

PIRTON PARISH COUNCIL

The monthly meeting of Pirton Parish Council was held on
Thursday 8th February 2007
at Pirton Village Hall.

Present:

Mr Jonathan Bhowmick
Mr Michael Goddard (left early)
Mrs Rosemary Hamilton McLeod
Mr Steven Kitchener
Mr Owain Lister (Chairman)
Mr David Saunders (Vice-Chairman)
Mrs Jennifer Smart (Clerk)
Mr James Vaughan

Apologies for Absence:

Mrs Margaret Johnson
Mrs Pamela Waters (abroad)

Also present:

Parishioner Mr S Abbott

017.07 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr Abbott, the owner of 41 High Street, attended the meeting to state his objection to the proposal to site a bus shelter on his land, as well as his disappointment that he had not been consulted on the matter. The Chairman explained that it had been thought by both the Pumpkin Club and the Parish Council that the small piece of land on which it had been proposed to site the shelter would be included in that handed over to the Parish Council after completion of the adoption of Middle Green, and it had only recently been discovered that this is not the case. It was mentioned that at an earlier Parish Council meeting, it had been suggested that the owner of 41 High Street should be consulted about the proposal for a bus shelter, but once it had been discovered that the land in question would not become part of the Parish Council's land, it had been assumed that the matter could not be taken any further. However, a member of the Pumpkin Club Committee had offered to see whether it would still be possible to erect a shelter, as the Pumpkin Club wanted to do something to benefit residents of Pirton, particularly the elderly, and had continued to investigate the matter.

Mr Abbott left the meeting

There was further discussion about the bus shelter and whether or not the Parish Council wished to continue to support the proposal to erect one. It was agreed that there is need for a bus shelter, although Councillors could understand Mr Abbott's concerns about possible noise and vandalism, and it was agreed that it is important that Mr Abbott is kept informed of any further developments that may occur.

018.07 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were no declarations of interest in items on the agenda.

019.07 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting held on held on 11th January 2007 were confirmed and signed.

020.07 OUTSTANDING ITEMS

Coleman's Close – Section 106

Nothing new to report

Grants

Parish Amenity Capital Improvement Fund

Nothing to report

Southern Rural Area Discretionary Award

Nothing to report

Recreation Ground play area

Now that the posts have been installed, this item can be removed from outstanding items

021.07 FINANCE

Bank accounts as at 5th February 2007:

Business Premium Account	£16,208.35
Community Account	<u>£4,596.06</u>
	£20,804.41
Contingency Account	<u>£9,968.37</u>
	£30,772.78

Monies received since last meeting – included in above:

NHDC PECF Grant	£1,300.00
2 nd half Biffaward	£1,147.00

It was proposed by Mrs Hamilton McLeod and seconded by Mr Saunders that cheques totalling **£758.32** as detailed on the monthly Finance Statement be paid in full.

Councillors who are also PSSC Committee members asked if Mr Gentle was expected to continue as Groundsman of the Recreation Ground for a further year. All Councillors agreed that they would like him to and the clerk was asked to write to him to confirm this.

022.07 REQUESTS FOR FUNDING

None

023.07 **PLANNING**

Applications

1 Coleman's Close – 07/00046/ 1HH

Full Permission Householder : Attached single garage to side of property. Front porch. Two front dormer windows to facilitate conversion of loft to provide additional bedroom.

24 Royal Oak Lane – 07/00080/1TCA

Reduce canopy of 1 Beech tree by 25%

12 High Street – 07/00090/1TCA

Remove 5 x Leylandii

The application for 1 Coleman's Close was discussed and considered. The majority of Councillors objected to the plans on the grounds that the garage would tend to be very intrusive and that it, the porch and dormer windows would be out of keeping with other houses nearby.

Mr Goddard left the meeting

Decisions

26 Royal Oak Lane – 06/02803/1TCA

Reduce 2 x Ash by 30% - no objection

High Ridge, West Lane – 06/02857/1TCA

Remove 1 x Cypress, 1 x Juniper and 2 x Thuja – no objection

19 Walnut Tree Road – 06/02507/ 1HH

Full Permission Householder: Part single storey, part two storey side extension to include double garage, following demolition of existing garage and utility room. Rear conservatory. Single storey side extension and two storey front extension with oriel window – conditional permission

45 High Street - 06/02537/1HH

Full Permission Householder : Replacement shed conditional permission

024.07 **HIGHWAYS**

Land leading to St Mary's Church – nothing new to report

The clerk is still awaiting a reply to the letter concerning the possibility of parking bays in Crabtree Lane.

The clerk had been informed by Highways that they are now in a position to raise the Give Way sign and replace the broken pointer at the junction of Royal Oak Lane and West Lane.

There was further discussion about the possibility of a 20mph speed limit within the village. The clerk had received details of various traffic calming measures, which were circulated and discussed, but Councillors continue to feel that any of the usual measures would be detrimental to the rural appearance of Pirton, and that they

would like Pirton to be subjected to a reduced speed limit without any traffic calming measures being installed. The clerk was still awaiting a reply from Mr Dzapata of Hertfordshire Highways to her letter asking for advice. The matter would be discussed again when this had been received.

025.07 INSURANCE

The clerk was still awaiting a response from the Summer Fair and Bonfire Night organisers.

026.07 GENERAL PARISH MATTERS

Possible new Bus Shelter – nothing new to report other than as recorded in Public Participation.

Postcards – nothing new to report

Tithe Barn – the clerk had contacted NHDC to ask for their advice on this but was still awaiting a reply.

Maypole – the clerk had written to the Pumpkin Club expressing the Parish Council's concerns, but had not yet received a reply.

Mobile 'phone mast – the clerk was still awaiting a reply from 02

Village of the Year Competition - the clerk had received entry forms for this competition, which Mrs Hamilton McLeod offered to examine, although it was mentioned that for a Village to be successful in this competition, it is necessary to be able to show that improvements have been made since the previous year's entry.

027.07 REPORTS

Recreation Ground and Sports & Social Club

The old goal posts had not yet been removed from the ditch near the Jubilee Row trees.

Mr Lister reported that although the New Clubhouse Committee had not held another meeting, members of the committee had been to Knebworth to look at their new facility, which consists of changing rooms, a kitchen and a room for a Youth Club, and is perhaps two thirds of what it is felt would be appropriate in Pirton. It was suggested that if a larger pavilion is built in Pirton, it could perhaps include facilities like squash courts, but it was stated that the size of the pavilion will be decided by the number of pitches at the Recreation Ground and the number of teams requiring changing facilities. It was agreed that all that is needed is a new brick building of a similar size to the existing one, but better laid out and better organised. The next step will be to draw up a rough budget and to start to look for funding.

It was mentioned that the recent Burns' Night Supper, which had been held in the Clubhouse, had been very successful and raised £575 towards PSSC funds.

Access road

The clerk is still awaiting a reply to her letter to the solicitors acting for the new owners of the Old Vicarage, and it was agreed that if no reply is received within the next month, the clerk should write directly to the new owners.

Bury Trust

The planned walkabout had taken place, and it had been agreed that all the old fencing should be replaced. The 'poaching' of the pond by cattle, which is eroding the sides, continues to be a problem, but members of the Bury Trust feel the fencing of the pond, as had been suggested by English Heritage, would look out of place.

028.07 VILLAGE UPDATES

Environment - North Herts Landfill

It was reported that a reading from one of the boreholes at this site has shown a consistently raised level of contamination for the past three or four years, although Biffa have not made this information public. A member of Holwell Parish Council is communicating with the Environment Agency and hoping to put pressure on Biffa to rectify the situation. It was mentioned that one of the main objections when it was first proposed to construct the site had been the risk of water contamination and it is important that this is now being highlighted.

Pirton School

Nothing to report

Village Hall

Concerns were expressed by one of the Councillors about the Village Hall license, as it is thought to be inadequate for the events that are being held there. The matter would be brought to the attention of the Village Hall Management Committee, and Mr Vaughan offered to give his advice if needed.

Youth Matters

Nothing to report.

Parish Paths Partnership

Nothing to report.

Tree Warden and PEAP

Nothing to report.

Neighbourhood Watch

No report

Rands Trust

No report.

029.07 ITEMS FOR CIRCULATION

Letter and Information from NHDC re Arts, Museums & Heritage – 18 December

Letter from Scoots – 2 January

Letter from Stop Stansted Expansion – 19 December

Letter and CD re East of England Plan

Letter from British Schools Museum - January

Minutes of PSSC meeting - December

Legal Briefing from NALC re FOI – 16/1/07

Letter from Electoral Commission – 11/1/07

Hertfordshire Highways Information Bulletin - January

Letter from NHDC re Fly Tipping – 15/1/07

Conservative Newsletter – December

Letter and Annual Review from CDA for Herts – 23/1/07

Crime Figures - January

Email from CPRE re East of England Plan – 1/2/07

Waste Aware leaflet from Herts CC

North Herts Landfill Site Liaison Meeting minutes – 21/11/06

HAPTC Newsletter – January

NHDC information booklet

CPRE Hertfordshire Society Newsletter - February

NHDC Members' Information – weeks ending 12, 19 and 26 January and 2 February

030.07 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Council Meeting will be on **Thursday 8th March 2007** at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.