

TOCKWITH WITH WILSTROP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Council meeting held on Wednesday 16th May 2007 in the Village Hall

The new Fire and Safety Regulations are in place and everybody was asked to sign the attendance book on arrival and departure. The Emergency Escape Plan is now agreed and it is placed at the Hall entrance at every meeting and attendees notice drawn to it.

Chairman: Councillor C Saunders

Present: Councillors Mrs Wardman, Mrs Scholey, M Kennett, N Waller, C Billenness, P Kirby, R Ward-Campbell.

In attendance: District and County Cllr Savage, Mrs J Bygate (Internal Auditor), Mrs G Firth (Clerk to the Council), 3 members of the public

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the May Council meeting.

Apologies for absence - were received from Cllrs Pick and Robinson, PC Ayre and Mrs Steed.

2. Police Matters

An e mail had been received from PC Ayre concerning the possibility of 'closing-off' the Westfield Lane ginnel. As the Council has spent a lot of money bringing the footpath up to adoptable standard and it is now adopted by NYCC, PC Ayre to be informed of the position.

Additional instances of criminal damage to be reported to PC Ayre and the need for a more visible police presence in the villages.

Cllrs accepted that it is impossible for a single Police Officer to be everywhere at once, but matters of concern should be reported to the Local neighbourhood Police "Team".

3. Minutes of the last Meeting and Exempt matters and Annual Parish Meeting Minutes

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

Cllrs expressed concern at some matters in the report from the Youth Club Leader to the Annual Parish Meeting. The report was accepted but Cllrs strongly disagreed with comments about lack of communication regarding the project to extend and refurbish the VH. As a user group, and having a place on the VHMC, which is hardly ever taken up, the Youth Club has been kept fully involved and informed of the project as it has evolved. Every chance has been given to user groups and members of the wider community to have their say at every stage of the process. The Youth Club Leader to be informed of the concerns of Cllrs.

4. Matters arising from the Minutes

- Allotment clearance – the Clerk to action.
- Sportsfield storage building – plans to be put to Cllrs under item 11 on the agenda

5. Public Questions and Statements Standing Orders were suspended.

- A neighbouring resident asked when the promised gardening work at the rear of the VH will be done.

A new gardener has been employed and because of the unkempt state of the rear garden it will take several visits to address all the issues.

- A Prince Rupert Drive resident expressed great concern about the noise from the airfield and dissatisfaction with the report from consultants employed by HBC to investigate the issue, an executive summary of which had been sent to some of the complainants.

The PC has tried to resolve the issues for many years but has been unsuccessful. The PC supports the residents in their efforts to resolve the matter. Any resident can look at past PC Minutes to find useful information at a time mutually convenient to the resident and the Clerk, in whose home the Minutes are kept. In the first instance it was suggested the resident should approach HBC and ask for the required information under the FOI Act.

Cllr Savage has had a meeting with Jill Reeves, the Environmental Protection Officer at HBC and is obtaining copies of the two reports into noise and odours from the airfield.

Another resident raised several issues:

- It was reported that the proposed site for the Air Ambulance is still under discussion and may not happen due to neighbour concerns.
- York City Council had been approached about the road in Rufforth
- Car parking at Cattal station remains unsatisfactory
- Waste Recycling facilities at Thorp Arch should be available to local residents of North Yorkshire and a reciprocal arrangement made with West Yorkshire.

Standing Orders were resumed.

6. Village Hall

- The Lease is still with both parties' Solicitors awaiting completion. The Clerk gave a resume of actions to date, Cllrs having seen the latest correspondence from the Solicitor.
- There had been further incidents of broken glass and litter in the rear yard and garden. Resolved that quotations be obtained to extend the fence at the rear from the Sand and Water room along the top of the wall to join up with the existing and replace the low gate in the fence with a taller gate, to try and make it more difficult for trespassers to access the rear of the Hall.
- VH Spring Clean-up – volunteers were asked for. Cllrs Kirby, Mrs Wardman, Waller, Saunders and Kennett agreed to be responsible for the allotted tasks. A working party to arrange mutually convenient times to do the work before the end of May.
- The Clerk reported on the recent works to the CH/Hot Water system and kept the Council informed of ongoing work, needed to make the system efficient and to work correctly.
- The Clerk reported on the joinery works commissioned and due to be completed shortly.
- The new litter and cigarette bins have been fitted to the walls in the rear yard. New bulk head lights have been purchased and are awaiting installation.

7. Bus Shelters

Cllr Waller mentioned the appearance of new bus shelters bearing the NYCC logo, which had appeared around the local area but not in Tockwith, the largest settlement in the area. The bus service is better used in Tockwith than in other more remote villages and passengers should have shelters to protect them from the weather, especially in more exposed areas such as Fleet Lane. Resolved that the Clerk write to NYCC asking for shelters. Siting and location could be looked at when a reply is received. The County Cllr was asked to take up this matter with the Authority.

8. Report by County Councillor

Cllr Savage reported on the following:

- Unitary Authority bid – it will be known in June if the Government gives the go ahead for North Yorkshire to become a Unitary Authority. The Harrogate Area Committee would be split into Urban and Rural areas around Harrogate. The decision is to be made by the Cabinet in July. County Cllr Savage, as County Cllr, supported the bid for Unitary status.
- Cattal Station car parking – remains an issue with little progress to report. It has been requested that spaces for railway passengers should be marked out.
- Yorkshire Air Ambulance – the proposed site is on the boundary between Cattal and Tockwith parishes. Cattal PC is not happy with the proposals. A planning application is expected shortly. The night flying helicopter will be based at Barnsley.
- Skewkirk Bridge – a new Officer is leading this matter which is proceeding, slowly.

8. Report by District Councillor

Cllr Savage was welcomed in his new role as District Cllr. He spoke of induction meetings which had been useful and Mayor Making, to be held on Monday next, which would be his first Council meeting. Investigative Reports into Noise and Smells from the airfield are far from satisfactory. The Cabinet member has been invited to attend the site over a weekend to see and hear for himself the problems at first hand.

- Cllr Savage was asked to pick up the issue of an additional waste bin near the school which Cllr Sturdy had been going to arrange.

9. Correspondence

Additional items 40 to 50 were made known

- Cowthorpe churchyard maintenance – a letter had been received from Hunsingore DCC requesting a grant towards maintenance of the churchyard. To be discussed under item 12, accounts.
- Repositioning of PC noticeboard – Mrs Bygate requested that the wall is made good after removal of the board as recent pointing work has been done to the old wall. The Joiner doing works at the VH to be asked to relocate the board in liaison with the managers of the Costcutter store.
- NYCC, Housing Development in this parish – the information is with the local planning authority and the HBC or PC web sites should be accessed for the information required.
- Standards Board – to be included in the next corries file so Cllrs can consider the matter of

- 'opt-in' to the new regulations, or not as they decide.
- HBC Training – advance notice of a meeting in September – the Clerk to circulate later in the year.
- HBC Planning Department Peer Review workshop – the Clerk reported on this meeting which she had attended. The usefulness of the meeting was questioned as it was felt to be a PR exercise, paying lip service only to the issue of consulting stakeholders. Resolved that the Clerk write to HBC asking on what basis the review information will be used and how it will be implemented.
- Daffodil bulbs – the Clerk to reply and ask for some, to be collected later in the year.
- Neighbourhood Watch signs – 'local' Police Officers should know where these are if they visit the community on a regular basis.
- HBC Investigative Reports into Noise and Odours from the airfield – to reply and state that the reports are based on evidence which the PC believes to be incomplete or inaccurate. Elizabeth Milner to be asked to have a look at the reports from a professional point of view and report back to the PC in due course. The Executive Summary to both Reports to be copied for Cllrs to see and comment upon. This matter will be followed up next month.
- HBC – Consultation on Unitary status bid by North Yorkshire – Cllrs Saunders, Kirby, Mrs Wardman and the Clerk had attended a presentation in Harrogate. This PC's opinion has not changed and it wishes to stay in a two tier system as the proposed Unitary Authority would be too large, too remote, cost too much, not all of which has been considered by NYCC, (Government grants are based on the Standard Spending Assessment and a reduction in the grant would exacerbate 'the Yorkshire problem' leading to disadvantage for both urban and rural areas), cause too much disruption, remove the 'local' from local democracy, be less democratic and involve too many 'talking shops' with no power to affect outcomes. Having had experience of working with the County Council, it is believed that competence to run the present services is questioned so a much larger authority would create even more problems. Resolved that the Clerk write an appropriate response to the Government consultation and copy the reply to HBC.

11. Planning

The Barn, Goosemoor Stud, Warfield Lane, Cowthorpe – retention of entrance gates. *There were objections to this application on the grounds that: 1. The height, design, materials and position of the gates adjacent to the Lane detract from the environmental qualities and the visual character of the area. The large gates are an incongruous and unreasonable intrusion into an open countryside setting. The amenity of all residents and users of the Lane is adversely affected. 2. Residents are concerned that the character of the area is adversely affected by the overt security measures that infer a vulnerable local situation.*

3, Prince Rupert Drive, Tockwith – erection of conservatory to rear. *There were no objections to this application.*

31, Fleet Lane, Tockwith – erection of two storey rear extension (revised scheme). *No objections.*

Westfield Farm, Tockwith – erection of detached greenhouse. *No objections.* Tockwith Sportsfield Trust – proposed storage building. The plans were shown to Cllrs for ratification prior to submission to the Planning Authority. The Clerk was asked to submit the application with the appropriate fee.

Planning decisions – approved with conditions:

Larkfield, Warfield Lane, Cowthorpe – erection of first floor rear extension, front porch and replacement detached garage (revised scheme)

13, Westfield Green, Tockwith – erection of 2 dormer windows to rear 168, Prince Rupert Drive – erection of two storey side and rear extensions and attached garage

Refused:- 162, Prince Rupert Drive Tomlinson Antiques, Moorside

Enforcement – notification and result of investigation Marston Moor Airfield – use of site for go-karting The current level and type of activity on site does not result in a statutory noise nuisance. PRO-AM outdoor karting is an events business providing facilities to corporate and private clients. As similar businesses have operated on the site for more than ten years the use has become established and is exempt from planning Enforcement action.

12. Accounts

Bank balances (as at 16/05/07)

Lloyds TSB current a/c	2,500.00
Lloyds TSB Deposit a/c	17,024.15

A/c's to pay/ratify

Denco (annual service contract and repairs)	639.08
Mrs G Firth (Clerk's salary and expenses)	841.07
Village Hall Management Committee (Room hire – 2006/7	144.00
Ray Farrer (grounds maintenance)	312.50
HBC (planning application fee)	265.00
Hunsingore DCC (grant for Cowthorpe churchyard maintenance)	150.00

[Cllr Billenness declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in this item and abstained from the vote thereon]

D/D on 1st May – PWLB	1,859.41
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Receipts

Allotment rents	35.00
Precept (first Instalment)	7918.00

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

Resolved also that new bank signatories be Cllr Saunders, Cllrs Mrs Wardman and Cllr Ward-Campbell.

A new requirement from external audit is to review internal audit procedures. The form will be circulated in next month's corries files for perusal by Cllrs.

Date of next Meeting: WEDNESDAY 20TH JUNE 2007 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending, read out the resolution for Exempt Matters and declared the meeting closed to the public.