

TOCKWITH WITH WILSTROP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Council meeting held on Wednesday 18th March 2009 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 is drawn to it.

Chairman: Councillor C Saunders

Present: Councillors N Waller, Mrs Scholey, Mrs Wardman, C Billenness, M Algar

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

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the March Council meeting.

1. Apologies for absence – were received from Cllrs Ward-Campbell, (holiday), Alliot,(business meeting), Trenchard, Pick, County/District Cllr Savage,(other meeting), Mrs Bygate, (Internal Auditor) and Mrs Steed.

2. Declarations of Interest – none.

3. Minutes of the last Meeting

The Minutes and Exempt Minutes of the last meeting, 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) Questions for HBC Officers at YLCA Harrogate Branch meeting – a question should be asked about closer liaison between the Environmental Health Department at Harrogate Borough Council and the Environment Agency.

A link on the HBC website would be useful. Cllr Billenness agreed to formulate the wording of the question and pass this to the Clerk.

2) Report back from HBC Commuted Sums training – Cllrs and the Clerk had attended the Harrogate event. Remaining Cllrs were to attend the Ripon event on 30th April. The training was interesting and useful. Packs had been handed out to attendees. It was decided to wait until all Cllrs had attended training, after which a useful discussion could take place on any action intended. Meanwhile the Clerk would research the opportunities of using any commuted sums for future projects in the parish such as allotments, field entrances or other projects.

5. Public Questions or Statements

Standing Orders were suspended.

A resident of Prince Rupert Drive expressed great concern at the resumption of go-karting on the airfield and the noise problems associated with it.

The PC was asked to support the resident by contacting the Environmental Health Department at HBC urging Officers to attend when the problem is at its worst. This is usually on a weekend, when Officers are 'not available'.

Residents feel that the problem, which has been apparent for many years, is not being addressed by the authorities.

Discussion followed. The possible use of a noise meter was raised. County Court action was also mentioned, when a private individual could seek the Declaration of a Statutory Noise Nuisance under Section 80 of the Environmental Health Act. Questions were asked about the number of residents affected, as the more evidence there is of a problem the more notice will be taken of

any complaints. The Residents Association could be asked to take up the matter on the residents' behalf. Concern was expressed when it was stated that the TRA had been approached about the matter but had said they were "too busy" to take up the issue. Cllrs Saunders, Billenness and Algar asked for an e mail with information from the resident about the matter, which they would take up with the TRA.

Standing Orders were resumed.

Resolved that the Clerk write to HBC Environmental Health Department and copy Cllr Savage into correspondence.

6. Report from the Clerk

BT Adopt a kiosk – an expression of interest and contract proposal forms had been returned to npower. A contract acceptance is awaited.

Village Hall – Governance document/Constitution and other documents for submission to the Charity Commission are being prepared/finalised by the Clerk.

Quad bike/motorcycle racing – the Clerk and Cllr Algar reported on the site meeting with Mr Moore. The matter has not progressed any further since the visit. HBC Planning Enforcement dept. is awaiting a reply from Mr Moore to requests for further evidence. The matter of the waste transfer station for collection/disposal of tyres was discussed. This had become a planning enforcement query with HBC. The issue of other uses of the airfield land had been discussed e.g. storage and driver training activities.

Resolved that the Clerk continue to liaise with Mr Gill at HBC to follow the progress of the matter.

Venue for future PC meetings – the Clerk was awaiting a reply from the Church Warden, following the meeting of the Church Council, about hiring the Church for future Council meetings.

7. Police matters

In the absence of a Police Officer there was no report.

Cllrs reported the following:

missiles being thrown from the Marston Road Play Area, which damaged the roof and guttering of adjacent buildings. PC Haydon had been informed and was seeking an informal relationship with youths in the village to try and discover the culprits' names.

8. Village Hall

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

(1) Management issues

- forms for vesting the charity in the Official Custodian at the Charity Commission and a revised constitution and declaration forms are being prepared by the Clerk.

(2) General

- decoration of the main Hall and other areas of the building is due to take place in the Easter holidays so as to disrupt user groups as little as possible.
- A planning application is ready to be submitted for the small extension to allow new toilet and disabled facilities. Grant funding is being sought so that this can proceed as soon as possible.
- Grant funding is being sought for a folding partition to separate the Hall and annexe, and new furniture.

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

11. Kirk Lane – narrow pavements

Cllr Algar spoke to this item and produced photographs of the area causing most concern.

A recent incident, of a van hitting the Cllr whilst walking on the pavement taking his son to school, was reported.

The seriousness of the situation was pointed out, if it had been a child that was hit it would have been at head height.

Following discussion it was resolved that the Clerk write to NYCC Highways, including a photograph, with a copy to Cllr Savage, asking that ways of slowing traffic and keeping within the breadth of the road be investigated, e.g. chicane system/single priority lane.

12. Correspondence

Additional items 32 to 40 were made known.

- Internal Auditor – a discussion ensued on the role and job description of the Internal Auditor. The Clerk clarified the job description and a copy of a typical internal audit plan was produced. [Copy included as an appendix to these minutes.] The Clerk made known the response she had sent to Mrs Bygate, the Internal Auditor and it was resolved that the Clerk contact Mrs Bygate again about future arrangements. It was suggested SLCC should be asked to look into training sessions for internal auditors to avoid confusion.
- Letter from allotment tenant re approval for shed and greenhouse – resolved that the Clerk send an e mail in reply, in the interest of conserving resources.
- Letter re Himalayan Balsam – resolved that the Clerk send a copy of the letter of last July from the Parish Council, suggesting a joint working party with ACS to deal with the matter, to the Conservation Society.
- HBC – Settlement surveys – Cllr Waller agreed to complete the Tockwith one and Cllr Billenness the Cowthorpe one, before return to the Clerk for forwarding on to HBC.
- Flooding survey – passed to Cllr Billenness to complete and return to the Clerk.
- SLCC Training – resolved to pay for the Clerk to attend this event.
- Grit bin – the matter of the bringing and taking away again of the bin to be followed up with NYCC, cc to Cllr Savage. It was noted that a caravan had appeared on the wide verge adjacent to 74, Prince Rupert Drive , this needed to be removed as soon as possible.
- Clarrie East's book – Cllr Waller had spoken to Mr East; Cllr Billenness had sourced a copy of the book and had replied, with details, to the lady who had asked about it.
- VH Electrics – following the letter from the contractor doing work at the VH it was resolved to go ahead with the provision of the required safety measures, RCB's.

13. Planning including standing item: BCB application

Applications

Meadowcroft, 5, Westfield Road, Tockwith – retention of detached garden store. The following response was ratified.

1) The Parish Council expresses concern that this is a retrospective application; 2) The 'garden store' is huge and resembles stables or a field shelter. In fact there are two stable-type doors in the building; 3) The question must be asked whether a building of this size is required for the stated purpose; 4) The building, because of its size, appears incongruous when viewed from the rear of properties on Westfield Road . In fact this is what alerted the Parish Council to the fact that this building had been erected without planning permission.

Decisions – approved with conditions

Tomlinson Antiques, Moorside – variation of condition 6 of planning permission 6.124.220.PA to allow Tomrods Ltd to occupy warehouse (Use Class B8 – storage and distribution)

The application was discussed at the Planning Committee meeting on 3rd March, which was attended by Cllr Billenness, who stated that the Committee members had failed to understand the issues involved but had added an extra condition regarding sound levels to protect neighbouring residential properties.

Decisions – refused and Planning Enforcement notification, application 6.124.101.E.FUL refused 16th March

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.

Parking on Westfield Road near the junction with Westfield Lane/Fleet Lane

Concern was expressed at the dangers to road users during current building works as so many vehicles are parked, half on the pavement in this location, which is a bus route and just after a blind right-angled corner.

Large farm vehicles have extreme difficulty negotiating the area.

Resolved that the Police and Highway Authority be informed about the dangerous obstruction being caused.

It was reported that there is an area of stone kerbing outside the Church on Westfield Road which requires repair as it is a trip hazard.

14. Accounts

Bank balances (as at 18/03/09)

Lloyds TSB current a/c	2,500.00
Lloyds TSB Deposit a/c	3,575.04

A/c's to pay/ratify

Bartlett Tree Experts	917.70
Mrs G Firth (Clerk salary to 31/3, expenses to 18/3)	847.98
Harrogate Borough Council (planning application fee)	170.00
SLCC (Power of Well Being Training)	15.00
Church (hire for February meeting)	17.50

Outstanding accounts

Steve Tebbutt (to be paid when VH window repair done)	750.00
Steve Tebbutt (to be paid on completion of damp work)	580.00
Village Hall room hire (to be paid on receipt of invoice)	175.00
Annual central heating maintenance – to be decided	
Professional fees – once VH work completed	

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.

Additional quotations for annual maintenance of central heating boiler and water heater were made known.

Cllrs resolved to accept the quotation of £120 + VAT from Butterfields of Wetherby.

The Chairman and Clerk were asked to provide an explanation of the Precept calculation so that this could be published on the PC website.

9. and 10. Report by County/District Councillor

In the absence of the Cllr there were no reports.

15. Date of next Meeting: WEDNESDAY 15th APRIL.

An ordinary meeting of the Parish Council will follow the Annual Parish Meeting to be held in the Church starting at 7.30pm .

Cllrs were reminded that they would be expected to give reports on their areas of responsibility at the APM.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed.