

PAILTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held
at Pailton Village Hall, on Monday 3rd December 2007 at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllrs. A. Gillias (Chairman & RBC) P. Morris-Jones (WCC)
D. Swindell (Vice Chairman) M. Barnett J. Fitzsimons
S. Lenton

Open Meeting.

The Chairman of the Parish Plan, a representative of the Village Hall Committee & one resident were present.

Report of abandoned car o/s old telephone exchange.

Village trust had discussed the intended residence of the Post Office inside the village hall. AG confirmed that confirmation had been sought 'agreement in principle' only.

170. Apologies.

The Clerk was absent due to injury.

171. Declarations of Interests

AG declared an interest in planning matters being a member of RBC Planning Committee, JF declared an Interest in matters relating to The Village Stores & P.O.

172. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 5th November 2007.

P42. Amended item 155. Housing Needs Survey sent off to Phil Ward - not Warren.

JF was concerned that his comment re. re-siting of Post Box had not been recorded. AG confirmed that the same item was up for discussion on this meeting & his recommendations would be discussed in more detail.

The minutes were proposed an accurate account of the meeting by MB & seconded by AG.

173. Matters Arising.

P42. Hedge had now been cut back.

174. The Parish Plan

Copies of the updated Village Design Statement were passed around the table. A meeting was to be set up before Christmas to discuss the layout & content of the Parish Plan.

175. Circulation Review from 5th November 2007 meeting.

AG was concerned that the circulation file was not being reviewed due to inaccessibility. Cllrs were reminded to pass round the file in a responsible manner.

Farming & the Community Publications from WCC. These to be circulated to farmers & land owners to draw attention to obligations & responsibilities including maintenance of footpaths.

Clerk to forward a copy to local farmers with a letter when circulation file is returned.

File to be circulated to Cllrs not in receipt of it last month.

176. Circulations.

Warwickshire Artsweek - Poster for VH notice board

WCC - Changes to Mobile Library Service

WALC - Newsletter (see Changes to Audit Timing)

WALC - Day Course for Councillors 2 Feb 07

WALC - Newsletter

Defra - Questionnaire on Climate Change Booklet

WALC - Consultation Doc on Locality Committees

Clerks & Councils Direct - Magazine

NALC - Journal
SLCC - Magazine featuring Coventry Conference.
Filmscene - Invitation to book Mobile Cinema
RBC - Rugby Economic Prosperity Strategy (requires response)
CCC - Planning Policies & Local Development Framework
Circulations received after 29th November 2007
There had been none received.

177. Correspondence.

RBC - Parish Precepts

Phil Creek - Future Activities for Brinklow Quarry

Cllrs were unanimous in their concerns about the increased movement of HGVs from the quarry should these proposed activities take place.

MB offered to draft a letter highlighting the PC's concerns.

WALC - Contributions to Warks Firefighters Family Fund (under sec. 137)

Cllrs. felt that this should be a personal decision & would not be appropriate for a Parish Council to support any one government dept. in this respect (referring to government troops killed in action).

Bill Oler MP - Closure of Pailton PO & Stores

Post Office - Closure of PO

WRCC - Parish Plan Progress (Clerk has responded)

Correspondence received after 29th November 2007

There had been none received.

178. Town and Country Planning

There were no new planning applications to review.

179. Update on building in-progress on Land at rear of Coventry Road

The clerk had enclosed an advertisement from a local paper for the new build which was now being marketed for £420K. Outline planning permission had been approved for a two bedroom bungalow on the basis of sustainable communities (i.e. Housing Needs for a close relative). Cllrs discussed this & it was agreed that this breach of planning must be investigated & challenged.

MB to file 'Breach of Planning' on-line

Action: Clerk to request an urgent meeting between A.E. Rose - Head of Planning @ RBC & Pailton Parish Cllrs.

180. Report from WCC - Cllr. Phillip Morris-Jones

RAC meeting next Thursday. AG proposed to highlight the 50 + HGVs travelling through Pailton to Copston Quarry every hour, often exceeding the speed limit.

PM-J to make the points re. two large grant funders had awarded funds for projects in Rugby but none for rural projects.

181. Report from RBC - Cllr. Anthony Gillias

Included in PM-J's report above.

182. Neighbourhood Watch

No further news on volunteers.

183. Blocked Drains & Update on Blocked Culvert

The clerk had sent a letter to Len Bailey, thanking him for offering to dig out the culvert but had not yet received any response. RBC had been out to inspect progress & was not pleased to see a pile of debris cleared from the ditch & deposited onto the footpath. AG to speak to LB before RBC wrote to him and urge him to proceed ASAP.

184. Grass Cutting Summary

The success of this new devolved responsibility was discussed. JF reported a small surplus left over from the grant & suggested it be used for the first cut next year. JF also highlighted areas of verges & grass at the top of Lutterworth Road which should be included in the contract next season. AG had noted that contractors had removed the turf in front of the Airey Houses during refurbishments & would speak to RBC with a view to getting them to re-turf & plant trees. It was suggested that the possibility of also taking on the amenity cutting could be put forward. This was

presently financed by the County & as such might not be feasible. It was decided that this should be incorporated into discussions on the precept for 2007/8 next month. AG had reported to the clerk that the footpath & verge along Coventy Road had been damaged by E.O.N contractors whilst carrying out repair work.

Clerk to report & ask EON to return & make good the verges.

185. Installation of Bollards on War Memorial Triangle.

These had not been installed in the places originally requested by the Cllrs. due to underground cables. After contractors had installed both bollards at incorrect depths, these had now been re-installed and Cllrs were pleased with the result. AG had painted them & until a new streetlight had been installed opposite, the feasibility of reflective stickers was discussed. AG thanked DS for co-ordinating this project so successfully.

186. New Streetlight.

AG asked members how they wished to proceed. The deficit on this project was discussed & it was decided that this project should be up for discussion at the next meeting. The problem of ABB cutting back offending branches from streetlights without consultation was also discussed. The trees on the Lutterworth Road, for which PPC had been billed, had now been cut down & it was decided that it would be inappropriate to charge the resident. JF highlighted the other trees cut back by ABB & billed to PPC. It was decided that AG should identify the owner and remind them of their responsibility.

Clerk to speak to ABB asking them not to cut back any more branches without first consulting with PPC.

187. Footpaths.

DS reported that WCC had installed a new 'kissing-gate' at the entrance to the footpath adj. to Foxfield next to a metal gate. This had been inaccessible due to the owner keeping the gate padlocked. DS was disappointed that £100 of PPC's footpath budget of £450 was used to do this. MB was concerned that this type of gate had been declared unlawful by the EU due to being inaccessible to wheelchair users. AG reported that this intrusion onto a local farmer's land to install the new gate had caused bad feeling. DS was to attend a meeting with Marina Kirchem the following week to discuss the other problematic footpaths & reported that MK had offered PPC a strimmer for volunteers to keep the overgrown footpaths & gates etc clear but DS was not sure if this was also to come out of the remaining £350 budget. JF raised the issue of H & S and the supply of protective clothing to volunteers using Parish Council equipment. DS to make enquires with MK from WCC at the forthcoming meeting. Concerns were raised again over the footpath at Greenways Farm and the barbed wire restricting access.

DS to show MK the evidence when she meets with him in Pailton.

188. Pailton Playing Field

DS reported that the contractor was progressing well with the work. AG was still waiting for estimates from contractors concerning the installation of a footpath leading up to the playing field & repairs to the surface of the car park.

189 Pailton Club

MB reported that there was a new committee & there were no problems.

190. Re-siting of Post Box

AG suggested that a post box could be bolted to the side of a telegraph pole next to the original PO where there was a convenient lay-by. JF noted that the present post box was not big enough & the possibility of having a free-standing box was discussed. Another suggestion for a new site was a box on the green outside of the new houses but this might not be agreeable to the residents. JF wished it to be minuted that one of the reasons for their application to move the post-box was due to concerns over security which had been voiced by residents of a nearby village & their reluctance to use a post-box which was recessed into the wall of a domestic dwelling & which was capable of being tampered with from the inside.

Action: Clerk to contact PO to discuss the size of a new post-box.

191. New Salary Scale for Clerks (to be backdated to April 07)

The clerk had enclosed a copy of the new salary scale award which had to be backdated to April 1st 2007. DS offered to review this & report back recommendations at the next meeting.

192. Accounts for Payment and Account Balance.

As at 29.11.2007

<u>Lloyds TSB Parish Plan Bank Statement (No.17)</u>	<u>£ 2363.45</u>
<u>Pailton Parish Plan Cashbook as at 29.11.07</u>	<u>£ 2363.45</u>

Pailton Parish Council Cashbook as at 01.11.07 **£2628.86**

Add: unsigned cheque for BHE b/f from Oct 07 £ 204.45

Less:

Invoices for Payment:

409- J. Pharoah November Salary + Exps	£ 164.36
410 - Furnitubes International Ltd	£ 1108.19
411 - BHE (Grass-cutting Contractor)	£ 204.45
D/D - Zurich Insurance	<u>£ 111.86</u>
	£ 1588.86

Parish Council Cashbook Balance 29.11.07 **£1244.43**

Parish Council Lloyds TSB Bank Statement no. 189 **£2892.98**

Add: D/D Zurich Insurance £ 111.86

Less:

Unpresented cheque BHE	£ 171.55
Payments to 29.11.07	<u>£ 1588.86</u>

Lloyds TSB Parish Council Bank Statement (189) **£1244.43**

The above cheques were signed + bank statements. Awaiting invoice from BHE for unpresented cheque (£171.55).

193. Closure of Pailton Post Office & Stores

This item to be discussed at the end of the meeting.

194. Other matters brought to the meeting for discussion.

JF brought before the Council the idea of tubs of flowers to be sited at the entrances to the village. MB noted that this project might qualify for an 'improvement to the village' grant. All were in agreement.

Action: Clerk to make this an agenda item for next meeting for further discussion.

MB was concerned that a new resident was still parking in a dangerous place adj. to the triangle.

DS to speak with the resident.

DS had made enquiries regarding additional premiums on the insurance if the post office facility were to be temporarily relocated in the village hall. Advised VH Trust to do the same. No response to date.

AG suggested Pailton looking at making parts of Pailton conservation areas.

AG reported that, due to other commitments, it was no longer possible for him to participate in the Patient Participation Group at The Revel Surgery. Cllr SL offered to take on this role.

It had been reported that there had been constant fires in the grounds of Greenway Farm. RBC were monitoring the situation.

193 b/f Closure of Pailton Post Office & Stores.

JF was concerned that a meeting had taken place between Cllrs without his knowledge. AG disputed that it was an official meeting & had been an unofficial 5 minute discussion on how to proceed with this issue. AG confirmed that in the future this issue would only be discussed at this forum.

JF was asked to leave the chamber as his interest was prejudicial. There was disagreement as to whether this was correct. In the absence of the clerk, MB read para 12(2) from the Code of Conduct, adopted by the Council in July 2007, which confirmed that Cllr. JF should be allowed to remain provided members of the general public were not excluded. JF defended his presence due to his direct knowledge & expertise regarding the issues surrounding the Post Office & Stores.

Referring to the open meeting called on the 24th November. The general public had raised the following points.

- Bring forward 12 month closure period.
- Relocate the shop & PO to other premises.
- Inadequate police protection.
- Opening hours of shop to fit in with needs.
- Assistance, support and/or reduction in Business Rates.
- Look at funding to preserve facility.
- To provide support to older members of the community.
- Parking issues & lay-by being inaccessible to the shop.
- A community facility, non-profit making/grant-aided run by volunteers.
- Set up a project group as a working party to explore the way forward & feed back to the public.

AG was concerned that earlier in the meeting there had been a discussion regarding RBCs compliance with planning rules & there was now a motion being put forward by Cllrs. to try to bypass a Rugby Local Planning Policy in order to shorten the 12 month period to change a commercial property to a domestic dwelling.

JF clarified that there were two separate issues. The future of Pailton's shop & PO facility & what the present owners of the premises do with the building.

At this point AG read out a letter from a resident of 20 years living in Pailton & invited comments.

MB thought that, as a current business model, the shop could not be sustained.

AG re-affirmed the reason RBC policy TCR8 had been incorporated into the Local Plan was to ensure that it was proven beyond doubt that the building was not feasible for any other use in the village. AG stated that it was the Parish Council's duty to the community to uphold this policy.

MB's view was that to move forward, the Council should think creatively on the current premises or another smaller venture on different premises with lower operating costs.

JF confirmed that the shop was up for sale & therefore was available for another person to run as a viable business.

The question of the Post Office returning back to its original site if a buyer came forward was raised. AG confirmed that this was to be part of the working group's remit.

DS noted that the Post Office were committed to provide continuity of service to the community & would therefore still be moved to the village hall on a temporary basis.

The question was raised as to whether the working group would have access to the PO & Stores accounts in a bid to form an opinion on the viability of the business. JF confirmed that accounts would be available to the group as they would be to prospective purchasers.

The persons who would make up the working group were discussed. It was felt that Cllrs should not be directly involved & the group should be members of the public.

In conclusion, AG put forward that a Working Group be formed to look at this issue in detail & feedback their findings back to the Council.

The Working Group to include any residents who had already shown an interest and/or had skills & expertise. Names already put forward were Barbara Goodfellow, Patricia Barnett, Mrs Dent, Peter Saywell & Denise Taylor.

MB requested that the WG report back to the Council in Jan/Feb of 2008. MB also insisted (although not agreed upon by the Council) that a member of the Council should be present at the WG meeting in the capacity of an observer. MB also asked for the mandate of the WG to be 'to explore all options'

195. Date of Next Meeting - 7th January 2008

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 10.20pm

Signed: Anthony Gillias - Chairman

7th January 2008