

TOCKWITH WITH WILSTROP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Council meeting held on Wednesday 18th January 2006 in the Village Hall

Chairman: Councillor M Kennett

Present: Councillors Mrs Wardman, C Saunders, W J Bowyer, Mrs K Scholey, N Waller

In attendance: County Cllr Savage, District Cllr Sturdy, Mrs J Bygate (Internal Auditor), Mrs G Firth (Clerk to the Council), 31 members of the public.

Apologies for absence - were received from Cllrs Billenness and Pick and PC Ayre.

Police Matters

PC Ayre had sent an e mail detailing the crime figures for 2005 for Tockwith and Cowthorpe

Cllrs expressed concern at the small number of crimes detected compared to the overall crime numbers.

CaP Group meetings are not useful as they are believed to be merely a PR exercise.

Concern was expressed at the lack of a Police presence in the villages

The Clerk was asked to remind PC Ayre that it is beneficial to have his presence at PC meetings so matters of concern can be raised directly.

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.

Matters arising from the Minutes

Chemical odours and noise from Marston Moor Business Park are an ongoing problem. Two meetings had been held with an Officer from HBC Environmental Health Dept. but he has now left the Authority. Records are being kept by complainants but there is no Officer dealing with the concerns at present.

Christmas lights - a complaint had been received that they were switched on too early and a request made that in future they are switched on the week before Christmas

The Clerk reported that the Cowthorpe Noticeboard has been erected and is a vast improvement on the old one.

Quotations had been received for the Wilstrop Noticeboard and a letter from the landowner giving permission to erect the new board had also been received.

Resolved that the Clerk write and accept the quotation from Backhouses and ask them to liaise with Cllr Mrs Scholey re siting.

Ginnel - proposed making up to adoptable standard - three quotations had been obtained by NYCC Lighting Dept. and advice was given on the preferred contractor. Resolved that Healey & Anderson be instructed to carry out the work as soon as possible. The surfacing contractor could then be instructed to complete the works shortly thereafter.

Marston Road Play Area - Park Lane Services had been contacted and asked to do the required works following the RoSPA Inspection. The Clerk was asked to contact Mr Alderton re the moles at the site, specifying that no poisons/chemicals should be used because of Health & Safety legislation.

Village Road Safety Scheme - having obtained a 'ball-park' figure for the proposed mini-roundabout on PRD the Clerk had submitted an application to the grant scheme before the deadline.

Public Questions and Statements

Standing Orders were suspended.

Concern was raised about planning rules in relation to Conservation areas. An old wall in the centre of Tockwith had been removed during the development of a site for a new dwelling. It was queried whether permission had been requested or obtained for this. District Cllr Sturdy agreed to investigate and report back.

A resident stated that he hoped the result of the Public Inquiry would not cause problems like those at Cattal.

Standing Orders were resumed.

Village Hall

This item was deferred until later in the meeting when the VHMC Chairman would be present.

Rural Housing Trust

Cllrs Kennet and Bowyer reported back on an instructive seminar attended recently.

It was agreed that the PC should be pro-active and investigate local housing needs.

Pollution of Fleet Beck

The majority of the public in attendance were present for this item.

The Chairman gave a resume of incidents occurring during the last few weeks. This was a separate problem to the chemical smells which had been happening for longer.

An e mail from the area Environment Agency Officer was read out.

Cllr Savage reported he had received e mails from residents, visited the site, and then contacted the Environment Agency. A chemical solvent had been found in the beck, originating on the western side of the Business Park, 40 small fish and a heron had died and the Water abstraction plant at Nun Monkton had been informed of the problem.

The Environment Agency must be 100% positive and sure of evidence before a prosecution can be sought.

Concern was raised that there seems to be difficulty in deciding which agency has responsibility for the problems of chemical leaks and bad odours from the Business Park.

The Environment Agency is responsible for investigating and prosecuting in the case of pollution. The E.A. can only take action if premises are licensed, otherwise the local authority must deal with such cases.

The Environmental Health Dept. at HBC has responsibilities in connection with noise and chemical smells which cause nuisances to residents.

A meeting is due to be held between the two agencies and the County and District Cllrs to discuss the problem and plan further action to resolve the issue.

Standing Orders were suspended.

A resident expressed concern at the effect on local wildlife and the effect of airborne odours on Public Health and asked that the PC put pressure on the relevant agency to resolve the problems.

The Chairman stated that the PC will continue to put pressure on HBC if problems persist but a statutory nuisance must be proved before action can be taken. The criteria is established but is also subjective.

A resident demanded to know what the pollutant is and its effect on humans, especially those with asthma and children

The Environment Agency is believed to know the pollutant, its strength and its source but cannot give further details while the investigation is ongoing.

A resident stated that people had complained of sore tongues, sore eyes and headaches.

Residents were encouraged to obtain letters from their GPs to pass on to the Environment Agency as proof that the health problems were caused by the recent pollution.

Posters had appeared around the village encouraging the public to attend the PC meeting to make their views known.

The posters had nothing to do with the PC and it was not known who was responsible for them.

A resident reported on recent legislation in the European Parliament which obliged companies to register chemicals being used. It was suggested this legislation could be used in this case.

A resident expressed concerns that names of complainants were not being taken and it was not certain that the incidents were being recorded.

Cllr Savage asked that all complaints to the Environment Agency should be copied to him.

Standing Orders were resumed.

Resolved that the Clerk write to the Environment Agency with copies to the MP, the Health & Safety Executive, HBC Environmental Health Dept. and the MMIDB expressing thanks and support for work to date, asking that it be confirmed that the source of the pollution has been dealt with, asking what residents should be aware of about the type of pollutant and its effect on health and the procedures to take to protect public health. Signs should be erected at the Beck to warn of the dangers, especially to children and animals.

Village Hall

Standing Orders were suspended.

The VHMC Chairman thanked the PC for the recent letter.

The matter of the Lease and Management arrangements is ongoing. At present the Parish Clerk is liaising with YLCA/YRCC and will report back in due course.

The matter of the destroyed piano has been dealt with and a replacement obtained (bought by the Youth Club).

CCTV - signatures of YC members protected under the Data Protection Act, data while recording stored temporarily before being overwritten, there is insufficient light at the rear for recording purposes.

The VHMC will be pleased to have the Country Air magazine passed on to them.

Complaints have been received about use of the rear garden area by unauthorised persons outside Youth Club hours. Robust fencing of this area is required but felt to be the PC's responsibility as part of the fabric of the building. It may be possible to include 2.4 metre high palisade fencing in the grant application proposals for the near future.

A meeting is to be held with DEFRA to discuss a possible grant for upgrading the building and making it more user friendly. Storage is a big problem so the first tranche of upgrading would include toilets and showers with disabled access, storage and meeting rooms above. A sub-committee has been formed to take this forward but the time scale is very tight, planning approval must be obtained and permission obtained from the PC as owners of the building before progress can be made.

Standing Orders were resumed.

Subject to seeing the final design the PC resolved to support the application to DEFRA for a grant to improve the toilet and storage facilities.

The Chairman provided a list of potential architects to progress the project.

Cllr Waller suggested a grant application be made to the North Yorkshire Forum for Voluntary Organisations.

Regarding CCTV coverage it was regretted that coverage is not for 24 hours and only on YC nights. Also the coverage should be extended to cover the whole building and grounds.

The PC would like to see records kept, for at least a month, and coverage extended to other than YC nights.

Report by County Councillor

School buses - it is not a legal requirement for school children to wear seat-belts.

King James's School - a change of school hours is being proposed

Skewkirk Bridge - learned Barristers from both sides have addressed the question of a PROW across the River Nidd. NYCC is determined to see the re-erection of a bridge at Skewkirk, the matter should be an agenda item at the Harrogate Area Committee soon.

Hag Culvert, Rudgate - a report on the works to repair the culvert was given

Cattal Bridge - ongoing pavement works will see road closures for the next month

Tomlinsons - are to be allowed to have brown directional signs which will preserve trade and secure jobs.

Cattal Station car park - land has been sold subject to planning, NYCC maintain it is the responsibility of the Station/Railway to purchase land for a car park.

Cllr Savage was asked to request that signs are erected in Tockwith to warn of closures to Cattal Bridge and/or surrounding roads.

Report by District Councillor

Environmental Health - a meeting will be held to discuss ongoing problems in Tockwith. An EHO post has yet to be filled. No existing Officers are volunteering to take over this area. It is important that residents keep contacting Jill Reeves with reports of complaints.

Skewkirk Bridge - Bilton and Bickerton PC will be sending someone to the Area Committee meeting and are eager to liaise with this PC.

Marston Moor Memorial has been damaged and York Stone flags removed

Rubbish bins have been moved. The District Cllr was asked to report this to HBC and ask for repairs to be done.

Correspondence

Additional items 52 to 62 were made known

Rural Housing - further to the recent seminar and a letter from HBC it was resolved to invite the Enabling Officer to attend the February Council meeting.

NYCC/HBC Community Emergency Plan - resolved to invite an Officer to speak at a future meeting. Meanwhile a request for the basic Plan to be made.

Rural Bus Services - comments to be returned to the Clerk for response before deadline

ACS - a letter of support to be sent re investigating the status of forgotten footpaths

NYCC Highways Engineer advised Cattal road closures; the bridge is open until 29/1, closed 1-2 days beyond this date; Until 21/1 no right turn past bridge; For a week from 22/1 no left turn.

RoSPA - agreed to confirm request for annual safety inspection until further notice

Planning

Wilstrop Lodge Farm, Moor Monkton - conversion of farm buildings to form 5 dwellings, with 2 detached garages and new package treatment plant.

The Parish Council wishes to make comments or seek safeguards as follows: the Parish Council does not object to this application as it will bring back into use disused farm buildings but there are questions about the sustainability of the location in terms of residential dwellings.

the access is along a green lane in a remote location and the Highway Authority should be satisfied that this will not create problems in terms of road safety

The Internal Drainage Board should be satisfied that rainwater can be discharged properly into local dykes and ditches.

7, Lucas Grove North, Tockwith - erection of first floor front extension

The Parish Council has no objections.

2, Lucas Grove South and 238, Prince Rupert Drive - renewal of unimplemented permission for the erection of 1 detached dwelling with access considered.

The Parish Council has no objections

Old Malt Kiln, Westfield Road, Tockwith - conversion of joiners workshop to form 6 residential units including 1 affordable unit, office accommodation, 2 workshops (use class B1 - offices/workshops) and 3 garages to lower ground floor and associated car parking spaces.

Subject to neighbour comments the Parish Council has no objections as commercial use will be retained and a mixed development of business/residential is considered suitable in this location

Planning decisions and enforcement issues were made known.

Accounts

Bank balances

Lloyds TSB Treasurer's a/c (as at 31.12.05) 2,500.00

Deposit a/c 18,509.05

Accounts to pay/ratify

T Backhouse & Son (Cowthorpe noticeboard) 575.75

Viking Direct (stationery supplies) 181.00

Ray Farrer (grounds maintenance) 159.00

SLCC (annual subscription) 69.00

Receipt

Harrogate Borough Council - grounds maintenance grant 182.00

Resolved to accept the quotation for street lighting at the ginnel as mentioned under item 4.

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

Grants will be an agenda item for February.

Date of next Meeting: WEDNESDAY 15th FEBRUARY 2006, in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

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