

TOCKWITH WITH WILSTROP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Council meeting held on Wednesday 15th July 2009 in Tockwith Church

Chairman: Councillor C Saunders JP

Present: Councillors Mrs Scholey, Mrs Wardman, N Waller, R Ward-Campbell, C Billenness, P Pick, N Alliot (late arrival)

In attendance: Mrs G Firth (Clerk to the Council), Mrs A Unsworth (VHMC Chairman),
1 member of the public

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the July Council meeting.

1. Apologies for absence – were received from Cllrs Algar, (work commitment), Trenchard, (work) and PC Haydon

2. Declarations of Interest – none

3. Public Questions or Statements Standing Orders were suspended.

A complaint had been received about a bird scarer at the east end of the village. The noise and regularity were over and above what would normally be expected. Standing Orders were resumed. Cllr Pick agreed to have a word with the landowner concerned.

4. Minutes of the last Meeting held on 17th June

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

5. Matters arising from the Minutes/business remaining from the last meeting

1) Marston Road Play Area – the Police have erected additional signs warning of action to be taken if there are further acts of vandalism.

6. Press Releases – new Standing Order/Policy on public communication (appendix 1)

The Chairman thanked the Clerk for all her hard work in producing the draft Policy which had been circulated to Cllrs. Cllrs agreed the new Policy was straightforward and should prevent misinterpretation. Cllrs resolved to adopt the new Policy, which will become Standing Order number 75.

7. Arrangements for dealing with urgent matters arising between Parish Council meetings

Cllr Billenness spoke to this item. He stated that it was important to be clear on how to deal with such matters.

[Reference matters concerning bus hire to attend a planning meeting at Harrogate and a request from WARDEN about agreement to write a letter of objection to a planning application for Churchfields at Boston Spa]

The Chairman stated that there is already an accepted policy on general matters, when a committee has delegated authority to decide matters between meetings, such as financial matters, e.g. Insurance renewal, being delegated to the RFO/Clerk and planning matters to a planning committee.

Extra-Ordinary meetings can be held to discuss urgent matters not covered by existing policies.

The Clerk reminded Cllrs of the protocol for arranging extra-ordinary meetings.

It was resolved to refund to the TRA the cost of hiring the bus to Harrogate, if they forwarded the paid invoice to the Council. This amount would be deducted from the £700 allocated to the TRA in grants for this year.

8. Report from the TRA

Cllr Billenness gave a report.

- The TRA is receiving reports from consultants, all of whom have taken into account the proposed increase in the height of the chimney. There is cause for additional concern because it is suggested that the BCB planning application is inaccurate and emissions have been miscalculated.
- There will be a Public Meeting at the School in the autumn.
- The TRA is pursuing the recent occurrence of high performance go-kart racing on the airfield. Officers from HBC have attended the site to look at the race track. Planning Enforcement has asked the owner/operator of the site to produce evidence of consent for what is happening, a copy of which has been requested from HBC by the TRA under the Freedom of Information Act.
- The TRA is also looking into the original sale documents, and any covenants attached, when the airfield was sold following decommissioning after World War 2.

Resolved that the Clerk contact HBC and ask for a copy of the 'blanket' approval for 'driver training' activity on the airfield, given before Local Government reorganisation.

9. Report from the Clerk

Responsibility to the young people of the parish – concern had been expressed about the alleged activity of the ex-Youth Club Leader who was visiting Tockwith trying to recruit members for a new Youth Club to be held in Long Marston Village Hall. It was understood that this proposed Club was not affiliated to or insured by North Yorkshire Youth. Resolved that the Clerk contact the Chairman of LM VH to make him aware of this.

Highways matters – the Clerk was authorised to arrange the siting of a grit bin on Prince Rupert Drive, obtain more verge marker posts for Southfield Lane, and request verge markers for the bend at Broad Oak.

Planning Enforcement issues – the Clerk updated members on ongoing matters at Wilstrop.

WARDEN – the Clerk had replied to WARDEN giving the approval of the Council, as a member, to sending a letter of objection to Leeds MDC about the Boston Spa planning application. This decision was ratified as the Clerk had received replies from sufficient Cllrs, (more than the number required for a quorum), for a decision to be made.

Adopt a kiosk – the 'PR' opportunity with BT had been declined because of the unduly complicated, lengthy and time consuming process which was not yet complete. Following the Clerk's conversation with the BT PR spokesperson, workmen had attended the kiosk in Cowthorpe and fixed the light which is now operating. The PC was asked to provide to BT any plans for intended use of the kiosk in the future.

10. Police matters In the absence of a Police Officer the Clerk read out a report from PC Haydon.

“Things to note on the crime side since last month. Two vehicles were scratched on Springfield Terrace last week. No witnesses to the incident.

Running with that theme I have posted letters regarding the anti-social behaviour around the location of the ginnel asking for people to contact us with information and report any anti-social behaviour.

There have been two incidents of theft on the Business Park. Two persons were arrested for one of the thefts...they were employees.

Crime wise it has been quiet across the Ward in comparison to other months. Due to duties elsewhere and annual leave I cannot update you on other matters. I will be able to attend the next meeting in September...my shift pattern comes in line with your dates”.

11. Village Hall

Standing Orders were suspended.

Report by VHMC Chairman, Mrs Unsworth gave a report.

- She thanked the PC for the exterior decorating and new door at the VH. The building looks really nice.
- The internal decorating has been completed. A new acoustic door between the Main Hall and annexe will be installed during the summer holidays.
- The back room is due to be refurbished. This will allow the room to be hired for smaller meetings and increase revenue. Grant funding has been obtained for decorating, new furniture and extra storage in the back room and annexe.

The Clerk had liaised with the decorator and the new external door and frame had been fitted prior to painting. An additional item was the upper high window at the east end of the building. This had been boarded up after persistent acts of vandalism but this boarding could not be painted ‘satisfactorily’. The boarding had been removed and replaced with plywood and the finished effect after painting was good. The PC was asked to approve and commission the plastering of the back room, two walls of which are breeze block and a third wall brick. It had been decided not to fit a new ceiling because the room is small and dark, so there should be a reduction in the amount quoted for works to the room, as in the May Exempt Minutes. The Central heating system requires amendment and quotations are being sought for this work.

The PC Chairman commended the VHMC for all their hard work and for production of the informative newsletter and Village Hall Vision leaflets.

A question had been asked by a resident about what had happened to the original sliding doors between the Hall and annexe. These had been removed some time ago for safety reasons. They had been used by youths for skateboarding ramps and been damaged beyond repair when the rear of the Hall was not secured by fencing as it is now.

A question was asked about the new management arrangements for the Youth Club. Mrs Unsworth, as newly appointed Chairman, has visited all user groups on a regular basis. All groups have management packs and are asked to check the Hall before and after hiring so that any damage can be reported and attributed to the right user group. There has been some damage, when the current Leader was away for 4 weeks on annual leave, but responsibility had been accepted by the Youth Club and any damage would be paid for by NYCC.

Mrs Unsworth was thanked for her attendance and report.

Standing Orders were resumed.

12. Report by County Councillor Savage

13. Report from District Councillor Savage

In the absence of Cllr Savage there were no reports.

The Clerk was asked to contact Cllr Savage and ask for follow up of both Harrogate and North Yorkshire concerns, to include a request for more dog waste bins, especially at the side of Daltons, on Kendal Lane and Kirk Lane.

14. Correspondence

Items 15 to 22 and additional e mails, planning applications and decisions were made known to Cllrs.

- Resident re high performance go-karting – to reply and say that this is a long standing issue which the Parish Council has been actively pursuing on behalf of residents. Regular contact is maintained with Planning Enforcement and Environmental Health Officers at HBC as new issues arise. The Parish Council has every intention of continuing to seek to protect the interests of all residents.
- Himalayan Balsam working party – Cllrs are aware of the date, the 25th July, and are advised to take Wellingtons as some areas are muddy. Cllr Saunders gave his apologies as he will not be able to attend.
- Copies of the newsletter from the new Rural Housing Enabler at HBC were made available.
- Local Development Framework – web link details were given to Cllrs
- Annual Playground Inspection – resolved to keep existing arrangements with RoSPA
- Telephone call about large inflatable on Westfield Green POS - resolved that the Clerk write to all Westfield Green residents, reminding them that the POS is owned by the Parish Council, permission should be sought for any proposed activities and that residents need to be covered by insurance for any such activities.
- SLCC Regional Conference – resolved that the Clerk could attend and the PC will pay the fees.
- Wilstrop Notice Board – May Gurney had been in contact and the company had agreed to reimburse the cost of repairing and replacing the board which they had damaged.
- Use of Community Field by the Scouts –
The Chairman read out the letter from the Scout Leader requesting permanent use of the field for outdoor Scouting activities. Cllr Pick declared a personal interest in this matter. A thorough discussion followed. It was said that the proposed use would not materially change the field, in fact proposed tree and hedge planting would only improve the area. Permanent use need not mean exclusive use. The PC wishes to support the Scouts as the single largest youth organisation in the village.
Resolved that the Clerk reply and invite the Scout Leaders to attend the September PC meeting to outline their proposals and in the meantime have authorised use of the field during the summer months.
- Parish Notice board – Concern was expressed at the dilapidated state of the board attached to the wall outside the Costcutter store. The Clerk was given delegated authority to arrange repair/refurbishment as soon as possible and investigate a permanent solution, a new board of metal/plastic type construction.

15. Planning including standing item: BCB application

BCB application heard at HBC Planning Committee meeting The PC Chairman had attended and, although a mistake had been made by HBC and there should have been No Opportunity to Speak, as HBC was only a consultee and was not making the decision on the application, it had been agreed by the Chairman of Planning Committee that the PC Chairman would be allowed to speak for 3 minutes. The Planning Committee's decision was to strongly object to the application in its' response to NYCC. It was further stated that, should the application be approved by NYCC,

HBC was minded to inform NYCC that Rudgate would need major upgrading works.

Tockwith Lodge Farm – conversion of barn to form holiday accommodation and conversion of storage building to form additional living accommodation with erection of single storey side extension. (from last month, to ratify decision) *The PC does not object to or support the application but passed on the neighbour comments as follows: The owners of Littlefield never received notification, in spite of the applicant stating that they had served notice; Concern is expressed about additional noise as the main accommodation, kitchen, dining, patio is moving into the new barn conversion; concern is expressed about noise and disruption during building works as the owner works shifts and would like to see no working on Sundays or after 6pm on other days.*

Meadowcroft, 5, Westfield Road – retention of detached garden store and extension to domestic curtilage (revised scheme). Cllr Saunders declared a personal and prejudicial interest and left the meeting for discussion of this item. Cllr Waller in the Chair: The application is not significantly different in that the building already exists, changes have been made to the extent of the domestic curtilage. Resolved to object on the same grounds as before with the additional reason as given in the decision of HBC to refuse the application.

Cllr Saunders resumed the Chair.

Holly House, 32, Marston Road – erection of single storey rear extension. Neighbour notification had been done. There were no objections but concern was expressed about construction vehicles possibly hampering traffic movements at this narrow part of Marston Road.

1, Norfolk Gardens – erection of first floor extension over existing side extension. There were no objections subject to comments from neighbours.

Decisions – approved subject to conditions 3, Norfolk Gardens – erection of single storey front extension

Decision - refused Meadowcroft, 5, Westfield Road – retention of detached garden store and extension to domestic curtilage.

16. Accounts

Bank balances (as at 15/07/09)

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|------------------------|----------|
| Lloyds TSB current a/c | 2,500.00 |
| Lloyds TSB Deposit a/c | 8,676.81 |

A/c's to pay/ratify

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|-----------------------------------|--------|
| Ray Farrer (grounds maintenance) | 220.00 |
| Mrs G Firth (salary and expenses) | 891.89 |

Receipts VHMC (reimburse Insurance premium)

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| 1,011.61 Sportsfield Trust (rent for field, Junior Football) | 3.00 |
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Delegated authority was given to the Clerk to pay the annual Insurance premium, which becomes due on 1st September; the invoice from S Tebbutt when presented, for external decoration at the VH; the invoice from J Dawson, the Solicitor acting for the VHMC in Lease and management arrangements; the invoice for central heating system amendment/repair; and any invoice presented before the next meeting concerning expenditure which has been agreed by the

Council.

Borrowing Approval and Application to the PWLB

The Clerk explained the procedures to be completed before a Loan could be obtained and asked for direction from the Council on the amount of Loan to be requested.

Resolved that the Clerk investigate the amount of Loan which could be obtained which would result in similar repayment terms to the loans already held. An amount of £70,000 was suggested.

Resolved that the Clerk prepare an application for Borrowing Approval to go to YLCA in the first instance and then to the DCLG.

Resolved to apply to the PWLB once Borrowing Approval is obtained.

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

17. Date of next Meeting: WEDNESDAY 16th SEPTEMBER 2009 at 7.30pm in Tockwith Church.

Cllr Billenness gave his apologies as he will be abroad on business.

Delegated authority was given, for decisions to be made before the September meeting, to a committee comprising as many Cllrs as are available during the holiday period.

Before the close of the meeting, the Chairman wished to place on record his thanks to Cllr Mrs Scholey, who was attending her last PC meeting, having decided to retire from the Council. The Council would miss Cllr Mrs Scholey's contribution and wished her well in the future.

In reply Cllr Mrs Scholey wished to thank the Clerk and Cllrs for guidance and help during her time as a Cllr. She had learned a lot. She believed it was important for Wilstrop to be represented by a Cllr from Wilstrop. Mrs Chesney of Wilstrop Hall had expressed her interest in taking over from Cllr Scholey. The Clerk would notify HBC in the usual way of a vacancy for Wilstrop and assist Mrs Chesney in the procedure for becoming an elected member.

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed.