

TOCKWITH WITH WILSTROP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Council meeting held on Wednesday 16th September 2009 in Tockwith Church

Chairman: Councillor C Saunders JP

Present: Councillors N Waller, R Ward-Campbell, P Pick, N Alliot (late arrival)

In attendance: District/County Councillor Savage, PC Haydon, Mrs G Firth (Clerk to the Council), Mrs F Steed (VHMC Vice-Chairman), 3 representatives from the Scouts, 1 member of the public

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the September Council meeting.

To co-opt a new Councillor for Wilstrop Parish

The Clerk reported that, as there had been no request for an election, Harrogate Borough Council had advised that a new councillor could now be co-opted. Mrs Lisa Chasney was invited to introduce herself and say why she wished to become the Councillor for Wilstrop. Mrs Chasney was duly co-opted and welcomed to the Council. She signed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office and took her place on the Council.

Apologies for absence – were received from Cllrs Algar and Billeness, (work commitments) and Mrs Wardman, (ill health), and Mrs Unsworth (VHMC Chairman).

Cllr Trenchard had resigned from the Council due to work commitments. The Chairman had written to Steve to thank him for his contribution whilst a councillor. The Clerk had informed HBC and was awaiting information on whether an election would be requested or a co-option could take place for the vacant seat on the Council.

3. Declarations of Interest – none

7. Presentation by 1st Marston Moor Scouts – proposed use of Community Field

Standing Orders were suspended.

Peter Worth, Group Scout Leader, Jeff Morris, Group Chairman and Steve Harrison, Explorer Scout Leader introduced themselves and then spoke on the issue. There are approximately 80 young people, aged from 6 to 16, involved in the Scout Groups active in the parish. Outdoor learning activities are central to the work of the Scouts.

The proposal put forward was that:

- 1) the Scouts have permanent access to the large Community Field; and
- 2) that the Scouts work with the Parish Council to open up the field access with verge crossing and hard standing to enable equipment to be brought to the field and unloaded off the road, and hedging to the field to keep the site secure for use by young people.

Councillors asked questions of the Scout Leaders about: how much of the field was required; how much regular use would be made of it; the fact that the Scouts could not be allowed permanent exclusive use of the field; if there were plans for storage facilities on site, as this may be a problem in planning terms.

The Scouts replied that they would intend to use a good part of the eastern end of the field; they would look to put hedging all round the field and a shelter belt of trees to 'break up' the large area of grass; they would require an area of hard standing in order to unload equipment from vehicles

within the field; it was intended to clear a 30 foot wide area to be used as a camp fire circle/for sing-songs and as a barbeque area, which could be used by others; they would not expect to have exclusive use of the field; they would intend to use the field every week during the summer months; they would like to consider a permanent storage facility in the future; if a permanent vehicle access could be created, the gate to access this would require securing; the possibility of providing a stand pipe for water would be looked into.

Standing orders were resumed.

Councillors discussed the issues and resolved to approve the proposals in principle; to work up a letter of agreement to allow the Scouts permanent use of the field without having to come to the PC for approval for every use; hedging of the sides of the field would be looked into but not a shelter belt of trees as this would impact on grounds maintenance requirements and possible uses by other groups; the matter of having to apply for planning permission to re-construct the field access would be investigated as it was stated that other field accesses along Tockwith Lane had been constructed without formal planning permission and this verge crossing/historic field access was not considered to be any different and the same rules should apply; the proposed access was the only access to the field without encroaching onto a private road to Millfield Farm; the Council was eager to see the field used as a community space, better than at present; this was considered an appropriate location, on the edge of the village, for use by the Scouts.

Care would need to be taken so that opening up access to the field did not encourage/attract unwanted elements.

Once agreed, management arrangements would need to be put in place.

The Scout Leaders were thanked for attending the meeting.

10. Police matters PC Haydon gave a brief report on crime in the parish.

- Comparing this year with last year, there had been a 31% reduction in the number of crimes reported.
- Burglaries and house break-ins were reduced in number and most local crime happened on Marston Moor Business Park. PC Haydon was trying to initiate a Business Park Watch scheme similar to Farm Watch.
- The fact that the detection rate for rural crime is poor is being addressed.
- The main crimes locally are organised crimes to do with expensive plant and farm equipment. This is because the area has access to the A1M corridor and proves an easy getaway for travelling criminals.
- Police management are trying to address all the issues but North Yorkshire Police has very limited resources in this area. Post 2011 the Police budget will be reduced by 10% and there will be no more overtime. The 150 current vacancies will not be filled as they would have to be removed after 2011.
- In conjunction with the County Council and Fire and Rescue Service a Road Safety exercise had been carried out in August in the area surrounding Ness Lane.
- The use of 'Spotter cars' and Officers in the village had resulted in fines for speeding, driving whilst using mobile phones and other road safety issues.
- A Bilton resident had been arrested, charged and remanded in custody as a sexual offender.
- A resident of Tockwith, known to have convictions for illegal slaughtering, had been banned from keeping livestock. Cllrs should be aware and report any local thefts of lambs or piglets.

PC Haydon was thanked for his attendance and report. The Police were complemented for their increased presence in the village lately. Issues regarding the Play Area and Youth Club were passed on to the Police for information.

4. Public Questions or Statements There were none.

5. Minutes of the July Council Meeting and of the August Meeting of the Council as a Planning Committee. The Minutes, having been circulated and taken as read, were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

6. Matters arising from the Minutes/business remaining from the last meeting None not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

12. Report by County Councillor Savage

13. Report from District Councillor Savage

1. BCB application – there would have been a technical report to Cllrs on 22nd September, followed by a further report on 3rd November, with the application being decided at a Planning Committee on 15th December.

The applicant has now asked for a meeting with Planning Officers on 24th September to discuss the time frame and non-determination of the application. The dates will now be amended and the date of the Planning Committee hearing possibly moved to 26th January 2010. The PC will be kept informed. The Chairman of the Planning Committee will decide on who, if anyone, will be invited to do a presentation to Cllrs, e.g. BCB, the PC or the TRA.

The Parish Council Chairman expressed concern that all parties may not get an equal opportunity to address Planning Committee members before the hearing at which the application will be determined.

Standing Orders were suspended.

A Tockwith resident spoke of his concern and frustration that a decision date has not been set as he felt homes in the area are blighted until a decision has been made. His house sale had fallen through and he believed other residents wishing to sell their homes would be in a similar position. He urged the Parish Council to press for a decision date. He also believed NYCC should designate a site for such operations, dealing with hazardous waste, so everyone would know where they stood.

Standing Orders were resumed.

2. Airfield activities – a major event has been advertised to take place on the weekend of the 26th September. Environmental Health Officers from HBC are to attend.

Cllr Savage is working with Cllrs Gardner and Ellington to address the issues which arise. HBC Planning Enforcement Officers cannot act as they say the activities have been going on for more than 10 years and therefore there is no legal basis for challenging the motor racing event in planning terms. The Chief Planning Enforcement Officer, with an Environmental Health Officer and a Legal Officer had visited the site and e mailed the TRA with the outcome of their findings. A Cllr, who had seen this e mail, was very concerned at its content and asked how HBC had allowed the current situation to arise when complaints about the activities had been on-going for many years. The upcoming event is advertised as a race event, free of charge to spectators, with no safety barriers in place and the possibility of increased noise and disruption to residents arising.

The Clerk reported that she had attended the Planning Department at HBC and, after providing information to the Planning Enquiries Officers, was now in possession of copies of the original planning approvals for the airfield, going back to 1962. She intended to do further research and report back to Council in due course. Resolved that the Clerk write to HBC, asking how the present situation has been allowed to arise.

3. Skewkirk Bridge – the matter is on-going.

4. Cattal Station car parking – Cllr Savage is in talks with the landowner and hopes that additional land for use as a car park by train users can be rented/bought by the Train Company.

5. Wilstrop issues – Cllr Savage was made aware of issues to report to the relevant Authority for action:

i) overhanging hedges/trees along the A59 at the end of Wilstrop Lane – the farmer insists it is too dangerous to do this work, using a slow moving tractor on this busy stretch of road. Pedestrians cannot walk on the grass verge in the area and it is a safety hazard as it is.

ii) the reflector posts at the end of Wilstrop Lane need replacing as they have been damaged/removed by contractors' plant during recent works and they are needed as a safety issue.

iii) a 40mph speed limit is requested along this stretch of the A59, as, with the dip in the road and the bends, it is very dangerous for anyone accessing the A59. There used to be a speed limit but this was removed and replaced by triangular warning signs and signs warning of the presence of speed cameras, which have never been in place.

iv) Signs are required on the A59 for Skipbridge, as there is difficulty in locating the settlement without them.

Cllr Savage was thanked for his attendance and Report.

Cllr Savage and Cllr Alliot left the meeting at this point.

11. Village Hall

Standing Orders were suspended.

Report by VHMC Vice-Chairman, Mrs Steed gave a report.

- The acoustic folding door is due to be fitted next week.
- Work to and re-equipping of the back room will take place before Christmas.
- A submitted grant application, for new curtains and blinds, will be considered in October. It is hoped for a successful outcome.
- The toilet refurbishment/small extension is on-going. The first grant application was unsuccessful but a further application will be submitted before Christmas.
- The recent Entertainment Evening was successful, enjoyed by performers and audience alike and raised in excess of £600.
- The Development Fund is increasing steadily but slowly and any information on grant funding bodies or other sources of funding would be gratefully received.
- There will be two fund raising events in November, a Fun/Interactive Quiz night and the Christmas Fair.

Standing Orders were resumed.

The Chairman said that he keeps the VHMC profile alive with the Community Foundation. Mrs Steed was thanked for her attendance and Report.

8. Report from the TRA – no Report presented.

9. Report from the Clerk

Responsibility to the young people of the parish – the Clerk had been contacted by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Long Marston VHMC for information. They expressed concern at recent events.

Daffodil bulbs – the Clerk passed the information to the Chairman, as she will be away in October when they have to be collected from Harrogate.

14. Correspondence

Items 44 to 55 and additional e mails, planning applications and decisions were made known to Cllrs.

- **Adopt a kiosk** – the Clerk reported on the latest position with regard to the electricity supply and agreement concerning the light in the kiosk. She expressed her frustration with events to date and asked Cllrs for a final resolution about this matter.

Cllrs resolved NOT to enter into a new agreement regarding an electricity supply and the Clerk was asked to contact both YEDL and npower to end the current agreement and hopefully bring this long, complicated, very unsatisfactory matter to a conclusion.

- **Airfield activities** – resolved that the Clerk reply to TRA with Copies to the residents concerned, and state that the issues have been raised with HBC and the District Cllr; original planning approvals have been received and further research is being done currently; further letters will be sent to both Planning and Planning Enforcement Officers at HBC in due course.
- **HBC consultation meetings with PC's** – Cllrs Saunders and Waller to attend. Questions to be submitted:- i) retrospective planning application fees should be appreciably higher to discourage such applications – please discuss; and ii) what % of applications submitted to HBC are retrospective?
- **NYCC consultations** – to be completed and returned by the Clerk.
- **HBC consultation** – to be completed and returned by the Clerk.
- **NYCC Highways issues** – the Clerk to contact Hunsingore PC to ask where they got their replacement bin from and research the use of commuted sums for having such a bin in Cowthorpe village.
- **Seat on Westfield Road** – possible location for the seat to be requested/put to the PC for discussion.

15. Planning, including standing item: BCB application

BCB application - nothing further to report.

5, Ralph Garth – erection of conservatory to rear.

1, The Terrace, Oak Road, Cowthorpe – erection of two storey rear extension

Land comprising Field at Grid Ref 449250 454226, Green Lane, Moor Monkton – formation of earth banked slurry store

The above applications were discussed at the August meeting of the PC acting as a Planning Committee.

5, Springfield Terrace, Tockwith – Tree Works in Conservation Areas. *No objections.*

Paddock House, Moor Monkton – retention of 2 stable blocks and ménage and erection of field shelter and store. *No objections.*

Decisions – approved subject to conditions

3, Norfolk Gardens – erection of single storey front extension

5, Ralph Garth – erection of conservatory to rear

32, Marston Road – erection of single storey rear extension Meadowcroft,

5, Westfield Road – retention of detached garden store and extension to domestic curtilage (revised scheme)

Decisions - refused

1, Norfolk Gardens – erection of first floor extension over existing side extension.

1, The Terrace, Oak Road, Cowthorpe – erection of two storey rear extension

Planning decision – withdrawn Tockwith Lodge Farm, Fleet Lane – conversion of barn to form holiday accommodation and conversion of storage building to form additional living accommodation with erection of single storey side extension.

Planning Enforcement Case Garden Cottage, Kendal Lane – non-compliance with condition 2 of 6.124.350.B.FUL

Planning Appeal Workshop north of Able Blast Cleaning, Minster Hag, Rudgate – erection of detached agricultural building (revised scheme)

16. Accounts

Bank balances (as at 16/09/09)

Lloyds TSB current a/c 2,500.00

Lloyds TSB Deposit a/c 2,352.70

A/c's to pay/ratify

Tebbutt (external painting, new door and window and repairs at VH) 1,550.00

J Dawson (Solicitor's fees for VH Lease and arrangements) 1,411.00

YLCA (Next Meeting posters) 14.00

Paul Silson (CH repair/amendments at VH) 845.00

Mazars (External Audit) 155.25

Tockwith Church (hire for August meeting) 25.00

Zurich Insurance (annual renewal premium) 1,025.89

WARDEN (annual subscription) 10.00

Mrs G Firth (Clerk's salary and expenses) 886.31

Tockwith Residents' Association (reimburse coach hire)	50.00
(the above cheque to come out of the money set aside to support the TRA campaign against BCB) (aq) Limited (web domain and web forwarding)	138.00
New Wood Gardening (grounds maintenance)	778.00

Receipts

May Gurney (reimburse for repair to Wilstrop noticeboard)	25.00
YLCA (reimburse for training event)	35.00

Resolved that the Clerk ask (aq) Ltd if anything can be done to remove/reduce the copious amount of spam emails coming via the tockwith.gov.uk addresses.

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

Borrowing Approval and Application to the PWLB

The Clerk spoke to the circulated paper, setting out the different rates depending on size of loan, repayment costs and length of term of borrowing. She also gave a resume of likely capital expenditure in the short/medium term.

Resolved that the Council apply for Borrowing Approval for a Loan of £70,000.

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

The Chairman signed the requisite forms.

Quotations for re-roofing the Village Hall. The Clerk was asked to follow up the references of the preferred contractor before accepting the quotation.

17. Date of next Meeting: WEDNESDAY 21st OCTOBER 2009 at 7.30pm in Tockwith Church.

The Chairman and Clerk gave their apologies for absence in advance.

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