

## **TOCKWITH WITH WILSTROP PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of a Council meeting held on Wednesday 20th May 2009 in Tockwith Church**

**Chairman:** Councillor C Saunders JP

**Present:** Councillors N Waller, Mrs Scholey, Mrs Wardman, C Billenness, R Ward-Campbell, N Alliot

**In attendance:** County/District Cllr Savage, Mrs G Firth (Clerk to the Council), Mrs Audrey Unsworth (VHMC Chairman) , 1 member of the public

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the May Council meeting.

**Apologies for absence** – were received from Cllrs Algar, (holiday), Pick, (holiday) and Trenchard, (illness), Inspector Chapman and PC Haydon.

**2. Declarations of Interest** – Cllr Billenness declared a prejudicial interest in item 13 on the agenda - discussion about grants to Hunsingore District Church Council for grounds maintenance at Cowthorpe Church and to the TRA.

**3. Minutes of the last Meeting and Annual Parish Meeting** The Minutes of the last meeting and Annual Parish 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) Marston Road Play Area** – Cllr Mrs Wardman reported that repair work has been completed to the outbuilding adjacent to the Play Area. PC Haydon has spoken to youths in the street and at the Youth Club. There has been an increased Police presence in the village since the problems were reported. Resolved that letters of thanks be sent to the householder, Mr Wardman and the Roofer who had worked together to get the repairs done. Resolved also, that as Health and Safety requirements have been met, to re-open the Play Area and trust that peer pressure would stop any further acts of vandalism.

#### **5. Public Questions or Statements**

Standing Orders were suspended.

- The Treasurer of the Sportsfield Trust expressed concern at the withdrawal of transitional discretionary rate relief which has seen a large increase in the rates to be paid by the Trust. He had contacted HBC and filled in numerous forms but the Trust is unable to 'tick all the boxes' and the volunteers who run local groups/charities cannot fit the criteria for discretionary relief. He asked that the Parish Council urge HBC to scrap discretionary rate relief in the rural areas.

Standing Orders were resumed.

Cllr Savage agreed to take up this matter and suggested it may be appropriate to go to a valuation tribunal. Cllr Billenness left the meeting to discuss the matter with Mr Wilson. The Parish Council agreed to take advice on the issue and support local groups in the matter.

#### **6. Report from the Clerk**

**High hedges** – the Clerk had investigated the matter with HBC and explained the legislation. Cllr Mrs Wardman agreed to speak with the householder and the complainant again to see if a mutually agreed solution could be found.

**Visit to Village Hall by Officers from NYCC** – if Officers wish to visit the Hall to check for suitability of hiring the venue for the Youth service, this should be arranged through either the Parish Clerk or the VHMC. The Youth Club is a user group like any other and only has access to the building at the times it is hired.

**Village Hall, CH boiler and system** needs repair as the boiler is still requiring to be re-pressured on a regular basis.

**VHMC request** – the PC is asked to be the third party fund holder to comply with criteria of various grant funding bodies. The Council agreed to this.

**Internal Auditor and Internal Audit Control/Review** – Mr Bowyer has kindly agreed to become the Internal Auditor. The Clerk agreed to liaise with him about the Internal control mechanisms of the Council.

**Recent works in Tockwith to provide new bus stops** – complaints had been received from some residents about the cones preventing on-street parking and the traffic lights, closing one side of the street at a time during works. It had been stated that “the Parish Council instigated the works, notified the public and the Planning Dept. had given notification via the green notices”. This information was not accurate.

**Charity Commission** – the Clerk had received the papers from the Charity Commission accepting the new Lease, Governing Document, applications and declarations and the vesting Order in the Official Custodian was awaited as the final paper in this long running marathon!

## **7. Police matters**

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

Crime figures for the last two months: Auto crime – 2 offences, drugs – 1 offence, Burglary commercial – 7 offences, theft general – 2 offences and criminal damage – 1 offence. All offences took place in the industrial areas, Marston and Rudgate Business Parks, except the commercial burglary at the Spotted Ox and attempt on the adjoining property. There is one offence of criminal damage on Prince Rupert Drive where a window was cracked.

One person was cautioned for possession of cannabis, this occurred when a vehicle was stopped near the village.

There is no evidence of a crime trend in the village but of course the industrial estates are a magnet for criminals of all types.

Play Area – I have spoken to youngsters and visited the Youth Club twice. Whilst on foot patrol I have spoken to the youngsters who hang around or live in the vicinity of the Play Area and explained why it has been closed. I hope this will help.

Southfield Road – I have made visits to the area where the youngsters congregate, there have been no developments. The area where the fires have been lit has not changed. I liaise with John the caretaker at school. He has not contacted me regarding anything. I also spoke to the Head at the school re crime prevention, particularly over the summer holidays. I contacted the Council re them attending to remove rubbish from the roadside again – most appears to have been dumped in bin liners. I checked the correspondence for any addresses etc – no joy.

Parking and speeding – these are ongoing, any parking issues should be reported by the individuals to the Police – but will monitor. I am days off so will not be able to attend the PC meeting.

Cllrs reported the following:

- The Police had been informed by e mail about anti-social behaviour at Kendal Gardens green space. A till receipt from Costcutter had been found at the scene but unfortunately CCTV information could not be retrieved to help with identifying the culprits.
- Police helicopter sweeps over Southfield Lane had taken place in connection with stolen vehicles
- Youths in a car had been apprehended on Marston Road.

It was felt that the increased foot patrols in the village and leaving a police vehicle at the end of Ralph Garth had helped as a deterrent to speeding and local crime.

## **8. Village Hall**

Standing Orders were suspended.

Mrs Unsworth was introduced as the recently appointed Chairman of the VHMC.

- The VHMC AGM had been held on 13th May. There had been a very poor attendance from user groups and members of the public.
- There had been a change to Officers with a new Chairman and Vice-Chairman.
- The Business Plan has been finalised.
- A grant of £9,430 had been received from Awards for All to allow provision of a folding acoustic screen between the Hall and Annex, furniture for the back room, a projector and additional storage space
- A reply from Grass Roots about a grant has not been received yet. This would enable new curtains/blinds and new furniture to be provided.
- The application for a large grant to enable the toilet refurbishment to go ahead will be submitted by the end of the month, now that planning permission has been obtained.
- Fund Raising continues – taking part in the Nidderdale Walk raised about £300; A Quiz evening has been arranged for 31st May, more teams are needed. The recent Beer Festival for PTA funds went well, with only minor damage to the Hall reported. It is hoped to organise more community events in the future where all groups take part and can share the profits.

Standing Orders were resumed.

Mrs Unsworth was thanked for her report.

## **9. Report by County Councillor Savage**

- Skewkirk Bridge – the latest report from NYCC states that legal problems continue to hold up a decision, with the Horse Society insisting that a bridleway is provided. Cllr Savage met with Mr Fattorini, Mr Ward of the Ramblers Association and Mr Watson from Ainsty Conservation Society after the meeting and they agreed to try and progress the matter.
- Cllr Savage is now a member of DISC, against the incinerator at Allerton. There is to be a meeting on 26th May in Boroughbridge to decide on the next steps. Whixley PC has promised a grant of up to £1,250 to assist the protest group.
- Elections for the County Council will take place on 4th June, the same day as the European elections.
- Cllr Savage thanked the Council for support over the last four years

## **10. Report from District Councillor Savage**

- Prompt replies have been received to all queries passed on by the Clerk
- The BCB application, to be determined by NYCC, will be discussed by HBC as consultees.
- Outstanding grant money is still held at NYCC awaiting claims from the VHMC

## **11. Correspondence**

Items 40 to 43 and additional e mails were made known to Cllrs.

- Verge crossing at Community Fields – resolved to proceed with an application so as to obtain likely costs. Fencing/hedging would be required to protect the boundaries of the adjacent resident. The gaps in the hedge adjoining the Junior Football field would need to be filled also.
- Recent road closure of Wetherby Lane, Cowthorpe – neither the PC nor residents had been informed about this. Resolved to complain to NYCC Statutory Orders Department, especially as they had recently asked the Clerk for e mail details to save them postage! and ask them to confirm that Emergency Services had been advised as it is the West Yorkshire Fire and Ambulance Services which cover Cowthorpe.
- NYCC – Tockwith issues – resolved to write again with information about potholes that needed repair in roads and pavements.
- HBC – Conservation Area Character Appraisal Public Consultation – resolved to reply expressing concern and disappointment that matters raised at the consultation meeting held in the village had not been addressed
- HBC daffodil bulb scheme – decision to obtain bulbs ratified

## **12. Planning including standing item: BCB application**

### **Applications**

**The Lodge 61, Westfield Road, Tockwith** – listed building application for conversion of outbuilding to office and holiday let with external alterations to include replacement doors and windows, installation of 4 roof lights to west elevation and 2 roof lights to east elevation, internal alterations to include new walls and doors.

**The Lodge, 61, Westfield Road, Tockwith** – conversion of outbuilding to form office and holiday let *The Parish Council had no objections to the above applications.*

**Workshop north of Able Blast Cleaning, Minster Hag Business Park, Rudgate** – erection of detached agricultural building (revised scheme) *This application location lies on the boundary with Bilton and Bickerton Parish Council. Resolved to object to this application on planning grounds and support the neighbouring Parish Council in objecting to this application:-*

1. *There is no such location as Minster Hag Business Park – in fact if speculative applications continue to be made in this locality, which is designated agricultural land, there is a danger that unwanted uses might arise due to a wrong description of the location.*
2. *The only reason Able Blast Cleaning, which has now ceased operating, could be considered to carry out its business was that it involved re-use of an old wartime airfield building. The matter was raised as a planning enforcement case but was never followed up. It is doubted whether a planning permission was ever obtained for industrial use as there would have had to be noise constraints as the site is fairly close to Moorside Farm residential complex. When it was suggested that the operation move inside an adjacent building, which had been granted permission as an agricultural store, the Planning Authority took steps to see that this did not happen by default.*
3. *The proposal is for a building to be used in conjunction with sheep rearing. It is doubted that there is sufficient land to rear sheep in any commercial way, perhaps only as a hobby so this begs the question of why such a building is required for the purpose stated.*
4. *The original building used by Able Blast Cleaning could just as easily accommodate the machinery and equipment involved in sheep rearing.*

**BCB Environmental Management Ltd** – demolition of existing warehouse and erection of energy from waste facility with associated air cooled condensers and chimney stack, provision of new weighbridge, drum store, electricity sub-station, new means of enclosure

**and access gates, car parking and landscaping at Unit 86, Marston Business Park, Tockwith** The Clerk circulated copies of the non-technical summary to Cllrs. As the application is so complex, with much paperwork involved, it was decided to give Cllrs a chance to read all the information, due to be made available on the NYCC website, then hold an extra-ordinary PC meeting with a single agenda item to discuss the PC's response to NYCC. This meeting to be held on Thursday 28th May in the Church. If necessary, a request for an extension to the time allowed for responses was to be sought from NYCC. It was stated that this new application is different from the previous one in that it proposes an incinerator for domestic, commercial and hazardous waste and a power station. Cllrs were reminded that they should use material considerations in their objections and not become too involved with technical matters, which could be challenged by both Members of the Planning Committee and the Specialist Consultants acting for the applicant.

Resolved that the PC write to the TRA confirming that no liability will be accepted for financial costs of representatives of TRA attending any meetings.

**Decisions – approved with conditions** Village Hall – erection of single storey rear extension

### 13. Accounts

#### Bank balances (as at 08/05/09)

Lloyds TSB current a/c	2,500.00
Lloyds TSB Deposit a/c	12,190.63

#### A/c's to pay/ratify

Tebbutt (VH damp repair/noticeboard repair)	675.00
Rural Action Yorkshire (old YRCC) annual subs.	35.00
Allied Westminster (VH Insurance)	1,011.61
Mrs G Firth (salary and expenses)	886.11
Viking Direct (stationery supplies)	213.15
Richard Renier (VH survey)	230.00
PWLB (D/D on 1/5/09)	1,859.41
The Clerk would not now be attending SLCC Regional Conference on 9/6	(56.35)

#### Receipts

Allotment rents	18.00
HBC Precept 1	12,500.00
HM Customs & Excise (VAT reclaim)	1,092.36
HBC (reimburse part cost of planning fee)	85.00
Denco – credit note -	(422.53)

### Section 137 payments to other organisations - grants

Cllr Billenness, having declared a prejudicial interest in grants to Hunsingore DCC and TRA left the room for this item

Tockwith Church (grounds maintenance)	500.00
Knarborough Methodist Circuit (Chapel grounds maintenance)	450.00
Hunsingore DCC (Cowthorpe churchyard maintenance)	150.00
Tockwith Show	250.00
Tockwith VHMC	600.00
Tockwith Sportsfield Trust	200.00
Tockwith School PTA	200.00
Tockwith Residents' Association (to be allocated once invoices received)	700.00

The TRA, in their letter dated 12th May 2009, had asked for a provision of £1,000 to be left in the budget, to call upon once costs of consultants or other expenditure became known. The Clerk reminded Cllrs that the budget for 2009/2010 allowed a total expenditure on grants of £3,000 and, if it was decided to allocate a larger sum in grants, savings elsewhere in the budget would have to be found. Cllrs voted 8:1 in favour of the grant allocations. Cllr Mrs Wardman wished her name to be recorded as having voted against the proposal as she was unhappy that other village organisations had their grants reduced, or not given at all, in order to make the grant to the TRA.

### Outstanding accounts

Annual central heating maintenance – to be decided Professional fees – once VH work completed

Annual grounds maintenance in the parish – to be decided

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

**14. Date of next ordinary Meeting: WEDNESDAY 17th JUNE 2009. An extra-ordinary meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday 28th May in the Church starting at 7.30pm.**

The resolution for exempt matters was read out and it was resolved to exclude the public during consideration of quotations received for works at the Village Hall and grounds maintenance works in the parish.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed to the public.