

TOCKWITH WITH WILSTROP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Council held on Wednesday 19th June 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),

Over 100 members of the public.

Apologies for absence - none, but the District Cllr had advised that he 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 gave an update on reported crime figures.

Recent burglaries of outbuildings had occurred and residents were reminded to be vigilant in securing sheds and garages.

A particular problem was reported - that the bollards at the Marston Moor Monument were placed too far into the roadway, causing a hazard as there was not space enough for two vehicles to pass each other. This was to be reported to the Highway Authority as well.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

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

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

Cllr Billenness reported that he had put the link to the Local Government Boundary Changes consultation and the reply to the Public Inquiry re the A1 upgrade on the Parish Council web site.

The Chairman explained the proposals to put Marston Moor Ward into the Selby Parliamentary Constituency.

The County Cllr reported that at a meeting of Selby Council, the proposals were voted against.

The Chairman gave details of meetings of the Yorkshire & Humber Regional Assembly.

Footpath from PRD to School - the County Cllr reported ongoing legal problems with the land owners.

Home to School Transport Review - cllrs were asked to report any feedback from parents.

Parents had reported overcrowding on the buses, leading to pupils being left behind.

Parents expressed concern at the behaviour of some pupils on the buses, especially double deckers, as the driver could not be expected to supervise and drive as well.

The Council would forward these comments to the Review but it was important that parents also made their views known.

Bulb planting - Mr Milner was thanked for producing a report and plan of suggested areas for bulb planting. The Areas would have to be cut and cleared before planting to allow the plants to become established. Resolved that 3,800 daffodils and 1000 croci be ordered as soon as possible. The clerk to contact NYCC again re a licence for planting in the roadside verges. A group of volunteers would be organised to plant the bulbs after delivery at the appropriate planting time.

A letter of thanks be sent to the Cubs for the Litter Pick done recently.

Village Hall Committee

The Chairman explained that a new Management Committee was now in place.

Mr Lake and Ms Urquhart were invited to address the Meeting.

Standing Orders were suspended.

The Committee had already arranged the repair of the roof, though there were longer term issues for refurbishment and securing the fabric of the building. A request was made that a Member of the Management Committee should attend Parish Council Meetings to act as a representative.

The Committee was looking for villagers to get involved with their community asset, bought by the Parish Council for the benefit of the community.

An Action Plan was being put together. The building needed to be more user friendly.

The security issue was being addressed because of unauthorised access and an efficient heating system needed to be in place before the winter months.

A longer term plan would follow and it was important that as many residents as possible were involved.

Standing Orders were resumed.

The Chairman explained that the Parish Council is pursuing the installation of a gas central heating system to be in place before the winter months.

The Chairman advised that he would take item 8 on the Agenda next in view of the large numbers of residents in attendance.

Waste Recycling Centre Planning Application

The Chairman explained that a planning application had been submitted for a waste recycling centre specifically for materials associated with civil engineering on airfield land but outside the Marston Moor Business Park.

The Parish Council has sent letters of objection and residents have objected individually and by means of a petition.

NYCC has changed the date of the decision meeting to July 23rd. There will be a site visit for County Cllrs on 16th July at 10.30am.

Both the County Cllr and the District Cllr support the Parish Council's objections.

The Parish Council has encouraged residents to write individually to NYCC to object.

The Parish Council and objectors will be allowed to speak at the Planning Committee meeting.

Residents were advised not to antagonise County Cllrs at the site visit as this would be counter productive.

Standing Orders were suspended.

The County Cllr explained the planning procedure and the chronology of events.

To date there had been 162 letters of objection and 2 petitions sent to NYCC.

The MP had contacted the Chief Executive of NYCC personally to add her objections.

He had spoken to the Chairman of the Planning Committee, who had said that planning laws and planning policy would determine the application and not the number of objectors, since any decision made would have to be capable of being upheld at Appeal.

Residents were reminded to put the word OBJECT into their response letters.

Concern was expressed that the specific types of materials had not been listed.

The District Cllr stated that the HBC Planning Officer, Mr Watson, would be recommending that HBC objected to the application, and the Planning Enforcement and Environmental Health Departments would be objecting to the principle of this facility in this location.

Concern was expressed that the facility, once permitted, might need to expand to make it a viable proposition.

Letters to NYCC should mention the grounds of objection as they would carry more weight than a non specific objection in principle.

The resident living adjacent to the site had prepared a letter of objection and his concerns were explained by his spokesperson.

A Planning Enforcement Officer had visited the site and commented on the unauthorised bunding and activities carried on during the past two years without Environment Agency approval. There was said to be evidence of white asbestos on site. The planning application was considered lacking in detail re the hours and days of working and number of vehicle movements.

Copies of the letter could be made available for residents to see.

The Chairman stated that one of the main concerns was that neighbouring homes and businesses would be affected by the amount of dust produced at the site.

Traffic problems were a cause of concern and local roads would need to be upgraded to cater for additional heavy traffic. This traffic would only be able to use a right turn out of the site along Rudgate to the B1224 because of weight restrictions on local roads.

Rudgate cross roads is a dangerous area at present and matters would only be made worse with more heavy traffic.

The Chairman explained that the comments and objections would be made known to the applicant, who could choose to address the concern by amending the application or providing additional information. The Parish Council will respond to any such amendment.

A resident said he was unaware of the exact problems associated with stone crushing plants, viz. noise, dust and vibration and needed further detailed information, lacking on the application, in order to make a considered response. He stated that bunds are not effective over longer distances and PRD would not be protected from noise associated with the proposals.

Dust would not only be produced within the stone-crushing building but both before and after the crushing process and around the stock piled material adjacent to the site.

The County Cllr said a visit to a stone-crushing plant in Thirsk was being undertaken by County Cllrs on 5th July. He would try and discover if the site was at capacity or could accept more material, on the basis that another facility in this location is not needed.

The Chairman said that a continuing concern was the threat of sporadic industrial development along the eastern side of Rudgate. Marston Moor Business Park is successful and contained within its boundaries. Expansion of the Park was not allowed during the Inquiry into the HDLP.

Land outside the Park, on the airfield, is classed as open countryside and should be protected by the Policies in the Local Plan.

Residents commented that HBC Environmental Health Officers had repeatedly said that the prevailing winds carried noise and dust from airfield activities over the PRD Estate. Concern was also expressed about the effect on crops grown on the airfield.

Concern was expressed about the affects of the proposal on the health of school children, especially those who suffered from asthma. The District Cllr said he would talk to the HBC Environmental Health Dept. about any research into health issues surrounding such activity

and report back. It was reported that the School Headmistress has written a letter of objection on behalf of the School.

Accurate levels of the likely emissions would be needed to make a judgement, these were not given with the application.

It was believed that clarification was needed on a number of aspects of the application, which was considered incomplete.

Water and Electricity supplies would be needed for the proposed operations to take place and there was no detail about this on the application.

There is an issue about a bore hole locally and the difficulty with drains and water run off.

MMIDB has passed the application to the Environment Agency as several problems are

foreseen.

Transportation by tipper lorries will require many vehicle movements per day in order for the proposals to be economically viable.

Concern was expressed that the source of materials to be recycled would be outside North Yorkshire and therefore not sustainable. Environmental benefit claimed would have to be balanced against the distance lorries had to travel.

The Waste Recycling Centre operating on the Business Park recycles cardboard and acts as an administration centre for the Company concerned. It should not be cited as a precedent.

It was reported that the proposals are already having an effect as two house sales have been lost.

Concern was expressed at the effect on employment and housing in the environs of the village if planning consent was given to the application.

Standing Orders were resumed.

Resolved that a further letter be sent to NYCC listing additional reasons for objection to the application. This letter and previous correspondence should be sent to every Cllr who sits on the Planning and Regulatory Functions Committee. A copy of the letter would be available on the Parish Council web site for public information. A letter should be sent to Dr Simpson, outlining the proposals and the local concerns and asking for his support. Residents were to be encouraged to send further letters of objection to NYCC, citing additional reasons which had arisen following this meeting. The Parish Council Chairman would attend the site visit on 16th July and the matter would be discussed further at the July Council Meeting, which all residents are invited to attend.

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

Land at Cowthorpe

There was nothing further to report.

Report by District Councillor

- East House Farm planning application - amended plans are awaited. The Parish Council asked to be kept informed of amendments/alterations to the plans and to be reconsulted by HBC Planning.
- Planning Enforcement - Car Boot Sale/Sunday Market - no further action to be taken as the activity has ceased.
- Planning Enforcement - unauthorised bunds on airfield land - awaiting outcome of current planning application.
- Boundary hedge between Westfield Green and PRD/Lucas Road - the planning permission for Westfield Green does not include a condition regarding the hedge.

The Clerk pointed out that the Sale Deeds do protect the hedge regarding its height and permission needed for removal/works to the boundary treatment of the properties. HBC Estates Dept. Officer, Mr Baren, has written to all residents involved advising them of this Covenant.

- T.P.O.'s - a plan is being drawn up by Cllr Bowyer. This will be passed on to the District Cllr for action in consultation with the HBC Arboreal Manager.

- Dog Fouling - reports of a particular problem area up to the School had been received. Requests for additional Bins needed to be made to HBC so that when funds are available locations can be prioritised. This matter will be an agenda item for the next Meeting.
- The July Meeting of HBC will be discussing the Review of the Interim Housing Release Policy.
- The future of the Royal Hall will be debated at a Meeting to be held shortly and the District Cllr wished to gather the views of the Parish Councils he represents.

The Council felt that mothballing the building was not a suitable option, especially due to spiralling costs of refurbishment/protecting the fabric of the building, and the fact that the wrong message would be sent if such a building in the centre of a tourist area was boarded up. Demolition of a Listed Building would not be permitted. Concern was expressed at the likely rise in Council Tax and the fact that all available HBC Resources would have to be spent in Harrogate, to the detriment of the rural areas of the District, if refurbishment went ahead.

- Planning Application by DREN Properties for Cowthorpe - expected to be heard at the Area 2 Meeting on 30/7/02. The Chairman suggested a representative from the Parish Council should attend and speak against it.

The Chairman expressed concern about the Planning Dept. and Officers at HBC and asked the District Cllr to keep the Parish Council informed of changes.

The District Cllr agreed to provide the Clerk with a list of the current membership, names and contact details, of the Area 2 Development Control Committee.

The District Cllr was thanked for his report.

Report by County Councillor

- B1224 - a Safety Scheme should be agreed by September.
- Rudgate - Safety improvements were due to be made in February 2003.
- Winter maintenance - Selby seemed to have added routes to School for sanding and gritting, and it was hoped to add Tockwith Lane to the B1224 officially for next Winter.
- Skewkirk Bridge - no further information available yet.
- Waste Recycling Centre planning application on the airfield - thanks were expressed to the Parish Council and particularly to Cllr Bowyer for all his help. The Cllr asked to be copied in to correspondence to NYCC about the planning application.

Cllr Billenness reported on the lack of grass cutting in the villages.

Cllr Savage explained new contractors were in place and the work had been promised by the end of the month.

Thanks were expressed to Cllr Pick for his work in cutting verges at local dangerous road junctions. NYCC are responsible for Road Safety and they should do the work. Also the Tomlinson sign which appears at weekends directing traffic from the B1224 to Moorside is considered a danger because it affects the sight lines at the dangerous Rudgate cross roads.

Cllr Savage agreed to pass on the Council's concerns to the Selby Office.

Regarding the areas outside the villages, the Clerk reported that a quotation had been received from Mr Baxter. This was accepted and the Clerk authorised to request the verge cutting be done as soon as possible.

County Cllr Member Budgets - Cllr Savage said his intention was to allocate £1000 towards the

cost of the Central Heating installation at the Village Hall.

The Clerk was asked to contact the NYCC Area Committee for the Harrogate District for an application form.

The District Cllr also agreed to consider an allocation from his Member Budget. A sum of between £500 and £750 was mentioned. The Cllr was asked to consider a pro rata grant as Tockwith is the largest centre of population in the Ward.

The Clerk was asked to contact Cllr Lewis about the Pre School and After School Club and discover what happened to the Lottery Grant received for this.

Standing Orders were suspended.

Thanks were expressed to local farmers for public spiritedness in cutting grass verges and doing the County Council's work for them.

Concern was expressed at the lack of a Bus Stop and sign on Rudgate adjacent to the business Park. Cllr Savage agreed to look into this.

A footpath had recently been constructed from Cattal Station to the A59. A Footpath was also needed from Cattal Station to Cattal village.

Standing Orders were resumed.

The County Cllr was thanked for attending and giving his report.

Village Hall Central Heating

Concern was expressed at the cost of the recent quotation from British Gas for a gas supply to the Village Hall. The increase was 62% more than the quotation received in January. The form still stated that "No" was the answer to "will gas central heating be used?".

The Clerk was authorised to complete the form for acceptance of the original quotation and pay a cheque for the original amount. A covering letter was to explain the Council's action.

Regarding the high costs of the installation of an efficient heating system, the Council discussed the various options.

Resolved that the Clerk apply to the Secretary of State for Loan Sanction approval for a sum of £10,000.

This matter to be an agenda item for the next Meeting.

Correspondence

Additional items 22-35 were made known.

The Clerk agreed to produce reports for discussion at the next meeting on Race Relations, Risk Assessment, Assets Register and any other item referred to in YLCA Advice Notes.

Planning applications

Beaconsfield House, Marston Road, Tockwith - erection of first floor rear extension.

The Parish Council noted that neighbours had concerns about the scale of the proposals and the

perceived loss of light and amenity to the adjacent property's bedroom window.

Cllr Mrs Wardman declared an Interest in the item and took no part in the discussion or voting.

The Parish Council response to be no objections, subject to the height of the roof being kept at the height shown on the plans, which addresses the concerns of the neighbour and the materials to be matching the existing building so as to fit in with the Conservation Area.

Planning decisions were made known.

Accounts

Bank balances

Lloyds Bank Treasurer's a/c (as at 30.5.02) £9968.91

National Savings Bank (Norfolk) a/c £1622.36

National Savings Bank Investment a/c £5259.92

Accounts to pay

Ray Farrer (grounds maintenance) 365.00

Viking Direct (stationery supplies) 64.05

British Gas (for gas supply) 692.56

Receipts

Allotment rents 5.00

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.

The Clerk agreed to speak to Clerks of neighbouring Parish Councils to see if there was any interest in a group scheme for this area.

Date of next Meeting: To be held on WEDNESDAY 17th JULY 2002 at 7.30 PM.

Standing Orders were suspended.

A resident expressed concern about the layby near the Marston Moor Monument but that is not in this Parish.

Standing Orders were resumed.

Cllr Lumley questioned how the Council would cover the costs of Room Hire for Council meetings and Sunday School meetings. It was suggested that an annual amount could be paid to cover both, once new management arrangements have been finalised.

Cllr Bowyer reported that the Council's Contractor had suggested more frequent attention was needed at the Public Open Space at Westfield Green.

Resolved that the Chairman and Clerk draw up a specification and invite tenders for the work, now that the Parish Council owned the land in question.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and read out the resolution for exempt matters and declared the meeting closed to the public.