

RANGEWORTHY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE MEMORIAL HALL AT 7:45PM ON TUESDAY 3rd MARCH 2009

Those Present

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

Mr Howard Gawler – South Gloucestershire Councillor
One members of the public

Action

1	<u>Apologies for Absence</u>	
01.03.09	Cllr. Mr M Ellery	
2	<u>Declarations of Interest relating to Agenda Items</u>	
02.03.09	None.	
3	<u>Minutes of the Last Meeting</u>	
03.03.09	The Minutes of the last meeting, held on the 6 th January 2009, were approved and signed by the Chairman.	
4	<u>Matters Concerning South Gloucestershire Councillor, Mr Howard Gawler</u>	
	Cllr. Mr Gawler raised the following four issues:-	
04.03.09	He tabled the latest lorry count figures from South Gloucestershire Council (SGC) and briefly outlined the contents. (C)	
05.03.09	SGC has responded to Cllr. Mr Gawler's enquiry regarding the use of number plate recognition cameras at Civic Amenity Sites (07.01.09). The response has not satisfied Cllr. Mr Ellery, who originally challenged the legality of their use, and he proposes to make further enquiries himself. Cllrs. present at the meeting also expressed concern that the SGC response is ambiguous. The idea of SGC having access to secure data originally intended for police use, for crime detection, causes concern. It was resolved to support Cllr. Mr Ellery with his enquiries.	
06.03.09	SGC is holding money in their Housing Revenue Fund which is the remains of the funds generated by the transfer of Council houses to Merlin. The money is being made available to Parishes on a pro rata basis, depending on the number of Council houses in each Parish. There was originally some £1.3 million available of which £2500 has been allocated to Rangeworthy, based on their former twenty Council houses. Any suitable schemes, approved by SGC, will be eligible to claim some or all of the money. Noted. It was also noted that in the Parish of Tytherington some of the cost of re-opening the Post Office has come from their share of the fund.	

07.03.09	The funds for stage 1 of the new footpath to connect Manor Road to North Road are still available and work should start in the new financial year. Noted.	
08.03.09	The Chairman advised the meeting that he had received details of accidents in the vicinity of Winpenny Bridge from Roger Steer. The details supported the fear that drivers travelling south out of Cromhall leave the 40mph restricted area and assume that the derestricted road is safe. In fact, the bends present a serious hazard and numerous accidents have occurred. The Chairman proposed that the most practical way of overcoming the problem was to keep the 40mph restriction right through to join up with the Bagstone 40mph limit. It was resolved to support this idea. Cllr. Mr Gawler agreed to take the matter up with Mark Parry, who had accepted the need to look into the problem at the meeting on the 3 rd February.	HG
5	<p><u>To Receive the Clerk's Report</u></p> <p>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.</p>	
09.03.09	<p><u>Item 1.</u> The Clerk updated Cllrs. on the current position regarding the Playground equipment and the following was agreed:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="344 999 1334 1290">1. Wicksteed Playscapes would be advised that the repairs to the damaged paint are acceptable. They would also be advised of the two problems identified during the post installation inspection by John Hicks. These are, the stiff "Crazy Twister" bearing and the misalignment of the "Toni Turtle" Springie. The first problem needs rectifying and the second needs an extended warranty in case premature wear develops. A further payment will be made to Wicksteed Playscapes that will leave one thousand pounds due. <li data-bbox="344 1330 1334 1402">2. The Annual and Post Installation inspection reports prepared by John Hicks are to be circulated for Cllrs. perusal. <li data-bbox="344 1442 1334 1626">3. Suggested formats for the regular inspections to be carried out by Cllrs. received from John Hicks and Wicksteed Playscapes will be considered. They will be compared with the forms prepared by the Parish Council in 2000. A new simple to use satisfactory format will hopefully be developed. <li data-bbox="344 1666 1334 1760">4. Tullio Vettori will be asked to quote for replacing the worn boards on the climbing module with marine ply and refitting the present climbing accessories to the boards. <li data-bbox="344 1800 1334 1872">5. The idea of providing steps up to the mound to the slide will be investigated. 	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllrs.</p> <p>Cllrs.</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
10.03.09	<p><u>Item 2.</u> It was resolved to accept Mr Ricketts' quotation to lay the hedge. A letter will be written to Mr Grandfield at "The Grange" to clarify ownership of the Ash tree at the boundary with his hedge.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>

11.03.09	<u>Item 4.</u> Cllr. Mr Livall offered to cut the grass in the Children’s Playground during 2009. It was resolved to accept the offer with thanks.	KL
	It was resolved to accept SGC’s offer to cut the grass on the Recreation Ground and the miscellaneous verges. It was resolved not to accept the idea of entering into a long term contract.	Clerk
12.03.09	<u>Item 8.</u> The balance of the Forestry Commission grant, £684.45, has been received (10.10.08). Noted. The form to register the Woodland with the Rural Payments Agency was signed by those Cllrs. present.	Clerk
13.03.09	<u>Item 11.</u> Cllr. Miss Moody confirmed that Mr Moody will refurbish the board. It was agreed that the Clerk will deliver the board to Mr Moody.	Clerk
14.03.09	<u>Item 12.</u> It was resolved to appoint Mr Selkirk as the Internal Auditor.	Clerk
15.03.09	<u>Item 14.</u> Cllr. Mr Gawler reported that SGC had looked at the active speed signs at Cromhall and by the Memorial Hall. The Cromhall sign was found not to be unduly bright and the Memorial sign had been adjusted. The Chairman repeated his belief that the siting of the Cromhall sign, prior to the crossroads, causes drivers to lose their night sight, which could lead to accidents at the crossroads.	
16.03.09	<u>Item 15.</u> It was noted that both the swings and the steps up the slide mound might qualify for a grant.	
17.03.09	<u>Item 19.1.</u> The Clerk confirmed that a substantial number of e-mails from the campaigners trying to prevent the closure of W-u-E sorting office are available for Cllrs’ perusal. Noted.	
18.03.09	Tamson Scott, at “May Cottage” has reported that a car has been abandoned in the Parish Council owned car park. The car allegedly belongs to the owner of “Court View House”, who moved a month ago. It was resolved to contact the Police to identify the name and address of the owner.	Clerk
6	<u>Other Matters Arising from the Last Minutes Not Elsewhere on the Agenda</u>	
	None.	
7	<u>Planning Matters</u>	
	<u>Decisions</u>	
19.03.09	PT08/3208/F – Erection of a side garage at “Meadow Cottage”, New Road – Refused. Noted.	
20.03.09	PT09/0041/F – Extensions at “Oakmead”, New Road – Permit.	
	<u>New Applications</u>	
21.03.09	PT09/0041/F – Extensions at “Oakmead”, New Road. It was resolved to object to the application on the grounds that it would be an over development of the site.	Clerk

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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:-

- 22.03.09 Details from SGC of their sponsored "Big Spring Clean 2009". (C)
- 23.03.09 Letter from the new Rangeworthy Baby & Toddler Group seeking a start-up grant of £125.00. It was resolved to make a grant of £125.00.

Clerk

9

Finances:-

- 24.03.09 The Precept for 2009/10 was confirmed as £10,866.00. (See item 4 of the Clerk's Report)

Received

- 25.03.09 £298.00 - Yate Rangers Football Club.
- 26.03.09 £300.00 – Rangeworthy Football Club (Two months).
- 27.03.09 £350.50 – SGC hedge laying grant.
- 28.03.09 £50.00 – Rangeworthy Court Hotel sign wayleave.
- 29.03.09 £684.45 – Forestry Commission grant.
- Paid (Excluding VAT where appropriate)**
- 30.03.09 £574.74 - Clerk's salary (Two months).
- 31.03.09 £45.00 – Global Services (Mole control)
- 32.03.09 £25.36 – Clerk (Refund for printer cartridges)
- 33.03.09 £6928.50 – Wicksteed Leisure (75% Playground enhancement)
- 34.03.09 £60.50 – Npower.
- 35.03.09 £44.00 – Telewest (Two months).
- 36.03.09 £90.00 – Elite Cleaning UK Ltd (Two months)
- 37.03.09 £250.00 – John Hicks (Playground inspection and instruction)
- 38.03.09 £43.49 – Clerk's expenses (Six months)
- 39.03.09 £37.76 – Bristol Water.

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The Recreation Ground

a) **Letting Arrangements**

	(See Item 16 of the Clerk's Report)	
40.03.09	<p>The Clerk reported that nothing further has been heard from Rangeworthy Football Club about setting up a junior team. Yate Rangers Football Club has however expressed a wish to play an extra junior team on Sundays. Noted.</p> <p>It was resolved to let the Recreation Ground to both the existing teams for the 2009/10 season. The rents will remain unchanged, bearing in mind a possible increase in match fees from Yate Rangers Football Club.</p> <p>b) <u>The Pavilion</u></p> <p>(See item 10 of the Clerk's report)</p>	Clerk
41.03.09	It was resolved to get quotations from Elite Cleaning UK Ltd for cleaning the changing room ceilings, the light diffusers and the outside of the Pavilion.	Clerk
42.03.09	At the Clerk's suggestion, Cllr. Mr Livall agreed to adjust the bolts securing the double doors to the Pavilion and oil all the door hinges.	KL
	<p>c) <u>General</u></p> <p>None</p>	
11	<u>To Review the Issues Raised at the Meeting with Mr Mark Parry from South Gloucestershire Council's Traffic Management Group on the 3rd February</u>	
43.03.09	<p>Cllrs. expressed disappointment at the way Mr Mark Parry conducted himself at the meeting with villagers on the 3rd February. He stated that he was only there to "listen to their moans" and had nothing constructive to say. He did not take any notes and his promises to come back with thoughts about further reducing the speed limit through the village had not been forthcoming. It was resolved to complain to SGC's Chief Executive about his performance.</p> <p>The Chairman expressed his view that all lorry traffic should be routed through Latteridge. It has far fewer residents than Rangeworthy, neither has it a School or a Pub. The risks associated with lorry traffic passing through Latteridge are much less than through Rangeworthy. Noted.</p>	Clerk
12	<u>Public Question Time</u>	
44.03.09	Mr Bob Cox requested that thought should be given to providing a dog bin on the verge to the west of the main road, by Pool Farm. The Chairman noted that the annual cost of servicing a bin is £300, plus the installation cost. It was resolved to consider the matter at the next meeting. In the meantime, the problem of dog fouling would be mentioned in the next article in the Parish magazine. The SGC Dog Warden will also be asked to check the area, particularly when children are being taken to and from School accompanied by dog walkers.	Clerk Clerk Clerk
13	<u>Councillors' Open Forum</u>	

Cllr. Miss Moody reported the following two issues:-

- 45.03.09 When it rains, Patch Elm Lane is being flooded at the junction with the main road. It was resolved to take the matter up with Street Care.
- 46.03.09 The unsatisfactory double stile on PROW ORA/5, leading from Patch Elm Lane towards the Church, has been replaced. The old stone stile has been retained and a gate erected nearby. Noted.
- 47.03.09 Cllr. Mr Livall reported the edge of New Road, opposite Berrows Mead, is in danger of subsiding into the ditch. It was noted that SGC's attention has been drawn to this problem in the past.
- 48.03.09 Cllr. Mr Somers reported that the roads in the village need sweeping. Noted.

Clerk

14 Date of Next Meeting

49.03.09 Tuesday 7th April 2009 at 7:45pm in the Memorial Hall.

The meeting closed at 9:15pm.

Signed.....

Date.....

RANGEWORTHY PARISH COUNCIL

CLERK'S REPORT FOR THE MEETING ON THE 3rd MARCH 2009

(The meeting scheduled for the 3rd February 2009 was cancelled)

Since the last meeting, on the 6th January 2009, 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 The new equipment in the Children's Playground and the Woodland was installed by Wicksteed Playscapes in January, somewhat earlier than expected (09.01.09). The work appeared to be satisfactory, with the exception of some damaged paint, noted by Cllr. Mr Ellery.

Advice on the requirements for accepting the safety of the new installations was sought from John Hicks, who has undertaken the annual safety inspection in the Playground in recent years. He advised that the latest British Standard recommends that a post installation inspection is carried out by an independent inspector to confirm that the work is satisfactory. It is also a prudent legal precaution to get the work independently checked.

In addition, the Council's Insurance Company requires regular intermediate inspections to be carried out in the whole Playground, as well as the annual inspection. Cllrs. have earlier agreed in principle that one or more Cllrs. could undertake these extra inspections, after suitable training. The Council's Insurance Company has confirmed that Cllrs. would be fully indemnified for the inspection work.

John Hicks quoted the sum of £250.00 for undertaking the post installation inspection, the Annual Inspection of the whole Playground and also providing training for Cllrs. who will be undertaking the intermediate inspections. In the meantime, Wicksteed Playscapes have been paid 75% of the invoiced cost. The balance will be paid after the damaged paint issue is settled and a satisfactory report received.

Following discussions with the Chairman and Cllr. Miss Moody, it was agreed that John Hicks should undertake the two inspections and the training session. This was subsequently done on the 17th February with Cllr. Miss Moody in attendance. The post installation and annual inspection reports have now been received from John Hicks. Several minor problems have been highlighted in both the post installation inspection and annual inspection reports. These are currently being investigated.

Wicksteed Playscapes have completed the remedial work on the paint and Cllr. Mr Ellery has been asked to check to see that it is satisfactory.

An e-mail has been received from Fiona Vosper congratulating the Parish Council on the enhancement of the Children's Playground.

- 2 Mr Ricketts has quoted the sum of £400.00 to lay the hedge to the north of the gate to the Woodland next autumn (10.01.09).
- 3 The promised hedge laying grant of £350.50 has been received from South Gloucestershire Council (SGC) for the work in the field off Kidnappers Lane. (11.01.09)
- 4 The Precept estimates presented to the last meeting still broadly reflect the financial position at the end of the current financial year (20.01.09). Clearly if Cllr. Mr Livall undertakes the grass

cutting in the Children's Playground a saving will be made. SGC have quoted the following sums for cutting the Parish Council owned grass in the village:-

Recreation Ground - £33.39 per cut. The Children's Playground - £56.83 per cut
Miscellaneous Verges - £19.61 per cut.

SGC has also raised the option of a longer term contract which would result in marginal savings. The savings would be minimal and at this stage it is not recommended that this option is pursued at present.

SGC's deadline for notifying the Parish Council's Precept is the 4th February, or shortly afterwards. Following discussions with the Chairman it was agreed to set the Precept at £10,866.00, as indicated in the above mentioned estimates. SGC have been advised accordingly.

- 5 The Pest Controller has attended to the latest mole infestation on the Recreation Ground (32.01.09)
- 6 Correspondence has been exchanged with HM Revenue and Customs regarding the possible refund of VAT on the Hall solar Panel project (13.12.08). To date a definitive answer has not been forthcoming.
- 7 SGC have again been chased up regarding the provision of a bus stop sign in Manor Road, at the stop opposite the new bus shelter (41.10.08)
- 8 In order to claim the balance of the Forestry Commission grant, £684.45, it is necessary to register the Woodland with the Rural Payments Agency (10.10.08). Progress is being made with the registration.
- 9 Network Rail has responded to Cllr. Mr Dawe's comments on the rusty condition of Lime Kiln Road rail bridge (35.07.08) In summary, they confirm that the bridge is kept in a structurally sound condition but that there are insufficient funds to maintain the cosmetic appearance.
- 10 The Pavilion heating system appears to have protected the building during the recent very cold weather, there being no obvious signs of frozen pipes. Mould is however starting to appear on some of the ceilings, particularly in the changing rooms. In addition, the strip light diffusers are in need of cleaning. Cllrs. may wish to undertake some work during the summer.
- 11 The Parish Council Noticeboard, which was commissioned in 2000, needs tidying up and re-varnishing.
- 12 Mr Iain Selkirk has offered his services again as the Internal Auditor of the Parish Council's 2008/09 Accounts for the sum of £115.00, the same as last year. Cllrs. are recommended to accept his offer.
- 13 Following BCTV's move from their original "Tree Life Centre", they are offering a selection of native trees for sale at cost price. In addition, they can offer a planting service at £230.00 per day.
- 14 Cllr. Mr Gawler has contacted SGC regarding the speed warning sign at Cromhall being dangerously bright and the sign by the Memorial Hall being ineffective.
- 15 SGC has advised that "Playbuilder" funding is still available (16.01.09). Cllr. Miss Moody has suggested to SGC that replacing the toddler swing with a "Bird Nest" or "Basket Swing" swing, suitable for disabled children, would be appropriate. This appears to be the sort of project that would qualify for a grant and SGC will contact the Parish Council again towards the end of

March.

- 16 Both Rangeworthy Football Club and Yate Rangers Football Club have expressed a wish to use the Recreation Ground next season. If Cllrs. wish to renew the present letting arrangements, the question of rental needs to be reviewed.
- 19 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:-
 1. A letter from Roger Carter regarding the proposed closure of Wotton-under-Edge Royal Mail sorting office. (GRD) Many more e-mails are available if Cllrs. wish to peruse them.
 2. PT09/0041/F – Extensions at “Oakmeads”, New Road. (GRD)
 3. Details of accidents in the vicinity of Winpenny Bridge, provided by Roger Steer. (GRD)

B R Miller (Clerk)

25th February 2009