

Pen Selwood Parish Council

Committee Meeting

Minutes of the Committee meeting held at the Village Hall on Wed 9th September 2015

Present Cllr Steadman , Fitzgerald ,Jenkins, Jukes, Ashman, Carter.

Present: Councillors Anna Groskop, and Mike Beech

Members of the public : Chris Worrall, Hazel Baker, Mr and Mrs Bradley, Jilly Brown , Louise Norton, Robin Cuthbert , Richard Gething, .

1 Public Open Forum- Jill Bradley asked that when application number 03640 was considered later in the meeting the PC should consider the proximity of the proposed development and manure heap to her boundary hedge and ditch which backs onto her garden. She quoted Defra and environmental guidelines on the siting of manure heap that ‘that the location of the heap should be such that it does not cause a nuisance to neighbours.

Apologies for absence – Cllr Appleton.

3 Notices of Interest- None

4 Approve Minutes of the meeting held 9th July 2014- Signed as a true record.

5 Matters Arising- Adrian noted that the PC had a responsibility(as part of the new transparency regulations) to publish documents associated with all PC business. This was noted by Clerk and PC.

6 Electricity supply to the Community Field- Robin Cuthbert – Robin had circulated a very comprehensive document relating to the proposal to install an electricity supply to the block house in the community field. Robin had established that the owners of the field were “The Custodian of Charities” on behalf of Pen Selwood Parish Council. The most economic way to supply the electricity this was to install a new pole in the field to take a supply from an existing pole then route the new supply into the blockhouse. The cost for this would be £1431 with a further £700 required to make the new supply safe and manageable within the blockhouse. Phase two was a proposal to make an electricity supply available at various points around the field. This operation would involve a further cost of at least £2000. It was agreed that the PC would support this initiative in principal. Robin, and Andrew, as Chair of the Community Field Trust, will first talk about the proposal, then a meeting of village organizations, the Community Field, Sports and Social Club, Village Hall, Fete committee and the Parish Council would get together to talk about the project and how it could be funded. After that Jane will approach Tim Cooke about the possibility of funding.

7 Planning -Andrew Jenkins , 15/03361/FUL (Bleak Farm) and 15/03640/FUL (Hilltop Road) .Andrew gave details of recent planning decisions and then discussed the application for Bleak Farm. Jilly Brown (the applicant) gave details of the proposal for a new wall and there was a consensus within the PC that this application should be supported. Adrian pointed out that the existing hedge comprised of non native species and therefore did not breach our guidelines on the removal of hedges. Vote unanimous.

Andrew Jenkins discussed the second application **No:03640**, stables in the field adjoining Selwood Green. There was some concern that the proximity of the proposed stables to the boundary would not allow hedge cutting of the boundary hedge and would be detrimental to the neighbour's, the Bradley's, enjoyment of their garden. The committee felt that the stables and manure heap would be better placed to the north end of the field, near its entrance and at least 5 metres from the boundary ditch. There was also concern that no mention had been made in the application of the location of the manure heap, its associated run-off, smells and flies etc which Mr and Mrs Bradley were very concerned about. The applicant was asked if she would consider a different position for the stable block and manure heap and agreed that she would. The PC proposed that the moving of the stable be taken into consideration by SSDC planning department when making a decision on this application.

8 Discuss system for displaying planning notices. – It was agreed that a summary of current planning applications should be displayed on the notice boards with a recommendation that the details could be viewed online. Andrew would provide the summary and hold all applications whilst providing the village web site with details. Adrian questioned the process of making decisions on applications without fuller consultation and gave the recent Cucklington Solar development as an example. Jenny said that sometimes time constraints made this difficult and apologised if this had caused a problem. It was agreed that in future Andrew would notify Councillors of the details of an application by email, rather than pass the plans around the council. This would make the process quicker. Then the members would decide whether the PC should meet to discuss an application.

9 Highways Report-Tony Appleton - Tony was away on holiday but had filed a report which Jenny read out. Roads were in good condition, a road sweeper had visited the village at the end of July. Tony thanked land owners who had cut or layered their hedges. Potholes identified by Somerset County Highways had all been filled. The annual problem of when to cut verges had resurfaced with complaints of the verges being cut too early and too late. Tony would be asking for the verges to be cut as late as possible to enable villagers to enjoy the roadside flowers.

10 Notice Board for Underhill- Jenny had obtained a price of £220 from Rob Doody and was pleased with this. Less pleasing was the legal and administration applied by the Council on installation on the roadside verge. (Total £515) An alternative location would be sought.

11 Village Housing Survey- It had been agreed at a previous meeting that the findings of the Parish Plan housing survey were ambiguous and that this subject needed to be revisited. Following a discussion of possible solutions it was agreed that Jane would contact Tim Cook at SSDC who has previous experience in these areas, Anna Groskop thought Tim would be able to help in the preparation of a questionnaire. Jane to advise of progress at next meeting.

12 PC Contribution to Pen Paper- The PC had budgeted for £90 per year for the funding of the Pen Paper but current costs with the new format were running at £150 per edition (PC pays half). It was agreed to continue to fund the Paper and perhaps increase the precept next year to reflect the extra costs.

13 Footpaths report- Jane Ashman.- Richard Gething was present and delivered the report saying that Mr Hopkins had applied for a 6 month closure to the footpath through his property which had been granted while filling work is undertaken. Another path on Mr Hopkins land running from Salters Hill to Encie Farm was open. Pen Ridge Farm path was now more accessible after the field had been cut. Clerk advised Richard had

claimed £87 for repair work to fences and stiles and that this had been paid to him out of the Grant money received last year.

It was agreed to discuss the Welcome booklet (15) before the Parish Priorities (14).

15 Discuss Welcome Booklet.-Following a brief discussion it was agreed the use of a Welcome booklet given to new residents would be discontinued and that the text of the booklet would be available on the web site. New residents would now receive a welcome letter from the Chairman and a pointer toward the website for more information. If people do not have access to the internet, the Parish Council will print off a hard copy for them. Adrian would update the web site information to contain everything currently contained in the booklet.

14 Parish Priorities- Adrian Carter.- Adrian had circulated a revised updated list of priorities and these were discussed by the Council. It was agreed to make some small changes to Adrian's text. The changes were supported by the Parish Council members. Adrian will incorporate these into the text of the document on the website.

16 To note and agree Bank account expenditure reconciled to current account – Clerk circulated details of income and expenditure and asked Jenny to check bank statement balances, Jenny signed document as correct.

17 AOB- Jane noted that Bill Hopkins had withdrawn his application for Pen House Farm 15/00520/CPO.

Meeting ended 9.30

Signed as a true record Chairman**Date.....**