

Parwich Parish Council

A meeting of Parwich Parish Council was held on Wednesday, 16th July at 7.30 pm in Parwich Memorial Hall.

Present: M Harrison (Acting Chair), C Healy, J Bennett, E Yeomans, the clerk, Mrs S Hampson, Mrs S Lamb (Monitoring Officer from Derbyshire Dales District Council) and 3 members of the public, one of whom arrived after the conclusion of the public speaking section.

Part 1 – Non-confidential information to consider the following agenda items:

Item 1 on the agenda was included by error and a repeat item from the previous agenda.

14.7.2 Apologies/Councillors' attendance register

Apologies had been received in advance of the meeting from Mr Bunting, Mrs Linnell, Mr Gerard-Pearse, County Councillor, S Spencer and District Councillor, Sir R Fitzherbert. Members duly completed the attendance register.

14.7.3 Declaration of personal/pecuniary interest of councillors

There was no need, by any councillor present, to complete an entry in the register.

14.7.4 Minutes of the previous meeting and items from the minutes, minutes of the previous planning sub-committee.

The minutes of the previous meeting had been forwarded to members in advance of the meeting, had been displayed on the Blog and had been displayed in the shop. The planning sub-committee had not met since the previous meeting.

Resolved: The minutes were approved as a true record of proceedings and signed by the acting chairman in the meeting.

14.7.5 Public speaking

There were two members of the public in attendance at this point of the proceedings in addition to the monitoring officer. The acting chairman invited members of the public to speak. One member expressed concern about item 14.7.24. He requested that it be minuted that if the clerk's hours were to be increased he would be extremely unhappy. He further advised members of the parish council that he had written to Derbyshire County Council (DCC) regarding references to 'flood management'. He had suggested to DCC the use of the term 'water management' as an alternative. There was no other matter raised under public speaking.

14.7.6 Items from public speaking

Water management terminology to be considered at a future meeting.

14.7.7 Update from District and County Councillor

Apologies had been received from both the District and County Councillors.

14.7.8 Update from PCSO and dog fouling notices.

Derbyshire Dales District Council is still not in a position to supply dog fouling notices. PCSO Wakefield had kindly placed dog fouling notices in the vicinity of the Memorial Hall in advance of the meeting. PCSO Wakefield had advised the clerk that if names of dog owners who permit their dogs to foul can be given to her she will in turn visit the people concerned. Mrs Bennett also raised this matter on behalf of another.

Resolved: Clerk to contact PCSO to ascertain/confirm that absolute confidentiality will be maintained with regard to reporting anyone who permits their dog(s) to foul.

14.7.9 Nethergreen

Derbyshire County Council (DCC) (Legal Department) had confirmed to the clerk, just prior to the meeting, that Parwich Parish Council members registered the area as a village green in 1969. DCC forwarded a map of the area. The clerk gave this map to members of the parish council to view in more detail during the summer recess.

A resident arrived to discuss this item. Mr Harrison pointed out that the public speaking section of the meeting had been concluded.

Resolved: To suspend the meeting as the resident spoke outside of the public speaking section.

The resident requested copies of correspondence regarding this agenda item, including from another resident and alleged that a councillor had mislead the previous meeting concerning this same agenda item. Mr Harrison pointed out that legal advice would take precedence over other matters associated with Nethergreen and reiterated that the public speaking section had finished prior to her arrival at the meeting. The resident made a statement and said that the parish council was inflexible and rigid and left the meeting.

Resolved: To reconvene the meeting to follow the publicised agenda items.

Resolved: To complete further legal investigation with regard to implications of the registration of the Nethergreen as a village green in 1969, some 45 years ago.

Resolved: To ask DCC's solicitor for a copy of any maps that show common land both prior and post 1969. (However, the parish council members appreciate that such maps may be subject to copyright law.)

Resolved: Clerk to contact different residents to request permission about the use of their information.

Resolved: To advise the resident who spoke outside of the public speaking section that the parish council will comply with her requests for the parish council to supply information but to point out that the parish council is not yet in a position to send such information immediately as the parish council needs to seek permission and clarity over certain items.

Resolved: The clerk to advise the resident referred to in the above paragraph of the charges involved (per page) in the supply of the information requested.

Resolved: Clerk to contact DALC to clarify if clerk's time should also be built into fees involved requests for copy information and freedom of information requests.

14.7.10 Parish Council website

Contact has been made with a professional website company. An 'on-line conference' had been suggested but members did not wish to take up this method. Mrs Bennett had forwarded links to parish councils developing websites through this same company. It was reported that the company will charge £150 for the first year (including a £100 reduction in respect of the course attended by Mrs Bennett) and £250 per year thereafter. The Derbyshire Association of Local Councils (DALC) has also now used this same company for their new website. Links to Parwich.org would be a possibility.

Resolved: Mrs Bennett to find out more specific information for the parish council website during the recess period.

Resolved: Members would need to see the company's contract in advance, purchase what members considered appropriate and be able to manage and update the website.

Resolved: Members to view other parish websites over the recess period and reach a decision in September 2014.

14.7.11 Sheep wash/Pond, Derbyshire County Council letter and Flood Wardens

Members agreed that the area looks terrible. Mrs Bennett had sought quotes from appropriate contractors. One recommended from the list supplied by Peak District National Park Authority's (PDNPA's) Ponds' Officer had replied; other contractors had not replied; two were not interested and a quote from one contractor supplied two years ago was too expensive. Mrs Bennett had also spoken to the local contractor referred to by Mr Yeomans in the previous minutes and established that he too was not interested in the work involved. Members discussed the removal of material at an extra cost and also how to prevent the areas becoming unsightly in future years. Mrs Bennett reported that an acquaintance of a Parwich resident

was a lecturer in fresh water biology and would be willing to come and view the sheep wash and may be able to provide some information; however, to date the parish council has received a variety of opinions. The future planting of the sheep wash is a separate issue.

Resolved: Mrs Bennett to check the validity of the quote to instruct the contractor to carry out the work as soon as possible.

A letter from DCC had been received by two members of the parish council regarding the flood warden scheme and work on a road closure scheme. Also included were references to equipment storage, vulnerable people and maps. A further flood warden meeting will take place at 7 pm on 17th September.

Resolved: To forward the letter from DCC to all members.

Resolved: The clerk was provided with the email address of one of the flood wardens to pass on information.

14.7.12 Parsons Croft, usage by the school, car park and wasp nest

The clerk reported that Notts DA had not yet forwarded the cheque for the recent caravan booking at Parson's Croft but this had been chased. It was reported that a small number of wasps had been seen going in the store cupboard at the end of the toilets.

Resolved: At this stage the numbers were insufficient to warrant paying for pest control to resolve the issue.

The clerk had made enquiries with EON regarding the large credit which has accumulated on the parish council's electricity account and requested that this be returned to the parish council's bank account. This will be actioned. A new tariff will be required on expiry of the existing plan with EON in October 2014. The clerk had spoken to both EON and British Gas regarding a new tariff. Increased standing charges are now compulsory which will have an adverse effect on future energy costs for the parish council as consumption is low. Due to the low consumption, energy suppliers will not provide a 'no standing charge' tariff. Members discussed the achievement of one supply when second contract is due to expire in 2017.

Resolved: Clerk to negotiate best tariff with British Gas with a view to the achievement of one supply in 2017.

The car park at Parsons Croft was reported to be in need of strimming and weeding. There has been some improvement in the vehicles parked.

Resolved: Clerk to approach the contractor employed to mow the Parsons Croft area to attend to this as a single extra cost.

Following a letter received from one of the teachers at the primary school Mrs Bennett had met with the teacher regarding the former cricket pitch field which is used by the school children. The contractor is now cutting this grass shorter but due to costs involved, grass clippings remain on the field. The school may have some funding and enquired about the cost of two extra cuts in October, the cost of removing grass cuttings, the cost of weekly cuts. The logistics of payment involving the school would, however, require further investigation. Mr Yeomans advised that a mulching machine would be required.

Resolved: Clerk to contact the contractor who cuts the field for the above information.

It was reported that the cricket field has some holes in it and requires rolling.

A resident had contacted Ms Healy regarding the use of the parish council's facilities for children's activities and free family multisports activities and family rounders. This would be organised through Derbyshire Dales District Council (DDDC) and therefore, the members assumed the insurance would be in place. The

clerk advised that the parish council's insurance would not cover events organised by those other than the parish council.

Resolved: Ms Healy to advise the enquirer that permission would be granted for the event if DDDC's insurance would cover the particulars of the events.

14.7.13 Pump Hill

The clerk had forwarded a copy of the legal document, drawn up at the time of the transfer of Pump Hill to the parish council, to the legal department at DCC. Unfortunately, DCC's legal personnel had responded to say DCC cannot assist with advice on the matter. Mrs Bennett had liaised with the former clerk who had provided some historical information on the transactions of the parish council acquiring the use of Pump Hill. This had been forwarded to members and the present clerk in advance of the meeting. Members discussed the legal requirements of the transfer and the transfer value of Pump Hill.

Resolved: Clerk to contact the solicitor holding parish council documents to establish the nature of documents which they hold in relation to Pump Hill and the parish council's responsibilities in relation to the documentation and sale of Pump Hill.

14.7.14 Minor Maintenance Agreement (MMA)

The clerk had registered a sum of money with DCC under the above scheme and had been liaising repeatedly with the Peak Park Ranger Service and the Rights of Way team at DCC regarding minor maintenance work on some rights of way in Parwich. The Ranger Service has identified some overgrown areas on footpath 1. These have been forwarded to DCC to establish eligibility and cost. The clerk had asked for an extension to the deadline to enable communication to take place between the ranger service and a volunteer team used by the ranger service for such work. The parish council will pay the costs involved to the team but subsequently invoice DCC to recover the costs under the MMA scheme.

Resolved: The members agreed to pursue the scheme to enable the footpath to be cleared of vegetation and the clerk to complete necessary documentation between the ranger service, volunteer scheme and DCC.

14.7.15 ROSPA playground inspection report

A Hard copy report had been received subsequent to the June parish council meeting. The clerk had requested an electronic version for members which had been received and forward to members in advance of the meeting. There were no items highlighted on the report above a medium risk. Members discussed some of the matting and the chains on the swings. Members previously saved significant costs in the refurbishment of the roundabout.

Resolved: Members to investigate quotes for replacement chains.

Resolved: Mr Yeomans to purchase sealant, from parish council's account at a merchant, to address some of the matting issues.

Resolved: Playground matting to feature on the September agenda.

14.7.16 Councillors' training

Definitive costs for outside hire of the Memorial Hall had not been forwarded to the clerk prior to the meeting to enable a DALC training event to be progressed further. This matter was discussed again including an appropriate fee to forward to DALC to hire the Memorial Hall for training purposes and dates and times to for members to attend.

Resolved: Clerk to forward the details to DALC.

14.7.17 Parish Council policies

Mrs Bennett had forwarded copies of policies in advance of the meeting which had been considered by the policy sub-committee.

Members discussed the policies.

Resolved: No amendments required to the Communications Policy and Public Speaking document other than the review date.

Resolved: To adopt the Freedom of Information policy as it stands from the Information Commissioner's Scheme.

Resolved: Adopt minor changes to the parish council's standing orders on receipt of correct wording from the Monitoring Officer at DDDC regarding recording at parish council meetings. Review date to be amended.

Resolved: Financial regulations to remain unchanged.

Resolved: Vexatious and repeated requests policy to remove the name of the Chairman of the Parish Council.

Resolved: Clerk to request a Disciplinary and Grievance Procedures policy from DALC and/or the Monitoring Officer.

Resolved: Mrs Bennett to make amendments to policies as agreed by full council and to forward to members and the clerk.

14.7.18 Items of account, clerk's monthly salary, contractors

Cq 1203	P Lownds	2 mowing cuts	£110.00
Cq 1204	S Hampson	July net salary	£214.20
Cq 1205	S Hampson	August net salary	£214.20
Cq 1206	S Hampson	Reimbursement of expenses	£20.52
Cq 1207	Parwich Memorial Hall	Meeting hire	£15.00
Cq 1208	Playsafety	ROSPA Playground inspection	£78.00

The clerk reported that the VAT refund had been received in the sum of £914.81 and the EON refund of electricity credit £120.24. There will be a reduction in the interest rate applied to one of the parish council's accounts.

14.7.19 Planning applications and planning sub-committee

There had been no applications considered by the planning sub-committee. There were no new applications to consider.

14.7.20 Correspondence and communication

Other communication, in addition to that covered by agenda items, included: DALC circulars and DDDC Area Forums. A request had been received from the Primary school; the school intends to purchase netball posts and requested permission to chain these to the parish council's fence.

A further enquiry had been received from the Sycamore regarding different activities which may take place in September. The details were not yet finalised but included a request for fund medals.

Resolved: Clerk to advise that permission will be granted for the activities organised by the Sycamore committee but to advise that the parish council's insurance will not cover the use of the facilities.

Resolved: Clerk to further advise that unfortunately, on this occasion, the parish council will have to decline the request for fund medals.

Members discussed checking the village salt bins as DCC require winter salt/grit orders to be placed from September. Parish council rents are due in September.

Resolved: Salt/Grit bins to be checked during the summer recess.

Resolved: Clerk to issue the rent reminders towards the end of the summer recess.

14.7.21 Items for the next agenda

Pump Hill, Nethergreen, Parish Council Website, Councillors' training, Sheep Wash/Ponds, Energy contract, Policies, Parish Council rents. Additional items to be forwarded to the clerk during the summer recess.

14.7.22 Date of the next meeting

17th September 2014. There will be no meeting during August.

Part 2 – Confidential Items

14.7.23 To move the following resolution – “That in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted it is advisable in the public interest, that the press and public be temporarily excluded and they are instructed to withdraw. (The reasons – in respect of a discussion concerning an employee of the parish council and vexatious and repeated requests).

Resolved: to accept the above resolution.

14.7.24 Clerk’s hours

In view of a recent pre-action letter and judicial review brought against the parish council by a resident of Parwich the clerk had spent time in addition to her contractual hours involved in with this process with the members of the parish council during June and July.

Resolved: Payment of an additional 6 hours at the clerk's normal hourly rate to be included in the clerk's September salary.

14.7.25 Vexatious and repeated requests

Members feel they are now clear on the criteria

The meeting was declared closed at 10.20 pm

Mrs S Hampson
Clerk
Parwich Parish Council
20 July 2014