

Pen Selwood Parish Council

Committee Meeting

Minutes of the Committee meeting held at the Village Hall on Wed 7th September 2011

Present Cllr Fitzgerald (Chairman) Cllrs Jenkins, Young, Clark, Appleton, Steadman, Rossiter.

- 1 **Public Open Forum.** Chairman asked if questions relating to Affordable housing could wait until item 8 on the agenda. Several other questions were asked that related to agenda items and would be covered within the meeting.
- 2 **Apologies for absence.** None
- 3 **Notices of Interest** Cllr Young and Jenkins item 12
- 4 **Minutes of last meeting** Approved with a change to wording to item 16 ,AOB which will now read Peter FitzGerald referred to a housing survey being considered by Community Council for Somerset, Felix Marsh would be coordinating the survey which looks at the needs, if any, of affordable housing.
- 5 **Matters Arising** Sharon Rossiter advised that the Parish Pump had been refurbished and that Val Lee had been approached with a view to an open gardens fundraiser to raise money for local activities Val was in favour but would be unable to organise the event.
- 6 **Fence on Common Lands at Horse Ponds-** Peter FitzGerald had contacted the man responsible for erecting the fence and had advised that the land was Common Land and as such the fence was illegal. The District Council may be the best authority to force the removal of the fence and they had been alerted. Bryan Young suggested Highways may be able to wield some influence over the situation as barbed wire fences were not permitted near roads .Tony Appleton to follow this up with Highways.**AP**
- 7 **Defibrillator.** Jenny Steadman read through a comprehensive report on the progress of the Defibrillator project a copy of which remains on file. Fundraising is progressing well but Peter FitzGerald expressed concerns over the terms of the legal document transferring ownership of the phone box to the PC.This required more work. Clerk to look into electricity supply issues and land ownership after purchase.**KS**
- 8 **Housing Survey/Affordable Housing SCC Initiative -** The Chairman reported the steps taken before the survey was sent out and apologised for his error in not referring the letter to the Council before allowing the survey to proceed. Chairman also gave details of the problems that have arisen since this subject became public. Clerk gave details of the correct process that ought to have been followed by SCC/SSDC prior to the issue of the survey. This would have involved consultation with PC and involvement in the time table of events. This process was not followed. Members of the public were invited to ask questions concerning the survey and the involvement of the PC which were answered by the Chairman who expressed regret that these unfortunate circumstances had resulted in clear public unrest with the situation. A member of the public drew attention to a very recent letter from SCC inferring that three local Parishes, of which PenSelwood was one, might be banded together for the purposes of assessing housing needs, Chairman thanked him for this information. Following a full and thorough debate it was agreed the Chairman would write to the Chief Executive of the Community

Council for Somerset expressing our anger at how the PC had been made to appear as partners in the survey and how we felt the consultation process had not been followed correctly. **PF**

- 9 Planning Activity-** Andrew Jenkins gave details of one planning application at Candle Cottage which had been supported.
- 10 Footpaths-** Sharon Rossiter stated that more footpath wardens were required as she was finding it difficult to walk the 11 and half miles of footpaths. Sharon is working on an idea involving banding the paths into groups so that new volunteers could be found to “patrol “ a group of paths ,perhaps while dog walking. **SR**
- 11 Highways-** Tony Appleton advised that Long Lane had been resurfaced and that the new signage we required was included in the budgeted spending of the Highways Dept. Pen Ridge is starting to break up and Tony Appleton noted the comments and would report them to the correct Highways Dept.
- 12 Community Field Funding –**Andrew Jenkins reviewed the main points of the report concerning this issue, which if the field were adopted by the PC ,could result in £6.80 being added to each households Council Tax bill. Members of the public were invited to ask questions and raise issues and following a lively question and answer session the Chairman asked Councillors for their views. It was agreed that this issue should have a full village wide consultation and that this could be achieved through the Parish Plan Questionnaire.
- 13 Broadband Survey-** Clerk reported our interest in improved Broadband speeds had been noted by SSDC who had replied to our letter and set out the timetable for future improvements.
- 14 Acknowledge Receipt of completed audit document-** Clerk gave details of audit recommendations in which our current risk assessment process needed tightening ,this would be addressed at the next meeting. Cheque(406) for audit fees signed by Cllr Jenkins. **KS**
- 15 Note Charlton Musgrove PC’s decision not to allow Scaife’s home to be transferred to PenSelwood.** Chairman noted this decision with regret and Jenny Steadman asked if we might revisit the subject in future.
- 16 Approve new contact list –** Clerk issued current information and asked all Council members to change details as necessary prior to the new list being put up on notice boards. **KS**
- 17 Proposal to support the Village Plan via the web site-** Jeff Parcel had asked for a support package to be added to the existing web site software that would enable the Village Plan to involve members of the public. This was available at a one off £100 price and it was agreed that the PC would buy this. **SR**
- 18 AOB-** Diana Hatt asked if next years precept could be flexed to assist with funding for a Diamond Jubilee commemorative feature .Chairman advised he had nominated Heather Doe and Sandra Jenkins for Somerset Lifetime service awards.

Dates for next meeting 9th Nov 2011. Meeting ended 9.10pm

Chairman.....Date.....