

PEGSWOOD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 13 November 2006
Venue – Uniun Enterprise Centre, Pegswood

Present: Councillor Jim Burley (Chairman)
Councillor Ian Layton
Councillor Alan Sambrook
Councillor Keith Soulsby
Councillor Mrs Juliet Oakley
Acting Clerk: John Douglas

Mr Hughie Hislop (Allotments Representative) – part of meeting
PC M Leybourne – part of meeting

There being no members of the public present the meeting started at 6.45 pm.

705 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence had been received from Councillor Willcox (family commitment). It was resolved that this be accepted.

706 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

707 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The Minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 2 October 2006 and 23 October 2006 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

708 CLERK'S REPORT/ACTION ITEMS

708.01 Bus shelters

Following an approach from Northumberland County Council, and in line with previously agreed policy, it was resolved to accept the provision of a free bus shelter and to purchase two more. It was further resolved to accept responsibility for the cleaning and maintenance of the three new bus shelters.

The new bus shelters will replace the existing stone bus shelters. The Parish Council accepted the offer from Councillor Sanders to remove the stone bus shelters free of charge.

The first bus shelter will be erected on 23 November 2006.

With the approval of members the following item was brought forward on the agenda.

709 PRIDE OF PLACE INITIATIVE

The Chairman welcomed Andy Rutherford, Castle Morpeth Borough Council Green and Clean Manager, to the meeting.

Mr Rutherford reported on the Borough Council's commitment and work on the Environment. This include the commitment for 2006/2007 which included a "Pride of Place" campaign, ten community clean up events across the Borough, piloting an environmental awareness scheme with two parish councils and to remove fly posting, fly tipping and offensive graffiti within 24 hours of notification.

By 2010 the medium term objectives were for street cleanliness satisfaction to be 70%, fly tipping in public places to be reduced by 33% and pride of place of local people to be increased to 90%.

Mr Rutherford then answered questions from members.

710 POLICE REPORT

PC Mick Leybourne gave the report for the month of October.

There had been seven crimes, three of which had been detected. Reports of disorder and under age drinking were extremely low.

The crimes included a public order offence, two thefts from the Co-op Shop, damage to a window in Hebron Avenue, two of damage to vehicles and an assault.

711 ALLOTMENTS REPORT

Mr Hislop asked if there was any possibility of obtaining road planings, hardcore or gravel till in holes in the allotment's roads. The chairman reported that he and Councillor Sanders had costed the supply of road planings and that not much could be obtained for the £1200 earmarked for the purpose.

The Chairman offered to contact the By-pass Manager to see if there were any surplus materials that could be used to fill in potholes in the allotment roads.

712 ACCOUNTS

Agenda item 7.2 Invoices received/internal vouchers – it was resolved that the following be approved for payment

		£ p
0609/71	Unity Trust Bank – bank charge quarter to 30/9/06	30.00
0610/72	Northumbrian Water – allotment water charges	216.71
0611/73	G Common – office cleaning October 2006	20.00
06/11/74	B Parker- bus shelter cleaning £91; play area £53 & dog bins £30	174.00
0611/75	Castle Morpeth BC – additional grass cuts (inc. £609.50 VAT)	4065.50

Agenda item 7.3 Receipts received

0609/64	1 st Pegswood Scouts
0609/65	St Margaret's Church
0609/66	Mrs G Common
0609/67	B parker
0609/70	1 st Pegswood Scout Group

Agenda Item 7.4 Income Received

	£ p
Unity Trust Bank – quarterly interest 30 September 2006	486.68

Agenda item 7.5 - Cleared Balance as at 13 November 2006 up to and including transaction 0609/75 **£71,727.02**

Agenda item 7.6 – Bank Reconciliation Statement - as at 4 October 2006. It was resolved that this be approved.

Agenda item 7.7 – 2005/2006 Budgetary Control Report – this was deferred to the December meeting.

713 PLANNING MATTERS

Decisions Received: none

Applications Received:

CM/20060934 – Mr & Mrs Hill – new conservatory to rear - 18 Moor View Close.

It was resolved that there is no objection to this application.

06/00170/CCM – Siting of Waste Transfer Station and skip hire business – adjacent to Sewage Treatment Works, Pegswood.

Since the last meeting a letter of objection had been received from Mrs East objecting to the application to re-site waste transfer and skip hire business.

It was resolved to stand by the decision made at the last meeting to fully support this application.

714 CORRESPONDENCE

		Action
1	Castle Borough Council Morpeth – Remembrance Sunday Service & Parade – 12 November 2006	Received
2	Castle Borough Council Morpeth - Council tenants newsletter	Received
3	Age Concern Northumberland – request for a donation	Turned down
4	Northumberland County Council - Pegswood By-pass speed restriction & no overtaking restriction	REceived

5	Northumberland Association of Local Councils – draft Community Strategy for Northumberland – any comments by 22 November 2006	No comments
6	B Parker – Patton Way play area – no dog sign vandalised, litter bin damaged needs replacing	REceived
7	Northumberland County Council - taking on board concerns over natural communities of Northumberland	Received
8	Northumberland Lights – two month event celebrating landscape, culture & heritage	Received
9	Castle Borough Council Morpeth – statement of Accounts 2005-2006	Received
10	Castle Borough Council Morpeth - invitation to Borough Debate 29 November	To consider attending
11	Northumberland Association of Local Councils – training events & Community News	Received
12	Castle Borough Council Morpeth - public meeting on Disability Issues – St James’ Community Centre 15 November 2006 - 4-6.00pm	Received

715 GRANT APPLICATIONS

It was reported that Pegswood Welfare would be in a position in the near future to claim the grant earmarked by the Parish Council.

716 MEMBERS REPORTS

Councillor Sambrook apologised for missing recent meetings. This had been due to his attending road shows on the Borough Council’s housing stock transfer.

The Chairman reported on the meeting between parish councils and Castle Morpeth Borough Council held on 11 October 2006.

He had asked questions concerning:

- The poor state of the Pegswood Welfare Park building – no reply to date;
- The current position with the Bowey Homes planning application -the Planning Services Manager reported that the application had been approved and was subject to a S.106 local agreement which had not yet been signed;
- Off street car parking – it appeared that a decision on this would be deferred until the council housing stock transfer issues had been decided.
- Overgrown area near to West view flats – no response to date;
- No ball games signs – no response to date.

717 PROJECTS

The provision of new bus shelters had been discussed earlier in the meeting.

718 CASUAL VACANCY

Only one expression of interest had been received and it was resolved that Mrs Melanie Christie of 38 West View be co-opted to fill the Casual Vacancy.

719 STRATEGIC PLAN TO IDENTIFY EYESORES

The Chairman reported that there had been a change in ownership in the firm that had agreed to remove the graffiti from the Pegswood Welfare building. It was hoped that the work would be carried out in the near future.

720 URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

It was resolved that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted it was resolved that the press and public be temporarily excluded from the meeting.

The meeting returned to open session.

721 COMPLAINT REGARDING CONDUCT OF CHAIRMAN

It was resolved to accept in full the report of the independent investigator and to implement his recommendations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (a) That the Parish Council accept that the member concerned has been involved in a personal relationship which has resulted in certain allegations being made which are of a personal nature and which have had no bearing on the manner or ability of the member to carry out official duties.
- (b) The Parish Council should review their policy with regard to the use of the office telephone and the Clerk should consult with the Council's internal auditor with a view to appropriate safeguards being introduced.

It was resolved to accept this report in full and to implement the recommendations made.

It was noted that the member involved has incurred substantial travel costs over the last five years by representing the Parish Council in meetings held outside the Parish

and has never applied to be recompensed. Likewise the member has made many calls from his home telephone on behalf of the Parish Council and has never applied to be recompensed.

In view of this it was resolved not to request that the member pay for the private calls made from the Parish Council telephone.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.15 pm.

Minutes Approved by: _____ Date: _____
Chairman