

PAILTON PARISH COUNCIL.

Minutes of the Pailton Parish Council meeting held on 5th February 2007 at Pailton Village Hall, Pailton.

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

Five members of the public were also present including representatives from Village Hall Trust, The Parish Plan & Pailton Club.

In the absence of a Chairman, the Chair was taken by the Vice Chairman, who welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Open meeting.

HC, secretary of The Village Hall Trust, presented the minutes of their last meeting. These were submitted into the 'Circulation Folder' for Cllrs. to read. HC wished to correct a previous set of Parish Council minutes whereby it was incorrectly stated that she was Chairman.

HC gave a brief summary of the Village Hall Trust's activities namely:

- A questionnaire had been sent to all residents in the village surveying the need for a Youth Club. Unfortunately, only six questionnaires had been returned - highlighting the lack of interest in this project. MB offered to submit a 'thank you' in Round the Revel magazine to the six households who responded.
- The bark for the children's play area had been ordered as an interim measure to ensure a safe playing surface around the play equipment - until such a time as the appropriate grants are secured enabling a replacement with a more permanent surface.
- The 'Hags' play equipment has now been ordered.

No other member of the general public had anything more to add at this stage and the open meeting closed at 7.45 pm.

129. Apologies

The Clerk had received apologies for Mike Hodge who was absent due to business commitments. The apology was accepted by AG and seconded by DS.

130. Declaration of Interests.

Cllr. A. Gillias declared an interest in planning matters, being a member of the Planning Committee at Rugby Borough Council.

131. Minutes of the meeting held on 4th December 2006

The minutes had been circulated previously. DS proposed and AG seconded that the minutes were a true and accurate record of the meeting. This was agreed by all and the minutes were signed by A. Gillias as Acting Chairman.

132. Matters Arising.

P35. Two faulty street lamps had been reported & repaired.

Overgrown hedge at Rugby Road had been cut back by owners.

P36. Clerk had printed, signed & posted letter re. Lorry routes to Highways Agency.

..... Ditto re. Pailton Club

P37. CiLCA course to be put on hold due to insufficient funds.

P38. The Airey Houses - AG reported a reversal on the previous proposal to demolish the houses for a new development. It was now proposed that the houses be renovated and refurbished, thus allowing the residents to stay in their present homes if they so wished.

This was much the preferred option and AG confirmed that he would put this proposal forward to the Cabinet. Although this proposal has yet to be approved, AG had spoken to each of the residents in a bid to reassure them.

P39. MH had submitted a report to the Clerk by e-mail re. damage to road surface & kerbstones. Communications & photos of damage had been sent to Paul Cowley of the County Highways Dept.

133. Proposal for Election of New Chairman.

The Vice-Chairman asked the Clerk(as The Proper Officer) to chair this motion.

JP called for a proposal for a chairman. MB proposed Anthony Gillias and DS seconded this motion. AG accepted the role of Chairman with the added proviso that this should be seen as a temporary designation up to the April elections, when he would review his commitments. Members of the Council congratulated the new Chairman and were thanked by AG.

The Clerk called for a proposal for a new Vice-Chairman. MB proposed Mike Hodge and this was seconded by DS. Therefore, in his absence, MH was declared Vice-Chairman. The Council await his acceptance. JP thanked the members.

The clerk reported that there had been a response from Andrew Gabbitas concerning an alleged letter sent to the Standards Board by the previous Chairman and the clerk read out the letter received. The Standards Board confirmed that there had not been a formal complaint received by them, and on the basis of this, the Council concluded that there was nothing more to be done at this stage but would be included as an agenda item for the next meeting for further discussion.

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

134. Signing of Registration of Interest and Undertaking of Compliance Forms for New Cllr. & Chairman.

J. Fitzsimons, A. Gillias and the Proper Officer signed the appropriate forms at the table.

135. Circulation Review from meeting held on 8th January 2007.

The only item which merited further comment was the literature from Central Networks inviting applications for 'Christmas Light' funding. All members agreed that this was not viable due to the lack of success with this application last year.

Other circulations which warranted further discussion follow later as agenda items.

136. Circulations

WCC - Mineral Development Framework Core Strategy 'Preferred Options' Consultation.

Councillors to review these 'Preferred Options' as folder circulates between members.

Action: Clerk to put attached poster showing where to access questionnaire on to the notice board

WCC - Formal Consultation (changes to primary school boundaries in North Warks).

Clerk to review and respond.

WALC - Progression of the Local Council Charter.

As Alison Hodge was awaiting comment from PPC the members discussed the proposals in some depth. RBC had confirmed that they were happy to assist WALC & Quality Councils in the LC Charter. Members conveyed their comments to the clerk to forward to WALC thus: 'We support the proposals to give greater powers & responsibilities to Local Councils primarily on grass cutting & litter clearing and would welcome the additional responsibilities of drain clearance, verge cutting & hedge trimming'.

Concerns were raised as to RBC's possible reluctance to release these services to Local Councils as it might be viewed as a step towards diminishing their own level of structure.

Action: Clerk to e-mail WALC confirming PPC's support for' Proposals for Local Council Charter.

WALC - Briefing Seminar

After discussion, members agreed that the new Code of Conduct could be read at home and agreed that the seminar was aimed at larger Councils. No-one to attend.

WALC - Local Government White Paper - Stronger & Prosperous Communities - free of charge Seminar at Shire Hall, Warwick, on Tuesday 20th February 2007

Members agreed that this was a useful workshop and should be attended.

MB & the clerk volunteered to attend & report back.

RBC - Annual Spring Clean (Litter Pick).

Offer from RBC to supply necessary items of equipment to enable volunteers to implement the annual litter-pick throughout the village. The members agreed the date as Saturday 14th April to meet at 10am at the War Memorial Triangle

Action: Clerk to order 20 x off each item from RBC

MB to submit notice for inclusion in next copy of Round the Revel Magazine.

Clerk to include on next agenda.

137. Correspondence.

A letter had been received from the Hon. treasurer, asking the Parish the Council to consider a donation towards the cost of producing Round the Revel magazine. Although it was agreed that a donation should be forthcoming, the Chairman asked that this should be included as a future agenda item when further income had been received.

Action: Clerk to confirm the offer in principle to Hon. Treasurer & include in next agenda.

WCC - Speed Aware Campaign.

Notification of a flashing 'Vehicle Activated Sign' monitoring device to be set up in Lutterworth Road, Pailton, for one afternoon only, on 29th March 2007. The value of this was discussed. AG highlighted the relaxation by Government on the legislation of speed cameras - the funding no longer being dependant upon the number of accidents or fatalities caused - in order to get one fitted. The clerk suggested that as a Quality Council that perhaps we could move forward on this ourselves at some future date.

138. Town and Country Planning.

Planning Application ref: R06/0845/PLN - 71, Coventry Rd., Pailton - Waiver of Condition 8

The members of the Council examined the relaxation of the original planning application which concerned the replacement of obscure glass with clear glazing on the west side of the building. After discussion, and in view of the replacement fencing from 2ft high to 6ft, members agreed that the neighbour's privacy was now ensured and therefore would not raise any objections to the waiver of 'Condition 8'.

Action: Clerk to confirm Councils' decision to RBC Planning Dept.

RBC Public Meeting - West Mids. Regional Planning Spatial Strategy (feedback from AG).

AG reported that, as a Parish Council, our views and comments were sought on the three options put forward from Phase Two. A detailed discussion took place over the given options and their impact on the environment and community. The options for Rugby were summarised as thus:

- **Option One - 7100 further houses to be built by 2026**
- **Option Two - 13,100 further houses to be built by 2026**
- **Option Three - 23,100 further houses to be built by 2026**

As such, AG asked the members of the Council to consider and choose their preferred option. The members agreed unanimously that Option One was their chosen preference. JS raised the question of associated structures such as schools, hospitals and roads. AG confirmed that these were not included and neither were the funds for them.

Action: MB agreed to download the questionnaire from the website, confer with all members and complete the questionnaire on behalf of the Council.

139. New Streetlight.

The clerk had received confirmation from ABB Ltd. that the amount of trunking required and quoted at 30 metres @ £45 per metre was correct. Therefore, the total cost quoted as £2456.93 remained valid.

It was concluded that external funds should be sought. An appropriate source was highlighted by MB as Rugby Rural Development Fund. As ABB had the monopoly on street lamps in Pailton and members considered the importance of identical matching, it was not deemed necessary for any further quotes to accompany the funding application.

Action: DS to obtain RRDF application form and complete on behalf of the Council.

140. Grass Cutting Contract.

The Clerk had received an e-mail from MH which was read out to the members. It was summarised: Chris Worman (RBC) was still not in a position to comment further regarding what level of funds may become available in this current year. Members were dissatisfied with CW's response due to the urgency of securing the contractor and commencing the first cut at the end of March.

Action: Clerk to ring Chris Worman of RBC (in MH's absence) to try to get a positive answer ASAP re. indication of level of funding for this service from RBC
: Clerk to add to next Agenda.

141. Bollards for War Memorial Triange & Damage to Existing.

MB had researched the internet and found two likely sources of grants. RRDF which had a closing date for applications of 22nd March 2007 and Biffa which was ongoing. The criteria for a Biffa grant was the proximity to the nearest land-fill site of 10 miles. MB informed the members that Pailton was 9.1 miles from the nearest land-fill site at Kilsby. It was agreed that the RRDF grant should be applied for first due to the closing date. As three separate estimates were required to accompany the application, the clerk suggested that the Gladstone and the Furnitubes brochures might fulfill this criteria.

Action: MB to apply for funding for the bollards.

AG brought to the attention of the members the damage caused to both sets of bollards sited on the traffic-calming structures, recently. There had been hedge-trimming activity near both sites and the general summise was that the damage may have been caused by a contractor. It was agreed that this was an irresponsible action which could have caused serious injury to any motorist who was not aware of the siting of these structures.

Action: AG to speak informally with the two farmers who had contracted-out the hedge trimming.

142. Decision on Playing Field Quote & Work Required.

The two quotes were compared & discussed. The quote from C. Fouracre was agreed 'best value' and accepted by the members. As a Health & Safety issue in a children's playing field, the only amendment was the 'treatment' of the nettles rather than 'strimming'.

Action: Clerk to inform C. Fouracre in writing.

143. Response from Pailton Club & Call for Meeting.

The clerk reported that an excellent response had been received to the Parish Councils' suggestion of a meeting, from the Committee of Pailton Club. The letter was read out and all members voiced their approval at the positive nature of the letter. The way forward to improving the appearance and generally ironing out problems associated with the Club (as mentioned in The Village Survey Questionnaire) were discussed - as was the possibility of help in obtaining funding for refurbishments & repairs. MB offered to research for appropriate funding to carry out the repairs. It was suggested that a small working group could be set up involving the Parish Council & Pailton Club committee to move forward with the sharing of ideas and support. MB offered to head this group with DS & JF offering their support. Members agreed that a joint meeting with the Pailton Club Committee would be beneficial to both the club & the village. A date could be set as soon as MB had success in identifying a suitable source of funding.

144. Lorry Routes - Photo from John Cunliffe.

John Cunliffe submitted an excellent photo of a HGV travelling through the village on a recent Sunday lunchtime. It clearly showed the distributor's name, telephone number and vehicle registration. JC had written to the manager of Magna Park, enclosing the photo, requesting that he speak to this company concerned, stressing that it was unacceptable for HGVs to pass through a narrow village like Pailton. The drivers of HGVs travelling to &

from Magna Park or motorways must use the correct lorry routes as designated by the WCC Highways Dept. A response had been received with the promise of a further update on the outcome within 10 days.

PM-J (WCC) reported that he had raised the issue, at County level, of the heavy lorries travelling through Pailton but was disappointed to note that the Highways dept. are now acknowledging that if a number of HGVs use the 'B' roads it would relieve the congestion on the Trunk roads. Members found this unacceptable and PM-J confirmed that he would continue to campaign for signage at strategic access points to direct HGVs towards Trunk roads to discourage them from cutting through villages causing damage to the infrastructure.

145. Policies & Procedures for Grievances & Complaints.

The Clerk distributed to members, a one page document taken from the new 'Code of Conduct (not yet approved), detailing step by step procedures should any complaint be received by the Council. The clerk suggested that it would be helpful if each member had a copy of these very clear guidance notes to hand should a complaint be received - so that the correct procedures could be followed.

146. Clerk's Computer Costs.

The Clerk had sought advice re. the Parish Council sharing the cost of the recent purchase of a new computer. However, due to insufficient funds, this could only proceed when further income had been received. To be added to a future agenda when in receipt of income.

147. HMRC - VAT Claim Letter to be signed by Chairman

The clerk had compiled a list of costs from invoices dating back to November 2005 from which VAT could be claimed back. The total was £ 325.31, all members received a copy for information. The Chairman signed an attached authorisation letter.

148. Accounts for Payment and Account Balance.

Bank reconciliation as at 31st January 2007

Lloyds TSB Parish Plan A/c Balance **£2565.33**

Parish Council Cashbook Balance
B/f 01.02.2007 **£ 61.26**

Lloyds TSB Parish C. A/c (Bank Statement – 31.01.07) **£ 359.64**

Income Received – Nil

Less unrepresented cheques:

- 368 - Powergen **£110.72**
- 369 - J. Pharoah **£187.66**

£ 298.38

Balance 31.01.2007: £ 61.26

The Clerk distributed, to each member, an Income & Expenditure Report showing clearly the level of spending throughout the year and the resulting balance. A discussion followed on the very small balance remaining in the Parish's current account. It was agreed that as an interim measure sufficient funds should be transferred from the Parish Plan a/c to the Parish Council a/c to avoid the current account becoming overdrawn. The same amount could then be transferred back into the Parish Plan a/c once the VAT refund or the RBC precept had been received.

The Chairman also instructed the clerk to arrange for J. Fitzsimons to become a signatory.

Action: Clerk to request a new bank mandate from Lloyds TSB to add JF's name & remove AP's name from the file.

149. Parish Plan

The Chairman of The Parish Plan committee was invited to give an update. It was reported that he and AG had met with RBC twice in the last few weeks - with another meeting on 7th February. R Parker (RBC - Planning Dept) had looked through the Village Design Statement and made many comments & suggestions. This had resulted in 6 or 7 'actions' which JC had listed for the members to review and these were passed around the table. Members agreed that a Parish Plan meeting should be convened in late Feb/early March to discuss and implement these. AG was pleased to note that this was at last moving forward and thanked JC for all his hard work.

150. Other Matters.

Donated Bench.

A member of The Parochial Council had commented to DS that there was nowhere within the churchyard to site the bench, recently donated to them from The Parish Council. There was also the issue of applying for a Faculty before it could be sited. Members were not in agreement with the bench being sited at the centre of the village due to possible vandalism.

Drains.

JF had noted that the drains in the centre of the village were partially blocked. The frequency of drain cleaning was discussed and members stated that were dissatisfied with the service being provided.

Action: Clerk to contact Paul Cowley

Light on War Memorial Triangle.

It was reported that one of the lights was not working.

Action: AG offered to replace the bulb.

Hedge Overhanging Coventry Road

AG reported that this hedge had caused several accidents over recent years. Members were not in agreement over PPC bearing the cost for this but AG highlighted that it presented a safety hazard for motorists within Pailton Parish. The Financial Officer was concerned that this may set a precedent for other residents to apply for hedge-trimming costs. The chairman called for a show of hands. There were three votes in favour and one vote against .

Action: Clerk to instruct J. Bromell to cut back hedge.

Grass on War Memorial Triangle.

AG reported that this was now very high and was not included in the grass-cutting contract. It was proposed by AG, seconded by MB that the contractor do a one-off cut as soon as possible.

Action: Clerk to instruct Contractor.

Notice-board.

AG called for the approved minutes to be displayed on the village notice-board for the residents to take out and read if they so wished.

Action: MB to place a copy on notice-board after each meeting.

Date of next meeting: 5th March 2007

The Chairman, thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.47pm.

Signed:

Date: 05.02.2007