

## **TOCKWITH WITH WILSTROP PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of a Council meeting held on Wednesday 18th October 2006 in the Village Hall**

**Chairman:** Councillor M Kennett

**Present:** Councillors Mrs Wardman, C Saunders, Mrs K Scholey, N Waller, R Ward-Campbell, C Billenness

**In attendance:** Mrs J Bygate, (Internal Auditor), Cllr J Sturdy (District Cllr), Mrs G Firth (Clerk to the Council), 3 Members of the public.

**Apologies for absence** - were received from Cllrs Kirby, Robinson and Pick, Inspector Chapman and PC Place.

### **Police Matters**

There was no Officer in attendance but the Clerk had spoken to Inspector Chapman and gave a verbal report.

The local policing areas had been altered again, with the Washburn valley being removed from Knaresborough area control, so west of Huby now comes under Ripon and Pateley Bridge. An additional Officer, PC Matt Balmforth, has been allocated to Knaresborough, having been moved from Boroughbridge, but this Officer is on restricted duties due to long term sickness. PC Ayre is to resume as the Neighbourhood Police Officer for Spofforth with Wharfedale, Marston Moor and Ribston Wards and PC Place has requested a transfer elsewhere.

The next issue of the Local Policing Summary newspaper is due out in the autumn, it is hoped to be more accurate and informative than the previous issue

Recent thefts of York stone and coping stones have led to a request that all coping stones are cemented in and Smartwater used as a deterrent to protect property

Extra staff will be on foot patrol in Tockwith on Mischief and Bonfire nights

It is hoped to resurrect the Farm Watch system

An e mail had been received from PC Place with the following information:

Tockwith has suffered a couple of vehicle break-ins recently. Generally as the nights close in there is an increase in burglary, in particular the period between it getting dark and people arriving home from work, so it is suggested lights and radios are left on in preparation for this at the start of the day.

Vehicle crime is frequently for Sat Nav systems on display so it is recommended these are removed

Also prevalent at the moment are burglaries where the car keys and subsequently the car on the drive are taken, in most cases because the offender can see the keys in open view on the kitchen table.

It is stressed that these types of crime have not occurred locally but a timely reminder of what can happen without vigilance won't come amiss.

Cllrs comments:

Concern was expressed that the Police seemed to be unaware of the data base in existence regarding Farm Watch, which informed of contact names and addresses

Cllr Scholey had been in contact with the Police regarding Smartwater and had agreed to be a point of contact for farm businesses in this area

The Clerk to write and request that local Churches and horse establishments be included in the scheme.

An e mail with details of the latest premium rate scam had been sent to the Clerk for circulation to Cllrs

### **Minutes of the last Ordinary Meeting and Exempt Matters**

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

### **Matters arising from the Minutes**

Tendered Local Bus Services - Cllr Billenness is still to liaise with the Clerk over proposed routings

Meetings of Village Hall Management Committee with the Sportsfield Trust Committee.

Following a first positive meeting, a second meeting had been held at which the Sportsfield Trust, having consulted all sports groups, had been expected to provide a list of their requirements for facilities in a new Village Hall/Community Centre building on the land at the Sportsfield.

The Sp.Trust were not enthusiastic about having a community facility at the Sportsfield, there was disagreement about land ownership, the Sp. Trust did not want to lose the use of any land, especially as the pitches had won a national award for ground quality, and were not willing to join in fundraising for a new facility, having worked very hard over a number of years to raise necessary funds for the facilities currently available.

Two options are being considered:- 1) a co-ordinated scheme at the Sportsfield and 2) what can be done to refurbish and extend the current Village Hall.

The matter of overhanging greenery in Kirk Lane is being addressed

The Chairman agreed to see the Kendal Lane resident about the overhanging tree

It was reported that two more Cowthorpe residents had expressed their support for a public house in the village

The Clerk was asked to chase the grounds maintenance contractor about works to shrubs and trees at the POS in Westfield Green

Continuing problems were reported with the Village Hall Central heating. The contractor had been called as the pressure relief valve had stuck and the overflow pipe had been damaged and needed replacing. The contractor's most recent letter to the PC seemed to suggest it was hard

water in the area that was causing some of the problems and the fact that the boiler had never been serviced, he also believed the initial problems had been resolved. An inspection by CORGI was awaited after which the system should be flushed and new inhibitor added as a matter of urgency. The PC would take advice from the Inspector about any further remedial works needed re valves etc.

## **Public Questions and Statements**

Standing Orders were suspended.

A resident was unhappy with the way the PC communicated with residents and wanted to see an additional noticeboard on the PRD Estate.

The resident was assured that the PC had attempted to find an alternative site for a noticeboard as the Westfield Lane one had been removed following repeated vandalism and costly repair but this had proved difficult as residents complained about suggested alternative sites.

Residents spoke about continuing problems of noxious fumes coming from Marston Moor Business Park and drifting across the Prince Rupert Drive Estate causing great distress to residents. The resident spoke about suffering from headaches and being unable to open doors and windows. Residents believed the odours were creating a health hazard and although the Environment Agency and Harrogate Borough Council Environmental Health had been involved it seemed a resolution of the problem was no nearer. Residents were reluctant to provide monitoring sheets, as they had been asked to do, as they believed they were not acted upon.

It was explained that monitoring sheets must be filled in to provide evidence for an investigation and possible prosecution.

Another resident had visited the site believed to be causing the odours and had been invited inside by a workman to see how much worse the odour is within the building. Although the Environment Agency had been contacted and Officers requested to visit the site to smell for themselves, no Officer had visited when the problem was at its worst. There was frustration among residents that nothing seemed to be being done about the problem.

Resolved that the Clerk write again to the Environment Agency stating that further complaints had been received, and asking that air sampling be continued to try and pinpoint the source and composition of the chemicals causing odours.

Cllrs Savage and Sturdy were requested to keep up the pressure on the County and District Councils and the Environment Agency to try and bring about a resolution of the problems.

Residents were urged to continue filling in monitoring sheets as requested.

Standing orders were resumed

## **Village Hall**

Standing Orders were suspended.

The VHMC Chairman stated that the latest draft Lease prepared by the PC's Solicitor was not acceptable to the VHMC or the holding trustees.

The agreed final draft prepared by the Clerk (based on the ACRE model) had been agreed by both parties but this was far different from the document prepared by the Solicitor, who had stated that substantial costs would be involved if the PC wished to see the Clerk's draft progressed rather than the standard legal Lease.

The Clerk said she was in contact with YLCA about the impasse and hoped that the ACRE Solicitor, who had been responsible for the original model, would be prepared to act, on behalf of the VHMC, to progress the agreed Lease.

Standing Orders were resumed.

The PC resolved to cover the cost of this arrangement, believed to be in the region of £1000, and the Clerk was delegated authority to be the point of contact with the ACRE Solicitor and provide all necessary paperwork and information. The ACRE Solicitor would eventually contact the PC Solicitor before the signing of the Lease.

Standing Orders were suspended.

The VHMC asked the PC for permission to use the larger field at the Community Fields for car parking and camping during the first week in July 2007 for a Sealed Knot re-enactment.

Standing Orders were resumed.

It was resolved that Mr Burnell should be contacted regarding the activity and access to the field and its use for car parking.

It was further reported that the Football Club had used the field for car parking during weekend football matches.

It was resolved that Mr Burnell be asked for permission to use his access and if he is agreeable the PC would support such use.

Resolved also that a letter be sent to the Sportsfield Trust reminding them they did not have permission to use the field and the access to it is privately owned and the owner's permission would be needed first.

### **Report by County Councillor**

In the absence of the Cllr there was no report.

### **Report by District Councillor**

Chemical smells - the case had been closed early in the year due to lack of evidence but the problem had started up again within days of the case being closed.

Waste Collection Management - at tonight's HBC Cabinet Meeting it had been resolved to bring in over a period of three years a new scheme involving 3 wheelie bins, 1 for general waste, 1 for recyclables and 1 for garden waste. Collections would alternate on a fortnightly basis with the aim of increasing the amount of material recycled, a target for all local authorities under Government legislation.

Feedback included concerns that 1 wheelie bin for general domestic waste would not be large

enough, fortnightly collections were not supported, as it was believed this would lead to an increase in fly tipping, collections of plastic and cardboard were suggested as well, and Wilstrop has no means of recycling apart from visiting recycling sites.

In the short term HBC hope to expand the kerb-side recycling system to more areas.

Cllrs requested an assurance that the microchip would not be used in the Harrogate area.

## **Correspondence**

Additional items 35 to 49 and additional planning applications and decisions were made known

The letter from D Newis to be circulated in the next corries files

The letter about Acorn House to be forwarded, as requested, to Mr Newis

Travellers had now moved on from the bridlepath between Ox Close Bridge and Walshford - resolved that the Clerk write to the landowner, Mr Lister, thanking him for the speedy removal of rubbish left and reinstatement of the site.

Fire and Safety Procedures - an Emergency Escape Plan to be provided by the Clerk, with a copy to the VHMC for their procedures folder, along with a signing-in book for meetings. The procedures to be mentioned in the Meeting Minutes every month. The new system to be implemented from the November Meeting.

The Village Hall Clean-up was in progress. The PC had been assigned various duties - Cllr Saunders to attend to spot spraying and cleaning of gullies, Cllr Wardman and the Clerk to sweep up and bag litter removed from the grounds, Cllr Scholey to clean the windowsills and Cllr Kennett to empty the cigarette boxes.

Village Safety Schemes - the Clerk to make a submission based on previous ones regarding 20mph limits past the School, traff9c calming measures on PRD and attention to signing and lining in Cowthorpe. The latter two of which had received support and finance but had not been done.

NYCC - CD Rom about Minerals and Waste Development Framework strategy, sites and appraisals to be looked at and a response made if required before the deadline

Replies from the Environment Agency and the MP were to be circulated in next months corries file.

HBC Annual Survey of rural settlements forms were completed and to be returned by the Clerk

Copies of the original Conveyance and Declaration of Trust regarding land at the Sportsfield had been received from Ford and Warren Solicitors in Leeds. Copies of these documents to be made available to the Sportsfield Trust Committee.

An Inspector from CORGI was to visit the VH to look at the central Heating/Hot Water system

Standing Orders were suspended.

Mrs Bygate expressed concern about the weeds and ivy encroaching from the rear of the VH onto her wall.

The VHMC Chairman said the gardener would be asked to come back and attend to the matter.

Standing Orders were resumed.

## **Planning**

Unit 8/9 Rudgate Business Park - change of use of light industrial unit (use Class B1 - Business) to unit for preparation, servicing and tuning of high performance and racing cars.

It should be noted that although the information received from HBC refers to Marston Business Park, this site (and the application forms etc) is actually Rudgate Business Park, a different location altogether.

The Parish Council OBJECTS to the application on the following grounds:

The Parish Council is very concerned that the noise from this proposed use will severely impact the amenity of adjacent business users, the adjacent residential dwelling and the village of Tockwith.

The site lies to the SW of the village and the prevailing wind will take the noise right over the housing estate and the village.

The adjacent residential dwelling to the site will also be severely impacted upon by this noise and the amenity of the dwelling severely compromised. The existing use (B1) is a use that can be carried out adjacent to residential dwellings. The proposed use cannot, so should not be allowed.

Adjacent businesses, including an attached unit will also be severely affected by this use. The testing of vehicles and engines which will be carried out is a very noisy operation.

There is no indication of noise protection measures that will be included in the existing building which is only a lightweight steel framed building with no weight of structure to reduce noise. Will work be carried out outside?

The addition of high performance cars onto Rudgate is also very worrying, Rudgate and its junctions is not a safe road, there are no footpaths or pedestrian refuges on the road. Horses use this road and we are concerned that this would be a problem.

It should be remembered that the redundant airfield and driver training centre is used for driver training only and does not have a planning approval for the testing of motor cars.

The Parish Council is also concerned about the fuel storage on site and there is no indication of how much fuel and how this will be stored.

There is no indication of how fuel spills will be dealt with to ensure that the ground water is protected.

Field View, Oak Road, Cowthorpe - erection of single storey side and rear extension.

The Council has no objections.

North Field Farm, Marston Road, Tockwith - erection of two storey and single storey rear extensions

The Council has no objections

Oakdene, Oak Road, Cowthorpe - erection of stable block with garage, feed store and tack room.

The Council does not object to or support the application but wishes to make comments or seek safeguards as follows: The Parish Council asks that a condition is added so that the stabling is for private use only, as the surroundings and road conditions would not be suitable for a general livery stable with lots of additional horse boxes coming and going.

4, Kendal Gardens, Tockwith - erection of two storey front and first floor side extensions.

The Parish Council has no objections.

Cllrs reported an advert appearing in the Wetherby News about Pro-Am racing karting available at Tockwith Airfield.

A copy of this advert to be passed to the Clerk to send to HBC Enforcement Officers with comments that it did not appear to be "training" , which is what the location has permission for.

Cllrs also reported seeing a large articulated lorry trying to access Blind Lane and the difficulties it experienced. The entrance to this private road is inadequate for the size of vehicles using it and Highways should be made aware.

Decisions and Enforcement matters were made known to Cllrs.

## **Accounts**

Bank balances (as at 5/10/06)

Lloyds TSB current a/c 2,500.00

Lloyds TSB Deposit a/c 22,692.05

A/c's to pay/ratify

Peter Howell (VH ceiling) 3,830.50

Viking Direct (stationery supplies) 157.69

Playsafety Ltd. (RoSPA Playground Inspection) 74.03

SLCC (annual subscription) 69.00

SLCC (AGM and Training Day) 16.00

PWLB (advance notice of D/D on 1/11 1,859.41

## Receipts

Precept (2) 7,687.00

Allotment rents 6.00

The invoice for The Little Red Bus, for use at Tockwith Show, had been sent in error and was passed to the Show Committee.

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

The Clerk agreed to provide a draft budget for next year's Precept and present it at the November meeting.

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

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed