# **Minutes of the meeting of Perton Parish Council, held at Perton Civic Centre on Monday 11th October 2021, 7.00pm**

## **PRESENT:**

Councillors Mrs PA Allen, AA Bourke, R Bradley, N Caine, P Davis , K Elder (Chairman),

D Glynn (Vice- Chairman), Mrs A James, C Rathbone, J Sherlock, Mrs B Walters

Parish Clerk Mrs B Hodgetts

Assistant Parish Clerk Mrs L Higgins

Members of the public – 17

South Staffordshire Council Representatives – M Jenkinson and R Taylor (part of meeting)

PCSO A Tooth (part of meeting)

## 68/21 - PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

A representative from Perton Middle School raised their concerns regarding funding from Staffordshire County Council in respect of repairs required. A visit from County councillor Abrahams would be welcome. PPC to support the school in lobbying the County, copying in Rt Hon Gavin Williamson MP.

Several members of the public once again raised their concerns at the lack of grounds maintenance, maintenance of the river. Councillors assured the residents that the District and Parish Councillors are raising their concerns.

There are some areas where flytipping has occurred, SSDC representatives were given locations and will arrange collection. A traffic cone and lifebelts are in the lake and logs left at the side of the river Penk all need removing.

There is concern with vehicles obstructing pavements or parking illegally. PCSO informed that these can be reported to 101, alternatively report online. Perton Academy have signed up to Parking Stars which is a new scheme with a QR code to help report issues.

Could SSDC liaise with the County Council and other authorities to report maintenance requirements?

Illegal use of the bus lane is continuing to be an issue, PCSO A Tooth has agreed to patrol the bus lane when possible, unfortunately he cannot issue tickets, he will try to get a Special Constable to accompany him who can issue them. Unfortunately the ANPR camera has been delayed, the Parish Council are very concerned about this and will be following it up with the County Council.

Footpaths in Cornovian Close need to be reported by the resident to the County Council, Councillor Caine is not happy with this response.

**Resolved** to move standing order 3f) to allow further public participation.

Electric scooters are becoming a nuisance, these are illegal to use in public spaces unless part of trial scheme. PCSO Tooth has raised this issue but this needs a formal operation put into place.

Speeding motorists – the side roads around Perton should be 20mph, unfortunately traffic orders are expensive and who would enforce the limits? The Clerk explained that the Speed Impact Device currently on Severn Drive is working and will only flash when motorists reach speeds over 30mph. The council agreed to turn the SID round to gauge the speed of vehicles coming through the chicane and pass the data to PCSO Tooth.

## 69/21 - APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received and noted from Cllr J Turner.

## 70/21 - POLICE MATTERS AND REPORT

1. A written report received from PCSO A Tooth was made available for members. PCSO Tooth to start surgeries again.
2. A brief report was presented to Councillors following meetings with Chief Inspector D Wain. It was agreed that a Locality 4 meeting should be held with the Ben Adams – PFC Commissioner.

## 71/21 - DECLARATION OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY AND OTHER INTERESTS

Declaration of other interest received from the following:

* Cllr K Elder for item 75/21 e)
* Cllr N Caine for item 80/21 a)

## 72/21 - REQUESTS FOR CODE OF CONDUCT DISPENSATIONS

No request for dispensation received.

## 73/21 - SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

1. South Staffordshire Council written reports from Cllrs Mrs R Heseltine and P Davis were noted for information. Verbal reports were presented by Cllrs Mrs P Allen, AA Bourke and N Caine.
2. An update on the grounds maintenance Management Plan was presented by District Council representatives.

They understand and appreciate that from a residents perspective all the council tax is paid to the District Council but it is not their responsibility to deliver all the services for South Staffordshire. They don’t want to over promise and under deliver they will discuss what can be done on behalf of the District Council. They are not responsible for housing association land, county council land, private or unadopted land.

Street Scene has a budget of £1.2m to cover all areas within the 27 parishes of South Staffordshire, roughly £44k per village, this includes car parking, street sweeping, emptying bins, ground maintenance and any engineering works. If they are not doing what they should they will do what they can to address this.

Some issues raised during the meeting will be looked at how the District can help, some of the long term issues are not going to be dealt with overnight.

The consultation confirmed that residents use the main open spaces for walking, wellbeing and exercise.

105 residents thought there were no problems with the sites, but 306 said they need improving across the board. The most common issue raised was pathway maintenance, in terms of both access and surfacing. Other negative comments were rats, shrubs/heads and verges. There were comments both for and against dredging the river Penk and wild meadow areas.

Shrub pruning will begin in Perton and during winter a footpath inspection is carried out across the district to assess where remedial work is required and ranked in order of priority.

Areas around the lake will be thinned out to try and alleviate the rat problems. Bait boxes are placed where possible. It may be that further engagement is required with the residents, the Parish Council could help with this.

Verge cutting is managed by District Council on behalf of Staffordshire County Council who only pay for 8 cuts of highway verges, 3 cuts are financed by the District Council. This may have to be looked at if County funding changes. District will work with Parishes to agree areas that can remain as wildflower meadows.

Dredging the lakes will need assessing with specialists and partners and will require a cost benefit analysis. Self set trees have been removed from the river channels and the grills will be kept clear.

Litter around the upper lake was surprisingly low on the agenda from the public.

A draft plan will be completed, and ultimately used to support a business case for more resources. This will be an active working document.

**Councillor comments:**

Some of the areas do not need a prune they need to be cut further, some are causing safety concerns especially around the bus lane. If nothing is done with trees, then Perton will become a woodland. When trees are cut down the logs need removing otherwise they end up in the lake.

There is a need to dredge one of the lakes. The lifebuoy sites need reviewing and possibly relocating.  They will be reviewed at the same time as carrying out footpath inspections.

Residents will have to accept that rats cannot be obliterated.

Can the road sweeper visit the area which would remove some of the weeds in the gutter?

Litter bins installed on lamp posts around the Parkway are not in good condition or lying on the floor, can these be looked at?

No financial support is currently required from parishes towards the management plan, but residents see that they are paying more for less maintenance. Unfortunately working with local groups is necessary, and they are always happy to do this. Some of the alleyways are unadopted which always creates a problem for maintenance responsibility.

Statutory duties for all authorities are available to view on the Parish Council website.

1. Planning application: **21/00988/FUL – 106 Richmond Drive, Perton**

Proposed two storey side extension

**Resolved** that this is inappropriate and over development of a site.

## 74/21 - MINUTES

1. **Resolved** that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 13th September 2021 were a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.
2. Noted for information the draft minutes of the following committees:

* Management Committee held 15th September
* Planning Committee held 23rd September
* Finance Committee held on 5th October 2021

## 75/21 - FINANCE

1. **Paid Expenditure Transactions** between paid between 01/09/21 and 30/09/21

**Resolved** payments approved.

Cheque Paid date Tn no Gross Details Heading

DDb ASH09 01/09/21 4417 £164.30 Ash Waste Services General & Recycle Waste 224

DDb Rates09 01/09/21 4418 £1,435.00 South Staffordshire Council Rates - September 221

DDb Website09 01/09/21 4419 £30.00 Kalidescope Website & Email Hosting/Maintenance 133/1

Bacs RP09 01/09/21 4421 £1,740.00 Reformed Plastics Outdoor Furniture - Welcome Back 138

Bacs 03/09/21 4420 £150.00 Refunded Deposit F Thomas - 28/08/21 223

RefDep28/08

Bacs PEN09 10/09/21 4422 £2,796.68 Staffordshire County Pension - August 201/4

Bacs IR09 10/09/21 4423 £2,605.76 Inland Revenue Tax & NI - August 201/3

Bacs Zurich 10/09/21 4424 £3,546.50 Zurich Municipal Insurance Premium 216

Bacs DTE09 13/09/21 4426 £108.00 Down to Earth Grass Cutting to Playground - August 125/3

Bacs TPIC 13/09/21 4427 £180.00 The Play Inspection Co. Outdoor Annual Inspection 119

Bacs External 13/09/21 4428 £720.00 Mazars External Audit for year ending 31/03/21 105/1

Bacs 13/09/21 4429 £100.00 Refunded Deposit L Dixon - 04/09/21 223

RefDep04/09

Bacs 20/09/21 4425 £50.00 Refunded Deposit M Keillor - 31/08/21 223

RefDep31/08

Bacs GAS09 20/09/21 4430 £57.05 Contract Natural Gas Ltd Gas Supply - August 213

Bacs SSDC 20/09/21 4431 £180.00 South Staffordshire Council Premises Annual Licence Fee 127

Bacs MSO 20/09/21 4432 £406.08 Communicate Better MSOffice365 Business Annual Charge 112/2

Sept-Aug

Bacs HAGS09 20/09/21 4433 £30.00 HAGS-SMP Ltd Play Area Repairs 125/1

Bacs Elec09 21/09/21 4434 £353.40 Eon Next Electricity Electricity Supply 1st - 31st August 209

Bacs 24/09/21 4435 £9,228.28 Salaries Month 06 (Sept) 201/1

Bacs AE09 27/09/21 4436 £84.00 Acquiesce Environmental Legionella Monitoring & Testing 215

Compliance Limited

Bacs Halls09 27/09/21 4437 £60.41 Halls SMS Centre Feed & Hand Towels 207/2

Bacs TBB09 27/09/21 4438 £285.50 The Bookbinders Bound Minutes 129

Bacs SPCA09 27/09/21 4439 £30.00 Staffordshire Parish Cllr Training - Budgets and Precepts 128

Council's Association

Bacs VA09 27/09/21 4440 £131.18 Vendaid Hot Drink Consumables and Machine 208/1

Maintenance

Bacs 29/09/21 4441 £34.99 Just Keys Ltd Citizen of the Year Clock 110

CreditCard09

Bacs 29/09/21 4442 £99.95 PremiumPaints.Co.Uk Concrete Sealer for Covid Cobra 122

CreditCard09

**Total** **£24,607.08**

1. Cash book to date received and noted for information.
2. Income statement to date received and noted for information.
3. Expenditure and budget to date received and noted for information.
4. Grant request received from Perton Crafters’ Too. **Resolved** to approve a grant of £300.
5. Ideas for precept items were discussed. These included investigation of employing a Lengths man, Skatepark, MUGA lighting and senior youth club.

9.30pm **Resolved** to move standing order 10a x) to allow further time to complete the agenda.

1. A vacancy remains on the Finance Committee, if any Councillor wishes to join the please contact the Clerk.

## 76/21 - STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

1. A written report from County Cllr Abrahams was noted for information.

**Additional comments to be passed to the County Councillor:**

The County Council should be made aware of the demographics in the area around the chicane on Severn Drive. If County cannot commit to changes to the chicane perhaps additional signage could be installed. The anti-skid surface and the pedestrian crossing marking in need of repair. **Resolved** Clerk to confirm the meeting with Councillor Abrahams.

Disappointed to read that the ANPR camera has been delayed. **Resolved** Clerk to express the Councils concerns with this decision. Clerk to contact Chief Inspector Wain to gain support.

The culvert works that Staffordshire Highways had agreed to do in Dippons Lane has not been completed although the County Councillor reported that it had**. Resolved** to raise this with County Councillor.

1. 7.5 tonne weight limit for Wrottesley Park Road was discussed. This road is being frequently used to cut through to the Bridgnorth Road A454. Wolverhampton may be able to support this proposal. **Resolved** to bring this to the attention of the County Councillor. Enforcement would need to be considered if agreed.
2. An update on the SCC/SPCA webinar held on 27th September 2021 was noted for information

## 77/21 – POLICIES

1. Policies The following policies were reviewed:
2. Scheme of Delegation **- Resolved** no amendments
3. Data audit - **Resolved** no amendments
4. The following policies were reviewed by the Finance Committee and proposed no amendments:
5. Petty Cash – **Resolved** no amendments
6. Grant Policy infectious disease – **Resolved** no amendments

## 78/21 – REPORTS

1. Weekly Clerks reports having previously been distributed were noted for information.
2. Environmental report – nothing further to report.
3. Children’s play area annual inspection – only low and very low issues raised. The clerk will simplify the report and pass to councillors. Some of the issues can be addressed by the civic centre staff.
4. Heating system – the heating has now been turned back on and the water is being heated via the electric immersion heater. There are proposals to install a further gas boiler in the boiler room that serves just the hot water, leaving the main boilers for heating. Further suggestions have been raised, waiting for quotes to be received. A meeting will be scheduled when more information is received.

## 79/21 – CHRISTMAS TREE ANDERS SQUARE

The clerk was unfortunately unable to obtain installation quotes for a donated tree. **Resolved** that the Parish Council will cover the costs of a 22ft tree from Weston Sawmills at a cost of £450, and installation of the lights on the tree and around Anders Square at a cost of £1680.

## 80/21 – SPCA

## Term of office for the Executive Committee ends in May. Resolved Cllr N Caine be re-nominated on behalf of Perton Parish Council.

## Motions for debate at the SPCA AGM due to be held on 6th December to be forwarded to SPCA.

## 81/21 - DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Full Council Meeting of the Parish Council - Monday 8th November 2021 at 7pm, Perton Civic Centre

**Meeting closed at 10.01pm**

Signed ………………………………………………………………… Date: …………………………………………

Chairman

**Financial Summary - Cashbook**

Summary between 01/04/21 and 30/09/21 inclusive.

Balances at the start of the year

**Ordinary Accounts**

Co-operative Bank £3,253.47

HSBC Current Account £14,806.80

Petty Cash Account £250.00

Public Sector Deposit Fund £116,000.00

Total £134,310.27

RECEIPTS Net Vat Gross

Parish Council £228,977.22 £0.00 £228,977.22

Civic Centre £28,347.88 £0.00 £28,347.88

Total Receipts £257,325.10 £0.00 £257,325.10

PAYMENTS Net Vat Gross

Parish Council £77,522.04 £3,114.68 £80,636.72

Civic Centre £55,130.30 £2,232.01 £57,362.31

Total Payments £132,652.34 £5,346.69 £137,999.03

Closing

**Ordinary Accounts**

Co-operative Bank £2,753.47

HSBC Current Account £19,632.87

Petty Cash Account £250.00

Public Sector Deposit Fund £231,000.00

Total £253,636.34

Uncleared and Unpresented

Statement Closing Balances

**Ordinary Accounts**

Co-operative Bank £2,753.47

HSBC Current Account £19,632.87

Petty Cash Account £250.00

Public Sector Deposit Fund £231,000.00

Total £253,636.34

Signed

Chair Clerk / Responsible Financial

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