

PRESENT: Cllrs: T Pomroy (Chair), S Sims (Vice Chair), D Daniels, M Gaffey, C Hewlett, J Hutchinson, R Hutchinson, C Jenkins, A Monk, A Tink

APOLOGIES: Cllrs: T Blake, R Box, B Freeguard

- 277. APOLOGIES:** The reasons for the non attendance of those members who had sent their apologies were noted.
- 278. EVACUATION PROCEDURE:** The Chair drew attention to the emergency evacuation procedure as set out in the Agenda
- 279. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** There were none.
- 280. PRESENTATION:** Jason Burton, a Regional Manager from Scottish & Newcastle UK gave a short presentation on the current market trends for the beer market and its possible impact on the Ratepayers Arms. The presentation ended with a summary of recommendations which included price alignment on current bar prices and early repayment of the Council's loan. The Chair thanked Jason for his presentation and issued a general invitation to residents to attend an open evening on 4th March at 7pm in the Function Hall where they would be invited to have their say on the future direction of the Ratepayers Arms.
- 281. MINUTES:** of the meeting held 27th January 2009 were approved as an accurate record.
- 282. MATTERS OF REPORT ARISING:** *From Minute 267 – Heritage Forum* – The Clerk agreed to investigate whether the Council's membership is still valid.
Action: Town Clerk
- From Minute 268 – Hearing Loop* – It was confirmed that the system had been installed in accordance with national standards. *From Minute 271- Bar Working Party* – Some members felt that it had been inappropriate to include the Clerk's comments in the minutes. *From Minute 271 – NBAC Management Committee* – Cllr Sims advised that he needed further details on the incident before he could take the matter forward.
Agreed: Cllr Freeguard to respond at the next meeting.
Action: Cllr Freeguard
- From Minute 271 – Filton Roundabout* – It was reported that the issue had been raised with South Gloucestershire Council. *From Minute 272 – Christmas Lights & Replacement Lamp Columns in Filton Avenue* – Cllr R Hutchinson reported that the replacement lamp columns were one of four schemes planned for the area which would be phased in to cause as little disruption as possible. **Agreed:** Cllr R Hutchinson to liaise with the Clerk regarding the number and dimensions of the replacement columns before an order for the new Christmas Lights is placed.
Action: Cllr R Hutchinson & Town Clerk
- Arising From Minute 273 – Meeting Dates 2009* – **Agreed:** the date of the Annual Meeting & Parish Assembly to be moved from 26th May 2009 to 19th May 2009. The Clerk to circulate a revised list of meeting dates for 2009.
Action: Town Clerk

- 283. SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE MATTERS:** Reports were received from both Cllr Freeguard and Cllr R Hutchinson (copies are available from the Town Council office). No report had been received from Cllr Bell.

Cllr R Hutchinson also updated members on the outcome of the South Gloucestershire Council budget meeting held on 18th February 2009. It was reported that the Council tax increase had been set at 3.9%, and a 'credit crunch' fund of five million pounds had been set up due to the current economic situation. It was also noted that Filton Town Council would receive £62,833 from the closure of the Council housing revenue account. Cllr R Hutchinson also reported on a traffic management review scheme to look at the problems being experienced around the Filton College area.

Cllr J Hutchinson recorded her thanks to Cllr R Hutchinson on behalf of the Council for all his efforts in helping to secure funding for the over 60's free swimming scheme.

284. SUBMISSIONS FROM THE PUBLIC:

a) Parking Problems - Filton College area: A local resident confirmed that people living around the Filton College area are experiencing traffic and parking problems. Cllr R Hutchinson reiterated that a traffic management review is being carried out in the area. The resident was also advised to raise the matter at the next meeting of Safer & Stronger Community Group.

b) Selling of Council Property: A member of the Public complained that he had not received a response from South Gloucestershire Council regarding the selling off of Council car parks and garages for housing development. The resident was advised to raise the matter at the next meeting of the Safer & Stronger Community Group or contact one of the South Gloucestershire Councillors.

c) Alleygates -Filton Avenue/Wallscourt Road: Residents asked whether there had been any further progress on the alleygates. It was noted that there had been a number of objections to the closure of the public footpath (from Kipling Road to Wallscourt Road South) which had delayed the decision. **Agreed:** The Clerk to send a letter of support for the scheme on behalf of the Council.

Action: Town Clerk

d) Bus Lane – A38: A resident reported that many drivers are ignoring the timings for the bus lane and suggested that road markings could be useful.

e) Filton Hill School: A resident felt that signs should be erected on Filton Avenue in order to make drivers aware of the proximity of Filton Hill School. Cllr Hutchinson agreed to pursue the matter.

Action: Cllr R Hutchinson

f) Conygre House: A member of the public confirmed that he was in the process of developing a leaflet for distribution and proposals for a general meeting. Members confirmed that they supported the campaign and would like to be kept informed.

g) Filton Avenue: It was reported that a traffic calming island is due to be installed at the junction of Ninth Avenue and Northville Road. A resident asked whether another pedestrian crossing could be installed at the end of the shops in order to help children crossing the road at that point. The resident was advised to contact a South Gloucestershire Councillor about the issue.

285. SUBMISSIONS FROM MEMBERS:

a) Filton Festival: In response to a question from Cllr J Hutchinson, the Clerk advised that the date and venue of this year's festival had been confirmed as Sunday 12th July at the Millennium Green. Letters had been sent out to all regular stall

holders and a number of attractions had already been booked. A meeting of the Festival Committee would be arranged shortly.

b) E-Mails: Cllr R Hutchinson reported on an e-mail that had been sent from the Chair to all members. Cllr R Hutchinson felt that the content was inappropriate. A general debate took place regarding the contents of other e-mails which had been received by members.

c) Filton High School: Cllr Sims reported that Filton High School is considering changing their name. It was agreed that this Council would like to be consulted on any change. **Agreed:** to write to Filton High School and request involvement as a consultee.

Action: Town Clerk

d) Social Enterprise Grants: Agreed: The Clerk to investigate.

Action: Town Clerk

e) Clearing of Car Park: Cllr Daniels recorded his thanks to the Council groundstaff for ensuring that the Leisure Centre car park had remained clear throughout the recent episode of bad weather.

f) Wallscourt Road: Cllr Daniels reported on a puddle of water which had collected on a corner near Newleaze House after heavy rain and suggested that there may be a problem with drainage.

286. URGENT ITEMS FROM THE CHAIR: There were none.

287. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES & THE TOWN CLERK:

a) Finance & General Purposes Committee: The minutes of the meeting held 10th February 2009 were received.

b) Planning Committee: The minutes of the meetings held 3rd & 17th February 2009 were received.

c) Bar Working Party: The minutes of the meeting held 17th February 2009 were received. The following recommendations were proposed, seconded and agreed by a majority vote. A recorded vote was requested on the recommendation to remove the balustrade. The recommendation was proposed by Cllr Monk and seconded by Cllr Tink. **In favour:** Cllrs A Monk, A Tink, D Daniels, M Gaffey & C Jenkins. **Against:** Cllrs: C Hewlett, J Hutchinson, R Hutchinson, S Sims

1. To instruct staff to remove the balustrade from on top of the partition wall around the lounge area. **Agreed:**
2. To instruct staff to improve the serving area behind the bar, including painting of woodwork; **Agreed:**
3. To install WiFi completely separate to the Council's existing server and IT systems. **Agreed:**
4. To obtain 3 quotes and designs for a directional sign at the entrance to the Car Park. The matter to be referred to the next meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee **Agreed:**

Action: Town Clerk

5. To increase prices as per the Brewery's recommendations and phase them in accordingly; **Agreed:**
6. To waive the fee for the use of the Alley for league Skittle Teams **Agreed:**
7. An extraordinary meeting of full Council to be called in order to discuss the

bar working party's recommendation to pay back the advance of discount loan to increase profits and allow for the surplus to be spent on improvements to the lounge area. **Agreed:**

Agreed: The Clerk to contact members with a choice of dates

Action: Town Clerk

d) Protocol Agreement: The contents of the agreement were noted for information.

e) Whistle Blowing Policy: Agreed: to defer consideration of the policy until the next meeting of full Council.

Action: Town Clerk

288. REPORTS FROM OTHER ORGANISATIONS:

a) ALCA Newsletter: The contents were noted. **Agreed:** The Clerk to provide members with the dates of training days for Councillors in the use of the power of well-being.

Action: Town Clerk

b) Southern Brooks Community Partnership Newsletter: The contents were noted. Cllr Sims confirmed that the date of this year's Conygre Festival is 28th March 2009.

289. OTHER REPORTS/CONSULTATIONS:

a) Joint Core Strategy: It was noted that individual responses to the consultation document can be made via the West of England website at:

(www.westofengland.org/waste)

Members were asked to advise the Clerk of any responses made.

b) South Gloucestershire Cultural Strategy Consultation: Cllr Sims observed that the words 'music' and 'choreography' had not been included under the 'definition of Culture' section.

c) South Gloucestershire Fourth Annual Monitoring Report: The Clerk confirmed that a hard copy of the report is available from the office. The report is also available on the South Gloucestershire website at

<http://www.southglos.gov.uk/Resources/Publications/PTE/08/0400/PTE-08-0363>.

290. ACCOUNTS: in the sum of £101,250.13 (copies in the minute book) were approved and signed.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10:05pm

CHAIR