

TOCKWITH WITH WILSTROP PARISH COUNCIL

Note of Resolutions Passed at October 2003 Meeting, held on Wednesday 15th October 2003 at Tockwith Village Hall

Minutes of a meeting of the Council held on Wednesday 19th NOVEMBER 2003 at Green Ridge, Tockwith Lane, Cowthorpe at 7.30pm

Chairman: Councillor M Kennett

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

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), 1 member of the public.

1. Apologies for absence - there were none, but the Chairman had advised that he would arrive late.

The Vice-Chairman, Cllr Billenness took the Chair and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Police Matters

There was no Police Officer in attendance. Alistair Waind has replaced Inspector Barker.

· Reports of the escalation of trouble around The Green and an incident when a resident attacked a youth with a baseball bat gave rise to concern.

· A report was received of trouble caused by youths, some on scooters, using Southfield Lane as a race track, without protective helmets and some armed with huge fireworks, two nights before November 5th. Local youths had approached Cllr Pick to inform him and express concern that youths from Rufforth were causing a nuisance but local young people were getting the blame.

· A report was received that two Community Support Officers had visited Tockwith on a Saturday afternoon but the benefit to be gained at this time was questioned.

· The TRA had circulated the village with notices warning of Hanoi style burglaries and warnings to residents to keep car keys secure and not in plain view. Every one of these notices had been torn down and destroyed.

Resolved that the Clerk write to the Police, following the observations above, and ask that a Police Officer visit the village, whenever operational duties allow, to patrol at the bottom of PRD, along Southfield Lane and at the Village Hall at closing time of the Youth Club on Tuesday and Friday nights.

Following an incident when a youth had ridden a scooter straight down Kirk Lane across the road and into the Village Hall the Traffic Police were to be asked to visit and keep a watching brief to try and prevent a repeat of this incident.

It was considered to be very important for the young people of Tockwith and the Parish to have a Youth Club, which must be protected and the actions of youths from neighbouring areas should not be allowed to put the facility at risk of closing.

Resolved that the Community Education Tutor, the Youth Club Leader and two members of the Youth Club Management Group (Tynwald) be invited to a future meeting of the Council so that the issues could be discussed.

3. Minutes of the last Meeting

The Minutes having been circulated and taken as read were amended to correct the spelling of Cllr Alderton's name and then agreed as a true record and signed by the Vice-Chairman.

4. Matters arising from the Minutes

- Cllr Alderton agreed to keep a watching brief on the allotments so that the Council is kept informed of allotments not being gardened properly in order that other people from the waiting list can be given the opportunity to become tenants. The Clerk to provide Cllr Alderton with a plan of the allotments.
- Tockwith Community Fields - the name had been agreed to by the Sportsfield Trust following the recent very successful fund raising event.
- Flytipping on Southfield Lane - continues to be a problem. A lorry load of tree/hedge cuttings along with paint cans, wood and children's toys has been tipped in the passing place opposite the commercial buildings past the School on Southfield Lane.

5. Village Hall

Lease and Management Company Formation - Cllr Billenness and Mr Lake hoped to arrange a meeting to finalise matters in the next two weeks.

General -

- Roof repairs as requested, at the bottom of the NE corner of the main roof, had not been completed. The Clerk was asked to follow this up with the contractor.
- Insurance - the Clerk was asked to send an invoice to the VHMC for reimbursement of the Insurance paid in June.
- The VHMC expressed concern about the locked gate to the rear of the VH. The Chairman explained that the concern was noted but the matter had been resolved satisfactorily at a previous meeting and therefore could not be altered within 6 months. However

arrangements have been put in place so that a key for the padlock is available.

Once the Lease is signed and operative the VHMC will have overall responsibility for the day to day running of the VH.

Standing Orders were suspended.

Mrs Bygate agreed to liaise with the roofing contractor if needed to expedite the roof repairs.

Standing Orders were resumed.

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, and nothing had been heard of them for several months. It was reported that one of the adults who had been expected to be involved in the project was ill and others had work commitments which precluded their involvement so it was decided that this item no longer be included in the "standing agenda" for every Council meeting.

The young people were to be advised to consult with the Sportsfield Trust if they wished to pursue the project.

Cllr Kennett took over as Chairman. Cllr Billenness was thanked for deputising in his absence.

7. Marston Road Play Area - maintenance/general

Cllr Mrs Wardman reported that Mr Dodsworth had fitted the required links to the swings and gates as specified in the annual inspection report. He mentioned that the bushes on the swing chains appeared to be wearing through and would need replacing soon, although not mentioned in the Annual Report. He also believed it to be good practice to use ROSPA for the Annual Report even though they are quite a lot more expensive.

Resolved that Playdale be approached for (i) a quotation to replace the bushes, (ii) confirmation of the expected life of these bushes, (iii) if they are guaranteed and if so for how long.

8. Christmas Trees/Lights

Following discussion it was resolved that authority be given to Cllrs Billenness to purchase up to 6 light bulbs for Cowthorpe and Cllr Pick to purchase additional lights for Tockwith at a maximum cost of £70.

A working party of Cllrs Saunders, Bowyer, Pick, Kennett and Lumley agreed to meet to erect the Tockwith lights on the morning of 6th December.

The VHMC Christmas Fair was to be held on the 6th December from 1pm to 4.30pm, the TRA fund-raiser at The Boot and Shoe on 10th December, and the Cowthorpe Candlelit Carol Service to be held on 23rd December.

9. Ambulance Service

There is concern at the time it would take for the emergency services to reach the outlying rural parts of the district. The Ambulance Service is trying to get a nucleus of people throughout the rural areas to train in order to provide interim care which may save a life.

Parish Councils and Residents' Associations are encouraged to get involved and the Ambulance Service is prepared to send Trainers to a Council Meeting.

After a full debate it was agreed that the Council would publish details on the web site so that as many people as possible are informed, as it must be up to the individual if they wish to become involved and the TRA agreed to invite the Ambulance Service to attend and speak at their AGM in January so that more people could be informed of what is involved.

If sufficient volunteers come forward the Ambulance Service can be contacted to let them know.

10. Report by County Councillor

- The Cllr supported the application to the Rural Road Safety Scheme for 20 m.p.h. limits past the School.
- There had been complaints by objectors to the proposed footpath from PRD to the School
- Skewkirk Bridge, the matter is ongoing but the latest NYCC Area Committee Minutes appear more hopeful than for many years.
- 'Concrete crushing plant' application, this will be more difficult to oppose successfully than last time. The works are all to be enclosed within a large building. NYCC Planners are recommending approval. The applicant has appointed Consultants and Solicitors.
- Signs to Marston Moor Business Park are being chased up with Officers from NYCC

The County Cllr was thanked for his report.

11. Report by District Councillor

- Noise from the airfield - the Environmental Health Officer is preparing to serve a Noise Abatement Notice on the side of the runway where fast cars and rally cars operate alongside the residential estate.
- Encore Direct - problems with a buzzing noise at night had resulted in visits by the EHO who had advised that a compressor be fitted with baffles to attenuate the noise. Light pollution at the site was to be followed up by the Cllr.
- East House Farm planning application - under discussion for two units with the new owners
- Kerbside Recycling, problems with not getting the same box back - residents advised to paint the house number/name on the boxes and efforts to return the same box would be made. Broken glass, other than bottles, will not be taken away.
- The District Cllr will support the Rural Safety Scheme application.
- The Cllr would look favourably at helping with funding for the footpath.

The District Cllr was thanked for his report.

5. Village Hall

This item was returned to as the VHMC Chairman arrived and wished to address the Council.

- The user groups had expressed a wish for the padlock and chain to be removed. The Chairman explained the position as previously recorded in these Minutes.
- The Chairman had received a letter from the Youth Club Leader regarding the incident book. This had been dealt with amicably according to the VHMC Chairman.

· The VHMC are holding a Christmas Fair on Saturday 6th December from 1pm to 4.30pm in the Village Hall. A request was made for assistance with donations of mince pies, biscuits, tombola and raffle prizes; second hand toys; help on the day between 10am and 11am to set up tables and chairs; help on the day between 4.30pm and 5 pm to clear up; help for a couple of hours serving refreshments - to contribute to this major fund raising event.

As the Christmas lights are to be erected in the morning it was resolved that Cllrs may wish to go on to the VH and assist with setting up from 11 am onwards. It must be up to individuals to provide raffle prizes but the PC would pay £10 to sponsor a stall.

The VHMC Chairman raised other issues:-

(i) refurbishment of/provision of disabled toilets - the Council was asked to defer the development of the toilets as more time would be required to raise the necessary finance. The DDA were to be approached and the position received in written form before definite decisions can be confirmed

(ii) Refurbishment Plans/Regeneration Report from Cliff Lake - pump priming funding was taking place within the village but Fund Raising by accessing external grants would start in April 2005

(iii) Decorating of the Hall would be completed in November/December 2003.

(iv) The new Treasurer of the VHMC is John Back. He will provide a cheque for reimbursement of the Building Insurance.

12. Correspondence

Items 38 to 50 were made known to Cllrs.

· Evans Easyspace - to reply and support the expansion of a successful local business and request consideration be given to making a grant to the PC for local projects.

· HBC Performance Assessment - to be completed by the Clerk. Cllr C Billenness signed the Interest Book and took no part in the discussion on this item.

· Land off Tockwith Lane -

(i) drain/ditch near the top of the field, adjacent to Mr Burnell's boundary requires

clearing because it does not run freely.

(ii) ideas are required on how to further the project to provide a running track/picnic area

Cllr Pick agreed to clear the ditch and liaise with Mr Burnell and Mr Coggrave about requirements. He also agreed to be involved in planning for the future use of the larger field and said he would provide ideas for the January meeting.

· Westfield green POS

Planning permission has been refused for the area between 89-91 PRD to become extended curtilage. Having spoken to the landowner, the Chairman reported that there would be no problem if the PC wished to purchase the land in question. If the Council purchase the land it will proscribe any future similar application and there would be no obstacle to a proposed footpath link between PRD and the rest of the village.

The Chairman was asked to go back to the landowner to ask the price of the land.

· Glebe land at Cowthorpe

It was reported that the Ripon Diocese is prepared to sell the land to the Parish Council for an amenity area for the villagers of Cowthorpe.

Resolved that Cllr Billenness proceed with negotiations on the basis of a cost of £500.00.

· Village Road Safety Schemes: - two suggestions were put forward

(i) a 20 mph limit past the School

(ii) part funding of a footpath from PRD to the School

Cllr Waller produced a report on the case for a 20mph limit past the School. Both County and District Cllrs were asked for their support once an application was submitted.

The Sportsfield Trust was to be asked by Cllr Billenness to request that their members park along Southfield Lane and not on Kirk Lane/Tockwith Lane.

After much debate it was resolved that the Council submit an application, prepared by Cllr Waller in detail, for a 20 mph limit to be introduced past the School and agree to contribute £500 to the scheme.

The Clerk was asked to write to NYCC and support the provision of a footpath but say that, as only limited resources are available, no money can be provided.

13. Planning

Land comprising OS Field Nos 6731, 7135 Warfield Lane, Cowthorpe - Felling of 1 no Sycamore Tree, T4 and felling of various Sycamores and Ash Trees within Area A1 of Tree Preservation Order 20/1993

The Council supports this application as it involves the planting of new Trees which will be better specimens than the venerable ones to be felled.

Pengarth Cottage, Tockwith Lane, Cowthorpe - erection of side conservatory, roof extension including increase in roof height, increase chimney height and formation of pitched roof over existing front porch (amended scheme)

The Council did not object to this application as all previous concerns had been addressed.

42, Westfield Road, Tockwith - demolition of existing bungalow and erection of 1 no dwelling with double garage and detached garden store and greenhouse, site area 0.14 ha (revised scheme)

The Council objected to this application on the following grounds: (1) The proposed dwelling, due to its size and siting, would have a detrimental impact on the living conditions of neighbouring properties by creating an overbearing impact; (2) Due to the siting, size, mass and form, the proposed building would have an adverse impact on the character of the streetscene and appearance of the locality, which lies within Tockwith Conservation Area. The proposal to build such a large house would also appear incongruous in the streetscene, replacing, as it would, a modest bungalow.

42, Westfield Road, Tockwith - Conservation Area Consent application for the demolition of the front, rear and north-west side external walls to existing bungalow (resubmission)

The Council objected to this application on the following grounds: (1) The proposal would result in the loss of an existing bungalow which is considered to contribute to the character of this part of Tockwith Conservation Area (2) The proposal to replace a modest bungalow with a large house in this prominent location would be out of keeping and therefore detrimental to the Conservation Area.

Tockwith CE Primary School, Southfield Lane, Tockwith - proposed construction of a car park extension

The Council had no objections to this application.

26, Kendal Gardens, Tockwith - erection of first floor extension and conversion of garage to form additional living accommodation.

The Parish Council did not object but wished to make comments on this application:

"The Council would ask that note is taken of the fact that an agricultural access abuts this property and this must remain accessible at all times. This is particularly important as the proposal is for the garage to become additional living accommodation and therefore vehicles belonging to or visiting this property will have to park elsewhere."

Land to the South of Tockwith Business Park, Marston Moor Airfield, Rudgate, Tockwith - construction of a waste recycling centre specifically for materials associated with civil engineering

The Parish Council objected strongly to this resubmitted application. The response was ratified by Council and is attached as Appendix 1 at the rear of these Minutes.

· The minibus has been ordered for 2nd December, when the application is due to be heard at County Hall, Northallerton, to leave at 9am as the meeting starts at 10.30am. The Council will pay the hire cost of the minibus. (£50) The Chairman will attend and speak, if he is able, but Cllr Bowyer is definitely attending along with Cllr Saunders, who will be attending as Chairman of the TRA.

· The County and District Cllrs have had a meeting with Mrs Perkin, the Planning Officer, who will be recommending approval of the application. She considers that the issues of noise and dust, as reasons for refusal of the original application, have been addressed in this latest application.

· There were 236 letters of objection to the last application but only 26, so far, to this one.

The Clerk was asked to provide the response letter so that it could be put on the web site and be seen by more people.

· The TRA will be represented at the meeting by Mr Torrible, a Planning Consultant. The TRA has already informed the local media, including Stray FM, The Yorkshire Evening Press and BBC Look North, of the efforts to have the application refused, as well as a leaflet drop around the village and a petition in the Costcutter Store. There will be a fund-raising 80's Disco in the School on 29th November to raise funds for the campaign.

New CC/VH at land off Southfield Lane/Tockwith Lane - the previous application had run out and it was determined to apply again so as to leave all options open for future projects.

An Outline application was to be made with the same access as before. The District Cllr agreed to provide the Clerk with up to date planning application packs so that the matter could be progressed.

Land at Cowthorpe - the Clerk presented to Council a drawing, produced on behalf of Mr D Newis, giving ideas of what a future development might look like.

· The Council could not make any decision as there was no actual application to be discussed but general comment on the principle of development was made. The site is long overdue for tidying up and conversion and rebuild of existing built form is good practice.

· It was suggested that an Environmental Impact Assessment should accompany any planning application because of past uses of the land.

· An element of smaller village housing would be favoured.

· HBC had previously said the Parish Rooms should be retained as a "Village Amenity/Facility". This would have to be addressed by any planning application.

· HBC had also said the site should be an employment generating site because it had housed a business previously so this objection would need to be overcome as well in any application for residential development.

The Chairman and the Cowthorpe Cllrs agreed to meet with Mr Newis to pass on the comments of the Council.

Planning decisions and enforcement issues were made known.

14. Accounts

Bank balances

Lloyds TSB Treasurer's a/c (as at 30.10.03) 18,213.32

Accounts to pay/ratify

P A Hackforth (Cowthorpe sign repair) 76.52

J Lewis Roofing 85.00

Wicksteed leisure 18.80

Steelway Fensecure 25.26

Mr Dodsworth 76.37

Mrs Firth (salary/expenses of Clerk) 719.80

Viking Direct 97.51

It was resolved that the Bank balances be accepted, and the accounts be paid/ratified as above.

The Clerk had prepared a draft budget for the next financial year, suggesting a Precept of £15,000 be requested, the same as for the current year.

After debate it was resolved that the Council submit a Precept request of £15,000 for the 2004/2005 financial year.

It was noted that information from Zurich concerning Terrorism Insurance did not apply to a small Council like Tockwith with Wilstrop.

Date of next Meeting: WEDNESDAY 21st JANUARY 2004 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.

Cllr Billenness raised the issue of public speaking at Council Meetings and proposed that a period of three minutes be allowed at the start of each meeting for Public Questions/Statements. A similar procedure is carried out at NYCC Committee meetings.

It was resolved that the Parish Council adopt this procedure for a trial period .

Thanks were expressed to the Clerk and her husband for their hospitality and, as there was no further business to transact, the Chairman declared the meeting closed.