

TOCKWITH WITH WILSTROP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Council held on Wednesday 21st MAY 2003 in the Village Hall immediately following the Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council

Chairman: Councillor M Kennett

Present: Councillors Mrs Wardman, C Saunders,

W J Bowyer, N Waller, B Alderton, R Lumley.

In attendance: District Cllr Sturdy, Mrs J Bygate (Internal Auditor), Mrs G Firth (Clerk to the Council), two members of 'skateboard group', 1 member of the public.

Apologies for absence - were received from County Cllr Savage and District Cllr Sturdy, who would attend later following an earlier meeting, Cllrs Mrs L and C Billenness, P. Pick.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Police Matters

There was no Police Officer in attendance, no apologies for absence and no report.

There were reported incidents of theft of diesel and theft of a car from Norfolk Gardens.

Cllrs expressed concern that no Police Officer attends meetings or communicates in any way with the Council. Resolved that the Clerk write to the Chief Constable, with copies to The Home Secretary and The Police Authority Chairman, expressing concern at the lack of communication with the Officer detailed to cover this area and noting the increase in both the Police Precept and crime level but a decrease in the presence of a Police Officer and level of service received.

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting and last Ordinary Meeting of the Council

The Minutes having been circulated and taken as read were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman. It was requested by Cllrs that when Minutes contain long reports it would be preferable to 'zip' them to assist with printing.

Matters arising from the Minutes

Landscape Character Assessment Meeting - Cllrs reported back on a successful and interesting meeting. The HBC Officer was interested in receiving information from Parish Councils, which would be used to formulate guidelines to pass on to Forward Planning and Development Control Departments at HBC. The Chairman agreed to formulate a response to be discussed at the next meeting and stated that the Council needs to look at updating and re formatting the Parish Plan.

YLCA meeting - Cllrs reported back on attendance. The main topic had been Quality Councils, notes about which to be included in next month's corries circulation file. Other areas of concern were Police Activity, or lack of it, in the rural areas and the demise of local public houses.

7. Skateboard Facility in Tockwith

Resolved that this item be taken earlier on the agenda, as two young people were present.

The Chairman gave a resume to date, affirming that the Parish Council supports the principle of the proposals subject to them fulfilling all the necessary criteria but the Council will not be able to pay for such a facility. It was suggested, as previously, that a project group should be formed and

this group to include interested parents as well as youngsters. Three possible sites had been mentioned but a proper scheme would need to be worked up before proposals could go further.

Standing Orders were suspended.

The young people provided sketch plans of the type of ramps they would like to see in place.

There was no specific funding in place at present.

It was mentioned that the schemes at Green Hammerton and Pool in Wharfedale had both cost in the region of £25,000.

Businesses on the Business Park and the owner of the airfield land had expressed interest in becoming involved but they would need to see the plans proposed and have assurances that the facility was open to all.

Two parents were involved so far and organisation should be put in place to investigate funding sources, discuss the size of area proposed and possible rent thereof, look into insurance, hours of operation, policing of the site, definite commitments of support from businesses and rules for running the site (a gate with a key may be needed).

Standing Orders were resumed.

Resolved that Cllr Alderton talk to S. Moore about using land on the airfield, the Clerk investigate possible funding sources and an item be put on the web site asking for offers of help.

A suggestion was made that the youngsters could be paid to deliver the Parish Newsletter and thereby earn some money to kick start their campaign.

Mrs Bygate reported an incident with youths using a ramp attached to the boundary wall of her property for skateboarding. When questioned the youths had said the Council was going to provide a skateboard park and it was therefore the Council's fault if youths continued to use whatever site they could find for their activity. (Obviously a mistake and misunderstanding on their part).

Village Hall

The Clerk reported a telephone conversation with Mr Peach, who had said there was no problem with the Solicitor's Office being the Registered Office of the Company and bearing the brass plaque. A further plaque would be needed at the Village Hall and both plaques could be purchased for under £100. The cost of using the Solicitors Office as the Company Office would be in the region of £100 + VAT per annum.

A Cllr commented that the Village Hall item on the Agenda took up too much time and management details should be left to the Management Committee. The Chairman explained that, at the moment, arrangements are ongoing to finalise the Management Company Formation and the organisation of the Lease. Once these negotiations are complete there should not be the same need to take up so much time discussing Village Hall issues.

Chair storage - comments had been received about the dangers and potential harm at the way the chairs are stored on trolleys. The chairs are stacked too high, wedged in places and unable to be removed easily for use. Resolved that the Clerk write to the Village Hall Management Committee about the problem.

Boxing in of pipework had been arranged and should be completed shortly. The Clerk had applied to NYCC Member Budget allocations for a grant towards this item.

Hot water heating - the Clerk was asked to write to several plumbers to obtain quotes now it is known what is wanted.

Urgent roof repair - was in hand with the contractor.

Standing Orders/Financial Regulations

It was suggested that a working group be formed to discuss this item, prepare a draft and report back to a future meeting of the Council.

The group to comprise Cllrs Kennett, Billenness, Mrs Billenness, Saunders and Bowyer with Mrs Bygate and Mrs Firth in attendance also. The meeting to be held at Mrs Bygate's on Wednesday 11th June at 7.30pm.

Field off Tockwith Lane

The Chairman said he would like to see the land in community use, perhaps as open access woodland or a venue for Scout camps. The Council has a remit to enhance the community.

Cllrs suggested the field could be kept, grassed and mowed, and used as a running track, around the edge of the field, to provide a safe facility for runners not wanting to use the heavily trafficked country lanes. The central area could be used as public open space for kite flying or picnicking.

Any proposals would have to be made known to the owners of Millfield Farm, whose access passed along the side of the field.

The Clerk was asked to establish where the boundary of the Council owned land is and then the Chairman agreed to speak to Mr Burrell.

As Cllr Pick cuts the grass and maintains the field on the Council's behalf he will be able to advise on what measures would be needed.

Westfield Green and Public Open Space

Cllr Bowyer reported he had been approached by residents in the cul-de-sac on Prince Rupert Drive who had received notification that the owner of 21, Westfield Green was applying for planning permission to make the land, at present the ransom strip at the head of the cul-de-sac, into his garden. There are believed to be services in the ransom strip and part of the hedge which would be removed is in the joint ownership of the Parish Council and the residents of Westfield Green/Prince Rupert Drive.

The District Cllr confirmed an invalid application had been received by HBC and it was believed the applicants would be reapplying shortly.

The Clerk reported a telephone conversation with HBC Estates Dept. who had said a planning application would be required for change of use of the land in question, the Highway Authority would know if the land was dedicated as Highway, the Utility services may be consulted about any planning application and the Parish Council could make it's feeling known in the response to the planning application notified to it.

Resolved that the response to any planning application would be objections on the grounds of being part of dedicated Highway land, removal of the hedge could not take place without the consent of the Parish Council who own half of it, the Parish Council has an interest in creating a footpath from the older part of Tockwith village to the newer residential Estate via the Public Open Space and on visual amenity grounds that the loss of a venerable hedge would be terrible

and a fence would not enhance the amenity for houses in the cul-de-sac.

Lucas Road caravan

It had been reported that a caravan was parked in Lucas Road, in a driveway, but the tow bar stuck out into the footpath and was considered dangerous. The Clerk had requested the number of the house involved but on investigation it appeared the caravan has now been removed.

Report by County Councillor

The Cllr had sent a written report for the AGM, which the Clerk made known. The many e mails would be copied and placed in the circulation file for Cllrs to read.

Topics covered included: Tockwith School, Member Budget allocations, planning application on the airfield - the 'stone crushing plant', Cattal Bridge - traffic lights and weight limit restrictions, 'Biffa' site on Marston Moor Business Park, Safety scheme for B1224, Rate Precept Increase and resulting lack of funding for services, Cabinet Member posts and Committee places - the Northallerton Adoption & Fostering Panel, Breakaway APC Harrogate, Harrogate Transport Forum, Harrogate Environmental Forum, Harrogate Community Health Council, Director of Harrogate Theatre, Interact, The Harrogate Area Committee, Planning & Regulatory Committee, Best Value Committee for Care & various other Cross Party Committees, North Yorkshire Valuation Tribunal.

Report by District Councillor

Blind Lane planning application, due to be delegated to Area 2 Chairman for decision on 3/6/03 - Cllr Sturdy was asked to speak to the Chairman and reinforce the Parish Council's comments.

Oak Tree House, Cowthorpe, planning application may also be delegated to Chairman of Area 2 for decision.

42, Westfield Road planning application due to be heard at DC Committee meeting, recommendation is for refusal on grounds of amenity and design.

East House Farm planning matters, Planning Officer believed to be in discussion with developers.

Airfield noise - problems had occurred over the last 3 weeks and especially last night. This was the last month of monitoring before a report back from Environmental Health Officers. Unfortunately there has not been recording done on the evenings and days when the problem was at its' worst. Cllr Sturdy will report back after the end of June.

Letter of complaint from Blind Lane residents regarding parked cars on Blind Lane. This would be looked into and reported back on.

Changes at HBC - there is no overall control but the Conservatives are the largest Party and will provide the Administration, with the result that the Leader, Cabinet and Committee Chairmanships have all changed. Area 2 Chairman and Vice-Chairman are now Cllr John Smith (Knaresborough) and Cllr M Bean. Cllr Sturdy has been appointed as the Cabinet Member for Public Works and sits on the General Purposes Committee and Area 2 DC Committee. Because of these appointments Cllr Sturdy said he may be late for Parish Council meetings in the future if he had prior meetings at HBC.

Cllr Bowyer reported that the buildings, which had appeared on the airfield, had now been painted green and brown. There were also motor bikes using the airfield on weekends.

The Chairman asked about the role of the Cabinet Member for Public Works.

The answer was basically to be involved in the redistribution of money, received from car parking charges, for works in the Agency Area of Harrogate & Knaresborough.

The District Cllr was thanked for his report.

Correspondence

Items 34 to 72 were made known to Cllrs.

Royal Mail - the Clerk to write to DVLA re Tockwith Post Office being a designated Office for Car Tax services, offering support to the Postmistress and owner of the Post Office/Store if such a service could be provided.

Allotments, Church Row - the Clerk to follow up discussion with the Estates Dept at HBC in order to discover the correct access and Rights of Way issues.

Additional items for the newsletter - fireworks, car safety, dog fouling. The Chairman was delegated authority to liaise with Cllr Billenness about the revisions and authorise publication of the newsletter.

Blind Lane - letter from residents - the Clerk to contact the Footpaths Officer of NYCC at Fulford to advise and suggest ways of resolving the problem.

Invitation from Tomlinsons for Clerk and Chairman to attend evening Reception 12/6.

SLCC events - the Clerk was told that her travelling expenses would be paid by the Council if she chose to attend Training seminars.

Spring bulbs - resolved that the Clerk write again to the Probation Service, thanking them for their work which resulted in a wonderful display.

Planning

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

No objections to this application.

214, prince Rupert Drive, Tockwith - erection of single storey rear extension.

No objections to this application.

Planning decisions were made known.

Approved with conditions: Refused

Land at Centre Park, Marston Moor Business Park East House Farm, Tockwith

Accounts

Bank balances

Lloyds Bank Treasurer's a/c (as at 30.04.03) 10,622.73

National Savings Bank (Norfolk) a/c 152.02

National Savings Bank Investment a/c 358.28

Accounts to pay

R Farrer (POS & Burial ground maintenance) 332.50

MMIDB (drainage rate fro field off Tockwith Lane) 9.65

PWLB notification of D/D on 1/5 1859.41

Receipts

VAT reclaim (2002/2003) 3724.33

HBC Precept 1 7500.00

HBC grounds maintenance grant 731.00

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

As the time is due for the grass verges to be cut, it was resolved that the Clerk write to RMS asking that they be responsible for the verges along Wetherby Lane up to Cowthorpe village.

The verges have been disturbed and many signs erected , which are now obscured by the overgrown verges. It would be more difficult for the Council's contractor to do the usual work without damaging the signs or his machinery. Also some of the signs are danger signs as presumably Utility Services have been installed within the grass verges along much of Wetherby Lane. If RMS will not do the verge cutting they are asked to make a contribution to work which will take longer than normal because of their major road building project.

Date of next Meeting: WEDNESDAY 18th JUNE 2003 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.