

# **TOCKWITH WITH WILSTROP PARISH COUNCIL**

## **Minutes of a meeting of the Council held on Wednesday 16th January 2002 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm**

**Chairman:** Councillor M Kennett

**Present:** Councillors R Lumley, Mrs Wardman, Mrs Billenness, Waller,

W J Bowyer, B Alderton, C Billenness

**In attendance:** Cllr Mrs G Firth (District Cllr./Clerk to the Council),

Three members of the public.

**Apologies for absence** were received from County Cllr Savage, cllrs Pick and O'Connor.

### **Minutes of the last Meeting**

The Minutes having been circulated and taken as read were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

### **Matters arising from the Minutes**

- Heating for the Village Hall - Mr Burnell had installed the additional heating as per his quotation
- Gas supply - a quotation had been received
- Sandbags - the clerk reported that HBC would deliver the requested number if the Council could provide undercover storage for the pallets prior to distribution. Cllr Pick was to be asked if he could assist in this matter.
- Kirk Lane additional street light - a plan of the exact location and what was needed had been requested by HBC Lighting Engineers.
- Cowthorpe to Hunsingore bridge - NYCC had reported that work was due to start on 28.1.02 subject to no legal problems. Mr I Watson still felt aggrieved that NYCC do not maintain Warfield Lane at Cowthorpe. This issue to be raised with both NYCC and the County Cllr.
- Letter from MP - agreed that the MP be copied into response to DFRA/DTLR consultation
- Ralph Garth update - the Repossession Order was proceeding. Ms Johnson is now in Durham prison on remand for harassment and criminal damage and other matters not connected to Tockwith and should have been served with the necessary court papers. HBC have got an Injunction to protect neighbours in Ralph Garth from Harassment, interference or damage to persons or property. At a court hearing this week an adjournment had been made for a Direction Hearing early next month.
- Complaints had continued to be received about the number of HGV's passing through the village of Tockwith. Cllrs were asked to note registration numbers and report them to the Police.

### **Village Hall/Sportsfield management arrangements**

#### **Sportsfield**

Cllr Billenness reported that the Sportsfield Trust Trustees required exclusive use of the smaller of the two fields because of the financial outlay in preparing and laying out the sports pitches.

The Trust had been in existence for 25 years and was considered a stable organisation. Debate

ensued and possible terms of agreement outlined regarding boundary treatment and responsibility and drainage issues.

Resolved by a majority vote that the clerk contact the Council's Solicitor and ask him to progress assigning the land on a exclusive Licence, for use by the Sportsfield Trust for 20 years, on terms to be agreed by the Parish Council at a nominal rent of £1 per annum. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman were given delegated authority to take action, if needed, before the next Council Meeting.

### **Village Hall**

A letter from Mr Peach, giving his recommendations following his visit to the last Council Meeting, was read out by the Chairman and debated.

Resolved that there should be a Lease of the Village Hall from the Parish Council to the Hall's Management body. This body should take the form of a company limited by guarantee. The Memorandum and Articles of Association of the limited company, together with the Lease, would form the Governing Document. The limited company would itself be a registered charity with the Charity Commissioners. As a Charity there would be access to external funding.

The Chairman expressed concern at the friction between current users of the building and recent damage that had occurred. A Chairman of the new Management Committee needed to be in position as soon as possible, even before the Management Committee is set up, and the recommendation that each user group should confirm after their meetings that everything is in order be initiated.

The Chairman agreed to speak to the person he had in mind for this role and Cllr Billenness agreed to progress possible names for the Management Committee.

The kitchen had been painted by the After School Club, but they were having problems recruiting staff and those they did have resigned. Thanks were expressed to the people involved but there was now the unexpected difficulty of no income stream from this enterprise.

The additional heating had been installed and was working, though could not be left on continuously as it had a restrictive timer fitted.

The quotation for the Gas supply had been received. Resolved that the clerk write back and ask that the details be kept on file as the Council would wish to pursue the matter in the summer.

The clerk was asked to liaise with Mrs Mouncey about possible dates for installation of gas central heating at a time when the least number of users would be affected.

### **DEFRA/DTLR consultations on Quality Councils/Model Code of Conduct**

Cllr Billenness had prepared a briefing paper for consideration, outlining the main points.

He agreed to provide cllrs with a draft copy of possible responses to both consultations and also a copy to the clerk of the Statutory Instrument (Model Code of Conduct) downloaded from the Web, before the end of January. The Code of Conduct to be an agenda item at the March meeting. There would be benefits to becoming a Quality Council but there were costs involved.

### **Police matters**

PC Addison had sent his apologies as he was busy elsewhere this evening.

PC Waller circulated the up to date crime sheet figures and stated that the increase in crime,

from 2000 to 2001, had not been as bad as expected. However the year had not started well with a spate of recent burglaries in the area, possibly an F registered turquoise van had been involved.

Crimes on the Business Park had fallen, due to the improved security arrangements.

Despite the pressures on the resources of the local Police, there were generally low levels of crime in this area.

Residents were asked to remain vigilant and report all suspicious activity.

Problems in Boroughbridge meant Police manpower was restricted in this area.

Standing Orders were suspended.

Concern was expressed at the increase in large HCV's travelling through Tockwith and Cowthorpe.

The problem of the only sign to Tockwith from the A1 directing vehicles through Cowthorpe was raised again. It was reported that the route finder site on the Web advised vehicles to approach Tockwith through Cowthorpe.

There was also a problem at Rudgate crossroads with lack of signage, and the HCV restriction sign along Tockwith Road to Cowthorpe had been knocked down.

Continuing concern was also expressed at the speed of vehicles at the east end of Tockwith approaching from Long Marston direction.

Standing Orders were resumed.

Resolved that Cllr Billenness would contact Ordnance Survey via e mail and explain the weight restrictions in operation.

Resolved that residents be advised to take registration numbers of offending vehicles so that the companies involved could be made aware of the problems.

Resolved that the clerk write to NYCC explaining the problems and asking for a site visit with a Highway Engineer, which Cllr Bowyer said he would be happy to attend.

### **Report by District Councillor**

Cllr Firth answered questions and gave additional information as requested during the meeting.

She reported on the HBC Dog Warden Service review, the matter of land ownership of the Public Open Space area of Prince Rupert Drive, known as The Green, the outcome of the National Transport Travel Tokens and Review of Concessionary Fares Scheme, the HBC Standards Committee and Sub-Committee and Parish Code of Conduct issues.

She reported that she was a member of a Jubilee Committee set up at HBC to assist District events and asked for ideas/comments from this Council.

The Chairman suggested that the Parish Council should aim to get the community interested in a local event which the Council would support and for which grants may be available. This could be based around the Village Hall or Public Open Spaces, which are now owned by the people of the Parish. This was suggested as an agenda item for the next Council meeting.

## **Correspondence**

Additional items 53 to 58 on the attached list were made known to cllrs.

The Chairman suggested there should be a change to the system, owing to the large amount of correspondence received by this Council. It was resolved that a correspondence file for circulation and comment should be set up by the clerk and distributed to cllrs between meetings. Circulation to be Chairman to Cllrs Alderton to Waller to Mrs Wardman to Bowyer to Pick to Lumley to Billenness(s) to O'Connor. Cllr O'Connor to return the file to the clerk before the subsequent meeting.

- Audit - the Auditor's Certificate and Opinion was made known and Cllrs resolved to accept it. The publication of the accounts and Auditor's opinion had been done and it was resolved that the Chairman and RFO sign and return the requisite form. Cllr Billenness declared an interest and abstained from the voting. The clerk to provide Cllr Billenness with audited accounts to be placed on the Council web site.
- Cllr Billenness reported the latest position regarding possible development of land at Cowthorpe. He was to arrange a meeting for Cowthorpe villagers and members of the Council so all comments could be considered.
- Vital Villages and Village Plan - to be an agenda item for February
- POS, Westfield Green - agreed to wait for a response from Bryant Homes
- Age Concern, Ripon Office - the clerk to reply and ask for confirmation that funds raised would be used to the benefit of this Parish and community.
- Tockwith Sunday School - the clerk to reply and say that the Sunday School could use the Village Hall and the bill would be picked up by the Council. The clerk to write to the Diocese with a copy to the PCC saying that funds should be provided towards the cost of the Sunday School and a % of the rent asked for the Vicarage could be their contribution.

## **Planning applications**

**Holly Cottage, 55, Marston Road, Tockwith** - erection of 1st floor side extension

The Chairman and Cllr Mrs Wardman declared an interest in this item and took no part in the debate or voting.

Cllr Billenness took the Chair for this item.

Resolved that the response already made, that there are no objections to this application, be ratified.

**2, Kendal Gardens, Tockwith** - outline application for erection of 1 detached dwelling and garage including siting and access.

The Council objected on planning grounds to this application. The proposal was considered over intensive for the plot, reduced amenities for neighbours and the applicant, the access to the cul-de-sac causes problems now which would be exacerbated, there is concern that a well spaced development would become cramped if these proposals were allowed.

The Chairman resumed the Chair.

North Field Farm - the Council objected that they had not been advised of the amended plans which had been approved at this location, especially as the site is within the Conservation Area.

Planning decisions were made known.

## **Accounts**

### **Bank balances**

Lloyds Bank Treasurer's a/c (as at 28.12.01) £7,694.16

National Savings Bank (Norfolk) a/c £1,523.98

National Savings Bank Investment a/c £5,053.06

### **Accounts to pay**

Reimbursement to Cllr Kennett (Christmas lights) £71.98

J A G Burnell (VH additional Heating) £655.18

### **Grants**

Tockwith Show Committee would not be asking for a grant this year as last Year's Show had been cancelled due to Foot and Mouth Disease and a grant had been given.

Cllrs who were representatives on outside bodies were asked to invite applications for grants from the different organisations.

Grant allocations would be an agenda item for the February meeting.

Requests for grants had been received from the Sunday School and Age Concern.

Resolved that the Bank balances be accepted, and the accounts be paid as above.

### **Date of next Meeting: To be held on WEDNESDAY 20th FEBRUARY 2002 AT 7.30PM (PLEASE NOTE EARLIER TIME)**

Cllr Alderton gave his apologies as he would be on holiday.

### ***Standing Orders were suspended.***

A resident asked questions about the advertisement of a new bus service, it was explained that this referred to the Lower Nidd Community Minibus scheme.

Kirk Lane - road gritting had been done during the recent cold weather.

Electrical wires in the ditch opposite New Row - Cllr Bowyer had raised the matter at the MMIDB Meeting and the ditch was not the responsibility of the Board.

### ***Standing Orders were resumed.***

Resolved that the signed Minutes of Council meetings could be published on the Web site.

Recent incidences of fly tipping were reported.

Concern at the recent spate of burglaries was expressed and it was agreed that the Neighbourhood Watch scheme should be promoted, especially as it would reduce house

insurance costs.

A reminder was given that spring bulbs for next year should be arranged at the May meeting.

The clerk was asked to send an agenda to the Police Office at Boroughbridge.

The Chairman thanked cllrs and declared the meeting closed.