

**THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD
23RD MAY 2007 IN THE MEETING ROOM, PUCKLECHURCH
COMMUNITY CENTRE, ABSON ROAD.**

Present. O.A. Beg Parish Council Chairman, Diane Bailey Parish Clerk, Mrs.V. Freestone, Mr. D. Freestone, Cllr. Sandra Grant, Mr. M.Grainger, Mr. P.J. Green, Mr. A. Holder, Mr. R. Symons, Mrs. S. Turley, Mrs. S. Thomas, Mrs. E. Webb, Mr. L. Whittock.

Mr. Beg presided welcoming everyone to the meeting.

Apologies for Absence. Mrs Palmer, Mr. M. Smith.

Copies of the minutes of the previous meeting dated 10th May 2006 were available and those present agreed they should be signed as a true record.

No 1. Parish Council Chairman's Report. Mr. Beg said that last year was again one with many challenges: some frustrations and happily some successes.

Frustrations and annoyances.

1. Green Belt. It has always been (and always will be for the foreseeable future) the Council's role to seek to preserve the green belt around Pucklechurch and Shortwood. With ever more demands from Central Government for more housing in the South Gloucestershire area we have to be vigilant. However, it is not the large housing developers who are the current problem. It is those who buy land then, without planning permission erect buildings or park caravans on their land claiming that they have the right to stay there.

Your Council spent a lot of time in correspondence with S.G. Planning Department and also entered into lengthy correspondence with the Chief Executive regarding the illegal sites on Westerleigh and Shortwood Roads. One problem seems to be that reports have to be made by Education, Social Services and the Traveller Unit before any action can be taken. Some of these departments do not react quickly and delays are inevitable.

Notwithstanding the laggard performance by SGC we will continue to monitor any green belt infringements and make our voice heard loudly and clearly on your behalf.

2. Highways/Road Repairs. Throughout the year we have made frequent requests for repairs to many roads in Pucklechurch. Some of these have been minor potholes; others have been serious erosion of the road surface or road markings, in particular the red covering in both Castle Road and on Abson Road. Although it can take Highways some time to effect repairs they are eventually undertaken.

3. Parking. Parking has continued to be a problem in and around Becket Court, St. Aldams Drive and to a lesser extent, Dennisworth. The problem has been twofold. First long distance artic drivers (often those who make infrequent visits to Pucklechurch) parking overnight outside houses in Becket Court. Secondly visitors to Ashfield parking willy-nilly in Becket Court, St. Aldams Drive and Dennisworth.

Some of these drivers have also been staff at Ashfield. The HGV driver problem we may be able to rectified through Slough Estates as we are awaiting a reply to a recent letter to them.

There have also been issues regarding parking in Parkfield that in reality are not within the gift of the Council to resolve, as it is a matter of give and take and share where a lot of people have a lot of cars to fit into a small space.

Successes.

1. Play equipment. Pucklechurch seems to be having a mini baby boom and Council has received numerous requests for additional play equipment for the under five's. With this in mind we found some interesting play equipment in various catalogues that we quite liked. However, before making a final decision we asked the two village Play Groups which of the options available they would like. When we received their replies we bought a fairly substantial item called 'Miss Muffett' which was installed on the recreation field and seems to be well used and popular.

2. Parish Plan. Although the Parish Plan is not a Council run initiative, it is something that two Councillors, Alan Holder and Martin Smith have facilitated. This has meant that any public funding can be properly accounted for within the Council's accounts. Alan and Martin and their team have worked very hard to reach a point where they hope to have the final detailed questionnaire available for distribution in a matter of weeks. In due course, once the major issues have been identified a report will be given to the Council for us to make our comments and ultimately decide on any action. The results of the Parish Plan will enable Council to speak with even greater authority when asking S.G.C. for additional funding, or when other issues arise.

3. Path Wardens. Council are delighted that Ros and Mike Abbott have become Path Wardens in Pucklechurch. They regularly walk various paths in the parish and where necessary, sort out minor problems, such as overgrown paths. They have taken over from our late colleague Keith Whatley who walked our paths for decades.

Other Issues.

1. Emerson's Green East. The new development may begin to take shape within the next year. Council have met with both the developers and S.G.C. Planning and Highway Departments and will be kept informed of the progress of the various schemes.

2. Pucklechurch Website/News. Pucklechurch News continues to grow both in the quality of its content and its importance to the village. I should like to thank Jacki Berry, Jackie Sexton and Valerie Broom for their hard work in producing so successful a journal. Also Martin Smith continues to run the Website, which gives regular information regarding village events and also has ratified Minutes of Parish Council meetings. May I urge all groups to check which dates have events before planning something of their own? Several times in the last year major events have not been as well supported as they could have been because a large number of people in another group had something else arranged.

3. Finally the previous Council worked very hard and achieved many improvements for Pucklechurch and Shortwood. I am sure that the new Council, with some new members, will continue to work as a cohesive force for the benefit of all villagers.

I should like to thank our Parish Clerk Diane Bailey for her untiring work for the Council and ultimately for you.

As Chairman I have enjoyed playing a part in making Pucklechurch a good and safe place in which to live, both for us and especially for our children and young people.

No 2. Financial Report of Audited Accounts 2005/6. Clerk advised £10,430.00. was carried forward from 2004/5.

Total Income for 2005/6 including precept.	£30,489.34.
Total Expenditure.	£30,245.57.
Surplus.	243.77.

As agreed and mentioned in the Chairman's report a new item of play equipment was purchased at a cost of £4443.00. plus £779.00. for the necessary safety surface.

The accounts for 2006/7 have been prepared for audit.

Income.	£28,039.53.
Expenditure.	£24,914.61.

£2117.70. is reserved for emergency, £8800.00. to be carried forward to 2007/8 of which £6025.00. has been committed for election costs, painting play equipment in the parish and erection of Bow Top railings to replace fence on the recreation field by the children's play equipment.

Cllr. Alan Holder oversees finance, the accounts have to be submitted at the end of each year to the District Auditor. Councillors apply for and are usually able to secure grant funding for large projects they recognize the need to be prudent whilst ensuring sufficient funding for emergencies.

No 3. Report for Unitary Authority. Cllr. Grant said the elections in May 2007 were held under new Ward Boundaries across most of South Gloucestershire. This was because of population growth in some areas which meant some councillors were representing too many or too few residents when compared to the average.

The main changes were to reduce by one the number of councillors in the Yate/Doddington/Chipping Sodbury area and the Thornbury/Alveston area and to increase by one the number of councillors in Winterbourne/Stoke Park area and the Siston/Emersons Green area.

The total number of councillors remains unchanged at 70 seats. The Boyd Valley Ward consists of Abson, Cold Ashton, Doynton, Dyrham and Hinton, Marshfield, Pucklechurch and Shortwood and Wick and Abson has remained the same.

The result of the elections on 3rd May 2007 were Conservatives 34 seats, Liberal Democrat 25 seats and Labour 9 seats.

Due to the death of one of the labour candidates for Frampton Cotterell the election for that ward will be held on 24th May 07. The result will influence the running of the Council.

At to-days full Council Meeting Cllr. Sandra O'Neill was elected chairperson. All other positions will be determined at the Council Meeting in June.

Cossham Hospital and Kingwood Health Centre. Three National Health Service Boards, South Gloucestershire Primary Care Trust, North Bristol NHS Trust and Bristol Primary Care Trust have now agreed with the Kingswood and District Project Board that this will be the best way to provide expanded local health services.

We are told the new services will include Out Patients, Community Clinics including physiotherapy and a minor injury unit. Imaging including X-ray and ultrasound. A Patient Information Centre. Improved accommodation for the Alma Road Practise and local community staff based at the site.

No 4. Report for Pucklechurch Primary School. The following written report was read. Ofsted inspected the school in July 2006. The following paragraph taken from the report summarises the findings:

Pucklechurch is a good school with outstanding features. The leadership and management of the school are good. The senior leadership team, through their outstanding monitoring and evaluation procedures based on agreed criteria, has a very good, accurate understanding of the school's effectiveness and what needs to be done in order to continue to improve. As a consequence, the school has implemented an effective range of strategies enabling pupils of all ages and abilities to make good progress and achieve well. Quality of provision and standards in the Foundation Stage are good.

The good teaching throughout the school ensures that pupils show excellent attitudes to their work and make very good progress. The teachers have good subject knowledge and their detailed team planning, some of which is excellent, lends confidence to their teaching styles, allowing them to engage pupils. They receive good support from the subject leaders in developing their teaching. The curriculum is well matched to the pupils' needs so all can succeed. Pupils' behaviour and relationships are outstanding.

This is a school where every child matters. Pupils are extremely well cared for and feel safe and this is contributing to their desire to do well. They enjoy coming to school and many take part in the wide range of extra activities. The vast majority of parents are very happy with the school and all it offers. The school has clearly demonstrated that it has a strong capacity to improve. It has successfully addressed all the weaknesses identified at the time of the last inspection. This has been accomplished alongside the drive to improve learning and achievement. The school has formed good working partnerships that have contributed to the achievement and

well being of the pupils. The school uses its resources very efficiently and provides good value for money.

Staff. There have been several changes with regard to staffing. A new Head teacher, David Forrester, was appointed and started in September 2006. Two long-standing members of staff, Ann Smith and Val Seaman retired.

Governors. Gail Boyle and Christine Moore now chair the governing body as a job-share. The school is fortunate to have been supported by a number of people willing to undertake the role of governor and so there are currently no vacancies.

Buildings: A bid for £880,000 of funding to improve the buildings of Pucklechurch Primary School was submitted to the Council. The school's bid won the support of some Councillors but was unfortunately unsuccessful.

Curriculum. The school continues to deliver a broad, balanced and healthy programme. Work is currently being undertaken to re-model the curriculum in a way that will allow for more creativity and flexibility in its delivery. This is something happening in many schools at this time. The school provides an outstanding number of extra-curricular activities and the Out of School Club now offers childcare from 3.10 – 6.00pm, Monday to Thursday. Links between Pucklechurch and Mangotsfield School have been strengthened by the opportunities for years 5 & 6 to participate in science lessons delivered as part of the secondary school's commitment as a specialist college for Engineering & Science.

Community. Mr. Forrester is keen for the school to continue and further develop its links with the community. He is particularly interested in maintaining contacts with the different sports and activity groups that run in the village and surrounding area, since this gives the school a much broader knowledge of the children taught there. The school will be updating its Travel Plan in the near future as well as gathering data to feed into the Community Plan.

No 5. Reports from Local Organisations.

Parish Plan. Mr. Holder said that preparing and publishing the Parish Plan was taking an inordinate amount of work and he would particularly like to pay tribute to Mr. Martin Smith for all his effort. They were disappointed with the 'tri fold leaflet' as it had not generated as many replies as had been hoped. Forty two people have been recruited to deliver to every house a questionnaire, the questionnaire has been developed from consultation and input from public meetings and is designed to capture the wants, needs and aspirations of the community. The questionnaires will be delivered from the 10th June and collected a few days later. All questionnaires should be returned by 12th July and will take 6 – 8 weeks to analyse.

Revel Committee. The following report was read: Revel 2006 proved another successful year. Revel Week was made up again of a combination of Revel and village organisation events, starting with the Treasure Hunt and the Pucklechurch Players Race Night. The Twinning Ramble offered an opportunity to explore the great outdoors around the village and the energy of the children at the Junior Folk

Dance never fails to amaze. The School Concert, as ever, was delightful with all the young performers singing and playing their hearts out.

The Pram Race had always been one of Bob Todd's favourite events so we decided that it should be named in his memory. This year it was held entirely on the Recreation field, which made it a much more colourful and spectator-friendly event.

Good weather helped to boost attendance on both Revel day and for the beer festival, both had record numbers in attendance.

We did very well with fundraising last year and distributed £6,700. 00. towards village activities and organisations. That sum included almost £2,500.00 donated in Bob Todd's memory, along with £231.60. in memory of Mr. Fredrick Twyman, in accordance with the wishes of their respective families. Revel funds were also boosted this year by a further £201.00. kindly donated by Alan and Von Holder, from the proceeds of the recent 'Open Garden Day'.

Altogether twenty-one village organisations received donations from Revel funds emphasis was given to those groups supporting youth. The two main beneficiaries were the Football and Cricket clubs for new changing rooms and a donation towards maintenance of the scout hut.

September 24th saw the exhibition of entries for the Revel Photography Competition, the event named in memory of Bob Stone. In addition to the entries in the competition a special display of photographs taken by Mr. Pat Scanlon depicting 'A Year in the Life of Pucklechurch' 25 years ago attracted a great deal of interest.

The main purpose of Revel week is to encourage community spirit and I hope everyone will take part in as many activities as possible.

Pucklechurch Cricket Club. Dean Freestone spoke on behalf of the Club saying 2006 was a good year with the 2nd and 3rd XI being promoted. This year the youth section will expand to include under 8's. Kwik Cricket has been arranged for 6 – 8year olds using all-plastic safety kit. On 8th June Pucklechurch will once again host the Inter Schools Competition and this year for the first time there will be two teams competing from Pucklechurch Primary School. The Cricket and Football Clubs have been fortunate to receive a substantial grant from Revel towards refurbishing the changing rooms and this has made a significant improvement. Dean is very pleased to report that the club is thriving.

Pucklechurch Football Club. The Club continues to run 3 adult football sides and a separate semi autonomous Junior Section caters for all ages from 8 to 18. The 2006/7 season has just finished and on the playing side unfortunately little success to report.

1st XI finished bottom of the Gloucestershire County League. The season has been overshadowed by the problems surrounding the requirement to have a permanent barrier surrounding the pitch. This is a condition of eligibility based on the fact that the league is at level 7 in the National League system and that these national standards are prescribed and need to be applied if the league is to maintain this status overall.

The question of standards is one that affects many organisations. The club was disappointed that the Council felt unable to support the club in this respect.

Reserves. Finished in a comfortable position in the Bristol & District Senior division.

Third team. Struggled to attract sufficient numbers although did fulfil all the fixtures. Members from the Youth section helped to bolster the numbers.

Youth Section. As indicated some of the younger players helped to fulfil some of the senior fixtures. The under 18's age group made it to a cup final where unfortunately they lost on penalties after drawing the match including extra time.

Goal posts. Due to health and safety regulations it has been necessary to replace the old wooden goalposts with new style aluminium ones. Unfortunately the new ones do not lend themselves to being put up and taken down each week and has caused some concern over safety. In view of the concerns the club has been making efforts to rectify this and are hopeful that a solution may present itself.

Alongside others we were lucky enough to be awarded a significant sum from Revel to refurbish the dressing rooms and the work has now been substantially completed.

Pucklechurch Guides. Sue Thomas said that with a UNICEF report placing Britain bottom of the league table for child well-being in February it seems there's never been a better time to shout about Guiding.

In 2010 Girl Guiding UK will mark 100 years as an organisation for girls and young women. We want to convey Girl Guiding UK as a modern and progressive organisation relevant to girls in the 21st century by focusing on four key messages.

- It provides a safe, girl only space.
- Promotes diversity and equality.
- It's modern.
- And it's relevant to to-days society.

Community action is a core value of the Guiding programme for all sections and we are extremely lucky in Pucklechurch to have sections available to girls from the age of 5 – 26years. There continues two Rainbow units, two Brownie units, one Guide unit and a Senior unit which was set up last year for girls of 15 – 26.

Guides have always been prepared to help, Brownies have always done a good turn every day and Rainbows are kind and helpful.

These actions can be as small as Rainbows planting bulbs; Brownies carol singing at Homefield and presenting painted flowerpots to Dennisworth, Guides litter-picking and serving refreshments at the Revel barn dance.

Our District Commissioner says she plans to take her Brownies next term, for a walk around the Village, taking photographs to identify good and bad features and then present it to the Parish Council.

The girls are lucky to live in a village such as Pucklechurch, to have the support of its Parish Council and Revel Committee. Long may we continue to work together in support of our community.

St. Thomas A Becket. Mrs. Webb said she would like to start by thanking the Parish Council for the yearly grant towards the upkeep of the Churchyard. This is much appreciated and goes some way towards paying for the maintenance.

They were pleased to be able to hold the dedication of the Royal Air Force plaque last May. In October they held a special service to remember loved ones and they hope this will become an annual event. The Remembrance Day Service in November and the Christmas Services were well attended. On Palm Sunday at the beginning of April a service and activity afternoon was held for all who had been baptised and their families.

The Church is building stronger links with the School and has a display board in Church for drawings and paintings.

We are managing to keep the very old building well maintained, there are no major works outstanding but parts of the building will need re-pointing.

Financially speaking we still rely on the support and help of Parishioners and our next fund raising event will be the Summer Fete at the beginning of July. We are serving teas in the Community Centre on Revel Day and the Revel Service is on 10th June.

Twinning. Mr. Beg reported it was the 19th year of twinning, over the Easter weekend they welcomed 40 French visitors and as many of our hosts were on holiday it made for a very relaxed visit. As our visitors did not arrive until Saturday afternoon there was not time to take them very far, some enjoyed a walk around the village while other managed a brief visit to Bristol Docks and the Clifton Suspension Bridge. On Sunday both French and English travelled to Gloucester for a boat trip and an excellent lunch. Guests went to Abbey House Gardens in Malmesbury on Monday and children enjoyed dressing up as knights when they visited Warwick Castle on Tuesday. When they left on Wednesday morning everyone agreed it had been a very enjoyable visit.

Twinning is organising the Revel Ramble on Sunday 10th June meeting at 10am in front of the Village Hall, there will also be stall on the recreation field on Revel Day for people to try their hand at boules. Twinning is a great way to make new friends both in the village and in France.

Every five years a twinning bond is signed and next year there will be a Civic Ceremony to mark the 20th anniversary.

6. Any Other Business. Mr. Grainger said that from his experience he was concerned that the practice that allowed people to speak for 5 minutes on an initial debate at Parish Council meetings was not the best way of going about it. He appreciated that when a decision was to be made the following month people could not speak again as it could end up with another full debate. Mr. Grainger felt it would

be easier to explain/discuss things at an informal meeting with perhaps 3-4 Councillors and the clerk.

Cllr. Grant said that she agreed that formal did not always come across right.

Mrs. Freestone raised concern as she had been informed that someone had taken a photograph of a child on the recreation field. She said the photograph should not have been taken.

Mr. Beg explained that the photograph had been taken to raise awareness of danger as children were doing gymnastics on the goalmouth.

The law applying to schools and people working with children and the need to have parental permission for taking photographs was further discussed.

There being no further business Mr. Beg declared the meeting closed at 7.50pm thanking everyone for their reports and asking them to encourage other groups to attend next years meeting.