

TOCKWITH WITH WILSTROP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Council meeting held on Wednesday 20th February 2008 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, N Waller, P Kirby,
R Ward-Campbell, I Robinson, C Billenness, M Kennett, P Pick
In attendance: County/District Cllr Savage, Mrs G Firth (Clerk to the Council),
16 members of the public

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the February Council meeting.

1. Apologies for absence - were received from Mrs Bygate, PC Haydon

2. Minutes of the last ordinary Meeting, Exempt matters, and Extra-Ordinary Meeting

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

3. Matters arising from the Minutes

- Flooding, Cowthorpe – it was reported that works to Folly Beck had been done by the Internal Drainage Board. Cllr Savage was to have a meeting with Officers from the Environment Agency at which the matter was to be raised.
- Sand bags – Cowthorpe Cllrs agreed to speak to residents affected and let the Clerk know if sand bags were required.
- Neighbourhood Watch signs – a cheque for £49.00 was given to Cllr Waller for these signs.
- Signs for the noticeboards and the Play Area – Cllr Saunders has this in hand

4. Local Development Framework – housing site allocations Harrogate Borough Council has looked at the whole District and discussed where potential housing development could take place. Preferred locations have been put forward for public consultation. There are two such sites in Tockwith, a Group B settlement, Site RL14(1), adjacent to Tockwith School, proposed for 150 homes, half of them to be “affordable” and Site RL1086a(1) off Marston Road, proposed for 8 “affordable” homes. RL14 (1) – the site is in multi-ownership and it is not known if all landowners have been approached or are in favour of the proposed development. Other potential sites in the village fit the criteria but have been discounted. These alternative sites would allow incremental development more able to be assimilated into the village. There are potential problems with access and infrastructure for site RL14 (1). 150 dwellings is a large number to be assimilated into this rural village. There would be a potential large increase in traffic movements and pressure put on available parking spaces in a development of 150 homes.

Standing Orders were suspended.

The Chairman of Governors for Tockwith School said that although an influx of new children would be welcomed, there are problems with the proposed site as the School boundary is not sufficient to be adjacent to 150 houses, there would be difficulties with roads, access and parking in the vicinity of the School and the capacity of the current School is not sufficient because of the increasing pressure for ‘extended schools’. Residents spoke of the potential huge increase in traffic and the problems with parking in the village now which would only get worse with an influx of many more vehicles. The local infrastructure was not believed to be able to cope with a further 150 homes.

Standing Orders were resumed.

Resolved that the Clerk respond to the consultation as follows:

Site RL14 (1) – objection as land is in multi-ownership and not all landowners have been approached; other sites in the village put forward by the Parish Council in the previous Plan the Future with us consultation would be a better option for programmed enlargement of a rural village; access is a potential problem as well as upgrading sewerage, lighting and other infrastructure for such a large site; whilst the PC accepts the need for more houses it believes in a sequential approach with smaller numbers of homes being better able to be integrated into the village.

Site 1086a (1) – objection – whilst the PC accepts the need for more affordable housing for local people, it is not believed that this site could be achievable due to change in ownership; the PC preferred site would be that put forward recently for 12 homes on the edge of the village, off Fleet Lane. The HBC Rural Housing Enabling Officer brought this site to the attention of the PC who gave it unanimous support. Cllr Kennett declared an interest in the site RL14 (1) and took no part in the vote.

5. Parish Council activities and expenditure in connection with their objection to BCB planning application

Cllr Billenness spoke to the item. In the last few weeks there had been a flurry of e mails. A co-ordinated effort is needed to oppose the application. It is believed the Environment Agency has objected on the grounds that the proposed chimney is not high enough. A further amended application is expected. It is important to share expertise, knowledge and research and conserve costs.

Cllrs agreed with the need to co-ordinate efforts and work closely with the Residents' Association but restated the fact that the PC operates under Standing Orders, cannot act quickly enough because of the rules and regulations pertaining to a local government body; the PC is not a lobbying group and cannot take on existing commitments of another organisation and cannot become involved with avoidance of paying VAT. The majority of Cllrs believed a two-pronged attack was more effective.

The Clerk made known the legal advice received from YLCA and HBC about formation of sub-committees and their remit.

Standing Orders were suspended.

Members of the Residents' Association spoke about the need for the PC to be seen to be supporting them. They suggested joint letters, joint meetings, the need for more funds and kudos for the TRA, the active assistance of Cllrs at TRA meetings and follow up letters to consultees' responses to the planning application. Bickerton and Bilton PC would like to see the PC giving a lead especially with regard to financing the opposition to the application. Standing Orders were resumed.

It was resolved that, in the first instance, the PC facilitate a Community Strategy Meeting, (date and venue to be advised) to discuss opposition to the planning application and invite all local community groups, parish councils, village societies/residents' associations and other organisations, MP's and PPC's, local businesses, WARDEN, local churches, the Archbishop of York, the Bishop of Selby, local landowners, Look North, Calendar, Yorkshire Evening Post and Press, Ackrills, Stray FM, Radio York, Minster FM, Radio Leeds, Friends of the Earth, Greenpeace, and the National Farmers Union. A request had been received from the TRA for a grant towards the costs of the planning consultant and expert guidance to help in researching grounds for objection to the planning application.

It was resolved to give an immediate grant of £500.00 and make provision in the accounts for consideration of possible future grants up to a maximum of a further £1,500.

Cllr Saunders declared an interest and took no part in the vote on this matter.

Resolved also that a reply be sent to Bickerton and Bilton PC stating that the PC has discussed the matter extensively and legal advice is that the PC cannot operate in the way suggested in their letter but to be assured that the PC is strenuously opposed to the planning application and has given a substantial grant to the TRA to assist their work.

6. Public Questions and Statements

There were none.

7. Village Hall

A PUBLIC OPEN Meeting is to be held on Thursday 13th March at 8pm in the Village Hall to brief the community on the progress of development plans for the VH.

The draft Business Plan for the VH if development does not take place was outlined. There are some large items of expenditure which will become necessary for refurbishment of the Hall and to comply with current legislation. The roof and boundary wall will need replacing in the near future.

The VH Management Committee thanked the PC for their support and reiterated their dedication to continuation of working for the VH.

The Lease – the PC believes that, having discussed the concerns with YLCA and legal advisors, it is acting in the public interest. The Clerk was instructed to write to the PC's Solicitor stating that his advice and comments are noted and hope that he will now be able to act and bring this matter to a conclusion.

The VHMC requested a grant from the PC to assist with their work.

Resolved that a grant of £1,500 be given as a grant towards the continuing operation of a valuable community asset.

10.&11. Report by County Cllr/District Cllr

Cllr Savage spoke of the following:

- Post Office closures
- Skewkirk Bridge – the matter is progressing, a Lease is being arranged with the landowner and there is money in the NYCC budget to complete the bridge.
- BCB – had been visited recently and the smell indoors was awful
- Cowthorpe flooding – the matter involved riparian rights but a meeting was to be held to discuss the way forward
- HBC housing site allocation – the Cllr was against the proposal for 150 houses in the village
- Rates/Council Tax – NYCC are proposing a 4.5% increase, HBC a 4.25% increase.
- The Cllr has given a grant of £500 from his Members' Budget to the VH.
- Cattal Station car parking – ongoing

8. Parish News monthly magazine

The possibility of placing PC news items in the local Churches' Parish Magazines was discussed. This was felt to be a good idea and Cllrs agreed to discuss who would get the news to

the magazine editors.

9. Police Matters

- Cars speeding through the villages, especially at commuting times, and drivers using mobile phones whilst driving to be mentioned again to the local Police Officer.
- It was reported that there is a dedicated Officer responsible for poachers and trespass with dogs. He can be contacted on 0845 6060 247
- A recent incident of a burglary at local business premises was mentioned. Although the incident had been reported to the Police, it had been stated that the Police could not attend for 48 hours. This was considered most unsatisfactory.

As a matter of public safety it was reported that the streetlight at the corner of Fleet Lane/Westfield Lane was not working. The Clerk agreed to report this to the relevant authority.

12. Correspondence Additional items 36 to 51 were made known

- Safer Communities Funding 2008/9 – the PC response/expression of interest in a grant had been turned down. The ‘problem solving’ approach suggested to be followed up.
- Marston Road – a letter from the landowner about the lack of a designated footpath was received. Resolved that the Clerk reply requesting consideration of a permissive footpath in this location because of the historical long use of the route for more than 20 years and as a way to school and the Sportsfield.
- Footpath, Northfield farm – the Clerk to reply to the NYCC Public ROW Officer explaining the situation and that of the PROW past Dalton Joinery/Village Hall.
- Use of Church for PC meetings – the Clerk to reply with the details requested
- HBC Spring Clean up – to be passed to the Youth Club and the Scouts
- Boroughbridge CaP Group Meeting – Cllr Waller agreed to attend the AGM
- Lloyds TSB bank – the Clerk to investigate an e banking facility
- PRD to School footpath – the Clerk had replied to NYCC with land ownership details
- Audit Commission – the PC were happy to retain Mazars as the external auditor
- HBC – survey of Settlements Facilities and Services given to Cllrs to complete and return to the Clerk
- Textile Bank – will be delivered this week
- CCTV is up and running at the VH

13. Planning

Land adjacent 238, Prince Rupert Drive – erection of 1 detached dwelling and formation of new vehicular access (revised scheme). *No objections*

The Barn, Goosemoor Farm, Cowthorpe – formation of tennis court and erection of 2.75m high perimeter fencing. *This decision to be deferred to a sub-committee meeting subject to the land designation being checked.*

Planning decisions – approved with conditions:

Unit 18, Rudgate Business Park – formation of first floor to provide office accommodation for textile warehouse Land comprising OS Field 0094,

Fleet Lane – formation of outdoor riding arena with 1.5m high enclosure fencing

Westfield Farm, Westfield Lane – erection of detached greenhouse (revised scheme)

Refused – Southfield Lodge, Rudgate – conversion of redundant building to form 1 dwelling, installation of new package treatment plant and erection of detached storage building for gardening and landscaping business.

Cllrs reported the removal of a length of hedge and formation of a new entrance on land at the corner of Kirk Lane/Tockwith Road, opposite Southfield Lane. The Clerk was asked to check the application for stables at land to the east of East House Farm and inform HBC Enforcement if unauthorised works have been carried out.

14. Accounts

Bank balances (as at 20/02/08)

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| Lloyds TSB current a/c | 2,500.00 |
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| Lloyds TSB Deposit a/c | 13,857.94 |
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A/c's to pay/ratify

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| Denco (annual maintenance) | 415.12 |
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| Stanley's Builders (VH roof repair) | 493.50 |
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| Mrs G Firth (salary to 29/2, expenses to 20/2) | 849.89 |
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Grants Tockwith Church

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| 400.00 Tockwith Methodist Church | 400.00 |
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| Village Hall Management Committee | 1,500.00 |
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| Tockwith Residents' Association | 500.00 |
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| 1st Marston Moor Scouts | 100.00 |
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| Tockwith & District Show | 250.00 |
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| Hunsingore DCC (Cowthorpe Church) | 150.00 |
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Resolved that the Bank balances be accepted, and accounts be paid/ratified as above.

Date of next Meeting: WEDNESDAY 19th MARCH 2008 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.