

SOUTH BRENT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Parish Council Strategy meeting held on 12th January 2009 at 7.30 p.m. in the Old School Centre.

Open Forum – None as there were no members of the public present.

A. Record of members present

Cllr Glyn Richards in the Chair,
Cllrs Kevin Chamberlain, Mark Copleston, Jill Elms, Peter Kelly,
David Mould, Cathie Pannell, John Summers, Greg Wall and Donald Wiseman.
Mrs Julia Willoughby (Clerk to the Council) was in attendance.

The Chairman wished everyone a happy new year and welcomed them to the meeting.

B. Apologies for absence

Cllrs Ron Akehurst and Susan Jozsa had sent their apologies.

C. Declarations of interest (nature and existence) with regard to items on the agenda

None.

D. Public participation session with respect to items on the agenda

None.

E. Matters arising from the Strategy meeting held on 14.1.08 – for information only

None.

F. Future plans for the Parish Council and Committees:

Parish Council

Quality status is included later in the agenda.

An updated version of standing orders is awaited from the National Association of Local Councils.

Finance Committee

Budget – the restraints on expenditure for the 2009-10 financial year will need careful scrutiny.

Media Committee

Newsletters – are being issued to each household four times a year, this seems to be appreciated by parishioners.

Website – photos of Councillors are now on the website.

Open Spaces Committee

Grounds maintenance - areas will be reviewed and the tender details may include a larger scale map with more information on shrub/grass areas.

Probation will be asked to send a team to provide a new access to the play area, in Exeter Road.

Sanderspool Cross roundabout – the clerk has been unable to trace the previous quotes for replanting the roundabout, and it was suggested that SHDC and DCC should be asked to quote for this work.

Planning Committee

The format of meetings using websites to show the planning applications at meetings is working well. DNPA will be asked to consider the information available so that amended applications can be compared to the original.

Village Improvement Committee

As this Committee rarely meets, Cllr Peter Kelly proposed that its work could be carried out by the Open Spaces Committee; this was seconded by Cllr Jill Elms and **agreed** by the Parish Council.

G Consider whether a self-nomination form might be used by the Parish Council each year for membership of Committees etc.

The Chairman explained that this initiative had come from the Primary School Governing Body, where it had been an effective means of working. The Council agreed to try this method this year, and to complete the forms by March 2009 for membership of Committees, working parties and for Council representatives to other bodies.

H. Consider whether to obtain further details of what is required for a Parish Emergency Plan

The SB21 working group has found that it is expected that parishes will have an Emergency Plan e.g. for prolonged cold weather and gas/electricity cuts. Ian Bateman (DCC) will be asked to attend a Parish Council meeting.

I. Working towards 'Quality Council' status.

The clerk advised that the content of the Certificate in Local Council Administration (CILCA) qualification was revised last year, and the clerk will start work on this qualification.

J. What type of Christmas lighting scheme should be planned for 2009?

It was acknowledged that there were flaws in the new solar powered Christmas trees which were tried in 2008. The initiative was applauded but there were not enough lights and they did not stay lit for long enough during the evening.

It was agreed that as suggested by a parishioner, a Christmas lighting working group could be set up and members of the public invited to attend; this will be included on the agenda for the January Parish Council meeting.

K. Outstanding matters:

Footpath between the Station Yard and Palstone Park – due to the proximity to the railway line, it was agreed that an alternative route through Balmoral Lane and Ashwood should be canvassed. Residents adjacent to Balmoral Lane will be asked for their views before contacting Tor Homes.

Street cleaning – it is hoped that Cllr Terry Hewitt will attend the next Parish Council meeting to discuss this issue.

Wayleave from Global Crossing – the clerk is still in contact with the company, and is waiting for an update.

Improvements to the Station Yard area – the advice of the Historic Buildings Officer, DNPA will be sought before a further meeting of the Station Yard Working Group is held.

Review of 20 m.p.h. zone – the 20 m.p.h. zone is due to be reviewed by DCC in this financial year, the Council will await the outcome.

Finalise lease for the allotment field – following a meeting of representatives of the Council, VRAA and Mr Guy, a further meeting of the PCC Burial Ground Committee needs to be held regarding occasional vehicular access to the allotment field.

L. Any other relevant matters

An email has been sent to some members of the Council regarding a proposed planning application for change of use to a Gypsy and Travellers' Caravan Site at Marley Head; the current use of the site is also to be reported to the DNPA Development Control Committee. This matter will be included on the agenda for 26th January 2009.

The meeting closed at 8.55 p.m.

DRAFT