, and Nick Ruff of B3 Architects, were in attendance. Diagrams, drawings and plans were on display, councillors and members of the public talking with the officers and scrutinising the details. NR gave a presentation regarding proposals for the new school, explaining the lay-out, materials used, and the logic behind the usage of the site. Features will include a football pitch with much improved drainage, a practical garden/produce area and a number of ecological features; which include a pond and various other 'green' areas.

The southerly fence, much of which is aligned with the River Pill, is to be set 8 metres from the rhine itself. This will allow for maintenance of the course and banks. The fence – 2 metres high – will provide security against any children straying from the school grounds and facing the dangers posed by the water. The gate in this fence, approached across the bridge owned by the parish council, will be locked and unavailable for use other than for maintenance or emergency. The inadequate nature of both the bridge, and the footway along Cross Hands Road, is acknowledged by the school authority, and all pupil access will be from Bank Road. There will be on-site parking for 14 vehicles, including a disabled driver space, and these are intended for staff and visitors. Entry and exit will be via a one-way system, with a bus drop-off bay and a further 15 (?) parking spaces for other use. Although heating will be biomass based, there will be a back-up system using oil. The storage tank will be sited near to the north west boundary, with a bay for the tanker to unload off-road should a delivery be made during the children's arrival or departure times. Extra security is to be incorporated into this portion of the site in an attempt to foil any illegal activity. There will be a separate delivery road for the kitchen area, again intended to ensure non-interference with other on-site traffic.

The main concern voiced from the body of those present related to the likely traffic involvement. Whilst the travel plan seeks to encourage walking and cycling, and indeed a "walking bus", there are fears that problems experienced at Pilning School will merely be transferred 200 yards down the road, and that these problems will still encompass Northover Court.

Previous attempts to encourage a “walking bus” were a failure. There is a strong feeling that not enough is being done to deal with the traffic problem. RW pointed to the one-way system and on-site parking, intended to cope with this. Although it may not offer anything like a complete solution, it is far more than is offered at other schools – this comment being countered by the view that as a new school, and with prevailing conditions well known, much greater effort should be made to deal with the problem. RW noted that the authority would be somewhat reluctant to provide too much help to motorists, feeling this would be seen as encouraging car use rather than encouraging pedestrians. Again the consensus is that the authority should face reality and that whatever the school authority might wish for, the ‘out of town’ position of the school and the need for parents to proceed to their various destinations would continue to dictate that the majority of parents will always deliver their children by car. Traffic being somewhat beyond the remit of RW and his colleagues it was agreed to ask Mark Shearman to attend a future meeting and discuss the problem.

Interest was also expressed in the ultimate usage of the existing school site and whether a parking facility could be provided here, though, driver mentality being well known, this would perhaps have limited benefit.

With no further questions forthcoming, the visitors were thanked for their attendance and departed the premises at 7.15 pm. Sherry Lewis and John Webb also left at this point.

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**The Chairman asked that members join in remembrance of
John Whatley of Ableton Lane, recently deceased.**

2. MINUTES of the PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of 1st September 2008 were approved as a true record. 1. IR 2. NC All agreed.

3. ACTION/RELATED MATTERS

3 – 1 Village Halls

DH, following contact with the Clerk, has been able to confirm with the Odd Job Man that he is able to claim for his time spent in obtaining materials. This may result in the gap in the fence at Pilning playing field being repaired soon.

Clerk has spoken with Bill, the field caretaker at SB. Following a change in his circumstances Bill appears a little reluctant to take on the role at Pilning. He is to check out the field, however, and will confirm his intentions in the near future.

3 - 2 Freedom of Information Act

Legal Briefing note L19-08, supplied by NALC, was drawn to the attention of council at the October meeting. It was formally resolved to adopt the model publication scheme (without modification) as developed by the Information Commissioner, in line with section 20 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

3 - 3 River, Seawall & Environs

Following a further suggestion by PT that council should consider joining the Severn Estuary Partnership, members were asked for comment. With none forthcoming the suggestion was not acted upon.

3 - 4 Rural Areas/Local Plan

Following the provision by PT of the Regional Spatial Strategy document (circulated among members), the Clerk has submitted a response. This response was critical of the level of housing the Government expects local authorities to provide over the next few years. The response also suggested - with England having recently become the most densely populated country in western Europe - the solution to the problem is not in building more houses and destroying valuable and productive countryside, but in placing reasonable and sensible limitations upon immigration.

4. CORRESPONDENCEAvon Local Councils Association

12841.01 ALCA Newsletter, November edition - circulated.
 12842.02 RSVP reply slip for AGM in Long Ashton, 29th November.
 12843.03 Agenda for Special General Meeting, 29th November.
 12844.04 Minutes of Executive Committee, 1st July in Bishop Sutton.
 12845.05 Briefing CE01-08, the Banking Crisis.
 12846.06 ALCA Newsletter, September edition – circulated.

Building-New Development-Housing

12847.07 Community Housing Needs, Cascade of Wrotham offer services.
 12848.08 Bristol City Council seek help in identifying sites for change.

Bus Services, Shelters & Signs

12849.09 CY Street Furniture of Avonmouth, offer their services.

Campaign to Protect Rural England

12850.10 CPRE Annual Report, 2007/2008.
 12851.11 Branch AGM, 8th November at Pucklechurch.
 12852.12 AGM, S Glos District, at Poole Court, 22nd November.
 12853.13 *Countryside Voice*, Autumn edition – circulated.

Cemetery/Churches

12854.14 Letter to Mrs Barr from Mrs G Sloman re problems at cemetery.
 12855.15 Letter from Mrs Barr, further to above.
 12856.16 Letter from Mrs Sloman re above.
 12857.17 Mrs Y Gaulton, Cranmoor Green, applies for post of caretaker.

Clerk/Clerks' Society

12858.18 Membership survey by SLCC: response 22nd October.

Footpaths
12859.19 Modification order for ORN 9, Pill Head.

Government
12860.20 Legal Briefing note L21-08: communities in control.
12861.21 Communities in Control; a consultation document.

Grass Cutting
12862.22 Tincknell Fuels request payment, after failure of direct debit.

Health Authority and Care Services
12863.23 Email from PT re charity abseil and funding for Heart Attack centre.

ICI/Zeneca & Other Industries
12864.24 Agenda & response form, Stakeholder meeting, 12th November.

Licence Applications
12865.25 Comment sought on the Farmers Market application for Kings Arms.

Local Facilities & Amenities
12866.26 Warning re postal scam.

Parish Projects & Related Matters
12867.27 Minutes of Parish Plan Steering Group meeting, 3rd October.
12868.28 Minutes of Parish Plan Steering Group meeting, 31st October.

Playgrounds/Youth Activities
12869.29 Wicksteed leaflet; inspection and maintenance services.
12870.30 Wicksteed brochure; "Teenscapes".
12871.31 Design and play booklet from Miracle of Northampton.
12872.32 Info from Michelle Dixon re ongoing youth project.
12873.33 Fromeside Youth Centre advise on project opportunities for 2009/10.

Railways
12874.34 Charles Gerrish response re opening up of local rail services.
12875.35 FoSBR response to council letter to W of England Partnership.
12876.36 FoSBR recommend opening up of local rail lines.
12877.37 Ackn from Steve Webb MP re request for rail investment.
12878.38 Steve Webb MP to follow up on suggestions in council's letter.
12879.39 FoSBR advise latest moves in local rail initiatives.

River, Seawall & Environs
12880.40 Visitor Centre to hold relocation sale of contents.
12881.41 Frances Barr MBE expresses concerns over rugby pitch work.

Roads/Road Signs
12882.42 Response re problems advised in Redwick Road.

Roads/Road Signs (cont)

12883.43 Letter from Mrs J Jones, Severnwood Gardens, re junction of Ableton Lane and A403 – letter referred to Mark Shearman.
 12884.44 Copy of Mark Shearman response to Mrs J Jones.
 12885.45 Response from Mark Shearman re problems at Cribbs Causeway; no obvious solution appears to be available.

Schools

12886.46 Summary of points raised at meeting of 13th October.
 12887.47 Ed French (governors) advises availability of gazebo at Northwick.
 12888.48 Invitation to Speech Day at Marlwood, 14th November.

Stationery/Circulars/Books

12889.49 Titan of Longhope, Glos, advertise their services re office equipment.
 12890.50 SGN magazine, issued by S Glos Council.
 12891.51 LCR magazine, November edition – circulated.
 12892.52 *Ambulance Service* newsletter no 1 – circulated.

Travellers

12893.53 Invitation to Entec workshop re Traveller development plans.
 12894.54 Gypsy and Traveller Development Plan Document.

Trees/Tree Planting

12895.55 Landcare brochure, 2008 – 2009.

Voluntary/Community Groups

12896.56 Invitation to CVS AGM and S Glos Voluntary Sector Forum, 19/11.
 12897.57 CVS South Glos, newsletter 28 – circulated.
 12898.58 S Glos Heritage Forum AGM, at Kingswood, 13th November.
 12899.59 S Glos VSF, “Thriving 3rd Sector” meeting to follow AGM.
 12900.60 CVS South Glos seek applications for Trustees.
 12901.61 S Glos Deaf Association, minutes of AGM held 29th November 2007.
 12902.62 S Glos DA, Annual Report & Financial Statements, 2007/2008.

Waste Dumping/Disposal/Landfill

12903.63 Joint Waste strategy document, June 2008.

Planning

12904.64 Delegated decisions, w/e 4th Sept 2008.
 12905.65 Delegated decisions, w/e 11th Sept 2008.
 12906.66 Delegated decisions, w/e 18th Sept 2008.
 12907.67 Delegated decisions, w/e 25th Sept 2008.
 12908.68 Delegated decisions, w/e 2nd Oct 2008.
 12909.69 Delegated decisions, w/e 9th Oct 2008.
 12910.70 Delegated decisions, w/e 16th Oct 2008.
 12911.71 Delegated decisions, w/e 23rd Oct 2008.

Accounts/Donations

12912.72 SB School, letter of thanks. Item 5-11, minutes of 6th October, refers.
12913.73 Post Office, Clerk's 'phone/internet. Item 5-3 refers.
12914.74 Grass Cutting Services, grass cutting for October. Item 5-4 refers.
12915.75 Dr Green Thumb, work at Pilning cemetery. Item 5-5 refers.
12916.76 Marlwood School, community service prize. Item 5-6 refers.
12917.77 Severn Area Rescue Association, donation. Item 5-7 refers.
12918.78 Royal British Legion, donation. Item 5-8 refers.
12919.79 Severnside Out of School Club request. Item 5-9 refers.
12920.80 P Tyzack, charity abseil, donation. Item 5-10 refers.

5. ACCOUNTS for PAYMENT

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT				
5 - 1	£ 757.00	J C Rawlinson	Clerk – Wages (Oct)	112
5 - 2	£ 50.00	J C Rawlinson	Petrol allowance	111
5 - 3	£ 72.34	Post Office	Clerk's 'phone/internet	111
5 - 4	£ 400.00	Grass Cut Services	Grass cutting (Oct)	*
5 - 5	£1830.00	Dr Green Thumb	Work at cemetery	214
5 - 6	£ 25.00	Marlwood School	Community Service prize	137
5 - 7	£ 150.00	Severn Area Rescue	Donation	137
5 - 8	£ 50.00	Royal British Legion	Donation	137
5 - 9	£ 500.00	Severnside OoSClub	Donation	137
5 - 10	£ 100.00	Mr P Tyzack	Donation, charity abseil	137
5 - 11	£2206.65	HC Beler-T/a CAV	Village Players –donation	137
	£6140.99			

Payments in accordance with Local Government Act 1972, sections as shown, except:
5 -4)Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, s19
)Public Health Act 1875, s164

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

The accounts above were approved for payment.

1. IH 2. IR All Agreed.

Current bank balance, prior to payments above

£47,113.73 (Interest included up to 30th September)

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

John Miller of Salthouse Farm spoke of the compulsory purchase by the local council of what is now the rugby field, and its original purpose as part of the Severn Beach Flood Alleviation Scheme. He expressed his concerns over proposals to raise the level of the pitch – by the incredible height of 1.87 metres – and the resultant lorry movements. A parallel was drawn with the raising of a sports field in Almondsbury, and the extra volume of soil placed by the contractor in order to allow for settlement. The importation of such a large amount of soil would have a hugely detrimental influence upon neighbouring properties. He expressed his appreciation at the parish council's support regarding the soil and drainage aspect of the planning application.

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (cont)

With PC Lodge present a number of questions were raised with him. There was a Police presence in the parish on Friday 31st October (Halloween), including a visit to the cemetery, but no problems were noted. The recent assault on a householder in Church Road is still under investigation. A new youngsters' 'hideaway' has been located – beneath the overbridge on the M48. One youth has been seen performing a hand over hand manoeuvre on the gantry under the bridge – extremely dangerous over the motorway. For safety reasons the Highways Agency has been asked to improve the fencing in an attempt to keep youngsters away from the embankment. Insp Simon Ellis has recently moved out of the district. Chris Baker has now taken over in his new role as PCSO and has been 'on the beat' for the last few days.

7. AGENDA

7 – 1 Severnside Development

Nothing to report.

7 – 2 Village Halls/Playing Fields

Confirmed that GC is currently negotiating a further grant of £3,000 against the new heating installation.

7 – 3 Parish Plan Update

Following a comment by IH that Pilning VH would be looking into the possibility of installing a new heating system, with financial help from the parish council, JD expressed a willingness to again try for a grant, similar to that raised for SB VH. JD recently attended a workshop on "Powering up Communities", a workshop she judged to be the best she has come across so far. Meanwhile, an application for a £610 grant has been met in full, much to JD's surprise, as she felt the application did not meet the necessary criteria. JD also updated members on the Farmers Market project, expanding upon the delays and difficulties experienced.

7 - 4 Playgrounds/Youth Activities

Nothing to report.

7 - 5 Village Matters

Roads/Roadsigns - NW enquired about progress over the damaged road sign "49-99 Gorse Cover Road". DH advised members that pot holes on the A403, between Ableton Lane and Govier Road are still not repaired. Meanwhile the road surface continues to deteriorate even further.

River, Seawall & Environs – The newly-claimed footpath from the shops on Beach Road to the sea wall path is causing concern: the steps are dangerous, posing a threat to the public. Responsibility lies with the nearby householders - the owners.

IR expressed his dismay over the condition of the sea wall gardens. He was forced to give up mowing because of the volume of dog mess, fearing he would cause distress to passers-by. He was disgusted by the condition of the mower when it was stored after work. The Dog Warden will be asked to check out the area.

Cranmoor Green – Confirmed the car park at the Green is on S Glos land. Parked/dumped vehicles are therefore their responsibility.

Grass Cutting – IH asked why grass cutting took place in SB last week, but not in Pilning.

Cross Hands Inn – PT confirmed that whilst the owner of the site would have to pay the work costs, planning permission is not required for a dropped kerb.

7 – 6 Reports

BANKING – PT confirmed that S Glos has no money in Icelandic banks.

TRAVELLERS – PT is to attend the meeting on 19th November. The Village Regeneration Group is due to meet in the near future.

AVONMOUTH – With the Deep Sea Container project underway, the port authority is contributing toward rail system improvements – beneficial all round!

ROADS – Road gritting commenced during the recent cold spell. It was felt that early ‘practice’ would give the team an edge for the seasonal regular calls.

EARLY WARNING – The Sirens Trust AGM is to be held in the near future. PT is set to be chairman this year.

ICI/ZENECA – It appears the Nitro Tower is scheduled for demolition on Sunday 16th November. The A403 is likely to be closed during this operation.

8. PLANNING

8 – 1 Comments of PC sent to S Glos Council

PT08/2734/F	Demolish, & erect 9 dwellings, 54 Redwick Rd	Objection
PT08/2790/ADV	Illuminated, & other, sign, Plot 8010, Govier Rd	No objection
PT08/2799/F	Relocation of vehicle wash, Plot 8010	No objection
PT08/2805/F	New clubhouse, Pilning rugby club	No objection
PT08/2805/F	Raise pitch level, Pilning rugby club	Objection

8 – 2 Decisions by S Glos Council

PT08/1557/F	Elliott classroom block at Pilning School	Permit
PT08/2440/F	Replacement extension at 2 Fern Cotts, N Passage	Permit
PT08/2625/F	Extensions & store, Pilning Post Office	Refuse

8 – 3 Planning Variations

PT08/2486/F Conservatory at Coningsby House, Pilning Street (Previous application – PT08/1850/F). Considered to be permitted development.

Next Council Meeting - Pilning Village Hall on Monday 1st December 2008

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED @ 9.28 PM

Signed..... Dated.....