

BRYMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BRYMPTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 26TH NOVEMBER 2008 AT THE ABBEY COMMUNITY CENTRE, ABBEY MANOR PARK (7.30 p.m. - 10.35 p.m.)

PRESENT:

Mrs E Glaisher (Chairman)	Mr R Meecham (Vice-Chairman)
Mr A Graham	Mrs D Jagger
Mr C Legg	Mr G Pritchard
Mr P Seib	Mrs M Thomas
Mr M Amor (from 7.55 p.m.)	

Mr S Crabb, County Councillor	PCSO Phimister
Mrs E James, Clerk	

Public Open Session

Mrs Sturman, Treasurer of the Abbey Community Association, gave an update on the financial situation regarding the refurbishment project. Concerns were raised regarding the illuminated signs at Houndstone Retail Park, it was noted that SSDC are acting on the complaints.

148/08. TO RECEIVE ANY APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TO CONSIDER ACCEPTANCE OF THE REASONS

An apology for absence, by reason of work commitments, was received from Mr Shutler. An apology for absence, by reason of illness, was received from Mr Dutton; these apologies were accepted & approved.

149/08. CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLOR

Applications for co-option were received from Mr. M. Amor and Ms A Moore. Voting took place and Mr Amor was co-opted to the Council. Mr Amor signed the Acceptance of Office and joined the meeting.

150/08. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PARISH COUNCILS (MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT) ORDER 2007

Mr Seib declared that as a District Councillor, he may be asked to consider matters at the District tier, which have already been considered by Brympton Parish Council. When this happens he will have to reconsider the matter at the District Council level, taking into account all relevant evidence and representations made at that time. Similarly, as a District Councillor and Portfolio Holder, he declared a Personal Interest in any agenda items affecting the relationship between Brympton Parish and South Somerset District Council.

Mr Meecham declared a personal interest in items concerning the District Council, as an employee of South Somerset District Council.

151/08. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 22ND OCTOBER 2008

The minutes of the meeting held on 22nd October 2008 were confirmed as a true record

152/08. CRIME, DISORDER and COMMUNITY SAFETY

Faulty street lights at The Forum and outside the Community Centre are to be reported to Abbey Manor Group Ltd and SSDC. Details of an Environmental Visual Audit to be held on 14th December were given. Mrs Glaisher and Mr Seib would be attending. PCSO Phimister advised that the former Yoplait site had been made safe with fencing, etc. He also advised that there is a new scrap metal initiative in operation to reduce the theft of metal. PCSO Phimister advised that there had been an increase in distraction burglaries and requested publicity on this in the next Newslink.

153/08. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs Glaisher gave details of the opening of the bridge and path which had taken place on 21st November 2008. She also advised that, together with Mrs Jagger, she had attended a Community Safety Workshop.

154/08. REPORTS FROM:

(a) SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Mr Crabb gave an update on the work of the County Council. He advised that he was still investigating problems with car parking at Tristram Close. Mr Crabb advised that his Local Initiatives Budget was committed.

(b) DISTRICT COUNCILLORS,

Mr Seib gave an update on the work of the District Council. He advised that the Innovation Centre would be officially opened in December and that this will now be run by the SSDC Economic Development Team.

(c) PARISH REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES and MEETINGS/WORKSHOPS - No reports.

155/08. CLERK'S REPORT

(a) Additional highway lighting - Footpath leading from Athelney Way to Friars Avenue. SSDC advised that works are being carried out at the electricity sub-station which may include lighting. After discussion with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman it was agreed to defer further consideration of this item until the works are completed. It was NOTED that a quotation had been received from SCC for this light at a cost of £3304.90, the quotation being valid for two months.

(b)SALC meeting on 8th December 2008 - the Area SALC meeting will be held in the new meeting room of the Community Centre.

(c) A successful spring bulb planting event took place at the Alvington open space on 5th November with students from Lufton and SSDC staff. The Chairman had sent a donation, from the Chairman's Fund, to cover taxi costs incurred by Lufton College.

(d) Driver Awareness Course - it was agreed to book a driver awareness course in 2009.

(e) It was NOTED that Annie Milton of Somerset Rural Youth Project will attend the meeting on 28th January to discuss Youth Councils.

(f) It was NOTED that a complaint regarding the safety of derelict house ('Houndstone Cross') near Houndstone roundabout had been raised with SSDC Building Control. Abbotsdale Homes will be arranging for fencing around the site to be re-secured.

156/08. CORRESPONDENCE

(a)SCC - DRAFT Cultural Strategy for Somerset - NOTED.

(b) **Department for Communities and Local Government** – a consultation document had been received on Codes of Conduct for local authority members and employees. A hard copy is being circulated to all Councillors and a link to the web site has been sent out. www.brymptonparishcouncil.gov.uk

- (c) **SSDC** - Area South Community Forum will be meeting on Thursday, 4th December - Mrs Glaisher to attend.
- (d) **SSDC** - Yeovil Innovation Centre - Invitation to Tour the Centre on Wednesday, 3rd December - NOTED.
- (e) **SSDC** - It was NOTED that the Order naming the street of Highmere was sealed on 17th October 2008.
- (f) **SSDC** - It was NOTED that a Flood Awareness Workshop will be held on 1st December at 5.00 p.m.
- (g) **SSDC** - Oak Tree Park - It was NOTED that Mr S Barnes, SSDC Play Areas and Youth Facilities Officer, had advised that the recessed area is being used as a toilet and in the interests of health & safety SSDC are arranging for the recess to be filled in.
- (h) **SALC** - Items of Interest to Councillors and Clerks October 2008 - NOTED.
- (h) **Yeovil Town Council** - invitation to "A Night of Music" with the Mayor of Yeovil on 24th January 2009 - NOTED.
- (i) **South Somerset Association for Voluntary & Community Action Ltd** - Funding Advice Service -NOTED.
- (j) **CPRE** - Anti-litter Campaign - NOTED.

157/08. PLANNING

(a) DECISIONS ON APPLICATIONS

Members noted the following applications which were approved with conditions - 02/00227/FUL, 08/03150/FUL, 08/03634/COU, 08/0379/FUL and 04/04252/FUL. Members noted that application 08/03250/FUL had been withdrawn.

(b) APPLICATIONS CONSIDERED (UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 79) BEFORE THIS MEETING

In accordance with Standing Order no. 79, Councillors NOTED & APPROVED the recommendation made for the following applications:

04/04252/FUL - the erection of a garage with bedroom/study over (GR 353684/116715)

16 Barlynch Court (amended plans)

RECOMMENDATION: APPROVAL

08/04357/FUL - the erection of 40 no. residential units with associated new roads, parking and drainage in addition to public open space, balancing pond and rebuilding existing barn (GR 352702/115960) SSDC Planning Officer Mr Noon will attend the meeting.
Alvington Farmhouse, 1 Alvington Lane (amended plans)

The Council note the inclusion of highway within red line for the application and look forward to receiving the cross sections of the highway works as promised in the letter from the applicant. Otherwise, previous comments relating to this application apply, being:

- (a) S.106 to be made for a contribution towards a toucan crossing on Bunford Lane immediately south of the Airfield Tavern;
- (b) Timber fencing to be erected at the rear of the site to suppress noise from the A3088;
- (c) A condition to prevent trees to being damaged by contractors lorries and works; this should be closely monitored during building works as these magnificent trees are a major community asset
- (d) It is appreciated that the conservation area must be protected but investigation should be carried out to see if it is possible for Alvington Lane to be widened a little more for safety reasons, without sacrificing any trees.

08/04435/FUL - the erection of a two storey side extension, a single storey rear extension and a front porch (GR 352430/116515)

32 Buckle Place

RECOMMENDATION: APPROVAL, subject to a condition that the proposed first floor window in the en-suite bathroom will be fitted with obscured glass as this overlooks the neighbouring property.

(c) RECOMMENDATIONS MADE FOR APPLICATIONS CONSIDERED AT THE MEETING

08/01555/FUL - the erection of 4 houses with garages and parking (GR 352673/116058)

Golden Acres Nursery, Alvington Lane (AMENDED PLANS)

RECOMMENDATION: REFUSAL, for the following reasons:

Poor design

- (a) There is every likelihood that on-street car parking will take place due to the distance from the parking areas to front doors. It is unlikely that this could be controlled by conditions.
- (b) Garaging seems poor in terms of successful use by residents.
- (c) Concerns over the pinch point in the lane - the other development taking place has to be taken into consideration and there are serious concerns over on street parking on this narrow lane.
- (d) Where will waste bins be sited?

The Parish Council urges the developer to re-think the whole design.

08/04610/CON - demolition of existing barns (GR 352702/115960)

Alvington Farmhouse, 1 Alvington Lane

RECOMMENDATION: Approval, with a condition that materials are retained for re-use in the new development where possible.

08/04694/FUL - the erection of a front entrance porch and a two storey side extension to dwellinghouse (GR 352477/116469)

104 Bond Street

RECOMMENDATION: Approval

(d) PLANNING/DEVELOPMENT UPDATES - None

(e) NOMINATIONS FOR PLANNING WORKING GROUP TO CONSIDER FORTHCOMING PLANNING APPLICATIONS

It was AGREED that Mrs Glaisher and Mr Legg would be members of the planning working party for the month.

158/08. PRECEPT 2009-2010

In accordance with Section 50 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 consideration was given to a budget which had been prepared by a Working Party held on 10th November. The proposed budget had been inspected and approved by Mr M King, the Internal Auditor. It was considered that the budget was prudent and was accepted. Following consideration of the budget Mr Graham proposed and it was unanimously RESOLVED to approve a precept of £45,000 for the financial year 2009 - 2010.

159/08. CONSIDERATION OF GRANTS UNDER SECTION 137 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

In accordance with its powers under sections 137 and 139 of the Local Government Act 1972, it was RESOLVED to grant £200 to:

St Margaret's Hospice,
WRVS (Somerset Emergency Services),
Victim Support Somerset
Age Concern Somerset.

It was further RESOLVED to grant £200 to the South Somerset Citizens Advice Bureau, payment of this grant being made under Section 142 of LGA 1972.

160/08. OPEN SPACES WITHIN THE PARISH

Members considered whether means of protecting SSDC or SSH owned casual open space areas should be investigated. It was considered that the areas of land were too small for development and it was AGREED that no action should be taken.

161/08. SOUTH SOMERSET DISTRICT COUNCIL PARISH CHARTER

Members considered the draft Parish Charter previously circulated. It was NOTED that a meeting had taken place between Mr Ian Clarke, Solicitor to SSDC, and Clerks to the six Quality Parish Councils in South Somerset. It has been agreed that these Clerks will meet with the Chief Executive of SSDC at regular intervals, probably every six months. The Quality Parish Councils have been asked to assist in promoting Quality Status and will be meeting in December to discuss this further. It was AGREED that no comment would be made on the draft Charter but that the Clerk should discuss the principle of clustering with Clerks.

162/08. ABBEY COMMUNITY CENTRE - PURCHASE OF FURNITURE FOR NEW MEETING ROOM

Members were asked to consider the purchase of furniture for the new meeting room. Finance had been identified within the existing budget. Mr Crabb advised the Parish Council that he had arranged for a grant of £1,000 to be paid to the Parish Council with the implicit request that it be used to assist with the purchase of kitchen equipment. Following discussion it was AGREED to delegate the Clerk, after discussion with the Community Association, to spend up to £2,500 on furniture, kitchen equipment and wall rail for the Abbey Community Centre, this sum including the grant from Mr Crabb.

163/08. LARKHILL OPEN SPACE

Members considered the purchase of a new noticeboard to be sited adjacent to the new bridge on Lawrence Way. The new board would inform the community of Parish Council activities and give details of the Larkhill Open Space project. Mr Fox, SSDC Landscape Officer had advised that SSDC would install the noticeboard. It was noted that a 1400 mm noticeboard from Malcolm Lane Ltd, of similar design to that at Oak Tree Park would cost £950 + £75 delivery. Mrs Jagger proposed and it was RESOLVED to approve expenditure of £1025 + VAT on a noticeboard.

164/08. TREE WARDEN

It was NOTED that Ms J Harrison of Fennel Way had requested that she be appointed as a Parish Tree Warden, this request was APPROVED.

165/08. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT NEW MODEL PUBLICATION SCHEME

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, Mr Seib proposed and it was RESOLVED that the Council adopt, without modification, the Model Publication Scheme prepared and approved by the Information Commissioner. It was further RESOLVED that a charge of 10p per photocopied sheet + the cost of postage would be made.

166/08. HIGHWAY MATTERS

(a) County Highways - Winter Service 2008-09 - NOTED.

(b) It was NOTED that speed readings for The Toose & Stourton Way had been received by the Clerk from County Highways, however the results have not yet been analysed.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was RESOLVED to exclude the press and public from the meeting in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted (personnel issues relating to an individual(s)).

167/08. CLERK'S SALARY

(a) Notification had been received from SALC that an interim pay award (pending arbitration) has been agreed between NALC and SLCC for the year to 31st March 2009. In accordance with the Clerk's contract Mr Seib PROPOSED and it was RESOLVED to approve the increase in salary to be backdated to April 2008. It was NOTED that due to a clerical error it has been found that the Clerk had been paid on Scale SCP23 and not at the rate agreed from 1st April 2008 - Scale SCP24, the amount outstanding was included within the November salary payment.

(b) Members NOTED that Minute no. 254/07 of 26th March 2008 should read "... as from 1st April 2008" and not "... as from 1st April 2007".

It was RESOLVED to re-open the meeting to press and public.

168/08. ACCOUNTING SOFTWARE

Mrs Jagger proposed and it was RESOLVED to approve expenditure of £295 on the Alpha Accounting Software system for smaller Councils; which included the initial data set-up. Mrs Jagger proposed and it was RESOLVED to approve expenditure of £79 per year for an annual maintenance contract of £79 per year.

169/08. FINANCE

(a) The bank reconciliation statement, circulated at the meeting, was NOTED and APPROVED.

(b) Mr Meecham proposed and it was RESOLVED to approve the setting up of a Standing Order to the Information Commissioner for the annual renewal payment, as permitted by Council's Financial Regulations.

(c) The payment of £2905.07 + VAT of £508.39 (total £3413.46) to Somerset County Council made prior to this meeting to enable the street lighting works at the spinal path to commence, was NOTED and APPROVED. The street light was authorised by Min. No. 135/08 (statutory power Parish Councils Act 1957, s.3)

(d) It was RESOLVED to approve the following schedule of payment:

PAYMENT DETAILS	STAT. AUTHORITY	COST	VAT INCLUDED
The Royal British Legion	S 137 LGA 1972	£33.00	
C & C Decorating Contractors (SW) (cheque to be made payable to Shaun Cousins)	Section 19 LGA 1976	£120.00	
Mrs E Glaisher	LA (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003	£11.25	
Mrs E M James	LGA 1972, s. 112(2)	£1,141.81	
Mrs E M James	LGA 1972, s. 112(2) + LGA 1972 ss 15(5)	£85.31	3.29
Total		£1,391.37	

170/08. ITEMS TO BE DISTRIBUTED

Somerset PFA Newsletter - The Playing Field - Autumn 2008
 Clerks & Councils Direct - November 2008
 South Somerset Voluntary & Community Action - Newsletter
 CPRE - Countryside Voice - Autumn 2008
 Community Council for Somerset - Thatch - Autumn 2008
 Somerset PCT - Annual public health report 2007/08

171/08. QUESTIONS AND ITEMS WHICH AROSE AFTER THE PREPARATION OF THIS AGENDA, WHICH THE CHAIRMAN AGREED TO TAKE AS URGENT. SUCH MATTERS BEING FOR NOTING OR DEFERRAL TO A FUTURE MEETING.

A resolution, signed by five Councillors in accordance with Standing Order 36 "Rescission of Previous Resolution", was given to the Chairman. The resolution, to reverse the decision of Minute 139/08, whereby it was agreed that the Parish Council would commit to pay two-thirds of the annual repayment of the cost of the loan required, would enable the Council to discuss taking out a loan, from the Public Works Loans Board, for the amount outstanding of the refurbishment project. It was AGREED that this would be an agenda item at the next meeting.

172/08. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Abbey Community Association
 Members' and Officer's Codes of Conduct
 Review of system of internal control
 Review of risk assessment and financial risk assessment

173/08. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To note that the next meeting will be held at 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 17th December 2008 at the Jubilee Hall, Thorne Coffin.