

RANGEWORTHY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE MEMORIAL HALL AT 7:45PM ON TUESDAY 2nd DECEMBER 2008

Those Present

Councillors: Mr G R Dawe (Chairman) Miss W Moody Mr M Ellery Mr D Somers
Mr K Livall Mr B R Miller (Clerk)

Mr Howard Gawler – South Gloucestershire Councillor

No members of the public

Action

1	<u>Apologies for Absence</u>	
01.12.08	None.	
2	<u>Declarations of Interest relating to Agenda Items</u>	
02.12.08	None	
3	<u>Minutes of the Last Meeting</u>	
03.12.08	The Minutes of the last meeting, held on the 4 th November, were approved and signed by the Chairman.	
4	<u>Matters Concerning South Gloucestershire Councillor, Mr Howard Gawler</u>	
	The following four issues were raised by Cllr. Mr Gawler:-	
04.12.08	The recent data from the South Gloucestershire Council (SGC) traffic counter on the main road near Backfields Farm was tabled for Cllrs' perusal (08.11.08). In addition, the data from the counter north of Bagstone for March and April was provided. It was resolved to circulate the data and discuss the contents, if necessary, at the next meeting.	
05.12.08	Cllr. Mr Gawler will be chairing a meeting tomorrow evening which has been called by those opposed to the possible creation of a Gypsy and Travellers site at "Homefields", Wickwar. In particular, the Planning Application submitted by Mr Morgan, the landowner, will be considered. Cllr. Mr Gawler has been in contact with South West Law, who represents Mr Morgan. He has suggested that it would be helpful if the Planning Application is temporarily withdrawn, until the results SGC's area wide site appraisal is known. To date a response has not been received. He outlined how the site might develop if Planning Permission is granted, based on other sites in the area.	
	Cllrs. reviewed the Parish Council's recent responses to both the area wide consultation by SGC and the Planning Application. It was resolved that there are no further comments that can be made.	
	SGC has now published all the objections to the Planning Application.	

Cllr. Mr Ellery noted that there have been approximately 160 objections to the Planning Application. The Parish Council has resolved to support the group opposing the Planning Application (07.11.08). He was however concerned that some of the comments appearing on the Group's website are somewhat borderline. It was resolved to continue to support the objectives of the Group, but cannot support individual views.

06.12.08 Cllr. Mr Gawler asked whether any issues needed raising at the forthcoming liaison meeting at Hanson's Tytherington Quarry. It was resolved that there were no matters of immediate concern.

07.12.08 The £40k funds available during the current year for the construction of Phase 1 of the Manor Road footpath extension have been allocated elsewhere. Cllr. Mr Gawler is investigating the matter as a matter of urgency. Noted.

HG

08.12.08 Cllr. Mr Ellery asked whether SGC has yet decided whether to introduce number plate recognition cameras (NPRs) at their Civic Amenity sites and, if so, why? Cllr. Mr Gawler confirmed that they are being installed to stop cross border tipping. Cllr. Mr Dawe stated that the use of NPR cameras is a gross misuse of the cameras, which were intended to assist the Police to detect crime. Cllr. Mr Gawler agreed to check the legality of their use with SGC.

HG

5 To Receive the Clerk's Report

09.12.08 Matters contained in the Report relating to non specific Agenda items were noted. The following additional information was also noted and resolutions passed to take the appropriate actions. Report items relating to specific Agenda items were considered later under the relevant item, as appropriate.

10.12.08 Item 1. It was resolved to invite Mark Parry to the February meeting. In view of there not being an issue of "Parish News" in February, the Clerk will advise known interested parties of the visit.

11.12.08 The Clerk reported that Paul L Tily & Son have been asked to carry out the annual check of the electric circuits in the Pavilion. Noted.

12.12.08 SGC has indicated that they are proposing to progress the making of the Dog Control Orders, previously requested by various Parish Councils. Confirmation is requested that the Orders to prohibit dogs from the Children's Playground and for dogs to be kept on a lead on the Recreation Ground are still required. It was resolved to ask for both Orders.

Clerk

6 Other Matters Arising from the Last Minutes Not Elsewhere on the Agenda

None.

7 Planning Matters

Decisions

None.

New Applications

13.12.08 PK08/2991/F – Erection of one dwelling at “Oak View”, Firing Close, Wickwar. No objections.

8 Other Correspondence

In addition to the documents mentioned in the Clerk’s Report or in other Agenda items, or have been circulated to Councillors for perusal, the following other items of correspondence were discussed:-

14.12.08 SGC letter plus evaluation of possible Gypsy and Travellers sites in SG. (C)

15.12.08 SGC Frome Vale Area Forum data for the 4/12/08. (C)

16.12.08 SGC details of scheme for proposed shared-use pedestrian/cycle facility between Wade Road and Dyers Lane. (C)

17.12.08 Letter from Yate and District Heritage Centre seeking a £100 grant. It was resolved not to make a grant.

18.12.08 SGC have asked how many rough sleepers there are in the Parish during the current week. It was resolved that, as far as is known, there are not any rough sleepers.

Clerk

9 Finances

Received

19.12.08 £150.00 – Rangeworthy Football Club.

20.12.08 £11.67 – Nation Grid Wayleave.

Paid (Excluding VAT where appropriate)

21.12.08 £287.37 Clerk’s salary.

22.12.08 £520.00 – Landcare (Woodland works)

23.12.08 £45.00 - Elite Cleaning UK.

24.12.08 £1518.37 – New Pavilion loan repayment (six months)

25.12.08 £74.00 – SGC (Grass cutting)

26.12.08 £22.00 – Telewest.

10 The Recreation Ground

a) Letting Arrangements

None

b) The Pavilion

27.12.08 The Clerk confirmed that Elite Cleaning UK have treated the external
woodwork to the Pavilion (35.10.08). Noted.

28.12.08 Cllr. Mr Somers confirmed that he has serviced the boiler in the Pavilion
(34.11.08). The pump noise appears to be a characteristic of the system.
(35.11.08) Noted.

c) General

29.12.08 Cllr. Mr Livall confirmed that he has trimmed the Horse Chestnut tree next to
the Pavilion, but he will return to lop a higher branch affecting the overhead
power line. Noted. At the Clerk's suggestion, he will also remove the ivy from
the back of the Pavilion.

KL

11 To Consider the Enhancement of the Children's Playground

(See item 3 of the Clerk's Report)

30.12.08 It was resolved to place an order with Wicksteed Playscapes to undertake the
enhancements detailed in Item 3 of the Clerk's Report.

12 To Consider the Installation of Solar Panels on the Memorial Hall Roof

(See item 5 of the Clerk's Report)

31.12.08 Mr Howard Gawler, as Treasurer of the Hall Management Committee, gave
further details of the proposals. The panels would be on the rear of the roof,
away from the road, a structural survey costing some £600 would be required to
confirm the suitability of the roof and the 5% VAT on the project would be
some £1400.

It was resolved to support the proposals in principle, subject to confirmation
that the Parish Council can reclaim the VAT, bearing in mind the issues relating
to the sale of the surplus electricity.

Clerk

13 Public Question Time

None.

14 Councillors' Open Forum

Cllr. Mr Ellery raised the following two issues:-

32.12.08 Three of the sunken manhole covers near the Rose and Crown PH have been
repaired. However three more, further south, are showing signs of distress.
Noted.

33.12.08 There have recently been a series of brief power cuts, sufficient to trip a
computer. Cllr. Mr Dawe confirmed that he too had experienced the cuts. Cllr.
Mr Livall agreed to make enquiries with Central Networks.

KL

Cllr. Miss Moody raised the following two issues:-

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|-----------|---|----------|
| 34.12.08 | Mr Ricketts has advised that he plans to start hedge laying in the field off Kidnappers Lane on the 8 th December (Item 8 of the November Clerk's Report). She suggested that a letter should be sent to the adjacent landowner, Mr Powell, asking permission to enter upon his land, if necessary. It was resolved to write to Mr Powell. | Clerk |
| 35.12.08 | The combined use footpath/cycleway on the west side of the main road, between New Road and Patch Lane needs cleaning up to remove rotting leaves. It was resolved to report the matter to SGC. | Clerk |
| 36.12.08 | Cllr. Mr Dawe reported that he had received reports of a protruding tree on the west side of the main road in the vicinity of Green Lane. Lorries are swerving to avoid damaging or losing a mirror. This is causing oncoming traffic to veer dangerously close to the footpath/cycleway, putting pedestrians at risk. Cllr. Mr Livall thought that the offending branch had been cut back. It was resolved that the area would be checked. | KL
HG |
| 37.12.08 | Cllr. Mr Gawler noted that the Woodland boundary hedge, to the north of the access gate, was not cut back during recent hedge cutting works. It appears to need attention. Cllrs expressed the opinion that the hedge in question borders land belonging to "The Grange". It was resolved to check ownership of the hedge. | Clerk |
| 15 | <u>Date of Next Meeting</u> | |
| 38.12.08 | Tuesday 6 th January 2009 at 7:45pm in the Memorial Hall. | |

The meeting closed at 8:45pm.

Signed.....

Date.....

RANGEWORTHY PARISH COUNCIL
CLERK'S REPORT FOR THE MEETING ON THE 2nd DECEMBER 2008

Since the last meeting, on the 4th November 2008, all the actions ascribed to the Clerk have been addressed. Progress on those items, together with new issues that have arisen, is now reported as follows:

- 1 Mark Parry from South Gloucestershire Council (SGC) has agreed to attend the February meeting of the Parish Council to discuss lorry traffic through the village (05.11.08).
- 2 Mr Howes' Contractor has dug out the ditch along the southern boundary of the Recreation Ground (38.11.09). All of the spoil has been taken off site into Mr Howes' adjacent field, to fill a local depression. The Recreation Ground has been left in an entirely satisfactory state.
- 3 Wicksteed Playscapes has submitted a revised quotation of £9238.00 for the modified scheme in the Children's Playground (39.11.08) The prices in the quotation have not been increased from their last quotation in April. The Company has also agreed to provide seats rather than the originally specified benches and to waive the extra cost of £100 per seat. Thus the final scheme is as follows:-
 - a) Remove the two worn out "Springies" and replace them with two new "Springies" and safety surfacing. The children at the School have been asked to choose which designs they would like.
 - b) Provide and install a "Whirly Bird" with safety surfacing.
 - c) Provide and install a "Crazy Twister" with safety surfacing.
 - d) Provide and install two metal seats, one in the Playground and one in the Woodland.

The above cost divides approximately as £8757.00 in the Children's Playground and £481.00 in the Woodland. It is anticipated that the work would be carried out in February 2009.

- 4 Mr Eric Briggs has advised that the Memorial Hall Management Committee would like to install solar panels on the Hall roof. The scheme would cost £28k and be fully grant funded, with surplus electricity being sold to the electricity supplier. Mr Briggs has asked whether the Parish Council would be prepared to become involved in the project, with a view to reclaiming VAT.

Cllrs. will recall that a similar arrangement was made when part of the Hall roof was replaced several years ago. Again, HM Revenue and Customs would have to be consulted to advise how the VAT might be reclaimed. It is likely that all the applications for grants will have to be made by the Parish Council. Similarly all grants and invoices will have to come through the Parish Council's accounts. One possible problem might be the sale of the surplus electricity. This might be classed as a commercial operation and raise issues both regarding the VAT and future accounting. No doubt the matter can be investigated if Cllrs. so wish.

- 5 The following items of correspondence of particular interest or requiring attention before or immediately after the next meeting have been passed to the appropriate Councillor for attention:-
 - a) SGC Budget Consultation 2009/10 to 2011/12 data (GRD).

B R Miller (Clerk)

26th November 2008