

TOCKWITH WITH WILSTROP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Council held on Wednesday 21st September 2005 in the Village Hall, at 7.30pm

Chairman: Councillor M Kennett

Present: Councillors Mrs Wardman, C Saunders, M Smith, C Billenness, W J Bowyer, N Waller, Mrs K Scholey.

In attendance: District Cllr Sturdy, Mrs J Bygate (Internal Auditor), Mrs G Firth (Clerk to the Council), Mrs Fiona Steed (VHMC Chairman), 3 members of the public.

Cllr Smith took the Chair in the absence of the Chairman.

1. Co-option of new Councillor

This item was adjourned to the next meeting and councillors were invited to seek candidates for co-option.

2. Apologies for absence - were received from PC Ayre.

3. Police Matters

· The Tier 2 Boroughbridge CaP Group is to carry on.

The Local community Policeman is to be invited to attend and provide local crime figures for information.

· Coach parking on Westfield Road - complaints had been received about a minibus and coach being parked overnight without lights. The legislation suggests that this is in breach of an Operators Licence. Information has been passed to the Police who are investigating the matter. Resolved that the Clerk write to the Traffic Commissioner and the District Cllr take up the matter with the Planning Department.

· Complaints were received about general bad behaviour by youths in the village and the lack of a Police presence to act as a deterrent was regretted.

Cllr Kennett in the Chair.

4. Minutes of the last Meeting of the Council

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

5. Matters arising from the Minutes

· Cllrs Smith and Saunders reported on research into vehicle activated speed signs.

Cllr Saunders had obtained criteria from NYCC. There is a strict protocol in place and Tockwith would not qualify. The signs would cost £6,000 each but would not be allowed.

Cllr Smith stated that the Police had mobile signs and would be prepared to loan them out but would require someone to stay with them whilst they were operational. These signs cost £2,000 each if purchased. Cllr Smith would research how often the signs would be available and report back to a future meeting. The District Cllr stated that he would be attending a meeting between Long Marston PC and NYCC to discuss this subject and would report back.

· Noticeboards - no reply had been received from Backhouses to confirm the specifications and costs of the new boards but a telephone call had been received to say the boards were ready for erection! Mrs Bygate is waiting for a builder to do re-pointing work to the wall and will liaise with the Clerk when the new boards can be erected subject to a satisfactory quotation and specification.

· Jodhpurs planning permission - a condition was that the car parking should be put in place

within three months. The District Cllr will follow this up as it will be a breach of planning condition if the matter is not addressed.

- HBC Consultation meeting - a question to be raised: "Does HBC have a mechanism in place for measuring the effectiveness of enforcement with regard to planning and environment issues and if so what is it?" This same question to be forwarded to YLCA for the Harrogate Branch meeting at which the Chief Executive and Leader of HBC will be present to answer questions from local Councils. Cllrs Smith, Saunders and Bowyer agreed to attend at Aldborough Village Hall on October 5th at 7pm.

- The Clerk reported that she had had a site meeting with a Development Control Officer from NYCC to discuss the possible adoption of the Westfield Lane ginnel. She had received information about the criteria for making up the ginnel surface to adoptable standard and the requirement for an additional street light. She was waiting for a promised list of contractors who would be able to do the necessary work before obtaining quotations.

- Common Land - Mr Muir had provided the latest submission on legal points which had been forwarded to NYCC.

- PRD cul-de-sac - the Clerk had written and spoken with the Westfield Green resident who owned the land in question. She had been assured the land would be tidied in September but would not be kept as garden as the planning application for extension of domestic curtilage had been refused.

6. Public Questions and Statements

Standing Orders were suspended.

- A resident reported foreign container lorries parking up overnight in Marston Road, using the cabs to sleep in and the drains for toilets. The resident was advised to take the registration numbers of offending vehicles and report them to the Police and Traffic Commissioner at the times of the incidents.

Standing Orders were resumed.

- The Clerk was asked to mention the matter in an e mail to the Police and asked to obtain an alternative e mail for when PC Ayre is unavailable. If there is difficulty contacting the local Police it was suggested a letter be sent to the Chief Constable asking that the letter be forwarded to the appropriate department.

7. Village Hall

The Clerk reported a phone call with Sheena Spence of YLCA, who had agreed to meet with representatives of the PC and VHMC to discuss the matter of the Lease and Management arrangements. Possible dates were made known and the Chairman and Mrs Steed would get back to the Clerk with suitable dates.

The VHMC Business Plan and Meeting Minutes were discussed.

Resolved that the Clerk reply and state that the PC supports the efforts of the VHMC and will undertake structural repairs which are deemed necessary but cannot grant an additional £2,500 or commit to a regular donation because of the limits to PC finances and ongoing commitments. It was suggested options for increasing VHMC cash flow would be to hold fund raising events, increase the rental/hire charges or find additional user groups.

8. Clean Neighbourhoods Act

Cllr Billenness reported on the Act which came into force in June but additional powers for Parish Councils with regard to fixed penalty fines for fly tipping, dog fouling and litter dropping are not in force yet. A summary will be provided for the next correspondence file for circulation to Cllrs.

9. Wilstrop - Noticeboard

The Wilstrop Cllr requested a noticeboard for Wilstrop, on the track from the railway crossing to the A59. She agreed to see the landowner and seek permission for the erection of a board.

The Clerk to obtain a quotation for the provision of a suitable board.

10. Wilstrop - Recycling

As Wilstrop residents have no recycling facilities the Clerk to request HBC for an extension of the doorstep recycling scheme to Wilstrop during the next review of the scheme.

11. Tockwith - grass verges

Complaints had been received about the unsatisfactory work done by contractors in cutting grass verges in Tockwith village. Residents had kept the verges neat and tidy, in some cases for many years, but recently the contractors had used inappropriate machinery and scalped the surface and gouged holes in it due to lack of care during the operation.

The Clerk to write and express concern to NYCC and ask that this never be allowed to happen again.

12. Public Inquiry - Footpath PRD to School

Notification had been received of the Public Inquiry. The Clerk to respond and support the provision of a footpath as the PC has done for many years. Cllr Bowyer will appear at the Inquiry and represent the PC.

13. Village nameplates

The TRA intend to provide three village nameplates for Tockwith, similar to the ones for Bilton/Bickerton.

The nameplate from Tockwith Lane near the Sportsfield is missing. This had the Neighbourhood Watch sign affixed to it. The Clerk to request that NYCC replace the sign at the earliest opportunity.

14. Airfield land

At the recent TRA meeting it was agreed to open up a dialogue with the landowner in order to have some input into possible future development of the land. The PC was asked for comments. The PC felt it was not appropriate to speak to the landowner as there is no planning application pending. Cllrs stated that if the Structure Plan is robust enough that should protect the area from unacceptable development.

15. Report by County Cllr.

In the absence of the County Cllr there was nothing to report.

16. Report by District Cllr.

· There are proposed changes to the Area Development Control Committees, moving from the present three to two, although the ODPM suggests a single planning committee. The suggestion is for West and East Committees, the East to include the present Area 2 with Ripon, rural areas to the North and settlements to the east of the A1. All rural Members would have seats on this Committee. If a single Committee was chosen it would comprise 16 Members, with 16 substitutes, meeting every two weeks. On a single Committee there would be no guarantee that rural Members would have seats. It is also being proposed that Ward Members do not have a vote on planning applications in their own Wards, although they would be allowed to speak for three minutes.

The PC believed it was important to have rural representation on planning committees and that the local Cllr should be able to speak and vote on matters relating to his/her own Ward.

· 25, Fairfax Crescent planning application refused on grounds of loss of residential amenity to the adjacent property on The Green.

· Airfield noise/smells - the problems seem to be getting worse.

A recent newspaper article mentioned practice for a 200mph attempt to drive a car blindfold!

The PC believed that Planning Enforcement at HBC was not adequate and it was time that an ASBO against the operator of the motoring activities was pursued.

The District Cllr is having a meeting with the Environmental Health Department and suggested a P Cllr may like to accompany him. Cllrs Kennett and Bowyer agreed to attend.

If matters are not resolved by HBC it may be that the matter should be taken to the ODPM for action.

· Chemical smells are getting really bad. HBC can only measure at residential boundaries but the Environment Agency has more power as it can measure problems at source. Although both authorities have had evidence provided they are not acting quickly enough. The BCB site is operating with open doors and in the open air, in breach of planning conditions. The smells are affecting residents' health. The County Cllr to be asked to investigate with NYCC the breaches of

planning conditions and whether planning permission and Operators Licences have been obtained.

The Clerk was asked to write to BCB expressing concern, stating that the PC is receiving complaints and mentioning the health problems, asking that speedy resolution of the problems is pursued.

- The District Cllr provided dog fouling leaflets as requested. Cllrs were asked to distribute these around the villages.

- East House Farm - the Section 106 agreement with regard to affordable housing has not been signed yet.

7. Village Hall

(Mrs Steed in attendance)

Mrs Steed was informed what had been discussed previously under this item.

She agreed to confirm possible dates for a meeting with Sheena Spence.

She informed the Council that the VHMC had changed energy supplier and thereby reduced costs and there was now a dedicated fund raiser on the VHMC.

17. Correspondence

Additional items 66 to 70 were made known to Cllrs.

- Stage One - the Clerk to write and express concerns about the noise and disamenity to neighbours.

- Funding information - to pass on to the VHMC

- Village Safety Schemes - Cowthorpe had been successful in this financial year. Cllrs were asked to think about a scheme for Tockwith. This would have to be submitted no later than the second week in December.

- Code of Conduct - information passed to Cllr Scholey.

- Village Hall - the Clerk had organised a Fire Insurance Valuation during the summer break. This had now been received.

18. Planning

Pengarth Cottage - erection of side dormer window - no objections subject to the plans being adhered to. This had now been approved with conditions.

6, Lucas Grove South - erection of two side dormers. This application was objected to:- "The proposed dormer on the southern elevation of the roof slope would overlook directly the bungalow next door, whose principle living accommodation is the glass conservatory to their northern side. This would lead to a lack of amenity and privacy for neighbours"

9, Lucas Grove North - erection of two storey rear extension (revised scheme). No objections.

11, Kirk Lane - increase in roof height and erection of extension to side and rear and two front dormers. No objections.

25, Fairfax Crescent - erection of bungalow and detached single garage and demolition of single garage and erection of replacement for existing dwelling. The Parish Council does not object to or support the application but wishes to make comments or seek safeguards:- "The Council does not object to the principle of this development but would request that consideration is given to removing permitted development rights so that no windows are inserted at first floor level in the proposed bungalow, as this would result in overlooking of adjacent properties. Concern is expressed at the increase in traffic turning, at a bad bend, into Fairfax Crescent from PRD.

Although number 23 has recently obtained planning permission for a similar development it is regretted that an opportunity has been lost to introduce traffic calming measures in this area."

Cherry Tree Cottage - erection of two storey rear extension. "The Parish Council does not object in principle to this development. However, given the nature of the narrow entrance to Chapmans Yard, the state of the entrance road and the confined space within the area to the rear of the properties along Marston Road, it is requested that great care is taken with storage and delivery of materials and the access to the proposed development by wagons in order to preserve the amenity of neighbouring properties during building works."

Goose Moor Farm, Cowthorpe - retention of 2m high iron railings with gate and CCTV. The PC objects to this application. "The premises are a recently converted barn. The conversion was completed by the former owners after proper consultation, timely application and adherence to planning regulation and requirements. The erection of a 2m perimeter fence and a 6m pillar surmounted by a CCTV camera and infra-red lights was completed without any consultation with neighbours and residents or reference to the planning authority. Early complaint was made to the District Cllr, the PC and to the Planning Dept. at HBC by persons concerned with the effect of the construction. As a result a Planning Officer visited. The premises were originally surrounded by a 1m wooden stock fence with four bar gates at the two entrances. In support of the majority of neighbours and regular users of the Lane, the PC objects to the application on the grounds that the height, design, material and position of the fence adjacent to the lane detracts greatly from the environmental qualities and the visual character of the area. The amenity of all residents and users will be or is adversely affected. The possible argument by the applicant for such security measures is challenged referring to low crime figures, their assertion that this is a domestic dwelling and the adjoining high value business exists without such measures. Residents are concerned that the character of the area is adversely affected by the overt security measures that infer a vulnerable local situation."

Mayfield, Fleet Lane - erection of rear conservatory. No objections.

Airfield buildings - reply from Enforcement Officer challenged. Cllr Bowyer is collating additional information to support the PC's case. The Chairman agreed to obtain aerial photographs of the location.

Planning decisions and enforcement issues were made known.

19. Accounts

Bank balances

Lloyds TSB Treasurer's a/c (as at 21.09.05)	2,500.00
Deposit a/c	16,340.35

Accounts to pay/ratify

Zurich Insurance (annual premium)	968.25
"(aq) Ltd." (web site costs)	141.00
Mazars (external audit fee)	141.00
Keith James (VH valuation)	411.25
Mrs G Firth (salary and expenses of Clerk)	708.19

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

Date of next Meeting: WEDNESDAY 19th OCTOBER 2005, in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.
(Cllrs Smith and Waller gave apologies)

The Chairman declared the meeting closed.