

TOCKWITH WITH WILSTROP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Council held on Wednesday 15th January 2003 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, C Saunders, P Pick.

In attendance: County Cllr Savage, District Cllr Sturdy had sent apologies for lateness and would attend following an earlier meeting in Harrogate, Mrs G Firth (Clerk to the Council), Mrs J Bygate (Internal Auditor), Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee, 6 members of the Youth Club, 2 other members of the public.

Apologies for absence - were received from 2 residents who had intended to be present.

Police matters

There was no Officer present and no apologies had been received.

Cllr Bowyer gave a report on the latest CaP Group meeting and updated crime figures for the area.

It was reported that the Police Authority was proposing a 76% increase in the precept demanded from council tax payers. This would allow the appointment of seven new Superintendents and provision of additional IT equipment. There would be increased costs for N. Yorks. Police associated with increased National Security at Menwith Hill and Fylingdales early warning centres. There had been a 19% increase in crime in the Harrogate Area.

Resolved that the Council write to the MP, Anne McIntosh, with copies to The Home Secretary and Phil Willis MP expressing concern that matters of exceptional National Security should be addressed by the provision of extra Government resources, such as happened at the recent Soham inquiry. It was considered inequitable that council tax payers in affected areas should have to pay the costs involved. Concern was also expressed at the increase in crime, even though the Police Precept had been increased by more than 50% last year.

Cllr Bowyer said he had received reports that the Police had been contacted on occasions but they had not done anything. He asked that people who contacted the Police should let him have details of times, dates etc and he would follow the matters up.

Cllrs confirmed the importance of the Neighbourhood Watch system and hoped that problems with the Police control room would be resolved shortly.

Resolved also that the Clerk write to the local Police expressing concern over rising crime levels and reiterating that it is totally wrong to increase the Precept massively

when work to reduce crime is not being effective. The attendance of a Police Officer at Parish Council Meetings was to be requested and at least contact with the rural beat Officer on a monthly basis so that information could be exchanged and matters of concern raised.

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

· Skateboard facilities in Tockwith - *Standing Orders were suspended.*

There were six young people present and they spoke to this item, saying what they did presently and what they hoped to acquire for Tockwith youngsters. They confirmed there was a need for such a facility and had approached local businesses who may wish to become involved with the project.

The Clerk reported what she had learned about the Green Hammerton project, having spoken to the Project Leader, who was an interested parent. Costs were high, £24,000 for an area of 220 sq. m., funding is difficult to find and takes a long time to put in place, match funding was nearly always a prerequisite, the matter of finding land can be a problem, patience and perseverance is essential to see the project through to completion, the youngsters should be involved in fund raising and ongoing maintenance so that they felt ownership of the project, a Project Committee of at least 2 parents and some interested youngsters should be formed. An alternative scheme would be to provide a suitable surface as a start with equipment to follow as and when funding became available.

Standing Orders were resumed.

Following a full debate it was resolved that the Parish Council would support such a project, providing that all concerns regarding insurance, maintenance, financing and how the project would be managed could be addressed.

The young people were asked to produce ideas of the design and size of equipment wanted, research into which local businesses would be prepared to support the project financially, the formation of a project committee with an adult leader and a draft letter to be circulated to assist with fund raising in Tockwith and surrounding villages. Information could be added to the Council web site for wider publicity. Cllr Billinness agreed to do this as well as contacting the Sportsfield Trust about an alternative location for the facility at the Sportsfield.

The Parish Council would research funding possibilities and submit initial applications for grants. This matter would be an agenda item for the February meeting.

The young people were thanked for attending and told to contact the Clerk if they required information from the Council.

· **Westfield Green Public Open Space** - *Standing Orders were suspended.*

· a request was made for a litter bin to be placed next to the noticeboard at the ginnel entrance adjacent to the POS.

· a request was made that the Probation Service be contacted again regarding the digging over of the planted areas as the Council contractor had now sprayed the weeds and digging was required before further planting took place.

Standing Orders were resumed.

Resolved that the Probation Service be contacted and asked for additional assistance. Grateful thanks were expressed to Mr Milner for all his efforts.

· **Ripon CVS** - the Clerk reported a telephone call about the Lottery Funding for the Out of School Club, which may have to be returned as the Club was not going to happen.

· **Freedom of Information Act, Publication Scheme** - the Clerk reported that the Information Commissioner had accepted the Council submission.

· **Dog bins** - had not been erected - this matter to be followed up with the District Cllr.

· **Christmas Lights** - the Chairman thanked everyone for assistance with erecting and later dismantling the lights in Tockwith. It was agreed to look into providing large outdoor lights for next year. Cllr Billenness reported on Christmas activities in Cowthorpe and produced an account for reimbursement for purchase of lights.

· **SLCC Training Day** - Cllr Billenness reported on an interesting and informative day when more had been learned about Clerks' accreditation for Quality Council status. The Clerk had read the documents. She pointed out it would be necessary to provide her with a contract of employment before anything could be actioned. Resolved that Cllrs Billenness and Bowyer look into this and the matter was to be put on the agenda for February.

· **Bus Company signs** - the Clerk had contacted both Arriva and Harrogate District Travel, neither of whom accepted ownership of the signs. As the route was sponsored it was believed the signs may have been provided by NYCC. The County Cllr was asked to investigate and report back.

· **Village Hall Domestic Rating** - the forms were passed to the Village Hall Committee as the Clerk was unable to answer the questions about rental rates and users information required.

· **SLCC Training Day** - reimbursement had been received shortly after the last meeting so the Clerk had not written the letters regarding the item on page 3 of the last Minutes.

· **Refuse collections over the Christmas and New Year period** - complaints had been received about bin bags being left for a long time and the appearance of a lot of rats at the east end of the village. It was stated that rats had also been seen along Fleet Lane

and on PRD.

· **Photocopier** - Cllr Billenness was researching a suitable replacement machine, the cost for a laser based machine would be in the region of £350-£360. Further details would be provided for the February meeting.

Village Hall

(Standing Orders were suspended to allow the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the VH Committee to take a full part in the debate which followed)

Lease

Cllr Billenness and Cliff Lake had spoken and were due to meet in the next couple of weeks to sort out remaining details. It was hoped the matter could be finalised by the February meeting and all parties would be prepared to sign documents for return to the Solicitor.

Management Company formation

Cliff Lake stated that it was intended to proceed as proposed with the formation of a Limited, not for profit, Company with a view to changing to a Community Interest Company under the Charity Commission when legislation allowed.

General

· general maintenance - a scheme for all user groups had been initiated, each to be responsible for cleaning after meetings. Extra storage for new user groups was being looked at. Grant funding was being investigated and should not be a problem especially with regard to the disabled toilets as it is the International Year of the Disabled.

· Structural Survey - was required a.s.a.p., but quotations received did not include Mechanical and Electrical. The chosen engineer was to be asked to locate the supply tank for the old copper boiler in the storeroom.

· boxing in of pipes associated with the central heating system - the Management Committee to procure a.s.a.p., the Parish Council would pay for. The heating system was working well and was appreciated by all user groups. The contractor had been asked to come back to rectify some minor issues regarding the radiators and the hot water supply.

· doors - concern was expressed that the new doors were not satisfactorily fitted, especially the closures. It was stated that the external doors were emergency doors so there was no requirement to fit automatic closures. The doors would be painted when the weather was better.

· operating rules - had been taken well by all user groups as everyone had been involved in setting up the terms and conditions. Regular discussions were held with the occupier of School House to confirm that arrangements were neighbour friendly. Parking in the grounds had been discussed and Miss Lee did not want chevron markings or the like to discourage indiscriminate parking.

· Entertainment Licence renewal - the Clerk had actioned this as only 14 days were allowed for response. Concern was expressed that the hours of operation had been changed from previously. The Clerk was asked to provide copies of the paperwork for the VH Chairman to look over and see about changing if necessary.

· A request had been received from the Players to erect brackets on the walls to support lighting bars. The Players had produced weight bearing calculations to confirm the walls would bear the additional weight. They would be responsible for the erection and maintenance of the works to be done and would make good the walls after fitting.

Standing Orders were resumed.

Resolved to pursue the Lease and Management Company formation (Cllr Billinness to act for the Council), pay the Daltons Joinery account once confirmation had been received that works had been completed satisfactorily, arrange for a structural survey of the Hall, pass the Entertainment Licence papers to the VH Committee and write to confirm approval of erection of brackets for the Players.

Report by County Councillor

Cllr Savage reported that the County Council tax would be likely to rise by 9.5% for next year, the County Area Committee would be meeting at Ripon Leisure Centre at 6pm on Thursday next to explain to residents how the budget would be set.

· Waste Recycling planning application - would be discussed next Tuesday at County Hall.

Cllr Savage had arranged coffee/tea in the Grand Committee Room for all residents attending.

The Officer's Report was recommending approval subject to conditions.

The Chairman was unable to attend and Cllr Bowyer agreed to attend and speak on behalf of

the Parish Council. Resolved that Cllr Bowyer be provided with transport.

Cllr Savage was made aware of the Parish Council's concern at the proposed huge increase in the Police Precept, partly due to additional security requirements at RAF Fylingdales, which it was believed rate payers should not have to pay for.

Footpath PRD to School - no progress because of difficulties with the land owner.

Cllr Savage had received letters from residents concerning:

1. Flooding at Westfield Road, especially near the Bus Stop.
2. Cattal Bridge, with regard to bad visibility on both sides and incidents of road rage.
3. Biffa lorries dropping debris along local roads when going to the Business Park. Residents were asked to record the registration numbers of offending vehicles and report them. Cllr Bowyer agreed to take up the matter with the Traffic Commissioner.
4. Rats seen in PRD

Resolved that the Clerk write to DEFRA, expressing concern that food waste is carried regularly through local villages, and pass copies of all Biffa correspondence to the County Cllr.

The County Cllr was asked to address the problem of waste on the verges of Fleet Lane adjacent to the stables.

The Cllr was also asked to get information about the bus timetable box and clamps from the Highway Authority.

Report by District Councillor

- Planning application for East House Farm - the Planning Officer had stated that the current application was an improvement on previous ones but a judgement would have to be made on whether the application satisfied the Harrogate District Local Plan.
- Oak Tree House, Cowthorpe - planning decision pending
- Noise from go-karts on airfield - had been reported as very bad over the past weekend. Cllr Sturdy had placed a Notice of Motion before HBC in December and was promised a meeting with the Chief Environmental Health Officer and Cabinet Member for Environment Health to discuss the issue.
- Biffa site - complaints had been received about waste falling off lorries, vehicles still passing through the village to access the Business Park and presence of rats.
- HBC Village Safety Schemes - the Cllr agreed to take proposed schemes forward.
- Dog fouling bins - the Clerk to provide a map of suggested locations/sites for the Cllr to follow up with HBC

- Litter bin on Westfield Green - needed a.s.a.p., adjacent to the noticeboard.
- Skateboarding facilities - the Cllr was informed about the proposed project - he offered to look into providing a grant from his Member's budget in the next financial year.
- Muddy state of Kirk Lane - this was a matter for the Highway Authority - the Police and Highway Authority should be informed if the problem was very bad. Farmers had a responsibility to sign the road during works and clean up during and after works. Cllr Pick agreed to have a word with the farmer involved.

The District Cllr was thanked for attending.

Correspondence

Additional items 41-51 were made known.

- Letter concerning fireworks - new laws are expected to restrict use of fireworks. By the time of the next Parish Council newsletter legislation should be in place and could be made known.

Standing Orders were suspended.

The resident who had written the letter explained the circumstances and agreed that the more that could be done to draw peoples attention to the problems caused the better it would be. It was suggested that the VH Committee might wish to look into conditioning the use of fireworks on VH property.

Standing Orders were resumed.

Resolved that the newsletter be an agenda item for February.

- HBC Seminar on Open Space/Commuted sums - Cllr Mrs Wardman would inform the Clerk if she was able to attend.
- A1 Upgrade - the Highways Agency had confirmed they would attend the March meeting. Cowthorpe Cllrs agreed to circulate the village to advise residents.
- Reference Library request - to reply and state we have no war memorial in the Parish.
- Countryside Agency - papers to be passed to ACS for comment.

Planning

East House Farm - Conversion of existing barn to form dwelling, demolition of remaining

existing buildings and erection of two dwellings (amended/revised application).

The Council response expressed concern that the amended proposal, as stated on the application form, appears to be different from what is actually proposed, that is that 2 existing buildings (barns) will be converted and a new build element containing two dwellings will be built to the east side of the site. The proposal suggests only the western most barn will be converted and all other buildings on site will be demolished and replaced with new build.

The Council was pleased to see an element of "affordable housing" on the site but questions whether it would have been more accurate to say "lower cost" open market housing.

The Council and neighbours still have concerns that previous objections have not been addressed by the amended plans and continue to object to the application on the following grounds:

1. Road Safety issues continue to cause concern, given that there are several children living adjacent to the site. The situation at this end of the village is such that, on an evening/outside normal working hours, the street is full of parked cars because most properties along this side of Marston Road do not have off street parking facilities. Vehicles entering and leaving the site would have restricted sight lines, having to manoeuvre between parked cars.
2. Concern is still expressed at the ability of the sewerage/drainage systems to cope with additional flows generated by large multi-bathroomed dwellings.
3. The large barn window in Unit 1, which has views to both North and South, is considered to have the potential for overlooking/and being overbearing for the adjacent cottages, which have only limited amenity space to the rear.
4. Concern is expressed locally that open cart shed type parking for the size of properties proposed is not satisfactory because of possible problems with noise and disturbance from vehicle movements and also the roofing materials should not be corrugated tin.
5. Concern is still expressed that the domestic curtilages would extend beyond the development limit in a Conservation Area, spreading domestic paraphernalia into the countryside.
6. It is believed that consultation should take place with the Police Architectural Liaison Officer because of concerns about Security by Design issues.
7. There are no details of screening/fencing/planting of hedges which would mitigate any overlooking of adjacent properties.
8. The previous application mentioned planting of hedges and suggested that brambles may be introduced. This is considered unnecessary. The hedge was suggested as Hawthorn, it is considered a mixed hedge would be more in keeping with the surroundings.

Land adjacent to Unit 13, Marston Moor Business Park - formation of car parking and turning area. The Parish Council and neighbours had no objections to this application.

Land off Fleet Lane - erection of 4 stables, 1 tack room and 1 store room, with associated hard standing ground and formation of vehicular access. (revised scheme)

The Council was pleased to see the revised application showed the stables had been resited, following previous concerns expressed.

The Council did not object but wished to make comments and seek safeguards as follows:

1. The Council is still concerned about the access onto Fleet Lane, a busy stretch of road carrying fast moving traffic. The dangers are compounded in this revised application because of the proximity of the new access with the adjacent access to Blind Lane, both of which would be opposite the entrance/exit to Netherlands Boarding Kennels. Blind Lane carries a lot of traffic to/from industrial concerns at Nethercarr Farm, the Farm itself, Locksley Business Park, an Agricultural Machinery Repair company, private residences and Jodhpurs Riding Stables.
2. There is an appreciable amount of traffic associated with Jodhpurs, a successful business, and a lot of horse and rider movements as Blind Lane is a Public Bridleway. A single access on to Fleet Lane from Blind Lane would best serve this application.
3. Notwithstanding the comments of the Highway Authority, if the access is to be directly onto Fleet Lane from the site, it is considered that sufficient space should be available to allow vehicles attending the site to pull off the road before opening gates to access the field.
4. It is reiterated that the enterprise must be kept as a private concern as another commercial "horsey" enterprise in this location would not be acceptable due to potential traffic dangers.

196, Prince Rupert Drive, Tockwith - erection of single storey rear extension and conversion of garage to form additional living accommodation with various internal works.

The Council did not object to the principle of development in this location but made the following comments:

1. The houses in this location are described as "link detached", they are only attached to neighbouring dwellings by a garage. Should this application be approved that will no longer be the case as the conversion of the garage would lead to a "terracing effect".
2. Should the plans be approved, it would be unacceptable to have a toilet in the conversion situated against the main living room wall of the neighbouring dwelling. It would be better to resite the toilet. If this is not possible additional works would be needed to the connecting wall. As the present wall is internal to a garage it is believed it is only single brick and not substantial enough to provide the necessary sound proofing between habitable dwellings.

3. The Council would comment that the removal of the garage will lead to additional traffic congestion in the area, which already suffers from difficulties concerning enough space for car parking.

Waste Recycling Centre on land at Airfield

The Council was asked for additional comments following the submission by the applicant's agent of noise and dust attenuation measures.

The Council was not convinced by the arguments put forward and strongly objected to the application. As time was short before Tuesday's meeting to determine the application it was resolved that Cllrs Billenness and Bowyer would look at the papers, to be provided by the Clerk, and formulate a response on behalf of the Parish Council, which Cllr Bowyer could make known at the meeting.

Planning decisions were made known.

Accounts

Bank balances £

Lloyds Bank Treasurer's a/c (as at 30.12.02) 12,674.79

National Savings Bank (Norfolk) a/c 122.36

National Savings Bank Investment a/c 259.92

Accounts to pay £

S J Environment Control (water heater) 415.95

Dalton Joinery (VH doors) 2,665.09

Yorkshire Purchasing Organisation (Trolleys) 844.94

Tockwith Methodist Church (grant) 225.00

Baron Landscape contractors (VH project at rear) 2,238.38

Mazars (External Audit) 141.00

Cllr Billenness (reimburse for Xmas lights) 19.95

Receipts £

NYCC Village Hall grant 892.70

HBC Member Budget grant 750.00

VH Management Committee (half share doors) 1,134.08

SLCC refund for Training Day 10.00

Yorventure grant for VH garden project 1,905.00

3 Quotations for VH Structural Survey

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

The cheque to Daltons to be paid on confirmation of works completed satisfactorily.

Date of next Meeting: to be held on WEDNESDAY 19th FEBRUARY 2003 IN THE SPORTSFIELD BUILDING AT 7.30PM

The resolution for exempt matters was read out and agreed and the meeting closed to the public.