

TOCKWITH WITH WILSTROP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Council meeting held on Wednesday 18th February 2009 in Tockwith Parish Church

Chairman: Councillor C Saunders

Present: Councillors N Waller, Mrs Scholey, P Pick, R Ward-Campbell, C Billenness, M Algar, S Trenchard, N Allott

In attendance: Cllr J Savage (District/County Cllr) arrived late after an earlier meeting, Mrs J Bygate (Internal Auditor), Mrs G Firth (Clerk to the Council), 2 members of the public

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the February Council meeting.

1. Apologies for absence – were received from Cllr Mrs Wardman (holiday), PC Haydon (sick leave), and Mrs Steed (involved with the Pantomime this evening).

2. Declarations of Interest – Cllr Billenness declared a prejudicial interest in the request for a grant from Hunsingore PCC for Cowthorpe churchyard grass cutting.

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/business remaining from the last meeting

1) Adopt a kiosk – the Clerk reported on the adoption being complete as far as BT is concerned but there were yet more applications/forms to be completed for the electricity supply connection.

2) Electoral cycles – Cllrs resolved by a majority vote to support the status quo, that is election by thirds in three years out of four.

3) Parking on grass verges near Sportsfield – Cllr Trenchard had asked the Football Club to be mindful of PC concerns and an improvement had been seen this last weekend.

5. Public Questions or Statements

There were none.

6. Report from the Clerk

BT Adopt a kiosk – a contract proposal from npower is awaited.

Village Hall Lease, Counterpart and Deed of Covenant have been completed. Work to the governing document

of the Lessees, required by the Charity Commission, is ongoing.

Village Hall electrics – an anti-surge mechanism for the CCTV had not been progressed because of the cost being £400 + VAT + fitting. The system is working fine and there have been no more problems with losing data.

Quad bike/motorcycle racing – the Clerk had spoken at length with the Planning Enforcement Officer at HBC.

Information was exchanged. Mr Moore had suggested a site meeting which was to be attended by Cllrs Pick, Algar and the Clerk next week. Cllrs stated that, to their knowledge, the particular site has not been used continuously for this purpose for ten years; such activity should be covered by insurance and trainers should be qualified; planning approval should be obtained for any such enterprise and especially if additional buildings are proposed.

Resolved that the Clerk write to 1) the proposed Operator expressing concern about the enterprise and the lack of planning approval for such use; and 2) the Leader of HBC, asking him to pass on the Council's concern about the funding from Yorkshire Forward for an enterprise which does not have planning approval.

Village Hall car park – recent complaints had been reported concerning 1) the Air Ambulance recycling bin - a large number of black sacks had been left at the side of the bin. It was believed bags were being overfilled, which made them too big to go in the chute. The bags become damaged due to inclement weather and being tampered with and become unsightly. The adjacent neighbour had kindly cleared the bags but the problem has been passed to the Air Ambulance Charity, who promised to put up additional signs asking people not to leave bags beside the bin; and

2) Mini-recycling centre – a large number of plastic bottles and amounts of cardboard are being left at the site but there are no recycling facilities for these materials. HBC had been asked to provide additional signs advising people where to take such materials for recycling but not to leave them for others to tidy up. As the Parish Council provides the site for the bins, it was not felt to be unreasonable to expect HBC to address this problem.

7. Police matters

Inspector Chapman had sent an e mail report.

1) PC Haydon will continue as the Safer Neighbourhoods Officer for Marston Moor and Ouseburn Wards.

Ideally there would be one SNT Officer per Ward but, as the team of six Constables covers eleven Wards, this is

not possible. The 'move' of Marston Moor to Boroughbridge is only really administrative for purposes of line management and team alignment. PC Haydon's line manager is Sgt Mick Ramshaw, who has responsibility for Boroughbridge and the rural Wards associated with it. Sgt Guymmer, who covers Knaresborough, and Inspector Chapman both have an interest in Marston Moor, as do other members of the Safer Neighbourhoods Team whenever PC Haydon is not working. Both PC Haydon and Sgt Ramshaw start and end their duty at Knaresborough Police Station. Hence we should find that the Ward receives a good service generally, albeit temporarily reduced as a result of PC Haydon's absence.

2) Crime information for specific Wards can be provided and PC Haydon would be happy to update PC meetings.

There may have been some misunderstanding in relation to which CaP group Marston Moor is aligned to, either Boroughbridge or Knaresborough. The new North Yorkshire Police website, though still under development has a facility to look at crime information in particular neighbourhoods under a postcode entry.

The structure of CaP meetings is going to change. Tier 1 CaP meetings will no longer be held (other than extra-ordinary meetings in the short term). Tier 2 meetings will still be held unless our communities decide that there are more appropriate methods of engagement but it is likely that the meetings will be called 'Safer neighbourhoods Group' meetings to move away from the idea that they are exclusively police related. Inspector Chapman would like to discuss this further at the next round of meetings (2nd March for Boroughbridge and 24th March for Knaresborough) Note has been taken of vehicular activity around the Marston Moor Monument .

Cllrs reported the following:

- youths walking over the roofs of cars in Westfield Road
- evidence of poachers about, especially on weekends. This had been reported to the Police, who had replied promptly.

The Police number was to be put on the PC website as it is felt to be worth ringing the 24 hour response number.

People were asked to report the registration details of cars involved which would then be logged and tracked.

8. Village Hall

In the absence of Mrs Steed the Clerk gave a report.

(1) Lease and management issues

- the new Lease is now complete
- arrangements are being made for the Official Custodian of the Charity Commission to

- become the Holding Trustee
- the constitution is being amended under an amended governing document and the required application and declaration documents are being forwarded to the Charity Commission

(2) General

- it has been noted that cracks have appeared in the Main Hall and at the front corner of the boundary wall. The Parish Council was asked to investigate the cause and the need for repair.

The Council resolved to obtain the advice of a Structural Engineer. Delegated authority was given to the Chairman and the Clerk to progress emergency repairs if the faults were proven to be dangerous. It was suggested that the height of the boundary wall could be reduced to three feet or so to maintain stability.

- The Parish Council was asked if it would be willing to meet elsewhere on the third Wednesday of every month, excepting August and December, in order to accommodate the Scouts who wished to hire the Hall on a Wednesday night. The Council would be happy to accommodate the VHMC as this would result in more revenue for the Village Hall.
- The Village Hall management Committee wished to thank the Parish Council for all the help and support given during the previous year.

The Clerk had obtained quotations for a maintenance contract for the central heating boiler and water heater.

These were to be discussed in exempt matters under item 18 on this agenda.

Items 9 and 10 were deferred until later in the meeting, awaiting the attendance of Cllr Savage.

11. Allotments – Association, Rent increases, General

The Clerk reported on the replies received from tenants. Three tenants had not replied. Of those who had replied there was a majority in favour of maintaining the status quo, that is not to proceed at this time with an Association.

Resolved that the Council not proceed with an Association but the matter be brought back for further discussion in future if things changed. The Clerk was asked to write to all tenants informing them of the decision.

9. and 10. Report by County/District Councillor

Cllr Savage reported:

- Council tax increases of 3.94% for NYCC and 3.8% for HBC had been agreed, with the Fire Authority increase of 4% and the Police 3.7%.
- NYCC had used 57,000 tons of salt and sand on 9000 kilometres of highways.
- UK banks are rated 44th in the world = Peru and Lithuania
- Incineration in North Yorks . – Allerton quarry is the preferred site. It would deal with 300,000 to 400,000 tons of material. Although Cllr Savage was opposed to the location it would be difficult to fight against because the site is considered ideal, being already a municipal waste site.

It was stated that the Conservatives should decide where they stand on Incineration. Other European countries had supported it but did no longer.

Kirk Lane - had been deadly again during the bad weather. Cllr Savage was asked to keep pressing for it to be added to the gritting routes in the County. It was felt NYCC needed a justification for NOT gritting as it was a bus route and a route to the Primary School, used by neighbouring villages as well as Tockwith.

Quad bike circuit – Cllr Savage was asked to follow up this matter with HBC Planning Enforcement.

Cllr Savage said that following e mails he had taken the matter up with the Chair of Planning and an Enforcement Order was being served. Parish Cllrs were concerned that HBC may not fight

the case, if it came to court, because of the distance of Tockwith from Harrogate .

Cllr Savage was thanked for his attendance and report.

12. Cllrs responsibilities

All Cllrs should be available to accept responsibility for items delegated by the Clerk for action. Comments/Reports from members of the public could be directed to the appropriate authority after making the Clerk aware.

Cllr Savage asked to be kept informed of all matters to do with HBC and NYCC.

13. Use of Commuted Sums

Cllrs were invited to attend HBC Training sessions on the Commuted Sums Policy.

Resolved that the Clerk book places at the Training sessions for interested Cllrs.

14. Correspondence

Additional items 33 to 45 were made known.

- BCB information events – Cllrs were concerned at the lack of opportunity for consultation/exchange of information. Afternoons in school half-term week, when a lot of families were away, was not considered good enough.
- Cowthorpe footpath – the Clerk was asked to obtain an estimate for providing this.
- YLCA Harrogate Branch meeting – questions for Mr Richards, HOPS, and Mr Gill, Enforcement, required.
- NY Times – cost to circulate is £450,000 pa but revenue of £490,000 received for advertising.
- Cllrs mentioned the self-congratulatory content and felt that the editorial content should be changed.
- NYPFA newsletter – resolved not to subscribe to this.
- HBC Woodland Policy – delegated to Cllr Mrs Wardman and the Clerk to make a response.

15. Planning including standing item: BCB application

Applications

Goosemoor Stud, Warfield Lane, Cowthorpe – retention of the extension to the domestic curtilage with the retention of decked area, septic tank cover, shed, log store, path, summer house, field pond and dog pen.

Neighbour notification had revealed no local concerns.

Resolved that the PC does not object to or support the application for the retention of features already in existence but would like to see safeguards so that the domestic curtilage is not further extended into agricultural land.

19, Kendal Gardens – conversion of garage to form additional living accommodation. *No Objections.*

Hawthorne Cottage, Westfield Road – erection of conservatory to rear.

Resolved that the PC objects to this application on the following grounds: 1) the door on the west side of the conservatory would open very near to the boundary with the neighbour and would create unacceptable intrusion on the amenity of the neighbour and lead to lack of privacy and noise issues with movements in and out of this door;

2) the proposed conservatory would almost fill the amenity space to the rear of Hawthorne Cottage and leave very little garden space; 3) The siting of the conservatory and the low boundary wall between the property and the neighbour would lead to overlooking and loss of privacy; and 4) the conservatory will be seen from Westfield Road, especially as there is no adjacent property to the east, only a field.

Enforcement issues

Wilstrop - It was reported that a large stable block and a static caravan had appeared in a field by the railway crossing off the A59. No planning application had been seen for this location.

Resolved that the Clerk inform HBC Planning Enforcement and ask them to investigate.

5, Westfield Road , Tockwith – a large building had been erected in the garden. No planning application had been seen.

Resolved that the Clerk report this to HBC Planning Enforcement and ask them to investigate.

The Clerk was asked to contact Cllr Savage and ask for:

- an up-date on the Tomlinson Antiques application at Moorside and
- the progress of the HBC Conservation Area Review as no feedback or draft report had been received.

16. Accounts

Bank balances (as at 18/02/09)

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|------------------------|----------|
| Lloyds TSB current a/c | 2,500.00 |
| Lloyds TSB Deposit a/c | 4,487.58 |

A/c's to pay/ratify

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|---|-------|
| Absolute Emergencies (Keytek for VH keys) | 40.00 |
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Outstanding accounts

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| Bartlett Tree Experts (to be paid on receipt of invoice) | 937.65 |
| Steve Tebbutt (to be paid when VH window repair done) | 750.00 |
| Steve Tebbutt (to be paid on completion of damp work) | 580.00 |
| BT (Adopt a kiosk) | 1.00 |
| (completion of the agreement awaited, cheque sent, not banked yet) | |
| Tockwith Church (room hire, to be paid on receipt of invoice) | 17.50 |
| Village Hall room hire (to be paid on receipt of invoice) | 175.00 |

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

Resolved also that grants be held over for decision until April, after the financial year end.

Cllrs were made aware of cash flow and budget issues for the current financial year and likely expenditure before the financial year end on 31st March.

Quotations for annual maintenance of central heating boiler and water heater be discussed in exempt matters.

Date of next Meeting: WEDNESDAY 18th MARCH

Apologies for absence from the March meeting were received from Cllr Ward-Campbell and Mrs Bygate and apologies for lateness from Cllr Billenness.

The resolution for exempt matters was passed and the Chairman declared the meeting closed to the public.