

Pertenhall and Swineshead Quality Parish Council

Clerk: Garry Telling [Mrs]
Telephone: 01480 860 439

Chairman: Brian Stevens
Telephone: 01234 708 850

Minutes

of meeting held on Thursday, 13th March, 2008, in Pertenhall Village Hall at **7.30**.

Present were Jan Herdan [JH], Michael Whitlock [MW], Steven Pollard [SP], Thomas Bates [TB], Borough Councillor Ian Clifton [IC], P C Rob Smith [RS], Paul Marsden [PM] from Trading Standards and 6 members of the public.

Brian Stevens [BS] was in the chair.

08.01. Apologies – Neil Pateman, Tim Kingham, County Councillor Tom Wootton.

Meeting for the Electors

- Minutes of Meeting for Electors 2007 **08.01.1 were signed as correct.**
- Rob Smith, Beat Manager from Riseley Police Post answered questions, especially those raised as part of Parish Plan Actions. Points he covered included
 - a police report for both villages
 - distraction burglaries
 - Ringmaster messages
 - hare coursing
 - the Safer Neighbourhood initiative, which aims to make the police more “visible”, especially after 1st April. A member of the public said that a police car driving occasionally down Wood End Lane would be appreciated.
 - the possibility of a speed limit through Swineshead, perhaps for heavy vehicles only. He thought that this latter was not possible, as it is not possible to discriminate between different vehicles, and he said that the council must wait for reviews currently being undertaken before decisions could be made about weight limits or speed limits. Speed limits of 20mph are most likely to be imposed where there are schools.
 - 999 calls which are taken in call centres some distance away. RS said that calls should go to a routing centre and then be sent to the correct police force. He said if you make a 999 call you should stress that you want **Bedfordshire** police. – **Newsletter.**
 - When asked if the elderly and vulnerable could be certain that the police would come instantly to their aid RS said that the police would come but must prioritise. They come quickly to distraction burglaries, and where violence has taken place. Members of the public felt that a vulnerable person making a distress call should be told exactly what the police were going to do, and when they were likely to come.
 - When asked about a specific speeding, unheeding driver in Pertenhall RS said that police would act if given car numbers and times when offences were alleged to have taken place.
 - BS asked about a sign in Swineshead and RS said that the police would back this if it were a safety issue. **Agenda for later meeting.**
 - RS hoped there would be more speed checks in future.
- Chairman’s report – see appendix 1.
- Highways reports for 2007/8
 - MW, for Swineshead, mentioned the comments about highways in the Parish Plan [PP]. he said that roads in Swineshead have been improved, patched and chipped and resurfaced. Sandye Lane and Green Lane were in good condition and the pot holes had been attended to. There were plans for the footpath by the new church wall, and outside the Three Horse Shoes. Drainage outside Brook Farm was to be

improved. A bad accident at the top of the village had highlighted the need for clearer signs.

- TB, for Pertenhall, commented on the list of work promised for March, work which had not been started. He stated that nothing so far had been done about the road edges which were very worn away and dangerous. David Richardson was proving difficult to nail down.
- Iain Johnson [IJ], the new coordinator for Homewatch, reported on the problems still existing at the top of Wood End Lane where cars wait to collect children from school buses. the PCSO who attended when complaints were made added to frustrations by saying there was no problem. RS to try to attend in person.
- Charities Reports See appendices 2 and 3
- Paul Marsden from Trading Standards also talked to the meeting. He mentioned the “No Cold Calling” zones. The clerk had asked for signs to be removed from Pertenhall because they had not been requested. BS - The village has too many signs already. To be discussed at a later meeting. He explained about the Community Safety Team which would have 3 people working to combat rogue trading. JH asked which rogue traders are most prevalent in villages and was told it was those who target the elderly and vulnerable. PM to write for the Newsletter. Both PM and RS will attend the police day in Swineshead.
- Questions/comments from the floor
 - Rodney Tate [RT] asked about the Confident Communities money and **08.01.2 the clerk agreed to contact Bob Meadows again.**
 - IC said there is only one beat officer to cover a very large area
 - RT asked if any further grants were available for QPCs. The clerk said she would certainly have applied for them if any had been offered.

Parish Council Meeting

08.02 Minutes of January meeting – already circulated. Signed as correct.

08.03 Declarations of Interest in any agenda item – BS declared an interest in 08.08 – laptops.

08.04 Brief discussions of matters arising from previous meeting

- Liaison meeting [i.e. Tom Wootton’s NEBCLF replacement] TK will report at next meeting.
- Litter picks will be on Saturday 12th April, unfortunately coinciding with the plant sale. IJ was not able to front this litter pick in Pertenhall and Richard Day will coordinate it. Alan Constant will again officiate in Swineshead.
- IC will try to acquire some litter tongs for use in the village between Litter Picks.

08.05 Correspondence – A. Requiring decisions or for information

- BBC [Borough Council] Annual Statement of Accounts – available on the web. Public Consultation on Local Validation Requirements. ‘Validation of Planning Applications – Guidance for Applicants’ . Clerk will file this for future reference.
- Contacting BCC – Clerk has kept one copy and so one copy is available for display in Swineshead Village Hall
- Bulky Waste Collections – information already on web site, Honeycomb, and will be in Newsletter. **Sunday 8th June 12.00 till 15.00 and Sunday 26th Oct.**
- Invitation from BBC, Councillor Randolph Charles, to an African Caribbean Evening – Friday 18th April - £40. – no action.
- Calor Village of the Year – no action in Pertenhall.
- Letter from A Burt re Post Offices – **08.04.1 Clerk to write.**
- Youth Engagement – **08.04.2 passed to SVH committee**
- Sport – as above.

Correspondence – B. Available for those interested – see table at back of hall

- Rural Housing Trust
- Standards Committee agenda
- Review of street trading policies

- Youth Parliament
- BCC publication
- Parish and Town Council Local Area Agreement Reference Group – 28th March
- Celebrate St George's Day

08.06 Police meeting – 29.01.08 Information emailed to all councillors. Attended by SP and JH. Nothing was added to information previously circulated.

08.07 Planning

- Pertenhall – Old Rectory - tree cutting – permission granted
- Bletsoe – new conservation area – information might be relevant to Swineshead also. IC said that the matter would be discussed the coming Wednesday. **08.07.1 BS said that updated criteria would need to be monitored.**
- Roof line at Manor Farm House – in line with application.
- Gypsy sites - file
- PPS4 Sustainable Econ. Dev - file
- RSS14 Gypsy and Traveller pitch provision – file – IC commented that the provision of gypsy sites appears on all development applications now.
- PPS1 Planning and Climate Change - file

08.08 Finance – 1 Authorisation was granted for the following payments.

- Clerk's expenses – telephone and Broadband - £20.00
- Clerk's Salary till end of year 2007/8 - £995.80 **TB/JH.**
- Stamps - £2.88
- Pertenhall Village Hall rental for this meeting - £10
- Swineshead “ “ “ for PP meeting in Feb - £10.00 **MW/JH.**
- Grants to PVH, SVH, PPCC, SPCC - £225 each as decided at January meeting. Honeycomb - £100
- Newsletter, printed by Kimbolton School - £42.50
- BATPC affiliation fee- £77 **SP/MW.**
- Seats and notice boards in both parishes - £399.76 **TB/SP. Clerk instructed to write a letter of thanks for the excellent standard of work done by Mr Thomas.**

Finance 2 –

- External Auditor – This year, and for the next 5 years, the External Auditor would be BDO Stoy Hayward LLP
- Parish Council Election Recharge of Costs 2006 – would be £232.89 but invoice not yet received.
- In Lloyds TSB on 31st Jan £11,711.97. This includes £2146.24 transferred from 60 day account as recommended by auditor.
- £84.00 had been received as payment of rental of Village Halls for the two hearings/inquiries. This had been paid to the Village Hall treasurers
- £207.87 had been received as a grant for SVH. This had been paid to SVH.
- The Data Control Registration was now due for renewal - £35.00. **08.08.1 The councillors wished to renew this. Agenda May 2008.**
- Two lap tops had been donated to the Parish Council by BCC, no strings attached. They had been cleaned and Michael Slade had been asked to make them fit for use. They cost £55 and £60 respectively. MW took the chair at this juncture. **08.08.2 It was agreed that one of the lap tops, a DELL, be designated the “Chairman's Laptop”, and that it should be made available to BS for his use for parish council purposes when in his house in France. The other, a Toshiba, would be at the disposal of the clerk or any member of the parish council who had need of it for parish council business. Agenda May 2008.**
- Printer belonging to the PC[hp psc 1310] had given up the ghost. Its disposal was authorised.

08.09 Highways since Jan 2008

Parish Partnership money 2008/9

Pertenhall - £6000

Swineshead - £5000

08.09.1 Decisions to be made at the May meeting.

08.10 Parish Plans Report – Clerk had been asked by Zoë and Jemma from Beds RCC to complete a list of actions for their records. She had emailed this to all councillors to save further printing.

08.11 Newsletter - favourable comments on previous 'bumper' edition. Normal single sheet to be used for future editions.

08.12 Unitary Status IC/TW Bedford Borough Council will, in the north, be the Unitary Authority.

08.13 Open Forum –

- SP said that the expected improvements to R of W and FP in Pertenhall had not materialised. He would chase this up.
- BS raised the possibility of co-opting members of the public to the parish council. To be discussed at a later date.
- RT asked about the outcome from the FP Inquiries and MW said the signs had been changed in January.
- IJ commented on the FP in Pertenhall which had been queried. he was in the process of clearing land in his field and the kissing gate had been installed.

The meeting ended at 9.30.

**The next meeting will be in Swineshead Village Hall at 8.00 on
Thursday, 15th May, 2008. This is the AGM.
This is an open meeting and all are welcome to attend.**