

## **TOCKWITH WITH WILSTROP PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of a meeting of the Council held on Wednesday 17th July 2002 in the Village Hall, at 7.30pm**

**Chairman: Councillor M Kennett**

**Present: Councillors Mrs Wardman, Mrs Billenness, R Lumley, W J Bowyer, C Billenness, B Alderton, N Waller, P Pick.**

**In attendance: County Cllr Savage, District Cllr Sturdy,**

**Mrs G Firth ( Clerk to the Council ),**

**7 members of the public.**

Apologies for absence - none, but the District Cllr and Cllrs C and Mrs L Billenness had advised that they would be late.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that the Parish Council operated under Standing Orders and therefore certain items had to be taken before the planning application, which the public had interest in, could be heard.

### **Police matters**

In the absence of a duty Officer, Cllr Waller reported that there had been no reported crime during the last month.

Following new performance indicators, it was reported that there would be increased foot patrols in Tockwith.

Cllr Bowyer reported on the latest meeting of the CaP Group.

Operational issues - from 24/7/02 the area would be managed from Knaresborough, although the Police Office in Boroughbridge would remain in operation for the time being.

The changed system of recording crime had shown that crime had increased 72% in the Boroughbridge area and detection rates had decreased. Violent crime was up 200% and vehicle crime up 70% since 2001. Over all crime had increased by 40%.

The public was urged to be vigilant and report all suspicious activity.

The County Cllr. reported complaints he had received.

Resolved that the Clerk write to the Police stating that it was appreciated that increased foot patrols were to take place but requesting that an Officer attended Parish Council meetings as there was a lack of communication and local knowledge and shared information obtained in this way could be passed on to the community.

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

A resident expressed concerns that if foot patrols were done on a regular basis at specific times this would become common knowledge and criminals would benefit. It was stated that foot

patrols would not be prevented at other times.

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

### **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**

- · Bus stops and timetables had been provided in the village and outside the Business Park.
- · Grass cutting of verges at junctions was supposed to be done by NYCC. Contractors had been replaced and the works were to be done shortly.
- · The bollards at the Memorial had been inspected and, although tight for two vehicles to pass, it was considered that no further action was needed.
- · The footpath from PRD to the School was still held up by a legal problem with the land owners.
- · Tomlinson's signs at weekends - the County Cllr agreed to visit the business and point out the concerns.
- · Co-option of new Cllr. - Two people had expressed interest but neither was able to be present at this meeting. Resolved that the Clerk write to both, asking that they confirm their interest and reply stating what experience they could provide if co-opted to the position of Cllr., also asking that they attend the next full Council meeting in September. A separate agenda item to be included for September's meeting to allow other residents to come forward.

### **Village Hall Committee**

Neither Mrs Steed nor Mr Lake were in attendance.

### **Out of School Club**

The Chairman reported on his meeting with members of the Village Hall Management group.

Regarding the proposed Out of School Club, a serious problem had arisen due to a lack of communication. A flyer had gone round the village stating that the Frenz managed group was due to start in September and adverts for staff had appeared in the local press. The dates and times of use of the Village Hall had not been arranged and it had been minuted at the Village Hall Management Group meeting that there was assumed to be no interest and the Club would not happen. Mrs Steed had recently met Heidi from Frenz and discussions were ongoing into arrangements for the Club.

### **Village Hall Central Heating**

The Clerk reported that the cheque sent to British Gas had been returned. The quotation it applied to was out of date. Legislation has changed and the building is now classed as commercial and not domestic which accounted for the 62% increase in the quotation for provision of a gas supply.

Because of the time limitation on the quotation, the Chairman had authorised that a new cheque be sent so as not to delay the works. The Council resolved to ratify this action. It was hoped that Transco would contact the Clerk to arrange a date for the works in the very near future.

The Clerk reported several telephone calls with the contractor who had quoted for the installation

of the heating and hot water system. The contractor was willing to accept part payment for the works if the total cost could not be arranged before the invoice date.

The contractor was available to do the works in August, and would be willing to arrange works with the least possible disruption to users of the Hall. The installation works could go ahead without the gas supply being provided and commissioning of the boiler and heating system could be done at a later date.

Resolved that the quotation from S J Environment Control Ltd be accepted and the Clerk be authorised to liaise with the contractor about arrangements for doing the installation in August.

The current running costs of the Village Hall are very high, the present heating system is inadequate and the building would not be able to be used through another winter without the provision of an efficient heating system. Quotations had been sought from several companies but only a few had replied. Of these, only one had replied to the request for further information required by British Gas regarding the specifications of the boiler proposed. Mr Lockwood of S J had been most helpful and accommodating in discussions to date and his quotation, though not the cheapest option, was the best over all scheme proposed.

The Clerk was authorised to progress grant applications to Awards for All, NYCC and both County Cllr and District Cllr Member budgets. The Clerk had obtained the necessary forms for transfer of funds from National Savings Bank accounts to the Lloyds TSB Treasurer's account and these were signed.

The Clerk was also authorised to apply to the Secretary of State for Loan Sanction approval and complete the necessary paperwork to progress a loan from PWLB.

The Chairman and other cheque signatories were given delegated authority to sign appropriate forms required by the various bodies.

### **Waste Recycling Centre Planning Application**

The Chairman gave a resume of this matter to date.

The Parish Council has objected strongly to the planning application on three separate occasions.

A site meeting had been held for County Cllrs on the relevant Committee. The Chairman of the Parish Council, the County Cllr, the District Cllr, Planning Officers from NYCC and the Agent for the applicant were all present and invited to address the Committee Members.

The County Cllrs were fully aware of the concerns of the Parish Council and local residents.

There had been 199 letters of objection sent to NYCC, the County Cllr had received 250 letters, e mails had been sent from the School and other concerned bodies and a group of residents were present at the site boundary with placards.

The Planning Officer spoke first and explained the situation, the Agent for the application spoke next and said most of the objections were invalid. The County and District Cllrs and the Parish Council Chairman spoke on behalf of the residents.

County Cllrs echoed residents' concerns. A site visit to a similar facility near Thirsk had been arranged for Cllrs to see a facility in operation.

The County Cllrs had been prepared to speak to local residents present at the site boundary on their arrival but these residents had been informed that the site visit was over and had dispersed.

The Cllrs had asked that the Parish Council Chairman pass on to residents the message that they were taking local concerns very seriously.

Cllrs had visited the School, The Green and Prince Rupert Drive to see the relationship between the application site and the village.

The meeting at which the decision is to be taken is now scheduled for 9th September at County Hall, Northallerton.

NYCC are happy for concerned residents to attend the meeting as objectors. Up to 3 people will be given the opportunity to speak and it would be appreciated if their names could be advised to the Committee Clerk beforehand.

The Chairman of the Parish Council will attend and speak on behalf of local residents.

Cllr Bowyer reported that at the next meeting of MMIDB objections will be made to the application because of problems with surface water and drainage on the site. A surface water drain is present at the edge of the site and no percolation tests have been done by the applicant to allay local concerns.

The Clerk was asked to inform the local Angling Club that run off from the site would eventually reach the River Nidd so they needed to be aware.

It was believed Best Practice in DTLR guidance suggested that an Environmental Impact Study should accompany all such planning applications.

The proximity principle would need to be applied, it was not thought that the recyclable material would come from North Yorks. only and such waste should be dealt with locally.

A suggestion was made that such a facility should only be given temporary permission so that the effects of the operation could be fully judged. However, it was pointed out that this would not be viable commercially.

Residents were advised to keep writing to NYCC and the Cllrs who were Committee Members, the addresses are available on the Parish Council web site.

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

Residents expressed concern that the waste may include asbestos. Although this had been stated, the Agent had denied this. Cllrs were aware that material going into the skips could not be under close scrutiny or controlled.

County Cllr Savage reported on his visit to Todd's facility, which is on an industrial site near Thirsk and is well run and long established. It was considered that this site was working at under capacity and therefore the NEED for a new facility was questioned.

District Cllr Sturdy said that HBC would be submitting a letter of objection following a DC Committee meeting in August.

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

Resolved that an extra-ordinary meeting of the Parish Council be arranged for the end of August so that arrangements could be made for attendance at and speaking to the County Council Committee on 10th September.

The Chairman thanked the members of the public for attending the meeting and making their views known.

### ***Land at Cowthorpe***

Cllr Billenness reported that he had spoken to the agents acting for the Diocese about a prospective Lease for the land. A few details needed altering.

Resolved that the Chairman be authorised to take an Occupancy Lease for ten years at a rent of £25 per annum, with modifications to the draft to enable the Parish Council to have the first opportunity to purchase the land, if available, and that once in Council ownership the residents of Cowthorpe be consulted about the precise use to which the land should be put.

### **Periodic Electoral Review of North Yorkshire County Council**

It had been proposed that the Poppleton Ward, along with neighbouring rural Wards, should be placed in the Selby Constituency and the Vale of York Constituency would cease to exist.

Selby Council do not favour this proposal.

The Council was not happy with the proposals and thought them ridiculous and totally inappropriate. There is no genuine link with Selby and an island Constituency would occur, splitting the Selby area into two separate parts.

The Council resolved to support the status quo as the natural local affinity is to Harrogate, as the Borough Council. It was not deemed advisable to split the York Constituency into inner and outer areas.

### **Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000**

The Clerk had prepared a report on the new duty.

Resolved that Tockwith with Wilstrop Parish Council acknowledges the general duty placed upon it by the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000. The Council will continue within its' functions and policies to have due regard to the need to eliminate racial discrimination, promote equality of opportunity and promote racial equality between people of different racial groups.

### **Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998**

The Clerk had prepared a report.

Resolved that the Tockwith with Wilstrop Parish Council acknowledges its' obligations under the Act and will do all it can to comply.

## **Report by County Councillor**

Cllr Savage, having taken part in the earlier part of the meeting, had nothing further to report.

## **Report by District Councillor**

- A chemical smell had been reported to Environmental Health at HBC, who had visited the Business Park but could not locate the problem. The District Cllr had visited the site on several occasions but could not experience the smell. The matter was now on file at HBC and if further complaints were made the site would be revisited.
- Biffa Waste - problems had been reported with 24 hour working causing noise problems at night for the residents of PRD. HBC Environmental Health were aware of the problems and had written to the Company concerned. The Environment Agency are also involved with investigations. Planning conditions may be being contravened or permission may have been obtained for alterations to original conditions.
- Ralph Garth - continuing problems with residents at 20A had been reported.
- At tonight's HBC Meeting the HDLP had been discussed and the Interim Housing Release Policy concerning sustainability had been removed.
- The District Cllr was following up concerns about local planning applications.
- The Cllr said he would support a grant of £750 from his Member's Budget allowance.
- Dog Fouling bins - cllrs suggested appropriate sites would be (i) corner of Kirk Lane/Southfield Lane (ii) top of Ness Lane (iii) top of Kendal Lane (iv) outside Glebe land at Cowthorpe. An application for 4 bins would be submitted when resources allow. The clerk to provide a map of these locations to Cllr Sturdy.

The District Cllr was thanked for his report.

## **Correspondence**

Additional items 29-53 were made known.

- letter from Steve Goodrick about the PC purchasing chair trolleys from Yorkshire Purchasing and thereby saving the Village Hall Committee the VAT. It was explained that this could not be done as it would be a misuse of VAT rules and would be illegal, also the PC, as landowners, had not been involved with the project and had not approved any scheme.
- The Chairman and Vice-Chairman would be having a meeting with the new Village Hall Management group in the next few days and would explain the Council's position.
- Common Land - the clerk was given delegated authority to pursue the issue with Mr Muir and NYCC.
- damage to the village Hall - a meeting to discuss problems would take place soon
- Contaminated Land - extra time to be requested from HBC to respond to this as care had to be taken so that land was not permanently blighted by hasty decisions.
- Tree & Woodland Strategy - to be passed on to ACS for comment and return to HBC.
- Code of Conduct - cllrs reported on the recent HBC training meeting held at Spofforth, which had been informative and interesting.
- Grass Cutting Consultation by NYCC - the Council was totally dissatisfied with the service provided.
- SLCC Training Seminar on "Understanding the new Audit procedures". Two places to be booked for Cllrs Mrs Billenness and B Alderton.
- Land off Tockwith Lane Lease - a draft document had been passed to the Sportsfield Trust for comment. Resolved that the Chairman be authorised to proceed subject to advice from the Solicitor about the length of the Lease.
- Management Company formation for the Village Hall - a copy was to be made available

for Mrs Steed and the Council would discuss the issue when her response had been received.

- Clerk's salary - the Chairman suggested a sub committee be formed to discuss appropriate remuneration - Cllrs Kennett, C Billenness and N Waller.

Planning decision - approved with conditions

Springfield Lodge (formerly Western Ranger), Springfield Lane - erection of single storey side extension.

## **Accounts**

Bank balances

Lloyds Bank Treasurer's a/c (as at 30.6.02) £9860.29

National Savings Bank (Norfolk) a/c £1622.36

National Savings Bank Investment a/c £5259.92

## **Accounts to pay**

Clerk - salary and expenses 990.08

Audit Commission 333.11

YLCA (Next Meeting posters) 3.44

SLCC (training seminar) 10.00

J Lewis (Village Hall roof repair) 125.00

to ratify: British Gas Trading 1130.03

Authority was given to the Clerk to pay invoices for grass cutting and annual Insurance premium if these were received before the September Council meeting.

Cllr C Billenness declared an Interest in the Audit Commission account and took no part in the voting thereon.

Receipts

HBC - P.O.S. maintenance 731.00

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

Resolved also that an advertisement be put on the Council web site to fill the position of Independent Internal Auditor.

Resolved also that the Risk Assessment document prepared by the Clerk/RFO be approved.

Date of next Ordinary Meeting: To be held on WEDNESDAY 18th SEPTEMBER 2002 at 7.30 PM.

The Chairman would liaise with the Clerk to arrange an extra-ordinary meeting for the end of August.

All future agendas to be published on the web site.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed.