

ANNUAL ASSEMBLY MEETING OF THE PARISH OF PUCKLECHURCH 17TH APRIL 2024

Time: 7-8.30 pm

Venue: Pucklechurch Primary School Pucklechurch

This meeting was the Annual Parish Meeting, not a meeting of Pucklechurch Parish Council. The Annual Parish Meeting is open to all electors and must be held once a year between the 1 March and 1 June. It was summoned by Gail Boyle as chairman of the Parish Council under Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12 Para 17 (1) who also presided at this meeting.

Present:

Cllr G Boyle (chair), Lee Searles - consultant Andrea Pellegram Ltd supporting the Pucklechurch parish Neighbourhood Plan and 20 residents of Pucklechurch parish.

1. Welcome by the Chair of the Parish Council

Gail Boyle welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained its purpose.

2. Annual Parish Minutes of 22nd March 2023

Minutes of the meeting were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

3. Update on Neighbourhood Plan

After introductions, Lee provided background information to the Neighbourhood Plan which has been developed based on community feedback. Community priorities included:

- Opportunities for young people
- Local employment opportunities including home working
- Designated green spaces
- Good design

Covid interrupted work and since last 2022, Lee and the Neighbourhood Plan steering group have been working with these priorities to build up the evidence and technical knowledge needed to support the plan's policies and justify need. Governmental support from AECOM produced a housing needs assessment including affordable homes and a design code which informs the character and density of housing. The plan includes data on services – health, transport education, community venues etc and highlights leisure and walking routes and identifies areas for improvements.

The draft NP is now published for community comment before it goes to pre-submission consultation. The final stage is for South Gloucestershire Council to publish the plan (Regulation 16) and arrange for the independent examination to ensure it meets all requirements. Any issues raised are then considered and addressed before the plan goes to a referendum. If there is a majority 'yes' vote the plan becomes part of the statutory development plan for the area.

Concerns were raised over the lack of opportunities for older people to downsize and their needs for affordable properties. It was noted that the housing needs assessment provides evidence of parish needs. There remains an on-going dilemma to balance green space and housing needs.

4. Pucklechurch Community Association (PCA) - the need for new trustees and the future of the village hall

Peter Nunez provided background information to the PCA. Most of the current trustees and committee members are stepping down after many years of service. Without support there was a risk the PCA would fold and the village hall/community centre would close. Thankfully 4 people are willing to stand as trustees and take on the roles of chair, treasurer, secretary and booking secretary.

A further person has volunteered to become the maintenance manager so the risk of closure has been averted. However general committee members are still needed to support the trustees. Everyone was invited to attend the PCA AGM on 8th May at 7.30pm.

5. Pucklechurch News

The current editors of Pucklechurch News have confirmed they are stepping down. A general request has gone out for new editors who co-ordinate the content for the newsletter and proof-read articles which are then sent to the printers to do the design work. One editor suggested the time commitment is not onerous and is a few hours per edition. Volunteers deliver the newsletter. Pucklechurch News is funded by the parish council and while there is editorial independence, there is a set budget and a few legislative restrictions on content.

Assembly discussion points

- Concerns over Fleur development and the deteriorating exterior condition of the building
- Appearance of former Spar shop
- Wood store on pavement outside post office restricting width of pavement
- Enforcement process when property alterations are refused by planning
- Problems attracting volunteers
- Traffic and parking around village centre
- Play areas and understanding council budget
- Request for information on parish council projects planned for 2024
 - Replacing roundabout on Recreation ground with an accessible carousel
 - Looking to work with South Gloucestershire Council (SGC) and others to plant a small woodland on SGC owned land at Leigh Farm and protect hay meadows to increase biodiversity and help mitigate climate change.
 - Drainage and pitch improvements on the Receptions ground

With no further questions the meeting closed at 8.30pm.