

PLUCKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MAY 16TH 2011

Present

Martin Newman – **Chairman**
Andrew Wickham – **Vice Chairman**
Debbie Breach
Tony Evans
David Hocking

Chris Housman
Tim Maddrell
Helen Missing
Mike Whatman

Also present, Clair Bell (Ashford BC) and one parishioner.

1 The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming the new Council following the May election. Seven members were from the previous Council and Debbie Breach and Helen Missing were new. He particularly welcomed these new members.

2/3 Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman for 2011-12.

Martin Newman was nominated as Chairman, proposed by M Whatman, seconded by D Breach. Andrew Wickham was nominated as Vice Chairman, proposed by M Newman, seconded by M Whatman. There being no other nominations members unanimously supported the proposals.

4 There were no apologies for absence.

5 Register of Interests.

There were no alterations to members existing Register of Interests forms. All councillors completed new Register of Interest forms and Acceptance of Office forms. The Clerk would send these to Ashford BC.

6 Declarations of Interest on agenda items.

T Evans declared an interest in the planning item and did not vote.

7 Items raised by parishioner present.

The problem of overgrown hedges and blocked ditches was raised. The Clerk agreed to check owners responsibility.

8 Future day and timing of Council meetings.

It was agreed to retain the third Monday of the month as the meeting date but to start at 7.30pm (instead of 8pm). On a month when there is a Village Hall meeting it will follow the Parish Council meeting.

9 Planning “portfolio”.

The Chairman emphasised that all councillors were party to planning decisions (unless an interest was declared) but C Housman agreed to lead in future and would attend the forthcoming ABC “teach in” on planning matters.

10 Local Needs Housing.

All agreed that the current proposal from English Rural Housing was unacceptable and the Chairman agreed to arrange a meeting with ERH to discuss alternatives.

D Breach, H Missing, T Evans and M Whatman offered to attend.

11 Village Hall refurbishment.

M Whatman outlined the next works, ie. new french door at the east side, cavity wall insulation, fitting the sound loop, resanding and sealing the floor, adjustment of pelmets and lighting finally followed by redecoration.

The Chairman would check with ABC as to the planning permission requirements for Phase 2 works.

The Chairman raised the issue of VH Trustees, who are currently only the Parish councillors. He suggested that the various village societies may like to nominate Trustees plus at least one Parish Councillor. There could also be some “village representatives” not belonging to any specific society. So far only one society had declined interest. The Chairman agreed to pursue the matter.

12/13 Recreation Ground refurbishment.

M Whatman reported that most of the work was now complete and the new equipment was much appreciated by the village youth. Also the relocated petanque court was finished. Proposals for refurbishing the pavilion were now to hand and a range of options would be discussed with the architect.

The School had been supplied with keys so they could use the pavilion toilets when necessary.

It was agreed that the School could use the pavilion on July 16th for a school event.

The Clerk agreed to follow up the possibility of “young offenders” redecorating the pavilion as well as tidying the churchyard.

A Wickham agreed to be the Licence holder for any drinks event at the pavilion.

14 Traffic matters.

Speed measurements had been completed at various village locations.(The Street remains to be checked.) When the report is complete it will be sent to all councillors for comment and then be subject to village consultation.

15 Broadband grants.

So far 32 villagers had responded to a survey of their Broadband speeds. Most thought speeds as “fair to good” but appeared willing to pay for super fast speeds.

A Wickham said grants of up to £100,000 were available to increase village speeds but a very sound case must be made to attract such grants. It was agreed to advertise the survey via the notice board by the recreation ground and (with permission) via the school book bags.

16 Village sculpture.

No developments. (To be dropped from agenda pending any news)

17 Planning

The only item this month (11/00530, 6 Shipland Houses, Forge Hill, - Part two storey and and part single storey side and rear extensions) was **supported**.

The Chairman reported that Enterprise Inns (the Black Horse owners) had applied to ABC for permission to demolish the “pub wall” and rebuild it to the same style.

Also the Chairman reported that the Biogas proposal at Westwell Leacon was being altered to reduce capacity (and hence lorry movements). There would be an Open Day for local comments.

18 Finance

The cheques (see attached) were approved and signed.

The 2010/11 year end outturn was noted and the Chairman/Clerk answered a few points raised by councillors.

19 Ashford Borough Councillors report.

Clair Bell said the new Council was in place (30 Conservative, 5 Independent, 5 Labour and 2 Liberal Democrat.) There had not been any Committee meetings recently as the new Council needed to “bed in” first.

As regards Pinnock Paddock she said the Enforcement Officer would be visiting to check on any breaches of the existing Planning Permission. Regarding Sheerland Farm Clair Bell said this would be considered by the Planning Committee in June. C Housman proposed and M Whatman seconded that the Chairman write to Oliver Peel (ABC) with the PC views.

- 20 Clerks report.
The Clerk said the Internal Auditor had completed his audit of the 2010/11 accounts and these were in order. The Clerk needed to produce a covering letter explaining some big differences compared with 2009/10 as a result of the Village Hall refurbishment works. The Accounts would be presented for signature at the June meeting.
- 21 Correspondence.
The box was available for councillors inspection.
- 22 Villager of the Year award. (This was discussed in private)
Four suggestions had been received from the public. The Council made its decision that would be communicated, initially, to the recipient to be certain they were happy to accept.
- 23 Next meeting.
June 20th at 7.30pm followed by a Village Hall Committee meeting.

Graham Smith, Parish Clerk 01622 890596
Email grahamsmith36@talktalk.net