

Portbury Parish Council

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held 2nd March 2010
Village Hall, High Street, Portbury

Present:

Councillors: Cllr Weeks Cllr Cooke Cllr Tarr Cllr Marshall Cllr Young

Chairman: Cllr Summerfield

Clerk: Cllr Meek – arrived at 7.32pm (Minutes taken by Sara Thompson)

Others: Mandy Bishop NSC
 Mr R Ball – Neighbourhood Watch
 Haydn John (arrived at 7.46pm – left 8.15pm)

2 Members of the public

Meeting commenced at 7.30pm

Apologies received from PC Clark

No	Item	Action																								
PC/03/01	Minutes of February's meeting held 02.02.10 signed as a true record of proceedings with the following ratification; Proposed: Cllr Cooke Seconded: Cllr Marshall All in favour																									
PC/03/02	Finance (a) Accounts for authorisation: <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 70%;"></th> <th style="text-align: right;">Nett</th> <th style="text-align: right;">VAT</th> <th style="text-align: right;">Gross</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>PBS – Admin during Feb 10</td> <td style="text-align: right;">350.00</td> <td style="text-align: right;">61.25</td> <td style="text-align: right;">411.25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PBS – Coordinator Mar 10</td> <td style="text-align: right;">250.00</td> <td style="text-align: right;">43.75</td> <td style="text-align: right;">293.75</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Brian Weekes – Litter picking</td> <td style="text-align: right;">120.00</td> <td style="text-align: right;">0.00</td> <td style="text-align: right;">120.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cllr Summerfield – Expenses February Travel</td> <td style="text-align: right;">9.24</td> <td style="text-align: right;">0.36</td> <td style="text-align: right;">9.60</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 150px;">Telephone</td> <td style="text-align: right;">9.75</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1.71</td> <td style="text-align: right;">11.46</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Nett	VAT	Gross	PBS – Admin during Feb 10	350.00	61.25	411.25	PBS – Coordinator Mar 10	250.00	43.75	293.75	Brian Weekes – Litter picking	120.00	0.00	120.00	Cllr Summerfield – Expenses February Travel	9.24	0.36	9.60	Telephone	9.75	1.71	11.46	
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	<p>Additional item for authorisation;</p> <p>Cllr Marshall presented an invoice from St Mary's School re the purchase of 4 picnic tables for use on the school playing field. It was agreed at February's meeting that the council would assist in the purchase and had allocated funds of approx £500. The final invoice was for £531.87 and it was agreed that this amount would be paid.</p> <p>Proposed: Cllr Cooke Seconded: Cllr Young All in favour</p> <p>(b) Communal Speed Gun Funding – outstanding balance £238.90 Further to the presentation given by PC Robinson at last month's council meeting, the council agreed to fund the outstanding amount of £238.90. It was reiterated that councillors were reluctant to volunteer in assisting with this initiative for fear of intimidation by offenders, as experienced in neighbouring parishes. PC Robinson to be advised of this decision and the council's expectations; even if there are no volunteers forthcoming, a guarantee is required from the police that Portbury will still be included in the Speed Watch programme and that village will be regularly monitored.</p> <p>Proposed: Cllr Tarr Seconded: Cllr Young All in favour</p> <p>(c) Funding of Lengsthman gardening equipment Brian Weekes was invited to present details of costs regarding the purchase of a strimmer. Due to the nature of work that the council require, a robust, heavy duty unit will be needed and this would cost in the region of £350.00. Protective clothing/safety wear are also a requirement and therefore a budget of £500 (excluding VAT) was agreed. Although the council will own the strimmer, Mr Weekes will have unlimited access and it will remain in his possession until such time he is now longer contracted to the council as village lengthsman.</p> <p>Proposed: Cllr Tarr Seconded: Cllr Meek All in favour</p> <p>(d) Victim Support – Donation request After a short discussion this request was refused.</p> <p>(e) Reserve Account Due to the current financial economy and subsequent low interest rates, Cllr Meeks suggested that it may be prudent to investigate the possibility of transferring the Council's reserves to a high interest account, subject to terms and conditions. Mandy Bishop to contact a NSC Finance Officer to see if restrictions apply.</p>	<p>PBS</p> <p>MB/JM</p>
<p>PC/03/03</p>	<p>Crime & Disorder</p> <p>(a) Mr Ball advised that the 'No cold calling' initiative has been launched in February and that all residents should have now received their introduction packs.</p> <p>(b) PACT meeting 10.02.10. Unfortunately this was cancelled as there was no police representative available. Mr Ball also commented that he felt that the advertising material for PACT was misleading, in that the heading 'PACT Meeting' suggested that it was a meeting introducing PACT rather than the intended 'one to one' session with a police officer. Cllr Cooke to contact PC Clark regarding this issue.</p>	<p>PC</p>

	<p>(c) Emergency Vehicle Access. Following on from previous discussions regarding inconsiderate parking within the village, the council sought an official response from the Fire Service as to how cars blocking their access are dealt with. Extract below from correspondence received;</p> <p>‘Our initial action if no alternative route is available /appropriate would be to sound the appliance horns continuously whilst also using blue beacons until people in the area become aware of the need to move their cars. We would also send personnel on foot with some life saving equipment such as Breathing apparatus and extinguishers to investigate the incident.</p> <p>If this course of action were unsuccessful we carry jacking equipment on our vehicles which enables us to move cars without opening them. We would use this equipment to move vehicles where necessary.</p> <p>If all the above fails, which in my experience is rare, the Officer in Charge would make a risk assessment as to the benefit of any other action to gain access.”</p> <p>The council trust that this reply will allay any fears that residents may have and that they should be assured that in any event, emergency vehicles and personnel will not be hindered by such obstacles.</p>	
<p>PC/03/04</p>	<p>Parish Plan and Website</p> <p>(a) Parish Plan – Haydn John advised the council that adequate material had now been gathered to allow a draft questionnaire to be presented to the Residents’ Meeting in May 2010.</p> <p>(b) Website – The site is regularly updated and working well.</p>	
<p>PC/03/05</p>	<p>Planning</p> <p>(a) Applications Withdrawn/Refused/Granted</p> <p>09/P/1960/LB - Installation of a satellite dish - Beech Barn, Moorgate. Refused</p> <p>09/P/2120/F - Retention of mobile stable and hardstanding. Land adjacent to Portbury Hundred/Gypsy Lane Granted</p> <p>09/P/2235/F – Retrospective application for erection of single storey rear extension. 9 Linnet Gardens Granted</p> <p>10/P/0086/F - Building extension at Jct 19 services (Welcome Break). No objection</p> <p>10/P/0120/F - The Old Barn Annexe, Priory Farm. Reconstruction of a fire damaged industrial/storage unit. The council understands that this is an amended application due to a NSC planning officer issuing an incorrect industry condition. Provided that the conditions are as those ‘pre-fire’, the council has no objection.</p> <p>10/P/0208/F – Erection of conservatory. 9 Tarragon Place</p> <p>10/P/0241/F – 27 Caswell Lane. Erection of a new dwelling following demolition of existing. Cllr Weekes declared an interest and left the room. PPC had No objection provided that the build does not extend beyond the demolished buildings height and</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>

	<p>footprint (including the previous application for extensions) and that the correct building's datum point is used. It was also requested that all previous conditions relevant to this site should be re-instated. The council expect the build to comply with current regulations and that this will be monitored by NSC.</p> <p>10/P/0238/F – Noah's Farm Farm. Erection of elephant house and associated fencing (Info only)</p> <p>(b) Application for advisory disabled persons parking bay – 49 Mill Lane. No objection – form to be completed.</p> <p>(c) Supermarket/motel planning applications - Portishead. In principle, the council do not object to these applications, however;</p> <p>With regard to the Travelodge, concern was raised that it may used as an overnight rest point for commuters using the M5, leading to additional traffic using Jct 19 at peak periods.</p> <p>A planning condition of the Waitrose supermarket was that it had to provide a hundred car parking spaces for the Portishead railway terminal. At the time of construction, fifty spaces were provided and the space for a further fifty was allocated. However, the plans for the new development indicate that the buildings will actually span the allocated spaces and therefore they will be lost.</p> <p>Mr Ball, an active member of the Portishead railway group, advised the council that they had drafted a response regarding the application, highlighting the above and other areas of concern. Mr Ball was asked to provide a copy to the council prior to PPC submitting their response. Cllr Tarr to draft a reply for approval.</p> <p>(d) Biomass – Response from DECC in reply to PPC letter dated 22.01.10. The council were disappointed that the letter did not address all of the points raised, and that it did it provide any information that the council were not already aware of.</p> <p>National Grid – Hinkley Point Connection. Due to the depth of concern, it was suggested that local councils may like to consider forming a 'consortium' to pool resources. NG will be holding further consultations and it was felt that a joint representation may be more effective. Cllr Tarr to draft a letter to neighbouring parish councils suggesting same.</p> <p>(e) NSC – APP/D0121/A/09/2117326/NWF. 500 Dwellings Failand. Appeal hearing 09.03.10</p> <p>(f) Several councillors had attended a meeting with NSC Planning Department to review and discuss recent decisions regarding planning applications. During conversation it was noted that, at some stage, a unit in Portbury Dock has been reclassified from B8 to B2 usage. It was the understanding of the council that all units were designated B8 (distribution) and that they would remain as such, particularly in view of the resettlement of the residents of Elm Tree Park whose homes back on to the West Dock. A change of use on adjacent units could have a detrimental effect to their living conditions. This issue to be followed up with Elm tree park residents and if appropriate further clarification will be requested from NSC</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>ST</p> <p>ST</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>LS</p>
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<p>PC/03/06</p>	<p>Parish Coordinator/Task Monitor Updated task monitor was agreed by PPC as a true outstanding position.</p> <p>Standing orders are required by the Mazars audit team during the next month and a draft edition has been circulated to Councillors for approval.</p> <p>Office storage space is becoming limited and PBS requested assistance from PPC to help rationalise the archive contents.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>All</p>
<p>PC/03/07</p>	<p>Correspondence NSC – Feedback from North Somerset Local Standards Conference 2009 NS IDB – Board’s response to the Severn Estuary Shoreline Management Plan Review SMP2</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>
<p>PC/03/08</p>	<p>Maintenance Grit bins/Rubbish bins Ongoing discussion with NSC on site locations</p>	
<p>PC/03/09</p>	<p>Transport and Traffic Snack van –Layby A369/High Street Reports continue to arise that HGV are using the adjacent Bus stops as a lay by to purchase food from the licensed Snack bar. Apart from illegal parking the concerns extend to dangerous vehicle movements to gain access and exiting the Bus Stop. This is particularly disappointing as NSC Licensing department have addressed a number of issues during 2009 with respect to breaches of the trading license and it was felt that improvements had been achieved but clearly not on this road safety concern. PPC stated that NSC and the police are responsible for road safety and PPC are keen that it is resolved.</p> <p>Kerry Ingredients – Letter received re parking of HGV vehicles, Portbury Way It has been suggested that due to Gordano Services policy of increased over night parking charges HGV are now using Portbury Way for parking. This has resulted in safety concerns from Bob Sperring (Kerry’s Health and Safety). He was advised by PPC that he should contact Patrick Kearon of RPD to seek advice on the way forward.</p> <p>Cllr Cooke informed PPC that a traffic order detailed the 4 ton weight limit commencing at the junction with the A369. This is to be followed up with NSC.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>PC</p>
<p>PC/03/10</p>	<p>St Mary’s Church and School St Mary’s school sent photos of the new benches that PPC provided with a letter of thanks.</p>	

<p>PC/03/11</p>	<p>AOB A resident reported dog fouling occurring on the village green. Mandy Bishop assured PPC that NSC would take action when the culprit is found.</p> <p>The drains on Portbury Lane are still blocked and there is increasing concerns that this will lead to further flooding incidents of the Village Hall. NSC are to contacted once again on the issue reminding them of their duty of care.</p> <p>Cllr Meek informed PPC that SEC have advised that a low voltage foot light solution to illuminate the footbridge is technically feasible but permission from Highways is required before anything can be attached to the structure. PPC will contact Highways for advice.</p>	<p>PC</p> <p>PC</p>
<p>PC/03/12</p>	<p>AGM 6th April 2010 at 7.00pm Date and time of next meeting – Parish meeting 6th April 2010 at 7.30pm</p>	

Meeting finished at 10.00PM
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