

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting  
Held on 19<sup>th</sup> Nov 2012 at 7.30p.m. in the Jubilee Hall.**

**Present:** - Cllrs John Cutland (JC)(Chairman), Terry Hunt (TH), Bernard Willcox (BW), , Phil Squires (PS), Allison Peters (AP), Marcus Fry (MF), Brian Lee (BL), James Sumner (JS), Mike Webb (MW), Steven Blick (SB), Shirley Holloway (SH) (SGC),

Bob Phillips (Clerk)

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Cllrs. Hannah Richmond (HR), Maggie Tyrrell (MT) (SGC)

**2. Evacuation Procedure**

The evacuation procedure was noted

**3. Public Participation**

The following members of the public attended to comment and support an objection to the proposed extension to the Memorial Woodland.

R. Walters (representing J Walters), Anne Land (Roger Land), T & M Godbert, (M & J Whitaker), J Gaby, A Hendy, (A & C Thompson), (A & P Boulton), H. Meek, C Charrington, E & A Buckoke, P Taylor, A Price, R Taylor, (M & J Williams)

R Unwin and S Heaven representing Tytherington Parish Council.

**3.1. Planning Application – Memorial Woodlands**

Recommendation from Planning Committee – Cllr Brian Lee

BL briefed the meeting on the views and discussion presented at the earlier Planning Committee meeting where those members of the public still present had explained in detail the strong arguments against any expansion of the memorial woodlands.

Members of the Planning Committee had largely agreed with the views expressed and felt that the sound reasons for refusing the original application in 1995 for the change of use of most of the land in this application were still applicable.

Members of the public added a few further points and the meeting agreed unanimously to strongly object to the application.

**9.205 Resolved.** The Parish Council strongly objects to the application listed below on the following grounds:

PT12/3221/F	Memorial Woodland Earthcott Green	Change of use of agricultural land to cemetery (Sui Generis) as defined in the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987 (as amended)
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**Demonstrable Need** - The applicant has not and can not demonstrate a need for this huge expansion of the business. At the present rate of usage, the currently approved site has between 10-20 more years before the area is fully utilised. There is no demonstrable need for this significant expansion of the cemetery and local cemeteries in all adjacent parishes have ample capacity for many years to come.

**Traffic Issues and Road Safety** - The entrance to the cemetery is in a quiet country lane much used by walkers, cyclists, horses and slow moving agricultural vehicles. Any increase in traffic for funerals or other events will create a significant safety hazard to other users. If allowed, this

extension would inevitably demand a considerable increase in the number of funerals and events at the site with great impact in terms of traffic generation and road safety on unsuitable roads and amenity and related policies.

Urbanisation of the Green Belt - In 1995 an application to convert agricultural land at this site of lesser overall size than in this application was refused on the grounds that "the impacts resulting from size, scale and location on the rural character and visual amenity; together with the poor relationship to public transport and the increase in car travel contrary to national and local planning guidance relating to Green Belt and transportation." The Parish Council believes this reasoning is still pertinent and nothing the owner has done on the existing cemetery site instils confidence that the "natural aspect" of the area will be maintained.

Well documented breaches of both conditions and Green Belt Policy at this site in the past give little confidence that if extended, the site owners would give regard to any conditions in place.

No Landscape or Planting Plan has been included with the application. Plans included in the original permitted development for landscaping and planting have not yet been completed. New burials are now taking place in a bare field with no evidence of tree planting as originally proposed.

The Parish Council unequivocally supports the views of the majority of local residents and members of adjacent Parish Councils in calling for this application to be refused.

### 3.2. Local Roads in Earthcott/Itchington

Request from residents in Earthcott to revive the traffic management process for the local roads in Itchington, Earthcott and Tytherington. (Papers distributed separately)

The Clerk reported that the SG Highways assessment team were currently considering a previous plan to create a "Quiet Lanes" area and would be using a score card matrix to help in this exercise it was felt that the costs will play a significant part in their determination.

Roger Unwin, the chairman of Tytherington Parish Council commented that his Council had had similar conversations with SG Highways people and had no confidence that it would result in anything being done. Experience of previous requests for changes in local traffic management had resulted in very large estimates of their cost which made the work totally unviable. He felt estimates of costs of any project would inevitable be grossly exaggerated and because of the severe financial constraints currently in place, nothing would be done.

SH commented that she had been told that a "Quiet Lanes" project would cost approximately £50k.

BL expressed amazement at the cost and PS asked if SH could obtain a breakdown of the costs.

**121119-1 to obtain a breakdown of the £50k costs of crating a "Quiet Lanes" area in the Itchington/Tytherington/Earthcott area.** **Action to Cllr Shirley Holloway**

JC commented that we appeared to have the same issue when the estimate for the work undertaken to extend the traffic island at the end of Greenhill was quoted as being £20k. He asked if SH could establish the actual costs of those works to compare estimates to actual cost.

**121119-2 to obtain a breakdown of the "costs" of the work undertaken to extend the traffic island on A38 at the junction with Greenhill.** **Action to Cllr Shirley Holloway**

The meeting unanimously agreed to request that SG Council urgently investigate the problems of traffic management in the local roads around Earthcott/Itchington and Tytherington.

**121119-3 to write to SG Council and request urgent action is taken to alleviate the problems in the local roads in the Itchington/Tytherington/Earthcott area.**

**Action to Clerk**

## 4. Declaration of Interests

None

## 5. Minutes and matters arising from previous meetings

Parish Council meeting of Monday 15<sup>th</sup> Oct 2012

**Resolved:** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting of Monday 15<sup>th</sup> Oct 2012 were accepted and signed by the chairman.

### 5.1. Matters Arising

None

### 5.2. Outstanding Actions

- 5.2.1. **120820-1 to prepare a detailed proposal of work to make the allotment access path more usable.** **Action to Clerk**  
F&GP Committee authorised a trial repair using Geogrid and gravel. Items on order. (19/11/12)
- 5.2.2. **120820-2 to write to the JHMC serving notice that the Parish Council wishes to renew the lease of the YC Car Park and JH garden. To also establish an approximate cost of the lease renewal.** **Action to Clerk**  
Ongoing (15/10/12)
- 5.2.3. **120820-3 to follow up with SGC the previous report made re. clearing Wolfridge Lane and gully clearing.** **Action to Clerk**  
SB confirmed that the problem still exists and asked SH to follow up if it was possible.
- 5.2.4. **120820-4 to request SGC investigates road calming or additional signage at the entrance to Rudgeway Park** **Action to Clerk**  
Update from SGC – investigating options, perhaps road markings or street signage. (15/10/12)
- 5.2.5. **121015-1 to investigate the potential for applying to SG for an environment grant.** **Action to Clerk**  
The process for applying for an environment grant had been investigated and on this occasion was not suitable for our current requirements. Action Closed

## 6. Recommendations from Committees

- 6.1. **Planning** (Meetings 15th Oct, 5th Nov) – BL reported on the meetings as in the minutes highlighting the strong objection the Council had made to the application to site a mobile home on a field next to The Street.
- 6.2. **Playing Fields & Open Spaces** – (Meeting 5th Nov) – PS reported as in the meeting minutes. Some shrubs had been removed around the Millennium Stone as a road safety measure but more were to be taken out. Investigation work had started on a development plan for the Cemetery.
- 6.3. **Footpaths & Allotments** – (No Meeting).
- 6.4. **Finance and General Purposes** - (Meeting 5th Nov) TH reported on the meeting as in the minutes and highlighted the following:
- 6.4.1. The Qtr 2 Finance Reports were approved.
- 6.4.2. Grant Aid - The committee recommends that the Parish Council makes the following Grant Aid awards for year ending 31-March-2013  
Jubilee Hall Committee - £250  
Helmet - £250  
Youth Centre - £250

Citizen's Advice Bureau - £50  
Marlwood School - £50  
4 Towns & Vale Link Community Transport - £50

Royal British Legion - £75 (previously approved)

**Resolved:** To make the Grant Aid awards as recommended by the F&GP Committee 5-Nov-12

6.4.3. The Risk Assessment Review 2012 was accepted with minor revisions.

**Resolved:** To make accept the Risk Assessment Review 2012.

6.4.4. ALCA/NALC – it was resolved to continue membership for 2013

## 7. Representatives Reports.

### 7.1. Severn Vale Area Forum

Parish Council representative attendance at Severn Vale Area Forum.

As Localism begins to take effect, SGC will be devolving some of its expenditure to its local forums and the Parish & Town Councils are being actively encouraged to send a representative to their Area Forum to help influence the decision making.

**Proposal:** that the Parish Council sends a representative to each meeting of the Severn Vale Forum. (nominee(s))

Cllr Shirley Holloway who is the current chairman of The Severn Vale Forum supported the proposal and explained how important it was becoming for all the Town and Parish Council's to be represented at the Forum meetings. The new homes bonus could well make nearly £100k available to the Forum to be spent on local infrastructure projects and clearly if you are not represented at the meetings, you will be less likely to attract local funding.

After some discussion, Cllr Marcus Fry agreed to attend the next Severn Vale Area Forum at Severn Beach on 5th Dec and report back.

### 7.2. Police Matters

Police Report from PCSO 8752, Tony Blackmore for the period 19th Oct to 17th Nov

19-Oct Four drunken males seen on a balcony at Premier Travel Inn, believed attempting to break in, no entry gained and made off when seen. Police searched area but no trace of the males.

A short while later four drunk males were around Greenhill Road making a noise in the road, again area checked but males had left scene, believed same males as Premier Inn.

25-Oct Male assaulted on A38, Rudgeway, victim and offender know each other and this was part of ongoing dispute between both parties, male arrested and the investigation is ongoing.

31-Oct Halloween passed off without any calls in Alveston or Rudgeway areas for eggs etc. but there was a house fire in Greenhill which not believed suspicious. Fire and rescue believe to have been started by a sparkler inside the property not extinguished properly. Family have been re-housed and will return in approx another six weeks to the refurbished house.

2-Nov Call from a lady in Greenhill Road that she was suspicious of males who attended the day before to clean her guttering. Male arrived in a red van (no make or registration noted) the male quoted resident £15 to clean her guttering out, a short while after checking guttering the resident became suspicious when male advised that guttering was broken and quoted £450 to have it fixed. Luckily resident was wise to this and asked male to leave, upon him leaving resident checked and found that the guttering had been put back in to it's correct place, no damage, but only called Police the next day when saw the red van go passed again. A search for the van proved negative, the business card with all names and numbers including website was false.

- 2-Nov Two suspicious males at the rear of Youth Centre, believed they may have been tampering with the fire door. The area was checked and no new damage was found. The registration number of the car used by the males was noted. The males have been interviewed but as no permanent damage there was no proof that an offence had occurred.
- 3-Nov A property in Rudgeway Park was burgled during the day Entry via rear door, untidy search of the house carried out and jewellery and car keys were stolen, nothing seen or heard by neighbours. All car keys found in front garden, fingerprints have been lifted by crime scenes officer and investigation is ongoing as this crime is linked to similar burglaries across South Gloucestershire area.
- 13-Nov Four tool boxes stolen from a lorry in the car park of The Premier Travel Inn overnight. No cctv footage of the offenders due to the vehicle being parked in a secluded area of the car park. No scope for crime scenes officer and no witnesses to the offence.
- 15-Nov At approx 04:20am Alveston Post Office/Stores was broken in to. The front door was forced and cigarettes and alcohol to the value of £5000 were taken. Several fingerprints have been taken from the scene and a recycling box (believed stolen from Downs Close prior to burglary) has been sent off for forensic testing. Cctv footage of offenders and a black Range Rover has been seized and is being circulated. Two residents also saw the vehicle driving off from the scene. This incident is linked to other offences of a similar nature. Investigation and further offences are ongoing.

I am also pleased to report that we also had no calls for any issues around Fireworks night or the nights around it, long may this continue.

Tony Blackmore asked if the Parish Council could encourage all local people to make their wheelie-bins secure and preferably out of sight as they were regularly used to either gain entry to property or carry away the loot.

**121119-4 to include a warning to residents to make their wheelie-bin's safe in the next Helmet Article.**

**Action to Clerk**

7.3. **South Gloucestershire Council**

SH gave the following update from SG Council

- 7.3.1. Budget – The budget had been prepared on the basis of an increase of 2.5% and recent information from Central Government now suggested that any increase over 2% would require a referendum. This has created many concerns across SG as the reduction of 0.5% to the budget will mean many projects and services would need to be cut or reduced.
- 7.3.2. New Housing in Thornbury – Following the Inspectors report on SG New Housing Policy, plans had been agreed for 500 new homes in Thornbury on Park Farm to the north of the Town. The Inspector has now called for a further increase in the number of new homes to be built in SG and it was now thought inevitable that a further 250 homes would need to be built to the east of Morton Way without further consultation. This was extremely upsetting news as once the Morton Way barrier is crossed; it would be very difficult to stop significant further development.

7.4. **Safer Stronger Community Group**

BL – recent meeting had been poorly attended. Items discussed included the call for Quiet Lanes in Itchington/Earthcott/Tytherington, a request to establish when Wolfridge Ride was likely to be re-surfaced and a discussion on the provision of defibrillators.

There was also a call for the car park in Castle Court to remain open until any building works actually started.

7.5. **Youth Centre**

AP – nothing to report.

**7.6. Jubilee Hall**

BL – nothing to report

**7.7. Alveston Trust**

BW reported on the recent meeting.

The long-standing problem of being unable to re-invest capital to maximise its value has now been resolved and re-investment is under way. In future the value of the capital will be closely monitored.

**8. Community Forum**

PS reported.

The Christmas event at Greenhill Parade on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> December was now fully planned and would include many new items as well as the presentation of the CPRE Village of the Year award. It is hoped that the Council will be well represented.

Planning continues for the Community Show in 2013.

**9. Correspondence****9.1. Correspondence for Information**

A list of correspondence received is available from the Parish office.

**9.2. Correspondence for Action**

9.2.1. CPRE/NALC Neighbourhood Planning Training – Members were asked to consider who may be interested in attending. CPRE/NALC will be running a number of Neighbourhood Planning workshops to help those communities that want to develop a Neighbourhood Plan to get started. Cllr Alison Peters expressed a wish to attend.

9.2.2. Invitation to St Helen's School "The Peace Child" on 4th & 6th Dec @ 6.30pm and "The Nativity" on Dec 11th @ 2.00pm or Dec 12th @ 6.30pm. Names to Clerk.

**10. Authorisation of Payments****10.1. Payments.****10.1.1. Payments authorised at the F&GP meeting 5th Nov.**

NB. Payee removed from lists for confidentiality.

Payments authorised by Cllrs Brian Lee and Hannah Richmond

Details	Chq. no	£
Water Rates – Jubilee Playing Fields	2155	18.91
Legal Charges – Deed of Variation	2156	600.00
CartridgeSave – inkjet cartridges	2157	77.94
Photocopy Services	2158	17.53
Dog Bin Empty we 5/8 – 4/11/12	2159	143.14
Grounds Maintenance	2160	1010.90
Relief Playground Insp/Clean	2161	161.34
Total expenditure		2029.76

- 10.1.2. Payments authorised by Cllrs Phil Squires & James Sumner  
NB. Payee removed from lists for confidentiality.

Details	Chq. no	£
Cemetery Rates	DD	54.00
Water Rates – Allotments	2163	68.18
Broadband Services	2164	26.40
Litter Bin Emptying	2165	27.22
EcoGrid – Geogrid tiles	2166	42.71
Gate & Fence Repairs	2167	170.40
Telephone Services	2168	69.71
Salary - Cemetery Caretaker	2169	88.19
Salary – Inspect/Clean	2170	173.50
Salary & expenses – Clerk	2171	1140.07
Total expenditure		1860.38

## 10.2. Income Received

### 10.2.1. Recent Receipts - None

**Resolved:** That all receipts and payments presented to the meeting were accepted.

## 11. Any Other Business

### 11.1. SGC – Consultation on Housing Priorities

Does the Clerk respond to survey on behalf of Council or will each member respond individually. If Council response, agree the process for discussion/agreement. Closing date 11 Jan.

**Resolved:** That each individual would respond to the Consultation on Housing Priorities. The Parish Council would not respond.

### 11.2. SGC – Towns & Parishes Development Day – advanced warning for event on Monday 21 January 3pm to 7pm. Series of workshops mainly around planning and Standards.

### 11.3. JS requested the starting date for the completion of the Alveston – Old Down footpath. Cllr Mathew Riddle had recently confirmed in an email that the project was still in the budget for 2013. However, in view of the problems with the SG budget as reported in item 7.3.1, this was no longer definite.

### 11.4. SB commented that despite the new central barrier on the A38 at the end of Greenhill, motorists had been seen turning right.

### 11.5. SB queried whether any changes had been made to the Sort-it charging process as he had been told that charges were now being made even when recycling. There was no knowledge on any charges but enquiries would be made.

### 11.6. MF expressed concern about the number of elastic bands thrown on the ground making a potential hazard for hedgehogs. These were most probably discarded by postmen.

11.7. MF reported that several residents had commented about the increase in dog mess on the pavements and local footpaths. It was agreed that this should be a subject for the next issue of Helmet.

11.8. A Christmas Card would be sent from the Parish Council to Len Clarke and George Johnson. The Clerk had sent cards to employees and a few others in past years.

Meeting closed at 8.50pm.

**The next meeting of Alveston Parish Council is on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm.**