

TOCKWITH WITH WILSTROP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Council held on Wednesday 19th MARCH 2003 in the Village Hall 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: Karen Sanderson (Highways Agency), Alan Tennant (Pell Frischmann Consultants), Carley Scott (RMS Community Relations Officer), District Cllr Sturdy, Mrs J Bygate (Internal Auditor), Mrs G Firth (Clerk to the Council), Mr Cliff Lake (VH Management Committee), many Cowthorpe residents and other members of the public.

1. 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.

2. A1 Upgrade

Cllr Billenness was invited to address the Meeting and outline the main points of concern.

He thanked the Representatives for their attendance.

The main concerns were as follows:

(i) NOISE - owing to the height variations of the new road where it crosses the River Nidd, sound proofing measures would be required to protect the residents of Cowthorpe.

An area of managed woodland, which at present partially screens the village from the A1, will be cropped in the next five years and will no longer act as a visual and sound reducing measure.

(ii) PROTECTION OF THE WATER SUPPLY

(iii) TRAFFIC - In spite of the HGV weight restrictions, heavy lorries still pass through Cowthorpe village. Site traffic should be prevented from passing through Cowthorpe on the way to York or elsewhere.

(iv) NIGHT WORKING - the impact on the village of spot lights and vehicle movements must be taken into consideration.

Standing Orders were suspended.

Questions were asked and concerns expressed as follows:

- a) Sound protection should be for the whole area and not just where the road crosses the River.
- b) Children in Cowthorpe are not used to/as aware of traffic dangers because they live in a small rural village.
- c) The new road should have a low noise surface, particularly bearing in mind the trouble that arose when the new A1/M1 link was built with concrete surfacing.
- d) the village of Cowthorpe has limited footpaths and is a narrow C class road.
- e) site traffic should not access the village, only to have to turn round to get back to the A1.

Standing Orders were resumed.

Karen Sanderson was invited to introduce her colleagues and address the Meeting.

She invited representatives from the Parish Council to attend a Presentation at the Ramada Jarvis Hotel on 25th March at 7.30pm, where a representative from RMS would explain the scheme in greater detail. The Council had not received any written information about this meeting.

She explained that RMS was the Company employed to build, develop and operate the new A1M.

She stated that she would take comments and concerns back to RMS following tonight's Meeting.

Carley Scott is the Community Liaison Officer to whom any complaints should be addressed.

Leaflets showing the route of the A1M and having contact details on them were circulated to the Meeting. As not enough had been provided, Carley agreed to make sure a supply was forwarded to the Parish Clerk.

Mr Tennant was asked to address the Meeting.

He discussed an enlarged version of the planned scheme which all those present could see.

There was a difference at the southern end where a link road was proposed between the new junction at Kirk Deighton and the York Road, opposite the entrance to Wetherby Racecourse.

This alteration had been approved by the Secretary of State.

He explained that he had been involved in the original design of the new road to illustrative stage, which had been approved ten years ago, from which RMS would formulate the actual design of the new A1M in accordance with details which had arisen following the Public Inquiry and the Noise Impact Assessment.

He said the new road surface must be of low noise type of material to comply with new legislation; there would be a 10m wide belt of landscaping at each side of the new six lane highway; shrubs of 3-5m in height would form the planting on the banking at each side of the new road; the corridor for the new road had to comply with legal orders and land take from compulsory purchase orders and there was no leeway for additional noise or visual screening; legislation only allows compulsory measures to attenuate sound within 300m of the new road; the level of the new road has not changed since the original level shown in 1993; the overall scheme for the road opposite to Cowthorpe village has not changed since 1993.

Standing Orders were suspended.

Questions and comments were as follows:

- a) What is the road height above existing ground levels - 5/6m above.
- b) What are the arrangements for access to the village during the construction works - these were the responsibility of the Contractor and more information should be available at next week's presentation, but there was a requirement in the contract with RMS for the public highway to be kept open at all times.
- c) Would night working take place - if required, the contractor would have to liaise with the Local Authority and inform local residents. A request was made that the Parish Council be kept fully informed during the construction.
- d) It was requested that a site notice be erected to not allow HGV site traffic to travel onwards through the village.
- e) It was asked whether RMS were approved under the Considerate Constructors Scheme - there was no information on this matter
- f) Noise abatement was a matter of great concern to villagers, Cllr Billenness reminded the Meeting of the Secretary of State's position on this matter.
- g) Regarding HGV's travelling through the village, the Chairman advised residents to take the registration numbers of offending vehicles and pass these to the Police.
- h) Would measures be put in place to prevent mud on the local roads - a wheel washing facility would be provided at the site compound.
- i) Regarding communication, Carley said that regular newsletters would be provided during the course of the construction works, Schools would be visited and talks given. A timetable and programme of works would be published and circulated to parish councils at a later date.

j) Some residents stated that the scheme was now being developed and therefore it was too late to make objections.

k) Residents felt that visual and noise screening were essential, especially in winter when there are no leaves on the trees.

l) Lighting of the new road - would only be provided at the new interchange at Kirk Deighton.

Standing Orders were resumed.

The Chairman stated that the Contractor's Designers are working to finalise the scheme at the moment so there could be an opportunity to influence them to provide something more.

It is important that RMS be told of the concerns of residents of the parish and comments could be passed on to Carley as the scheme progresses.

Resolved that the Clerk attend the meeting next Tuesday, with as many Cllrs as are available, to represent the Council and make concerns known to RMS.

Resolved that the Clerk write to Anne McIntosh MP, citing the Secretary of State's suggestions about sound proofing and asking that they be adhered to in this case.

3. Police matters

There was no Police Officer in attendance.

Cllr Bowyer gave an updated report on the number of crimes in the past month, which were four.

The Clerk reported that she had met with PC Haydon and agreed a means of communication. A letter of reply from the Chief Constable, concerning the armed response team using the airfield as a toilet, was made known.

PC Haydon had been involved in situations recently where he had been hurt in the line of duty.

Cllrs commented that when the new A1M is built there should be less opportunity for travelling criminals to target our area as there will be no direct access to/from the parish.

Cllrs reminded residents to be vigilant during the course of construction of the new road as there will be many strange vehicles and equipment moving around quite near to the village.

Resolved that the Clerk write to support our local Policeman.

4. 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.

5. Matters arising from the Minutes

- Cllr Saunders reported that he had received a copy of the response to the Parliamentary question asked by Phil Willis MP. This was to the effect that it concerned matters of National Security and was therefore classified information and could not be revealed.
- PC Meeting venue - the February Meeting had been uncomfortable for everybody as the room had been so cold. Cllr Bowyer had spoken with the Methodist Church Treasurer and it was suggested that the Methodist Hall may be considered as an alternative venue in future.
- Cllrs were reminded that the Annual Parish Meeting will be held in April when representatives will be expected to give reports on the year's activities.
- Rats - the EHO at HBC had been contacted and she advised that it was not the responsibility of HBC to address the problem at the Bridlepath allotments. It was important to discover the nests/runs and bait the areas. It was stated that if there is a plentiful supply of food around baiting may not be successful. After investigations to discover where the rats are coming from, Cllr Pick agreed to speak to local farmers, if that would be helpful.
- Biffa site - rats and smells have been reported from the site
- Water heaters at VH - the Chairman and Clerk were given delegated authority to progress this matter if decisions need to be made before the next meeting.
- Glebe land at Cowthorpe - the Agents acting for the Church are expected to report back in due course.
- Cllr Bowyer reported from the YLCA meeting that none of the Parish Councils in the Harrogate District were going ahead with becoming Quality Councils and no Clerks were training for the AQA qualification.

6. Village Hall

A letter from the VH Committee was discussed.

Resolved that the Clerk reply and state that the Council supported, in principle, the development of the Village Hall to provide more flexible accommodation for the community and wished the Village Hall Management Committee to commence a period of consultation between all relevant members of the community and to report back the findings to the Parish Council at a later date.

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

· Cllr Billenness had written to the Solicitors to clarify a few outstanding points.

· Cliff Lake said he had been in contact with NYCC, who had come up with completely different thinking. They had produced Model Guidance and two representatives were to attend the April meeting of the Management Committee.

(3) General -

Hot Water system - the Clerk reported a phone conversation with the contractors. Written confirmation of possible ways forward was expected shortly.

Hall floor - the floor was to be stripped and resurfaced during the Easter holidays.

Bookings - the Hall is well used and regular long term bookings do not happen as a rule but the Tockwith Players are constrained to use half term holidays for productions because of the need to erect the stage. The Chairman said that the Parish Council would look at changing the dates of PC Meetings when they fell in half term weeks.

7. Standing Orders/Financial Regulations

The Clerk was asked to provide three hard copies for Cllrs who do not have e mail addresses and sent the whole file by e mail to other Cllrs.

8. Skateboard Facility in Tockwith

The Clerk had written to Pool in Wharfedale PC for information on their project.

Further information was awaited. None of the young people had come back to the Parish Council since the January Meeting.

Standing Orders were suspended.

A resident of Norfolk Gardens complained about skateboarders using the delivery area to the rear of the Costcutter supermarket, thereby causing noise disturbance to residents.

Standing Orders were resumed.

Resolved that the Clerk write to Costcutter, asking if these activities were allowed on their premises.

Cliff Lake said that funding was available from the Countryside Agency for provision of skateboarding facilities. There were, however, many child protection issues to be addressed.

9. Footpath PRD to School

This was to be an agenda item for the April PC Meeting. Cllr Bowyer had been given a file which gave the history of this proposed footpath. He agreed to study this and report back to the Council.

10. Parish Newsletter

It was proposed to publish this following the AGM. It would be delivered to every home in the Parish.

The Residents' Association will be updating their Guide and delivering it to TRA Members in the next month.

11. Allotment rents

It was mentioned that there had not been an increase in the rents for a long time.

It was felt that if the rents were increased by a moderate amount there would be fewer difficulties with tenants not cultivating their plots, as only those who were serious gardeners would be interested in having an allotment. Also, as there is a waiting list, it was more likely that prospective tenants could be accommodated.

Standing Orders were suspended.

A resident, who is an allotment tenant at Church Row, spoke of the access difficulties, the fact that most tenants are pensioners and keep their allotments tidy and the communication between the Council and tenants not being very good.

Standing Orders were resumed.

Resolved that the Clerk write to all allotment tenants to inform them that the Council is considering increasing the rents and asking that representatives be nominated to attend a meeting, at a time and place to be agreed, to discuss the future of the allotments and to communicate the wishes of the tenants. It may be that the tenants would prefer to form an Allotment Association, which would be responsible for collecting the rents, which could then be used to improve the allotments and deal with the problem of rats and pigeons taking the produce.

12. 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.

· Council Tax - The increases were: NYCC - 11.5%, Police - 76.1%, HBC 7.3%, giving a total increase of 16.6%.

Cllrs' salary increase was likely to be 2.8%.

North Yorkshire is still one of the cheapest Shire Counties, 31st out of 34.

Harrogate shortfall is £342,976.00, North Yorkshire's is £14,038,634.00, hence both Councils having to increase their %. NYCC before the shortage of funding was fully analysed would have been 8% increase, then when information started to filter through 9.5% but when the final monies were announced Education and Social Services would have been robbed hence 11.5% which is really not enough to maintain services.

Even with this rise Education has lost some £2,000,000 and Social Services will find it impossible not to overspend in 2003/2004. Its overspend for 2002/2003 is estimated to be £1,600,000, mainly due to children's accommodation on behalf of the courts it can go into 6 figures.

Resolved that the Clerk pass on the good wishes of the Council to the County Cllr. for a speedy return to health.

13. Report by District Councillor

- East House Farm planning application, for demolition of existing buildings, due to be heard at DC Committee on Tuesday next. Cllr Mrs Wardman to attend on behalf of the PC.
- Litter bins/Dog bins - the maps showing where the facilities were required had been passed to Officers at HBC.
- Noise from Go Karts - had been reported as very bad during the weekend of March 1st.
- Kerbside recycling - the concerns had been raised with Noel Scanlon at HBC. There had been complaints across the whole District where the scheme is being trialled. The scheme was being looked at with a view to changing procedures for collection.
- Planning application at Hangar 88 - concerns of the Parish Council and the District Cllr had been made known to the Planning Dept. Conditions, regarding screening and landscaping and hours of operation, were to be attached. The application was recommended for approval subject to conditions.
- Biffa - more complaints of noise and smells had been reported, especially by people at the Business Park.

The District Cllr was thanked for his report.

15. Planning

196, Prince Rupert Drive - erection of single storey rear extension and conversion of garage to form additional living accommodation (revised scheme) - the Council did not object to this application.

Centre Park, Marston Moor Business Park - erection of 1 no industrial building comprising of 4 units and associated parking (use class B1 and B8)

Cllr Kennett declared an interest in this item and took no part in the discussion thereon.

It was reported that the Marston Moor Drainage Board had concerns about this application.

Standing Orders were suspended.

The applicant stated that the surface water disposal from the site was being reviewed.

Standing Orders were resumed.

The Council did not object to this application.

Field View, Oak Road, Cowthorpe - formation of flood banking and change of use of agricultural field to form extension to domestic curtilage.

The Council did not object to this application.

Site of proposed "stone crushing plant" - Resolved that the Clerk ask the Enforcement Officer at HBC to investigate the recent activity at the site.

Unauthorised Shot Blasting business off Rudgate - alleged breach of planning control - the response to HBC to express concerns about the nature of the business without any form of control by the Local Planning Authority, the noise issues, hours of operation, access from Rudgate, which is considered to be dangerous and the yellow lighting which is detrimental to the visual amenity of the area.

Planning decisions and enforcement issues were made known.

14. Correspondence

Additional item 26-41 were made known.

- Closure of Post Office facility in Wetherby - the Clerk to write to the Post Office requesting that extra facilities are made available at Tockwith Post Office e.g. Car Tax payment.
- Rufforth & Knapton PC - to reply and ask to be kept informed about any planning applications for waste recycling facilities.
- NYCC, Kirk Lane sign - there was a sign but it was knocked down and is believed to be in the hedge bottom.
- Countryside Agency - Cllr Billenness to provide the Clerk with the legal Case Law information, following which she would resubmit the Draft Map consultation response.
- Junior Football Club - the Clerk to reply and advise that the Club has been told previously that the Council is pleased to see the resumption of Junior Football facilities, that any commuted sum money should be requested by the Sportsfield Trust as they will

be the tenants of the field in question, that the commuted sum mentioned is the total available to the whole

Parish, and that the Club could apply to the Parish Council for a grant towards their project.

· VH Conference - resolved that the PC will pay the fees for a representative from the VH Management Committee to attend.

· LNCMB - Cllr Bowyer reported on the lack of people willing to be on the management committee. It was essential that more people volunteer as an active committee is needed in order to access grants. Resolved that Cllr Saunders be an additional representative from the Parish Council as well as Cllr Bowyer.

· VH boxing in of pipes - additional quotations to be asked for as the VH Management Committee has only had two replies.

· NYCC re Bus Timetable fixture - the Clerk reported on a phone call when it had been promised that the matter would be looked into.

· HBC - 2002/2003 Assessment of HBC - the Chairman took this to complete and return.

· Phone call from resident of Lucas Road regarding overnight parking in cul-de-sac. The resident had been spoken to by the Police about parking on the footpath but had been assured there was no other problem with parking outside their dwelling. The residents had paid for dropped kerbs to facilitate their access and were aggrieved that unjustified complaints had been made to the PC. Cllrs confirmed they had personally seen vehicles parked overnight.

· Phone call from HBC re Kerbside Recycling - the Clerk had been asked to provide the name of a local resident who would be prepared to be interviewed and photographed for an article in the local press. Mrs Wardman agreed to do this.

16. Accounts

Bank balances

Lloyds Bank Treasurer's a/c (as at 28.02.03) £8,749.30

National Savings Bank (Norfolk) a/c £122.36

National Savings Bank Investment a/c £259.92

Accounts to pay

Salary of Clerk to 31/3/03 £1,109.33

Expenses of Clerk to 19/3/03 £29.31

Total payment to Clerk £1,138.64

Tockwith Village Hall Committee (room hire for PC and Sunday School 2002/2003)
£111.50

YRCC (annual membership) £25.00

SLCC (annual membership) £54.00

Receipts

HBC (grounds maintenance for 2002/2003 182.00

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

17. Date of next Meeting: WEDNESDAY 16th APRIL 2003 immediately following the Annual Parish Meeting to be held at 7.30 pm at a venue to be advised.

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