

TOCKWITH WITH WILSTROP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Council held on Wednesday 23rd July 2003 in the Methodist Hall at 7.30pm

Chairman: Councillor M Kennett

Present: Councillors N Waller, Mrs Wardman, B Alderton, C Billenness, W J Bowyer

In attendance: County Cllr Savage, District Cllr Sturdy, Mrs J Bygate (Internal Auditor), Mrs G Firth (Clerk to the Council), Mrs F Steed (VH Management Committee), Dr Cross and members of the Junior Football Club Committee, 2 other members of the Public.

1. **Apologies for absence** - were received from Cllrs Mrs L Billenness, C Saunders, R Lumley and P Pick and PC Haydon and Sergeant Wilson.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Police Matters

· An e mail received from PC Haydon was made known. Two Police Officers were expected to attend the September meeting of the Council. Crime figures were not available for the past month.

· Cllrs reported the recent thefts of cars from PRD near the home of the Western Area Police Commander.

Residents were advised by Neighbourhood Watch to put cars away in garages whenever possible and keep valuables hidden.

Due to the spate of "Hanoi" burglaries, residents were advised to keep keys securely and

Conceal them from casual observation.

· Resolved that the Council respond to NYCC regarding the new initiative and suggest information be sent to doorstep@tockwith.gov.uk

· The Neighbourhood Watch Police Officer was to be invited to attend the October Council meeting.

· Concerns were raised about (i) speeding through the east end of the village, (ii) indiscriminate parking on the pavement at the top end of Ralph Garth and on PRD,

(iii) complaints from bus drivers and passengers about the lack of a marked bus bay opposite the Spotted Ox. These concerns to be passed on to the Police and NYCC for action.

3. Minutes of the last Meeting of the Parish Council

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

4. Matters arising from the Minutes

· Old Photocopier - resolved that the Clerk be given authority to dispose of the old machine.

· Dispensations - resolved that the Clerk produce and circulate for signature a composite letter to

be signed by all Cllrs with an interest in the Tockwith Show.

- Landscape Character Assessment - the Chairman agreed to provide a report on possible feedback for the next meeting. Cllrs commented that there seemed to be no effort to preserve the Enclosures of historical value.

- NYCC County Area Committee for Harrogate District - it was reported that the meeting would be recommended to approve a Member Budget allocation for a grant to the Council for plumbing works at the VH.

- Church Row allotments - the Clerk to prepare a letter for signature by past and present tenants to confirm the width of the gate access, in order to progress the matter with assistance from HBC.

- Photocopying costs - suggested and agreed - 5p per copy.

- Grass verge cutting -

Wetherby Lane - cutting had been done in some places from Cowthorpe to the A1 but not comprehensively. Nothing further has been heard from RMG about the matter in spite of promises of good contact and co-operation.

Resolved that the Clerk write to Carley Scott and express concern that contact, help and a direct route to the contractors was not as good as had been hoped for and promised during the consultation phase of the A1 Upgrade Project.

Southfield Lane/Kirk Lane - it was considered a good safety measure to have the verges along Southfield Lane past the School cut but this area is often missed because of parked cars.

Resolved that the Clerk write to NYCC and ask that this area be added to the grass cutting contract.

5. Village Hall

Management Company Formation and Lease - these matters need to be resolved as soon as possible. Cllr Billenness agreed to liaise with Mr Lake.

General -

- Boxing in pipework - thanks were expressed to the County Cllr for the Member Budget grant.

- Water heating - additional quotes were expected. Subject to the quotes being comparable delegated authority was given to the Chairman and Clerk to liaise with the VHMC Chairman and authorise the works.

- Footpath adjacent to VH grounds - access to rear of VH - after confirming the current status with NYCC Footpaths and Rights of Way Officer resolved that the Clerk write to Daltons and ask them to remove the padlock put on the rear access gate within 21 days. If this does not happen the Council will take the necessary action and recover any charges for the work, without prejudice to the Right of Way.

Standing Orders were suspended.

It was reported that the Tockwith Under 5's would be leaving the VH and using the School, a new company had been set up to cater for pre-school children during the day.

The School had been assured there would be no loss of revenue for the VH and overall there would be better provision for children in the village.

Some of the reasons quoted for this move had concerned problems associated with the activities of some Youth Club members.

An open Public Meeting to discuss the Regeneration of the VH had been quite well attended, especially by Youth Club members. The purpose of the meeting had been to allow the community to give steerage and guidance on what was wanted in the way of future facilities.

Comments had been noted and Mr Lake was writing a Report with Proposals to present to professionals for details of a Regeneration Scheme Project. The time scale was 2 months from the specification to firm proposals.

The VHMC were planning to decorate the VH in November.

The gas bill was passed to the VHMC.

Standing Orders were resumed.

The Chairman said he had been impressed by the comments and interest shown by the Youth Club at the Regeneration meeting. The Council is not antagonistic to the Youth Club but wants everyone to work together for the good of all.

Cllr Mrs Wardman and the Clerk reported on the Knaresborough District Community Education Committee meeting at which the PC letter had been discussed. One of the outcomes had been the suggestion that the VHMC arrange a meeting with the Youth Club, the Under 5's and other interested user groups to try and resolve the issues. Resolved also that Mr Linfoot and Mr Goodrick be invited to a future meeting of the Parish Council to discuss the subject.

Cllrs were encouraged to write individually to the Director of Education about the funding available to the Youth Service.

6. Skateboard Facility in Tockwith

There was no representative in attendance, from the group of young people who had promised to get back to the Council with their proposals, so this item was deferred to a future meeting. Resolved also that the Clerk write to remind the young people that the Council is waiting for their reply.

7. Biffa and North Riding Waste

Cllr Waller reported that the offer of a grant of £3000 per year to the School had been withdrawn.

This was to have provided new parking facilities for staff and parents and additional teaching facilities in the School.

The School had received a 'curt' e mail advising that, due to 'harassment' by residents, it was no longer felt appropriate to continue with the promised funding.

Although Cllrs felt strongly about the matter there was no direct action that could be taken by the Parish Council.

The Council would continue to take what action it could to make the site owners abide by the Planning and Waste Regulations and the conditions of the Operator's Licence.

Cllrs are aware that some residents are suffering acutely from the site activities and new complainants are keeping schedules of incidents.

The County Cllr reported that a site meeting had been held with Mrs Perkin from NYCC who had told the site operators that they were acting outside of the planning rules. It was also reported that North Riding Waste would be moving elsewhere and Biffa would be taking over the site as a depot.

The District Cllr reported that the HBC Environmental Health Officers had visited the site and witnessed a statutory noise nuisance and night time working.

A motion was put that&ldots;"This Council reiterates its support for Tockwith Residents' Association in seeking to ensure North Riding Waste's and Biffa's compliance with the Operating Licence and condemns their action in appearing to associate an offer of financial support to Tockwith Primary School with actions taken by local residents when trying to obtain compliance with operating regulations".

This motion was proposed but then amended to delete the words after 'Operating Licence'.

The amendment being put to the vote it was resolved by a majority, Cllr Billenness voting against the amendment.

The amendment then being put as the substantive motion it was passed by a majority, Cllr Alderton abstaining.

Resolved also that the Clerk write to the Environment Agency expressing concerns at the current operations, which are against the rules and asking to be formally consulted when a new application is made for the transfer of the Operating Licence to Biffa.

8. Fields off Tockwith Lane - commuted sums and grant request.

The Chairman gave a resume. The Council is progressing a Lease to the Sportsfield Trust of the smaller of the two fields at a peppercorn rent.

The re-formed Junior Football Club has in progress a project to do works and provide pitches which will require a substantial grant from the Football Foundation. The Sportsfield Trust, on behalf of the Club, is requesting that the Parish Council supports it in seeking to access the total amount of Youth and Adult Commuted Sum money held by HBC for the whole of the Parish. In addition the Trust is requesting a grant of £1000 from the Parish Council to pay for the feasibility study and a further sum to contribute to costs for additional storage facilities and the planning application which would be required.

The Council has proposals for the larger of the two fields which would require a sum for ground works and fencing etc. of £1,500 to £2000.

The Council has a duty to consider the whole community and not just one specific group.

Standing Orders were suspended.

Dr Cross explained the project and its' costs of around £35,000, of which a grant of £20,000 would be sought from the Football Foundation.

The Football Foundation would require copies of the Lease and the original purchase details of the Land.

Over the last eighteen months the Junior Football Club has developed and now has over a

hundred members. A partnership with Gateways, for the disabled, and HBC is in place.

The Club's understanding is that the total commuted sum of £9,682 can be used for its' project as it fits the criteria for use of commuted sums and can be classed as partnership funding to release other sources of grant funding.

The District Cllr has agreed a grant allocation from his Member Budget.

Standing Orders were resumed.

Cllrs welcomed the re-formation of the Junior Football Club, asked if other local Parish Councils had been approached for a grant towards the project costs, suggested Y/A commuted sum money from neighbouring parishes be sought as that would also fit the '20 minute drive time' criteria,

Supported the aims of the Club but felt that other organisations may want assistance and so it would not be fair to agree the allocation of all the commuted sum money to one Club, asked how much money the Club had raised itself and suggested local Clubs needing support should apply to the Council for grants.

The Council was concerned that the commuted sum money should not be lost to the community and therefore it was resolved that the Council supports the Sportsfield Trust in their aim of obtaining all Y/A commuted sum money subject to it being confirmed by HBC that the CPA and L/A money can be used by the Council for the project at the second field and no Council project for the benefit of the whole community will be compromised.

The Council would also be prepared to put in a planning application for additional storage facilities at the Sportsfield. The applications for grants for the feasibility study and storage facilities are to be deferred until more information is received.

Cllr Billenness, as the Council's representative on the Sportsfield Trust Committee, will attend next week's AGM, put forward the Council's position and request any grant applications be submitted before the November Council meeting at which next year's Precept will be discussed.

Cllrs expressed the wish to see a purpose built facility for all sports in the village and this was a matter that could be discussed with The Scouts and the Sportsfield Trust and any other organisation willing to join a partnership to look into this provision.

Resolved that the agenda order be revised to accommodate guests.

11. Report by County Councillor

- Regional Assembly - NYCC wants a Unitary Authority based on the County Council
- Cattal Bridge - new road markings would soon be in place
- Skewkirk Bridge - a rally was to be held which would be broadcast by BBC 2
- Planning Appeal 'Stone Crushing Plant' - NYCC wanted a Public Inquiry, rather than written representations, to decide this Appeal.

The County Cllr was thanked for his report.

9. Marston Road Play Area

It was reported that an edge of the safety surfacing appeared to be damaged and breaking down.

Correspondence had been received regarding new obligations with regard to the Disability Discrimination Act.

Resolved that the Clerk contact Glen Robinson at HBC for advice and then RTC for repair of the surface, and contact Wicksteed to arrange a Safety Inspection at the Play Area.

10. Ginnet PRD - Fairfax Crescent

A complaint had been received about young horse riders using the ginnet. Horses had eaten hedges and plants in adjoining gardens and local residents feared damage to fences and that dogs/children would be trampled if conflict arose. Residents had been concerned with the attitude of the young riders when remonstrated with. Resolved that efforts be made to identify the riders involved, the Residents Association may be willing to assist in this regard.

12. Report by District Councillor

- Noise from go-karts on the airfield - a meeting is to take place in the next week with the site owner and the District Cllr. Present. Residents, who had complained, had been contacted by HBC and urged to return comments before the meeting so that evidence is to hand.

- Leeds UDP Review - HBC has been consulted, especially with regard to Thorp Arch Trading Estate, but Officers decided not to oppose any of the provisions in the Review. The Cabinet Member is due to make the official decision in the coming week. As the Parish Council has always opposed the idea of a large number of houses at Thorp Arch because of constraints about lack of infrastructure it was resolved that the Clerk write to the Cabinet Member for Planning and make the views of the Council known and ask for the support of the Borough Council.

- Planning application for 89-91 PRD cul-de-sac - the Planning Officer has asked the applicants for more information.

- Planning application, Jodhpurs - sight lines at the entrance to the site have been requested and they are to be kept clear at all times and no parking on Blind Lane should obscure these. The large building approved should not be used other than for storage.

The District Cllr was thanked for his report.

13. Correspondence

Items 21 to 57 were made known to Cllrs.

- Defra - The Quality Parish Council Scheme guidance - web site information to Cllr Billenness and Mrs Bygate

- The Standards Board for England - revised guidance booklets to each Cllr

- Leeds MDC UDP Review - responses to be made as objections to Policy regarding Thorp Arch Trading Estate as a designated housing site for immediate release

14. Planning

1, Chapman's Yard, Marston Road, Tockwith - erection of single storey rear extension.

No objections to this application.

Land between 89-91 PRD - change of use of unused verge to form extension to domestic

curtilage of 21, Westfield Green and erection of 2.15m high fence and 2m high fence.

The Council objects to this application on the following grounds:

1. It is believed that the 'ransom strip' is designated Highway land as there is a street light within the verge. (Confirmation will be available from NYCC)
2. Removal of any part of the boundary hedge between the cul-de-sac and Westfield Green could not take place without the consent of the Parish Council as the hedge is jointly owned by the Council and residents. (See Mr D Baren of HBC Estates Dept. for clarification and confirmation)
3. The Parish Council has always had an interest in creating a footpath link between the older part of Tockwith village and the newer residential Prince Rupert Drive Estate, via the Public Open Space, since the time of the sale of the amenity land/POS at Westfield Green. (See Mr Baren and Ms Celia Morris of HBC Parks Dept. who are aware of the Council's intentions) If this application is allowed it would preclude this taking place. This is probably one reason that the applicant seeks this planning approval.
4. On visual amenity grounds the loss/concealment of a venerable hedge would be unacceptable and the erection of a tall fence would not enhance the amenity for houses in the cul-de-sac off Prince Rupert Drive.

Anglo Bee Ltd., Blind Lane, Tockwith - erection of replacement industrial unit with integral office accommodation to fall within use classes B1 and B2 (amended application)

The Council has the same objections to this application as to the original:-

1. The Council objects to any planning application which would generate more vehicular traffic, especially HGV's on Blind Lane, which is a single track lane with passing places and speed humps.
2. Blind Lane is a Public Footpath and is also well used by horse riders, especially the young people who attend the adjacent Riding School. Additional heavy traffic on this narrow lane would not be compatible with the safety of pedestrians and riders.
3. The original Bait Farm was classed as Sui Generis and not general industry (B1 and B2) so the Council would question whether permission for general industrial use is appropriate in this rural location.

Planning Appeal for Waste Recycling Plant - notification had been received of the Appeal. It is not known what form this will take.

Resolved that the Council reiterates its objections to this application, stating that nothing has changed since the refusal of the original application and therefore the Council strongly objects and believes a Public Inquiry should be held owing to the strength of local opinion against the proposals.

Planning decisions and enforcement issues were made known.

15. Accounts

Bank balances

Lloyds Bank Treasurer's a/c (as at 30.06.03) 12,136.87

National Savings Bank (Norfolk) a/c 154.09

National Savings Bank Investment a/c 363.15

Accounts to pay

S Baxter (grass cutting) 188.00

Viking Direct (3year extended warranty on photocopier) 91.64

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

Resolved also that authority be delegated to the Clerk to pay the annual Insurance premium before the next meeting, as it becomes due on 1.9.03

Date of next Meeting: WEDNESDAY 10th SEPTEMBER 2003 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.

Cllrs C and Mrs L Billenness gave their apologies.

Standing Orders were suspended.

· A resident expressed concern at the amount of litter throughout the village, especially around the School and the Recycling Centre in the Village Hall car park. Although the Council has advertised for a litter picker in the past, no one is prepared to do the job. However the School children and the Scouts do arrange litter picks during the year.

· Concern was expressed at children congregating on an earth mound in the school playground. The resident was advised to take up this matter with the School.

· Mrs Bygate reported that English Heritage are putting details of Listed Buildings on a web site and there is a time limit, of which owners may be unaware, in which to request exemption. The Clerk agreed to let Mrs Bygate have information on local Listed Buildings so that owners could be notified.

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

Thanks were expressed to the Methodist Church for the hire of their Meeting Room.