

Parwich Parish Council

A meeting of Parwich Parish Council was held on Wednesday, 19th November at 7.30 pm in Parwich Memorial Hall.

Present: R Bunting, M Harrison, C Healy, N Linnell, M Gerard-Pearse, the clerk, Mrs S Hampson, and members of the public. Also in attendance was Mrs T Raiment from Derbyshire County Council (DCC).

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

14.11.1 Apologies/Councillors' attendance register

Apologies had been received in advance of the meeting from Mr E Yeomans (work commitments) and from Mrs Bennett (parent undergoing surgery), County Councillor, S Spencer, District Councillor, Sir R Fitzherbert and PCSO K Wakefield. Members present duly completed the attendance register.

14.11.2 Declaration of personal/pecuniary interest of councillors

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

14.11.3 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 chairman, Mr Bunting.

14.11.4 Public speaking

Three members of the public spoke in turn. Items included references to a conversation with another resident who had previously gifted the area of land referred to as Pump Hill. The member of the public reported that this gentleman would like to buy it back. Another resident thought this would be only fair but if declined, the matter should be brought before a public debate. The same resident also stated he would be unhappy to see an increase in the 2015-16 precept. A resident reported that the reason for attendance at the meeting was to help to raise awareness of the appalling situation of dog fouling in the village and would be happy to assist in way possible. Another resident advised that in Wales dogs are not permitted to be off a lead.

14.11.5 Items from public speaking

Covered by the agenda

14.11.6 Attendance by DCC representative, water course management (including riparian owners and culverts)

The representative from DCC was in attendance to discuss water course management in Parwich.

Resolved: To allow input from the water course wardens and riparian owners who were in attendance.

One of the water course wardens had attended a recent event at Matlock organised between DCC and the Environment Agency. He reported that the event was very informative. From the meeting, the water course warden (the warden) suggested contacting the probation service to utilise people on community service to clear the village water courses. Village residents and members of the parish council have previously attempted this. The warden has recently had to clear the blocked Pitts Lane culvert. This area was reported as being in a mess. DCC personnel advised that it is the riparian owner's responsibility to clear it.

DCC's reactive service was reported as being too slow compared to having water course wardens and equipment ready in place. A storage facility, equipment, maps and a plan are vital. DCC would like to see a community driven scheme supported by DCC. Parwich will be one of the first in Derbyshire to achieve a Community Flood Plan. Draft copies of a plan were left by DCC personnel together with maps to annotate. Identification of multiple areas will result in a dilution of focus. DCC personnel advised that a grant would be available for the parish council but the sum will depend on identified requirements (DCC guidance will be available) for the village but will be subject to terms and conditions, including a monetary contribution of approximately 10% from the community towards the scheme. DCC will also provide personal protective equipment (PPE). Neither DCC nor Severn Trent Water Authority (STWA) will cleanse assets under unadopted areas such as the area under Pitts Lane.

Ms Healy reported information provided at the previous community meeting and the need to avoid duplication and starting from scratch. It was also reported that people are concerned about properties being identified as flood risks for future property sales. The parish council members requested confirmation that if an effective water course management scheme is in place this will not effect insurance premiums.

Resolved: DCC to forward both electronic versions and hard copies of maps and plans.

Resolved: To narrow down effected properties, effected areas and roads and how to mitigate problems prior to DCC revisiting.

Resolved: A list of equipment to be sent to the two watercourse wardens and a copy to the clerk

Resolved: To decide where to store items.

Resolved: To decide what items will be required from suggested list eg generator.

Resolved: DCC to provide contact details of other parishes such as Ashford-in-the-Water to aid good practice.

Resolved: To channel grant monies through the parish council.

Resolved: DCC to forward a formal response with regard to property insurance queries

Resolved: DCC to revisit when proposals have been further considered and areas of risk identified

The other warden advised of a previous village action group and an environment sub-group which could be reactivated.

Resolved: Watercourse wardens to attempt to reignite the previous action group/sub-group and liaise with Ms Healy with a view to reporting back at the January parish council meeting

14.11.7 Update from District and County Councillor

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

14.11.8 Update from PCSO and dog fouling

Following the parish council notice on the Blog to alert the community to the problem of dog fouling in the village the clerk had contacted the PCSO in advance of the meeting to enquire if she had received any reports from members of the community. The PCSO had advised the clerk that she had now been contacted and had received the names of three residents who may allegedly be allowing their dogs to foul. The PCSO was unable to provide any further information until such time as she had had the opportunity to visit all three named individuals to corroborate or dismiss matters. The clerk had received communication suggesting the use of a mail shot to further alert people to the issues which one of the councillors reported as being endemic. Some residents' gardens are also now being affected. The school has now had to cancel planned events for the children due to dog fouling on the former cricket field. Kiln Lane, Creamery Lane, areas near the school, Church Walk are now also being fouled. This is now having an impact on school children's curriculum and is a serious health hazard to vulnerable young people. It was reported that certain areas in the village are worse than others which may suggest that more than one dog is involved. It was reported that a small minority of residents may be allowing their dogs to roam for a considerable period of time which

will escalate the problem. Teachers have advised that the children are probably going to produce posters. The parish council members shared the concerns of the majority of residents and school staff.

Resolved: The parish council would like to request all residents to support the school and residents in reducing incidents of dog fouling in the village.

Resolved: The parish council to produce an information sheet for residents with the contact details of the PCSO.

14.11.9 Nethergreen and Land Registry, trees and fencing

Mrs Bennett had advised members in advance of the meeting of issues with the avenue of trees recently planted at Nethergreen. One tree has died and another has broken branches. From professional advice received, this particular tree will only ever grow in a deformed way. Derwent Treescapes will replace the dead tree free of charge. The cost to replace the deformed tree will be £24.00. Mrs Bennett had kindly offered to attend to the purchase and planting of the tree, assisted by a kind resident. It was confirmed that fencing has been attended to.

Resolved: Cheque to be prepared to cover the cost of the replacement tree. (See items of account).

From a thorough search of historic parish council records, reference to planning applications, registration searches and consultation with two independent solicitors, Mr Gerard-Pearse advised that matters should be formalised through registration to the parish council. Members considered if this should be pursued.

Resolved: Mr Gerard-Pearse to pursue, on behalf of the parish council, the registration of Nethergreen in the name of Parwich Parish Council.

Resolved: Until the matter of the registration of Nethergreen has reached a conclusion, Mr Gerard-Pearse to retain safe keeping of all documentation relating to Nethergreen and its registration in the name of Parwich Parish Council.

Issues at Nethergreen had again been raised by a resident via correspondence. (See correspondence and communication).

14.11.10 Parish Council website

Communication had been received from a resident questioning the rationale for the parish council's decision to pursue the achievement of a dedicated website for Parwich Parish Council. The initial website cost for year one is £150 + VAT and £250 + VAT from year 2. Ms Healy had prepared a summary of the advantages and disadvantages of the dedicated website which the parish council had considered when making the decision. These included: one site for all policies and procedures; easy access to view council documents; management and control by the parish council; consistent with advice from the Derbyshire Association of Local Councils (DALC) and with other parish councils in Derbyshire; ecologically acceptable; continuity throughout changes of clerk and council members; safeguarding of documents.

Members acknowledged the cost element but this is being kept to a minimum through work being undertaken by members. Minutes and agendas will continue to be available to view in hard copy format in the shop and agendas on the noticeboard. Mrs Bennett will shortly be receiving further training to disseminate. The cheque prepared at the last meeting will be processed during December. The website company will then require a further three weeks to set up the website. Mrs Linnell raised a possible issue with the operation of the website after May 2015 if the existing council members do not stand for a further term of office; if interest in potential vacancies is not received and if the clerk was to resign. Previous parish council decisions should not ordinarily be overturned within a period of 6 months.

Resolved: To honour the previous decision to pursue the achievement of a dedicated website for Parwich Parish Council.

14.11.11 Budget items and Precept

The clerk had forwarded to members an up to date spreadsheet of the payments and receipts during the present financial year. In addition, the clerk had also forward a comparison of expenditure to date and a forecast to the end of the financial year in comparison to the amount allocated to items of maintenance, salaries, contractors and energy consumption. It was acknowledged that approximately 25% of the budget expenditure is consumed by mowing costs and this may have the potential to rise with the allocation of a new mowing contract next year. Based on information received last year, the clerk advised that the grant from DDDC would be considerably less for 2015-16; however, no information has yet been received from Derbyshire Dales District Council (DDDC) to reconfirm the figure.

The clerk reported that expenditure far exceeds income each year. Due to uncertain expenditure associated with legal expenses related to Nethergreen and Pump Hill together with potential income from the sale of Pump Hill the clerk advised members to consider deferring the precept setting until January 2015. Further consideration for the deferral of precept setting included potential increased mowing costs arising from new contract tenders and restoration works at the tennis courts.

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

Cq 1224	T Moorcroft	3 mowing cuts	£738.00
Cq 1225	S Hampson	November net salary	£214.20
Cq 1226	S Hampson	Reimbursement of expenses	£7.60
Cq 1227	Parwich Memorial Hall	November meeting hire	£15.00
Cq 1228	S Hampson	December net salary	£214.20
Cq 1229	HMRC	Quarter 3 income tax	£160.80
Cq 1230	R Beach	Hedge cutting	£34.80
Cq 1231	Derwent Treescaping	Replacement tree	£24.00
Cq 1232	S Povey	Removal of 5 moles	£50.00

14.11.13 Planning applications and planning sub-committee

There were no new planning applications. Details of an appeal decision at Parwich Lees were reported.

14.11.14 Correspondence and communication

Correspondence and electronic communication included:

Peak Park access news letters regarding green lanes, village trails and concession paths; oil club syndicate publicity; DALC circulars.

The Blog team had forward some information about Vodafone Rural Open Sure Signal which had only been received on the day of the meeting. The Blog reported that allegedly, a resident is happy to consider booster equipment at her property.

A resident had requested confirmation of verges being mown at certain locations. Members confirmed that Creamery Lane and Monsdale verges are the responsibility of DCC not the parish council. Parish council mowing contracts have now been completed and will cease until such time as new tenders have been received, considered and suitable contractor(s) appointed.

Resolved: Mrs Linnell to place the publicity documents regarding the oil club in the village shop.

Further communications had been received from a resident regarding Nethergreen and also with further references regarding alleged misleading of the parish council by Councillor, Mrs Bennett. Members appreciated the detailed information provided by the resident and the time taken to forward information to the parish council. The parish council welcome constructive communication from the public but cannot become involved in matters of a personal nature.

The members discussed an appropriate response to the resident and to the allegation that Mrs Bennett misled the members of the parish council at a previous parish council meeting.

Resolved: All members of the parish council support Mrs Bennett and do not believe that Mrs Bennett has misled other members of the parish council in any way.

Resolved: The clerk to reiterate the same response to the resident forwarded after the October parish council meeting.

Members reported a pot hole at the junction of the B5056 with the Longcliffe Road. Also, it was reported that the 'Give Way' sign has been knocked down at Back Hill Lane at the triangle.

Resolved: Clerk to advise DCC Highways Department of the above highway issues.

From the previous meeting regarding DCC's rationalisation of litter bins, Ms Healy suggested the removal of the dog waste bin at Nethergreen and the replacement of the bin on the corner of Nethergreen with one of better quality.

Resolved: Clerk to advise DCC accordingly.

14.11.15 Items for the next agenda

Precept, Parish Council Website, water course management, grit bins, Ashbourne Community Transport, highways issues, village grit bins, Nethergreen registration and trees, Pump Hill, tenders for tennis court at Parsons Croft, mowing tenders. Additional items to be compiled by the clerk.

14.11.16 Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting: 21 January 2015 (there will not be a meeting in December 2014)

The dates of forthcoming meetings will be: 25 February, 18 March and 15 April 2015

Mr Bunting advised those present "That in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted (in respect of discussions concerning valuations and tenders) it is advisable in the public interest, that the press and public be temporarily excluded and they are instructed to withdraw.

Resolved: Members of the public were requested to withdraw after being advised of the above statement.

Confidential information

14.11.17 Pump Hill

Mr Gerard-Pearse had obtained a boundary map for the land referred to as Pump Hill. Legal advice had been sought from two independent solicitors regarding various issues and, following consultation and advice from DALC, a professional valuation had been requested and subsequently received. Due to the value of the land in the report, members discussed this in relation to the document which was drawn up at the time of the purchase between the purchaser and Parwich Parish Council. This document refers to the right of first refusal to purchase the land back from the parish council, on the price ruling on the day. The parish council has had to bear this confidential document in mind throughout previous discussions surrounding the sale of the land.

Resolved: Based on legal advice received, Parwich Parish Council intends to honour the document referred to above and will adhere to the first refusal reference contained therein.

Resolved: Members to consult with the resident named in the document to offer first refusal of purchase at the value disclosed in the professional valuation.

Resolved: Ms Healy and Mr Gerard-Pearse to approach the people concerned in the legal document.

Resolved: If the resident referred to in the legal document and the purchaser named on the deeds do not wish to take up the right to first refusal of the land, at the price quoted on the professional document, then the land will be offered for sale, at the same price, to the general public.

Resolved: Costs to be obtained for the preparation of the valuation report.

Resolved: The clerk to advise another resident who has expressed interest and offered a sum of money for the land but not referred to in the legal document, of the parish council's decision.

It was reported that an article had been placed on the Blog by a resident with suggestions for the use of Pump Hill. It was also reported that the article questioned why the parish council had not sought the views of the village. Neither the author of the article nor the Blog Team had sought views of the parish council prior to placing the article, therefore, would not be aware of the extensive legal consultation being done between parish council meetings nor of the existence of the legal document which the parish council was adhering to. The actions of the parish council have been in order to protect the parish council, the resident referred to in the document and the residents of Parwich by attempting to achieve the best valuation of the land based on a professional valuation.

14.11.18 To consider tenders for replacing tennis court perimeter fencing

The clerk had issued tenders to three suitable crafts men to replace the tennis court perimeter fencing at the village tennis courts. Mrs Linnell reported that the tennis courts are now in an appalling state and upheld some of the comments received in an email from a resident subsequent to the October meeting. The nets are no longer fit to reuse. It was reported that unsupervised children/teenagers have been visiting the tennis courts with bikes, skate boards etc ignoring the notice on display. One of the floodlights is broken rendering the pitch unfit for hiring to local football teams which is resulting in lost revenue. One local team is keen to hire the area.

One tender had been received in time for the meeting. From this quote, all of the posts need to be replaced and over 40 fencing panels too, therefore, a considerable proportion of the value of the tender was apportioned to the purchase of materials and excavating old concrete.

Resolved: Quotes from those remaining craftsmen invited to tender to be chased.

14.11.19 2015-16 mowing tender requirements

Existing contractors had been approached for some input regarding mowing areas and background information. Both contractors had kindly responded and supplied valuable information. Members of the parish council had also prepared documentation in advance of the meeting to include in documentation for new tenders for the mowing contract in Parwich.

Resolved: The clerk to prepare documentation and seek tenders for the first week in January 2015 to enable further consideration to be given to this matter at the January parish council meeting.

Resolved: Due to the parish council elections in May which may result in a different make up of the parish council the new mowing contract will be for one year only.

Resolved: Due to the confidential nature of tenders this item will feature as a confidential item on the January agenda.

The meeting was declared closed at 10.35 pm

Mrs S Hampson
Clerk
Parwich Parish Council

24 November 2014