

TOCKWITH WITH WILSTROP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Council held on Wednesday 19th FEBRUARY 2003 in the Sportsfield Building at 7.30pm

Chairman: Councillor M Kennett

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

In attendance: District Cllr Sturdy, Mrs J Bygate (Internal Auditor),

Mrs G Firth (Clerk to the Council),

2 members of the public.

Apologies for absence - were received from County Cllr Savage, Cllr Lumley and Mrs Steed, Chairman of the VH Management Committee.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that the change of meeting venue was required to accommodate the Tockwith Players who were putting on a production in the Village Hall during half term.

Police matters

There was no Police Officer in attendance.

The Chairman read out the letter from Inspector Barker, in reply to the Council's letter concerning the increase in the Police Precept and the non-attendance of Police Officers at Council meetings. The letter's contents were discussed.

Resolved that the Clerk write to the Police Authority, as advised, expressing concern at the proposed huge increase in the Police Precept.

Resolved also that the Clerk write again to Inspector Barker, thanking him for his letter, stating that it was never the intention to suggest that PC Haydon is not a hard working Police Officer and clarifying that an Officer was not expected to stay for the duration of a meeting but to put in an appearance sometime during the meetings, at which the agenda could be altered to accommodate the Officer. The Clerk always sends an agenda and invitation to attend to the Police at Knaresborough and in future will send this communication via e mail as well. There is an item titled Police matters on every meeting agenda and a report via e mail could be requested from PC Haydon, even if he is unable to attend in person.

The responses from the MP, including the letter from the Chief Constable of North Yorkshire, and the reply from the Office of the Home Secretary were read out and discussed.

Cllr Saunders reported that he had communicated with both the Vale of York MP and the Harrogate & Knaresborough MP. Mr Willis will be asking a Parliamentary question about the extra funding required for counter terrorism measures and Miss McIntosh will be going back to the Home Secretary and the Chief Constable for clarification, since the local Police seem to be saying the proposed rise in Precept is required in part to account for the increased safety measures at Menwith Hill and Fylingdales but the higher authorities seem to be saying that

extra funding has been given to cover these costs.

Resolved that the Clerk state, in the letter to the Police Authority, that there is even less

justification for the proposed huge increase in the Police Precept if additional Government funding has been provided for counter terrorism measures.

· Cllrs raised the concern that armed response units, training on the airfield, were using the land at the rear of the houses on Prince Rupert Drive as a toilet. Resolved that a letter be sent to the Chief Constable expressing concern and asking that this is stopped.

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 Mrs Wardman reported back on the Commuted Sums Seminar which she had attended with the Clerk. The Clerk had notes from the Seminar, which she would include in the circulation file for next month. An up to date record of commuted sums available to the Parish was also given.

· The Clerk reported that she had contacted the Probation Service and awaited a call to make arrangements for digging at the POS.

· The Clerk reported that the best price obtained so far for a replacement for the Council's photocopier was £419.99. The machine recommended was - HP3330mfp. Resolved that delegated authority be given to the Clerk to arrange purchase of this machine at the best price, up to a limit of £550.00.

· The Clerk produced maps for Cllrs to indicate where dog bins are required. The completed maps would be passed to the District Cllr. to action.

· External Audit - the Clerk explained that the cheque had been paid in November and therefore the decision at last month's meeting had been to ratify that expenditure.

· Cllr Billenness reported that he had contacted the Sportsfield Trust about the possibility of having a skateboarding facility and they were happy to look at any proposals and interested in seeing how they could help the project.

· Cllr Bowyer reported that complaints had been made to him about the kerbside collection of recyclable materials. Boxes were being emptied together and residents who kept their boxes clean were having dirty boxes returned to them. The District Cllr agreed to take this matter up with the relevant department.

The Sportsfield Trust

· There were no major issues to be resolved regarding the Lease agreement. Resolved that the duration of the Lease be agreed as 27 years at a rate of £1 per annum. Cllr Billenness agreed to arrange for the signing of the Lease document by all parties, in the presence of the Clerk as RFO.

· The maintenance of boundaries was considered important and this would be the responsibility of the Sportsfield Trust. Resolved that Cllr Pick would erect fences to define the boundary of the fields in question. Cllr Pick was thanked for his kind offer.

· The Junior Football Club were doing a feasibility study on the smaller of the two fields with a view to putting arrangements in place for use as mini-soccer pitches. Dr Cross had written to the

Council asking for financial assistance. Resolved that the Clerk reply and state that, although the Council was supportive of the Junior Football Club, Section 106 money could not be used for such a purpose but commuted sum money may be able to be used for works required as a result of the study.

· The Sportsfield Trust had written regarding the lack of storage facilities and the proposal to erect two steel containers for storage purposes. The Council was requested to provide financial assistance to purchase the containers. After full debate it was resolved that the Clerk reply and state that, although the Council appreciated the concerns about lack of storage, the visual impact of the proposed structures on the entrance to the village was undesirable. The Council asked for more information about the siting and possible cladding of such structures and the likely project costs before making any financial commitment. The Clerk was also asked to state that the usage of the disabled toilets for storage should not continue, especially as this is the Year of the Disabled and unannounced inspections could take place at any time.

Village Hall

(1) Lease - (2) Management Company formation - there remained a few points to clarify.

· It had been decided to have only a few Directors of the new Limited Company, possibly 4, who would be protected from liability.

· It was considered that the new Company should benefit from the indemnity awarded to the Parish Council when the building was purchased from NYCC.

· Regarding the Deed of Trust, it had been decided to invite one member of the Youth Club to be a non-voting director (not the YC Leader).

· The amount of rent to be applied was discussed. It was suggested that a formula could be applied such that the rent was set initially for 3 years and then at 5 year intervals. The Parish Council expected to pay rent, as any other user, and was not seeking to make a profit. Resolved that the rent for the first three years be £50 per annum (a peppercorn rent the same as was paid to NYCC to hire the Hall previously).

· In future it would be more cost effective for the Council to insure the building.

· The Registered Office of the new Company could be either the Solicitor or the Clerk to the Council.

· Resolved that the Chairman and Clerk be authorised to sign the documents when ready for signature.

(3) General - Hot Water system - resolved that the Clerk contact the contractor and explain the problem of not having enough hot water and the time it takes to heat up, especially in the kitchen area.

Boxing in of pipework - resolved that Cllr Billenness put an item on the web site and the Clerk put notices on the noticeboards inviting joiners/carpenters to submit quotations for the work. Cllr Alderton agreed to provide the materials. Delegated authority given to Clerk and VH Chairman to action when quotes received.

Village Hall Survey - concern was expressed that the recently completed Survey was not comprehensive enough to base a forward business plan on. Resolved that the Clerk liaise with the Chairman of the VH Management Committee to see what further information was required and then write to request that this additional information be provided by Mr Renier.

Skateboard Facility in Tockwith

The Clerk agreed to contact the Project Coordinator of the Green Hammerton facility for further information. There were none of the young people who had attended last month's meeting in attendance to discuss the matter further.

Footpath PRD to School

This was to be an agenda item for the March PC Meeting.

Standing Orders

The Clerk reported that she had received, from YLCA via e mail, copies of Model Standing Orders as requested. However there were many pages to download and so it was agreed that they would be put in the circulation file for Cllrs to read and be discussed at the March meeting.

Parish Newsletter

Resolved that Cllr Billenness would edit the newsletter. It should be ready after the Annual Meeting, when up to date information could be provided and it would be delivered to every house in the parish.

Cllr were asked to let Cllr Billenness have any items for inclusion in the newsletter as soon as possible.

It was reported that Cllr C Saunders is the new Chairman of the TRA.

Report by County Councillor

In the absence, through illness, of the County Cllr, the Clerk read out the report which had been sent via e mail.

- Cattal Bridge - traffic lights are promised before April 2003.
- Council Tax - NYCC to be 11.5% increase, North Yorks. is the 31st lowest County in England. This does not include the 76% rise in the Police Precept. Increased rates are quite simply not enough from Whitehall to pay for all the new initiatives in Education and Social Services plus Environmental Services have had money taken from their budget.
- B1224 - safety scheme approved and work should commence in the next few weeks - 40mph speed limit through Bilton in Ainsty but not Bickerton. Rudgate crossroads also to enjoy £20,000 improvements as promised.
- "Stone crushing plant", good news about NYCC planning decision but will have to wait to see if applicant goes to Appeal. Thanks to everyone involved in Tockwith and area.
- Highway concerns - awaiting response from Selby
- Bus timetables' fixtures - being followed up
- Biffa site - information being acted upon
- Regional Assembly proposals - information

Report by District Councillor

- East House Farm planning application due to be heard at DC Committee on Tuesday next. Cllr Mrs Wardman to attend on behalf of the PC if the Chairman is not available.
- Litter bin at POS - HBC wants an existing bin moved rather than providing a new one. PC want a new bin, existing bins well spaced and used. D Cllr to follow up.
- Go Karts - D Cllr had meeting with Cabinet member and Director for Environmental Health. Monitoring is to take place over 3-4 months, following which they will report back.
- Biffa - HBC Environmental Health Dept. are asking for monitoring reports to be filled in regarding noise problems. It was reported to the D Cllr that since the last meeting the amount of rubbish falling off lorries was excessive, a trailer load of collected rubbish had been taken to the Biffa site but they only apologised and did not take further action to prevent recurrence of the problem. Resolved that the Clerk write to Biffa, including a copy of a resident's letter, asking that all the rubbish be removed before the next Council meeting.
- Planning Appeal for 2, Kendal Gardens submitted.

The District Cllr was thanked for his report.

Correspondence

Additional item 44-57 were made known.

- Resident's letter about profusion of buildings on airfield, erected recently without planning permission. Resolved the Clerk write to Planning Enforcement at HBC
- Letter from resident of PRD regarding indiscriminate parking in turning heads. Resolved the Clerk write to local residents asking for cooperation and consideration.
- Lucas Road - report of indiscriminate parking. Clerk to write to neighbours.
- Mayoral Service - invitation for Chairman to attend - accept.
- HBC - Litter Awareness week - letter to copy to local organisations for information
- North Yorkshire Joint Structure Plan Review - the Chairman to look at and respond
- NYCC re Planning & Regulatory Functions Committee meeting on 21/1/03. Resolved that no reply was merited. The PC fully supported Cllr Bowyer, who reported what residents had said. Cllr Bowyer was thanked for his efforts on behalf of the Parish Council. The Council wished to thank the TRA, the County and District Cllrs and residents for supporting the effort to have the planning application refused by NYCC.

Planning

Hangar 88, Marston Moor Business Park - erection of detached temporary office accommodation with new treatment plant.

The PC to respond, not objecting to the application but making comments and seeking safeguards, asking for screening to the proposed large building, that vehicles are not left overnight with engines running, that vehicles enter at the side furthest away from residential dwellings on Fleet Lane/Blind Lane.

Cllr Alderton agreed to speak to Mr Tinsley and inform him of Council concerns.

176, Prince Rupert Drive - erection of two storey side extension.

The Council did not object to this application.

148, Prince Rupert Drive - erection of single storey side extension to form annexe for elderly relative (revised Scheme)

The Council did not object to this application.

Oak Tree House, Cowthorpe - retention of 1 dwelling as constructed.

The Council did not object but wished to comment that, as the key concern of the immediate neighbour was the increased height of the bathroom window overlooking his property, the applicant had agreed to put a vertical blind in the bathroom window before Easter; that the new height of the dwelling not be used as a precedent for any future building in Cowthorpe, especially as a planning application had recently been refused on the adjacent plot; and noting that, had this application been submitted originally, it would have commanded extra commuted sums.

Planning decisions were made known.

Accounts

Bank balances

Lloyds Bank Treasurer's a/c (as at 31.01.03) 12,029.96

National Savings Bank (Norfolk) a/c 122.36

National Savings Bank Investment a/c 259.92

Accounts to pay

YLCA (posters, SO via e mail) 25.19

YPO (trolleys for VH) 844.94

Clerk to the Council (backdated salary to Nov 02) 262.00

Hire of Minibus on 21/1/03 50.00

Tockwith & District Show - grant 100.00

Hunsingore DCC (grant to Cowthorpe churchyard) 80.00

R Renier (for VH Structural Survey) 176.25

Receipts

NYVH grant 24.96

Allotment rents 8.00

Cllrs Billenness declared an interest in the grant to Cowthorpe churchyard.

Cllrs Billenness, Kennett, Waller, Bowyer, Alderton and Pick declared an interest in the grant to Tockwith Show.

Resolved not to pay the account to Mr Renier until additional information is provided.

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

Date of next Meeting: to be held on WEDNESDAY 19th MARCH 2003 at 7.30 PM.

Standing Orders were suspended.

A resident commented about the amount of litter on the Sportsfield, the litter throughout the village, the untidy state of the ginnels, the lack of footpaths along Rudgate, and the problem of dog fouling.

Standing Orders were resumed.

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