

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council, which took place on Monday 12 September 2011.

PRESENT Cllrs Rowswell (Chair), Bishop, Cripps, England, Hallett, Lewis, Rivers, Mr B Walker (District Councillor), Mr P Maxwell (County Councillor), PCSO Kim Rudge and one parishioner.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Cllrs Fowler, Wakely, Mr P Thompson (District Councillor)

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mrs Sharon Pearce asked if the Parish Council had considered having hamstone signs at the three main entrances to the village and suggested this as a way of commemorating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee next year. The Parish Councillors gave the suggestion their unanimous support and Sharon will ask local businesses if they would consider sponsoring it.

MATTERS ARISING

Highways Ian Hawkins advised the Clerk that talks had taken place with the Highway Authority, who have promised to repair the drain in Love Lane if the PCC stabilises the wall. The matter will be discussed at the next PCC meeting and any help the Parish Council can give towards it would be appreciated. The Councillors were surprised that the PCC is being asked to stabilise the wall as they felt the problem was caused by water collecting around the drain and should be the Highway Authority's responsibility. The Parish Council will await further news as to the remedial work required and will consider it then.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared.

CC REPORT

Mr Maxwell has been in post since early August and has attended meetings about South Petherton Library, which has had a reprieve for the time being, and he will make enquiries about possible changes to the mobile library service.

DC REPORT

Mr Walker spoke about planning issues and said there are proposals to devolve more powers to local people.

ACCOUNTS

Cheques were drawn for:

Swan Paul – play area fees	661.05
Moore Stephens – external audit	342.00
South Petherton Parish Council – Lengthsman's salary	750.00

PLANNING

Since the last meeting, plans have been circulated for a conservatory on the rear of The Covers, Lambrook Road, to which there were no objections.

Also plans to change of use of land from agricultural to equestrian use and construction of ménage to rear of Brimfield, Lambrook Road, to which there were no objections but the Parish Council would like to see a little more landscaping and the use of the facilities restricted to the occupants only.

Permission has been granted for the following:

Conversion and extension of outbuilding to be used as guest annexe at Stephens, Church Street.

Erection of two storey extension comprising replacement garage with additional bedroom accommodation over at Pound House, Pound Lane.

Erection of conservatory on rear of The Covers, Lambrook Road.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Charlotte Jones had arranged a meeting with several parishes on this subject. Cllr Rowswell was unable to attend but had asked Charlotte to forward any information.

DC ANNUAL MEETING WITH PARISHES

This will take place on 19 October at Long Sutton Golf Club.

PARISH PLAN

A meeting will take place at the Duke of York on 23 September to discuss any proposals for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

A Teddy Bears' Picnic had taken place at Cowleaze and the Events Team had organised another 10k Run and Fun Run, which had been very well attended.

The opening of the redesigned play area was a very well organised and popular event.

LENGTHSMAN

The Lengthsman has been strimming footpaths and verges at road junctions. The Parish Councillors feel he is a great asset and would like his services to continue despite funding cuts.

HIGHWAYS

Cllr Fowler had sent a message about the condition of Great Lane and parking on pavements in the village. The PCSO will be asked to keep an eye on the parking problem.

Overhanging foliage in Brimgrove Lane is obstructing visibility but Cllr Rivers has spoken to the owners and is happy to trim it back.

FOOTPATHS

The application for a public right of way along Piece Lane has been sent to the Planning Inspectorate at Bristol.

PLANTING OF TROUGH

The Councillors were sorry to hear that Pat Pearce had passed away and are grateful for all she did for the village, including the provision and planting of the trough. Mrs Jean Winters has kindly volunteered to carry on looking after the trough.

The Parish Council will consider a plaque in memory of Pat Pearce.

ALLOTMENTS

Allotment Rent will be collected at 7 pm on 10 October at the slightly increased rate and the new set of rules will be issued. There are some vacant allotments which could be divided into smaller starter plots.

The possibility of parking at the Recreation Field will be investigated.

The question of supplying water at the Allotments was raised, but this cannot be considered until all allotments are fully used, and the holders would be expected to contribute towards the cost.

The meeting closed at 8.55 pm.