

## TOCKWITH WITH WILSTROP PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of a meeting of the Council held on Wednesday 17th MARCH 2004 at the Village Hall at 7.30pm

Chairman: Councillor M Kennett

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

In attendance: County Cllr Savage, District Cllr Sturdy, PC Haydon, Mr R Linfoot (District Community Tutor), Mr S Goodrick (Youth Club Leader), two Members of the YC Tynwald, Mrs J Bygate (Internal Auditor), Mrs G Firth (Clerk to the Council), Mrs F Steed (VH Management Committee), 5 members of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence** - were received from Inspector Waind and Cllr Mrs L Billenness. Cllr C Billenness had advised that he would be late.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

#### 2. **Police Matters**

PC Haydon was present.

He reported that the major concern locally was the theft of cars from driveways, especially in Westfield Green and PRD. Cars were also being broken into and handbags, credit cards and other valuables were being stolen.

PC Haydon reported that two travelling teams of criminals from York and Barnsley had been operating in the area.

As most crime was opportunist, residents were encouraged to keep valuables, especially car keys, hidden from plain sight.

- The ring round system had reported the problem of intimidatory cold-calling at Cattal.
- Further instances of fly tipping along Southfield Lane were reported. A vehicle had been seen and the type and registration number were passed to PC Haydon.
- A resident who had seen a crime in progress had not been able to contact the Police. Residents were advised to call 999 in such cases.
- A resident had written to Inspector Waind but had not had a reply.

PC Haydon was thanked for attending.

#### 3. **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.

#### 4. **Matters arising from the Minutes**

- Cllr Bowyer reported back from the consultation meeting with RMG about the A1 Upgrade. There had been a poor attendance at the meeting, only Wetherby and Tockwith Councils were represented by 3 Cllrs. Some useful and interesting information was learned. The A1 would be closed completely on 17th April to allow the erection of the main bridge at Wetherby. If unsuccessful an alternative date would be chosen. Diversions would be signposted.

#### 5. **Public Questions and Statements**

Standing Orders were suspended.

- A resident asked why members of the public were restricted to three minutes for speaking. The Council had adopted a trial scheme of allowing Public Questions and Statements, subject to no speech lasting longer than 3 minutes. This was similar to the scheme operated by the Borough and County Councils.
- Concern was expressed that members of the public attending Council meetings could not hear

what was being said and some system of amplification should be employed. Cllrs were asked to speak loudly and clearly to allow the public to hear the debates. Standing Orders were resumed. The Chairman stated that the Council should consider providing a system of amplification, under the responsibilities attached to the Disability Discrimination Act.

## **6. Proposed Operation of a Special Waste Transfer Station within an existing building, associated access, parking and vehicle manoeuvring, Unit 87, Marston Moor Business Park**

Cllr Saunders, in his role as Chairman of the Residents' Association, gave a resume of the joint meeting of the Association and the Council Working Group. The TRA had retained the services of Elizabeth Simmonds who had been invited, as an expert in the field of Waste Management. Concern was expressed on the following grounds:

- Not enough information was supplied with the Environmental Statement accompanying the application
- information supplied was not totally accurate
- there was no knowledge of the Operating Licence for the current business operation
- no independent assessment of the Environmental Statement/impact was available
- no Emergency Plan was included

A letter had been sent to NYCC requesting more information on which to base an informed response.

The Clerk had written an interim letter of objection, also requesting an extension to the time allowed for responses.

The Clerk was asked to write to the Chief Fire Officer, asking if he had been consulted and wished to comment on the application.

The County Cllr provided a letter from the Planning Officer, which included the response from the applicant with respect to the Parish Council's letter.

The Environment Agency had consulted the County Council on receipt of an application for a permit under the Pollution Prevention and Control regulations 2000.

Resolved that the Clerk write to NYCC again, answering the points in the applicant's letter and saying that: - No Emergency Plan appeared to have been provided in case of accidents; the chemicals to be recycled were believed to be very toxic and the prevailing winds would mean any fumes or smells would be carried to the PRD Estate; other tenants on the Business Park were considering relocating if the application went ahead; traffic implications must be addressed by the Highway Authority, both now and in the future if the application is permitted and the business allowed to increase by 50% year on year over 5 years; and asking for a copy of the Pollution Prevention and Control information.

The Clerk was asked to write and invite BCB Environmental Management Ltd., to attend the April Parish Meeting to present their case, provide a display and be prepared to answer questions about the application.

Resolved that the Parish Council will consider a contribution towards the consultant's fees once they are known. Cllr Saunders declared an Interest and did not vote.

The TRA would be circulating the village and the Business Park with leaflets advising of the application.

Resolved that the Chairman be delegated authority to give the Council's comments forcefully if approached by the Press.

## **7. Village Hall**

General -

- Cllr Bowyer reported that some residents had expressed concern because they believed the Council had handed control over to a Company.

Standing Orders were suspended. Mrs Steed gave a report.

- A second hand kitchen was due to be installed at a cost of £2,000 to £2,500. PC approval was asked for and a contribution towards the costs.

- The problems of damage and vandalism continued to give rise to concern. The new doors are secure when locked but they were being left open to allow unauthorised access to the rear of the

premises. Neighbours are suffering as well, with missiles thrown and damage to plants and greenhouse reported. Skateboarders are using the rear of the VH and neighbours' walls to practice.

- The VHMC is applying to Business in the Community for an audit to be done to see what is required under the DDA. The provision of a hearing system will be looked at.

Youth Club Activities

- The VHMC are supportive of the Youth Club and want it to continue but the problem is trying to ensure the VH and neighbours' buildings do not suffer twice a week. The costs of constant repairs are prohibitive and cannot be claimed from Insurance because of the constant minor incidents (the trickle effect) and the excesses on the Policy. The Youth Club Leader has arranged some repairs but really needs assistance on YC nights as he cannot be everywhere at once.

- The Chairman stated that NYCC, in the purchase Deeds of the VH, had indemnified the PC against the YC causing problems and damage. Everyone wants the problems stopped but finding the perpetrators is difficult.

A meeting had been held last week when various options had been discussed.

- Installation of CCTV is considered a good way of finding out who the culprits are.

- Secure fencing is required at the rear of the premises.

The Youth Club is looking into providing funds for CCTV and the VHMC looking into providing a secure fence at the rear.

Mr Linfoot, Mr Goodrick and the two YC representatives were welcomed to the meeting.

The Parish Council supports the Youth Club but is concerned about continued vandalism and problems.

Mr Goodrick spoke of the difficulty in keeping numbers up, as everyone associates YC members with trouble/problems and stays away.

There has been no resolution to the problems affecting neighbouring properties.

The Youth Parliament is a democratic decider of Policy and not a mechanism of policing members.

The adults in the community should attempt to identify the trouble-causers.

There are three Leaders at Tockwith YC and, in spite of adverts costing over £300 in the local press, there have been no applicants for posts as additional helpers.

Mr Goodrick has a 74 mile round trip to attend and the other two Leaders live in Boroughbridge and Wetherby. Concern is expressed that helpers will leave because of ongoing problems and reputation of the Youth Club.

Mr Linfoot confirmed that, if problems were proven to have been caused by YC, then NYCC would rectify and pay for repairs. The problems are endemic in today's society and not always attributable to YC. Matters had improved since a meeting had been held between all user groups of the VH, when relationships between users had been addressed.

He outlined the way Knaresborough Community Centre had addressed the problems they had been having, involving providing an IT centre and involvement of the Community Constable.

Michelle Lee, the resident of School House, spoke of her problems on YC nights.

Although she supported the YC and was aware when she bought her house that VH use would impinge on her amenity, the problems had got worse in the last year or so. She had spoken with the YC Leader but the young peoples' behaviour was not acceptable. The YC should have rules and boundaries.

The Chairman stated that anything which happens within YC hours of operation, within the land and buildings of the VH, is attributable to YC. The Council will do all it can to provide a decent YC for local young people. The Police would be asked again to send an Officer to patrol on YC nights, especially at closing time.

- It was reported that local children had voted with their feet and stayed away from YC because "there is no discipline and nothing to do".

- It was reported that there was a disruptive element of "outsiders" attending YC.

· Trouble had been caused recently by youths on mopeds, without helmets or lights, riding along the main street and into the VH.

Cllrs suggested that if more supervisors were needed, perhaps the Youth Service could "blitz" the YC for a short time, which would encourage the majority and be better able to pinpoint trouble-makers.

Mr Linfoot said the Youth Service struggles to keep going with the numbers of Leaders it has, as people are not interested and "are leaving in droves". Although he wanted to help, the problems are those of modern society. Current Leaders are committed but not willing to work additional hours, as they "need a home life".

The VHMC Chairman said each user has to clear away, leaving an empty Hall. Extra facilities, especially storage, are urgently needed. The Regeneration Plan contains proposals to extend the building and a possible way forward would be to provide the YC with their own space.

The PC Chairman said it was important to get the information to parents that there are problems at YC, which are being addressed, but that the Police are likely to be called if problems persist.

· A letter could be posted to all YC Members' homes, rather than sending it home with the young people.

· CCTV for both front and rear of the VH should be investigated.

· The Police should be asked to visit whenever they can.

· Proposals should be worked up and then Community Education will look at and try and provide funds.

Cllr Billenness agreed to work up proposals, for what cameras are needed, with Nick Ridsdale, the Leader of the Youth Parliament. This was to be done as quickly as possible and proposals brought to the April meeting.

Lease and Federated Charity (Management Company) Formation -

The Clerk had liaised between Mr Peach, Cllr Billenness and Mr Lake, who had now provided a draft copy of the Lease which better suited the VHMC. The Clerk was asked to send this to the Council's Solicitor for comment.

## **9. Report by County Councillor**

· Tadcaster School bus route - the best compromise solution was being pursued.

· Skewkirk Bridge - the County Cllr had had to declare an interest and leave the Area Committee meeting. He had now been reported to the Standards Committee. The County Council had resolved to pursue the rebuilding of the bridge.

· Railway parking - NYCC was investigating the purchase of land near Cattal Station, nothing could be done at Kirk Hammerton and the Station at Long Marston was not likely to be reopened as there were proposals for a rail halt at Flaxby with 200 parking spaces.

· King James's School, Knaresborough - home to school transport - had the worst record for problems on school buses with bullying and damage occurring, such that pupils were afraid to board the buses.

Resolved that the Clerk report, to this week's KJS Governors' meeting, the PC's concerns and ask the School to write to parents explaining the problems and asking for parental co-operation in resolving them.

· A new computer virus was circulating, a warning was given not to open any unusual/strange e mails.

The Cllr was thanked for his report and for collecting the bus timetable fixture from Northallerton.

## **10. Report by District Councillor**

· Special Waste Transfer Station - HBC had been consulted and the Planning Officer had expressed concern at the lack of information with the application. The Cllr was asked to request that the HBC Officer write to NYCC to lodge a written objection about the concerns.

· Planning Enforcement - the Lead Officer, Mr Alistair Wood, is leaving the Authority to take up another post in the private sector.

· Member Budget grant - £400 had been allocated towards the provision of the new kitchen for the VH. This may take some time because of administrative difficulties.

· Litter picking - on the B1224 would take place before 9th April.

· Flytipping - Southfield Lane - the Cllr agreed to follow this up with HBC.

· East House Farm planning application - is ongoing. Negotiations are continuing for two dwellings on the site.

· Wilstrop Lodge Farm planning application - will be followed up.

Standing Orders were suspended.

A resident commented on the rural residents of Harrogate District having to pay for Restoration of the Royal Hall when Harrogate Town residents are not precepted on a parish basis.

The Cllr explained that the urban areas are not parished.

HBC had been allocated a grant of £6million from the Heritage Lottery Fund for FULL restoration. HBC had resolved to fund £2.5million. HBC was now negotiating with the HLF to see if the £6million would be given for PARTIAL restoration, with the HBC element reduced to £2million (25% of cost of works). Discussions are ongoing to discover if a partial restoration scheme, costing £8million, would allow public use of the partially restored building. Severe problems with the foundations of the building have been discovered.

The District Cllr was thanked for his report.

## 12. Planning

6, Marston Road, Tockwith - demolition of existing dwelling and erection of 1 no replacement dwelling. (amended application) The Parish Council did not object but wished to make comments or seek safeguards as follows: The Council does not object to the principle of demolition of the existing bungalow and replacement with a new dwelling but does express concern over the appearance of the bay windows in the front elevation. Materials used should be substantial and in keeping with adjacent properties and the character of the Conservation Area.

The decision had been made on this application at the last Area 2 DC Meeting to defer for HOPS to approve subject to receipt of the comments of the Parish Council, who had been re-consulted. Appletree Cottage, Marston Road, Tockwith - provision of pitched roof over existing flat roofed porch. There were no objections to this application.

150, Prince Rupert Drive, Tockwith - erection of two storey side extension (revised scheme)

The Council objected to this application on the following grounds:

1. In spite of assurances to the contrary about the size, siting and impact of the proposals, following a previous refusal, it is still felt that, although reduced to one storey at the rearmost portion of the extension, the proposals would have a domineering and overbearing effect on neighbouring properties, especially given the fact that the application site is at an angle of 90 degrees to the neighbours and the proposed single storey extension would have a pitched roof.
2. The proposals are felt to be an over-intensive use of the site, given the back gardens are only quite modest. The proposals would result in the extension being built up to the shared rear boundary.
3. The proposals would result in a dwelling which is out of keeping with its site and surroundings.
4. Inevitably there would be root damage to trees and shrubs forming part of the boundary with 146, Prince Rupert Drive, and the possibility of gutters overhanging the boundary. There could be a problem with maintenance of the extension wall adjacent to the boundary fence.
5. It is important that the first floor rear window of the proposed extension should be conditioned to be obscure glazed so as to remove the opportunity for overlooking of private amenity space of adjacent dwellings.

Folly Cottage, Springfield Terrace, Tockwith - erection of single storey rear extension.

There were no objections to this application.

10, Crawford Close, Tockwith - erection of first floor rear extension and dormer.

There were no objections to this application subject to any comments made by neighbours.

The responses above were resolved and ratified when the application had been received since the last meeting and dealt with by the planning sub-committee.

Planning decisions were made known.

8. Field off Tockwith Lane

Cllr Pick presented this item.

The important first step was to arrange for management of the field, to secure the boundaries, plant additional trees and hedge and maintain the access from Tockwith Lane.

A figure of approximately £1,500 would be needed for 270 metres of post and rail fence and

trees, though grant funding may be available.

A further £1,500 would be needed to kerb a 15 feet access from Tockwith Lane and re-establish the access point to/from the field.

On the western boundary adjacent to the neighbouring property it is suggested that a small wood be planted on ¼ of an acre, both to screen the neighbouring property and act as a wind break for the field.

Additional planting would be needed to fill the gaps in other parts of boundary hedges.

The field soil is very acid and would require liming at 3 tons to the acre, at a cost of approx. £500.

Cllr Pick was thanked for his report and invited to develop actual costs for the works and report back to the next meeting.

### 11. Correspondence

Items up to 28 were made known to Cllrs.

- Broadband is due to be activated in this area on 5th May.
- Appropriate correspondence was passed on to ACS.
- The Clerk was liaising with the Solicitor regarding both the Leases for the smaller of the Fields off Tockwith Lane and the Village Hall.

### 13. Accounts

Bank balances

Lloyds Bank Treasurer's a/c (as at 27.02.04) 15,373.27

Accounts to pay

Salary of Clerk to 31.03.04 696.25

Expenses of Clerk to 17.03.04 26.45

Receipts

Allotment rents 12.50

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

14. Date of next Meeting: WEDNESDAY 21st APRIL 2004, immediately following the Annual Parish Meeting to be held at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.

Standing Orders were suspended.

· A resident complained again about car parking, on the verges of Southfield Lane, which was destroying all the daffodils. Action had been taken to erect tape to stop parking but this had been driven over. The Council resolved to try harder to get the information to the Sportsfield Trust about the problem occurring, especially on Saturday mornings, so that away teams could be advised accordingly.

· Problems were reported by Norfolk Gardens residents about deliveries to the Costcutter store. A local pensioner had been banned from using the Post Office as a result of unpleasantness.

· A resident complained about gravel over the footpaths/roads, both along Marston Road near Chapman's Yard and Westfield Green.

· The School sign was reported as needing levelling up as it was unsightly.

· Temporary signs advertising events were being kept up long after the events had taken place. Organisations should be made to take them down.

· A new waste bin is required at the Marston Road Play Area.

### Exempt Matters

The Exempt Minutes of the last meeting were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed.