

Pen Selwood Parish Council

Committee Meeting

Minutes of the Committee meeting held at the Village Hall on Wednesday 10th July 2013

Present Cllr Fitzgerald (Chairman) Cllrs Jenkins, Clark, Ashman, Appleton, Young. Cllrs Mike Beech, Anna Groskop, Members of the public Hazel Baker, Geoff Parcel, Chris Worrall

1 Public Open forum- Anna Groskop expressed thanks for her re-election and gave details of the spending cuts that are expected over the next 4 years. £84M in total. Anna also expressed concern over the cost of future Neighbourhood plans which may cost up to £6k. The strength of existing Parish Plans is being weakened by new legislation. Bryan Young asked if Anna knew that Somerset Care was in crisis and gave details of recent personal experience. Anna replied that she did know of the crisis and apologised to Bryan for the poor service he had received and said she would look into the issues he had raised. Clair Steel is Bryans point of contact at County Hall.

2 Apologies for Absence – Jenny Steadman

3 Notice of interest – None

4 Minutes of last meeting Approved and signed for 8th May and 12th June 2013.

5 Matters Arising - Peter asked Mike Beech if a decision had been made on the application number 13/2065 for Stour House. Mike advised that it had been approved on Friday 7th July Friday and this prompted a heated debate as to how this could have happened as the PC had voted unanimously against the application with good environmental and building concerns. Mike apologised for his oversight, he had previously agreed with Peter that the application would go to committee if the planning officer wished to approve it as there was strong local objection to the proposal. It was agreed that The PC would write to David Norris, Mark Williams and Andrew Collins the planning officer to express the depth of PenSelwood PC's incredulity at this outcome.

6 Planning Activity- Andrew Jenkins reported that the application at Oak Dene, Coombe Street had been approved without our recommendations being taken into consideration.

7 Highways -Cllr Appleton's reported that the roads were generally in good condition, pot holes had all been reported and were on the list to repair. Tony advised the speed monitoring work carried out at Leigh Common had not thrown up any speeding issues and that he thought the report (when received) would not recommend a change to the speed. Peter expressed regret at this outcome and thought the residents of Leigh Common would feel let down by the outcome. The verge cutting this year was carried out on June 10th. Last year we had written and asked for a later cut in June, which we have now received. Highways are reluctant to cut verges in Pear Ash Lane until the hedges are cut back. This work will hopefully be done after the "Pear Ash Lane Residents Letter" is delivered in the Autumn. Bryan suggested the September agenda should include a Winter roads strategy for the PC, Clerk to note for next agenda.

8 Footpaths Report- Jane said that she would present this report in future as her partner was involved in the footpaths group. Peter read out a written report from Hester Messon. All paths had now been surveyed and a meeting with Eve Wynn had been productive. Footpath WN21/16 required some work

from the landowner but was still passable with care and at the walkers risk. Clearance work had begun to remove vegetation from around stiles and gates. Hester wished to thank all volunteers for their help.

9 **Community Plan Update Geoff Parcel-** Geoff reported that it was now six months since the plan was published and that much good work had been done .Geoff had copied a progress report to all Councillors and ran through the progress summarised thus. Moldrams Ground had received a visit from a ranger who had walked the area and give a talk to interested villagers, volunteers had cleared holly and undergrowth. Historic sites brochure was available in Church and village Hall. The Black Bin Cafe was proving to be a tremendous success with attendance high. The new web site was going well and Geoff was encouraging people to post their own material. A Broadband survey of 20 household had revealed big differences in band speed.7.2 mb in some homes and 0.5mb in others nearby. Geoff reported that there were still areas where progress had not been possible but was very pleased with the progress made over the last 6 months. Peter thanked Geoff and the Parish plan team for all of their hard work.

10 **AOB-** Tony said only two copies of the PenSelwood Information book were left and Cliff offered to run a fresh pair of eyes over the document to see if it needed refreshing or updating. Geoff offered to help with this . Bryan asked that fixed meeting dates be agreed for the next year. Peter agreed to discuss this possibility at the next meeting.

Meeting ended 8.35pm

Dates for next meetings 11th September 2013 at 7pm to include AGM then Full Council meeting after.

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