

TOCKWITH WITH WILSTROP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Council meeting held on Wednesday 17th September 2008 in the Village Hall

The 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 placed at the Hall entrance at every meeting and attendees notice drawn to it.

Chairman: Councillor C Saunders
Present: Councillors N Waller, Mrs Wardman, N Alliot, P Pick, C Billenness, R Ward-Campbell
In attendance: Mrs J Bygate (Internal Auditor), Mrs G Firth (Clerk to the Council), Mrs Steed, 3 members of the public

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the September Council meeting and congratulated Cllr Billenness on being co-opted as a Parish Representative to the Standards Sub-Committee – Eastern Area grouping.

Apologies for absence – were received from County/District Cllr Savage, Cllrs Algar, Trenchard and Mrs Scholey and the Police.

2. Declaration of Interests - There were none.

3. Minutes of the last Meeting

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

4. Matters arising from the Minutes

- Westfield Green – encroachment into POS – the boundary has now been reinstated but two fence posts have been left in. A watching brief will be kept on the situation.
- Speed strips, Cowthorpe – the matter is awaiting a response from the Police.
- Verge marker posts – are awaiting erection by Cllrs Pick and Waller. It was decided to ask for more posts so that the area alongside the Junior Football pitch can be covered as well.
- Youth Club – the YC operates on Tuesday and Friday evenings from 7.30 to 10pm. The Leader is employed for 6 hours a week for 45 weeks a year. These are the times during which Youth Club activities are covered by Public Liability Insurance paid for by the 4Youth Service of NYCC.
- Photographic Statement of Condition (VH) – Cllr Billenness has been having trouble with Snapfish, the provider of binders containing photos. He will be following this up. When completed these will be forwarded to Ware & Kay and will form part of the VH Lease. The signatories will be the Clerk, on behalf of the PC and Mrs Steed, on behalf of the VHMC.
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Standing Orders were suspended.

Mr Bell produced a photograph and letters of support regarding the field entrance/gate on Kirk Lane. Resolved that these be forwarded to HBC Enforcement.

Standing Orders were resumed.

5. Police matters

An e mail had been received from Inspector Chapman and this was read out by the Clerk.

No Officer was available to attend the PC meeting because of annual leave and commitments elsewhere.

Some crime figures for the Marston Moor Ward were produced. These showed Total crimes 29 (previous 9) with 0 detections. Overall crime for the rural wards has seen an increase, mainly due to recent thefts of and from motor vehicles. Dwelling burglary and violence have, however, shown a large fall of over 50% for each category.

Officers had spent a day at the Marston Moor Business Park in a joint venture with HBC Health & Safety Department providing information in relation to security to businesses there. It was considered a useful exercise and a good opportunity to market the Police Team and build relations with businesses.

Inspector Chapman would like to develop this type of initiative further and will be asking PC Haydon to organise a 'Police Surgery' in the Tockwith area. This would be an opportunity for residents to meet their local Officer and raise issues during a two hour slot. The PC was asked to consider where this would be best placed and the day of the week/times which would be most beneficial.

Cllrs expressed concern that in spite of the new initiative of "Safer Communities" and in spite of frequent invitations, there had been no Police Officer present at PC Meetings.

Cllrs also expressed disappointment that there had been a large increase in the number of crimes but no detections.

The question was asked whether the Marston Moor and Ouseburn Wards are too large to be jointly covered by one Officer.

Cllrs raised the following issues:

Fireworks – can be let off until midnight only on specific dates in the year. At all other times the limit is 11pm. A fixed penalty of £80 can be charged for breaching this. The Police to be informed if breaches occur.

B1224, persistent flooding, a danger to road safety – Bickerton and Bilton PC would appreciate support from this PC to try and resolve the situation. It was reported that works had been carried out recently and a watching brief be kept to see if the situation was resolved.

Wetherby Lane, Cowthorpe - Flooding – a car had become stranded and the village had been cut-off in this direction during recent storms. The blocked drain had been dug out to let the water escape.

6. Public Questions or Statements

Standing Orders were suspended. The following matters were raised:

- The promised speed analysis from the Police had not been forthcoming
- Southfield Lane does not have signs at the Kirk Lane end so sat. navs. were sending large vehicles along to Revis's along this single track road with passing places
- An offer of help had been received to erect the verge marker post
- Flooding signs at Cattal crossroads – locked boards had been requested some time ago but had not appeared. During recent bad weather the moveable signs had caused untold confusion as sometimes the boards were up when the road was open and down when the road was impassable.
- Pest control should become involved as there was a 'plague of rabbits'
- Cattal Station car parking remained a problem but the County Cllr was not present to answer queries
- For information Mr Bell said that a mobile field shelter has been put up with another one to follow. He has also put up notices stating that no-one is allowed to shoot rabbits on his land

Standing Orders were resumed.

Speed analysis request - to be added to the monthly e mail to the Police.

Flooding signs at Cattal crossroads – NYCC to be reminded about locked boards.

8. Allotments – Association/self governing/rents/tenancies

Allotments – the Clerk reported on research done into the formation of an Allotment Association and produced a draft letter to be sent to all tenants, seeking their views and informing them of rent increases to come into effect from next April. The last rent increase was in 1985 and the current rents are unrealistic. “The Parish Council has a duty to charge rents that are the best that can be achieved and such that tenants can be reasonably expected to pay”. The proposals are to increase the rents in line with current values, bearing in mind that most tenants are seniors or pensioners. This would result in the following charges: Full plot £20, ¾ plots £15, ½ plots £10, 3/8th plots £7.50 and ¼ plots £5, all per annum, to become due on 1st April of every year. These charges were considered to be good value bearing in mind they represent 50% of what is charged by HBC. The rents are to be reviewed annually from now on. Cllrs suggested a time limit for responses, to be 1st February 2009.

9. Tockwith Village Sign(s)

Village signs – the Chairman will e mail Cllrs with pictures of possible signs and a working party will be set up to decide the issue at a later date. The item to be on the agenda for next month.

10. and 11. Report by County/District Councillor

In the absence of Cllr Savage the Clerk read out his report received via e mail.

Skewkirk Bridge – further delays due to British Horse Society claiming a bridleway. The landowner objects as he only wants a footbridge. Harrogate Area meeting has asked for it to go to the Executive for a decision on the 23rd September. Details can be found on NYCC web site plus the agenda item which tells all on the 4th September 2008.

Bus stops and shelters. Mary Welch I believe met Members of the PC and Clerk in August to discuss and hopefully you will have been copied in on the various works proposed.

Still happy to help with Village Signs if we have a price and design as yet

NYCC are discussing and it's open to public consultation if it should have an elected Mayor who would be non-political and in effect would be the Leader of the Council. The scheme that is being encouraged by the Government. Perhaps an idea which would run in parallel with Hazel Blears idea of an Elected Mayor for the “Leeds City Regions” which I mentioned in my July report. Harrogate has introduced a total spending ban as it has no idea how much the concessionary fare scheme will cost, take-up in Harrogate area has been tremendous, in fact beyond all expectations. The funding from the Government is totally insufficient.

Waste Transfer application at Walshford – e mail from NYCC. *“We have not received any further information from the applicants in respect of addressing the objections of the Environment Agency and Highway Authority to the scheme despite their assurance they were having meetings with the respective agencies to address their concerns. Because we have given them an opportunity to undertake these meetings and respond with further information or put forward proposals to address these objections it has not proved possible to prepare the report for the October Committee meeting, however it will go to the 25th November’s Committee. In light of the current absence of any new proposals to overcome these earlier objections then clearly the application in its present format is unacceptable and unless these matters are satisfactorily*

resolved or addressed then this is the position that will be set out in the report to November's Committee." Cllr Savage will be attending the November meeting to speak in necessary.

BCB application may now possibly be delayed until the January 2009 meeting. See below e mail from NYCC which explains: *"BCB's agents have promised to submit all revised information, in the form of an addendum to the Environmental Statement, within three weeks – i.e. the beginning of October. That further/additional information would be advertised and consulted upon. The statutory minimum 21 day period for the receipt of responses would apply but in practice adequate time would be allowed for key consultees to respond. The EIA Regulations do not provide for a further 16 week period for determination of the application. It does now seem that we shall soon have all the information required to enable a decision to be made. However, the additional three weeks required by the applicant to put the revised EIA document together means that it will not be possible to meet the deadline for the November Committee. The next Committee is in January."*

12. Correspondence

Additional items 57 to 59 were made known.

BT phone kiosk, Cowthorpe – the response from BT was unhelpful and unsatisfactory. A watching brief to be kept on developments especially as HBC has objected to the application to withdraw the telephone service. Cllr Billenness will be attending the AGM of BT.

Letters from Kirk Lane residents – the Clerk to reply and say that the PC considers the 'new' field entrance has better sight lines than the older one for exit onto Tockwith Road/Kirk Lane.

Letter from Cricket Club – the PC is unaware of any land of suitable size but the Clerk was instructed to write and ask the Cricket Club to provide more details of their exact requirements before an informed decision could be made.

Web site map of parish – Cllr Billenness agreed to remind NYCC about providing a suitable map

HBC questionnaire – the Clerk was instructed to complete this

Village Safety Schemes – the Clerk was asked to reply and resubmit schemes from previous years which had been agreed but not implemented and to ask where the money had gone

Wetherby to York Bus Service Infrastructure Improvements – a notice to be displayed on the web site and the Notice board advising residents that the plans could be seen at the home of the

Clerk Cllr Mrs Wardman reported that the Rural Affordable Housing Tour had been a useful exercise

7. Village Hall

Mrs Steed apologised for lateness.

Standing Orders were suspended.

Mrs Steed was invited to report.

The back room and annexe has now been cleared of broken/unusable/dangerous equipment. The back room would be thoroughly cleaned, after which it could be used for small group meetings as well as Youth Club meetings. The VHMC and the Youth Service had agreed to the works being carried out.

On removing the bench seats in the annexe an area of rising damp and wet rot has been uncovered on the east wall and floor.

It is intended to decorate the Hall and provide additional storage areas once the damp problem has been sorted. The PC was asked to organise the repair as it was a problem affecting the fabric of the building.

Quotes are being obtained for internal decoration and grants being sourced for external works such as windows and roof replacement.

Third party funding of £10,000 would be required as part of a £50,000 grant available for major refurbishment works to the VH. This was being looked into.

Quotations for design and build of a small extension to the rear of the Hall are being sought. This has become necessary to progress the Access Audit Report, which had been 'on hold' whilst the larger proposed extension was being discussed.

The B & Q grant for the rear garden – the application was unsuccessful. The PC was asked whether there would be objections to the removal of the rear wall to the tarmac-ed area of playground. This would enable a more attractive scheme for the rear garden to be planned. As the wall is a retaining wall care would have to be taken if the wall was lowered but there was no objection in principle to its' removal.

Youth Club – the VHMC has been in regular contact with John Collins at the 4Youth Service. The Youth Club has been temporarily suspended. The Leader has been instructed to prepare a programme of events for the year. The Youth Club had been asked what equipment they wanted to keep before the clearing operation and what future equipment they would require which would be more modern and able to be stored away between meetings. A compromise had been reached with regard to the metal filing cabinet remaining in the front part of the boiler room. Further developments on the management and control of the Youth Club are awaited.

Standing Orders were resumed.

Mrs Steed was thanked for her report.

Cllrs resolved that quotations be sought for the required works and emergency repairs be authorised.

13. Planning including standing item: BCB application

Applications

168, Prince Rupert Drive – erection of two storey side and rear extension (revised scheme) *No objections.*

6, Lucas grove South – raising of roof height and conversion of loft to form additional living accommodation and installation of 6 roof lights and ground floor window to side elevation. *The PC has no objections.*

The Barn, Gowlands Farm, Wilstrop – erection of link extension between dwelling and garage. *The PC does not object to or support the application but wishes to make the following comments: 1) The extension does not appear to be in keeping with what was a farm complex conversion*

Unit 18, Rudgate Business Park – erection of industrial unit with first floor office accommodation (Use Class B1) *The PC has no objections.*

Crossgates Farm, Cattal Moor Lane – display of one non-illuminated free standing sign. *The PC has no objections.*

Decisions – approved with conditions

Welham Lodge, Westfield Road – erection of rear conservatory

Fairfax House, Southfield Lane – installation of 3 gas storage tanks and erection of 2.4 metre high fencing enclosure

Niddway, Kendal Gardens – erection of detached dwelling (revised scheme)

Land adjacent to 238, Prince Rupert Drive – erection of detached dwelling and garage with new vehicular access (revised scheme)

Rose Cottage, Westfield Road – conversion of attached store to form additional living accommodation and formation of first floor over

Whiteoaks, Marston Road – conversion and raising roof height of garage to form additional living accommodation

Mayfield, Fleet Lane – erection of rear conservatory (revised scheme)

168, Prince Rupert Drive – erection of two storey side and rear extension (revised scheme)

6, Lucas Grove South – raising of roof height and conversion of loft to form additional living accommodation with installation of 6 roof lights and ground floor window to side elevation

HBC response to BT re telephone Box removal in Cowthorpe

Planning Appeal decision – Appeal dismissed Acorn House, Warfield Lane, Cowthorpe – outline application for erection of public house with layout and access considered

Opportunity to Speak: 1) Niddway, Kendal Gardens; 2) Land adjacent 238, Prince Rupert Drive

Enforcement – notification and result of investigation The Barn, Goosemoor Stud, Warfield Lane, Cowthorpe

Cllrs requested that an additional question be added to the agenda for the HBC Consultation meeting with PC's: *This Parish Council requests that HBC consider charging a financial penalty when retrospective planning applications are submitted, of at least 50% above the normal planning fee. This would deter developers from proceeding with unauthorised developments only to subsequently be encouraged by Planning Enforcement to submit a retrospective application. If this is not within the remit of the Borough Council, it should lobby Government to see that the planning system is not abused.*

14. Accounts, including External Auditor's report

Bank balances (as at 17/09/08)

Lloyds TSB current a/c	2,500.00
Lloyds TSB Deposit a/c	8,395.76

A/c's to pay/ratify

Zurich Insurance (annual premium)	1,049.09
Wicksteed Leisure (paint for Play Area)	17.63
Mark Algar (Hammerite for Play Area)	14.98
WARDEN (annual subs)	10.00
Mrs G Firth (Clerk's salary to 30.9 and expenses to 17.9)	838.12
R Farrer (grounds maintenance)	335.00
(aq) Ltd (web forwarding/email)	11.75
Mazars (External Audit fee)	158.62
Clive Billenness (binders with photographs)	35.64
Dalton Joinery (VH rear door repair)	218.55

Receipts

Allotment rents	20.00
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Resolved that the Bank balances be accepted, and accounts be paid/ratified as above. *Cllr Billenness abstained from the vote as a reimbursement to him was included above.*

Insurance – the Clerk to amend the items on the All Risks part of the Policy to bring up to date with current assets. External Audit – the Clerk to prepare and publish Notices of Completion of the Audit and the opinion of the External Auditor as required by law.

Date of next Meeting: WEDNESDAY 15th OCTOBER 2008 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm

Cllr Billenness said that the allowance he will receive as a co-opted Member of the Standards Committee will be paid to Charity.

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