

## **TOCKWITH WITH WILSTROP PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of a Council meeting held on Wednesday 21st April 2010 in Tockwith Church**

**Chairman:** Councillor C Saunders

**Present:** Councillors N Waller, P Pick, Mrs L Chasney, S Harrison, M Algar,  
Mrs J Wardman, N Alliot

**In attendance:** Cllr Savage (District/County Cllr), Internal Auditor (Mr W Bowyer),  
VHMC Chairman (Mrs Unsworth), Mrs G Firth (Clerk to the Council),  
7 members of the public

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the April Council meeting.

**Apologies for absence** – were received from Cllrs Billenness and Ward-Campbell (work commitments)

**2. Declarations of Interest** – none

### **3. Public Questions or Statements**

There were no matters other than items already on the agenda.

### **4. Minutes of the last meetings**

The amended Minutes of the February meeting, having been circulated and taken as read, were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Vice-Chairman, who had chaired the February meeting.

The Minutes of the March meeting, having been circulated and taken as read, were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Vice-Chairman, who had chaired the March meeting.

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

(i) Traffic calming – Cllr Algar reported that he had contacted Area 6 at Starbeck but was awaiting a reply.

(ii) Dog fouling – concern was expressed that the Parish Council was being encouraged by HBC to pay for the provision of additional dog waste bins and arrange for the emptying of them. Un-parished areas in the Borough do not have to pay extra for the provision and emptying of bins. Cllr Savage urged the PC to write to HBC expressing the unfairness of the situation in the rural areas. Resolved that the Clerk write to HBC.

### **6. Report from the TRA**

Cllr Algar stated that there was nothing further to report at this time. It is rumoured that BCB will be going to Appeal. It is believed a meeting has been arranged between Barristers acting for BCB and NYCC to discuss the issue. It is further believed that it could be 6-7 months before an Appeal would be heard.

### **7. Report from the Clerk T**

he Clerk stated, for the information of Cllrs, that she had worked in excess of 60 hours so far this month!

i) Village Hall – the Clerk reported on the works being undertaken at the VH. The new wall is near to completion and the installation of the new roof will be completed in the next week. It was

disappointing that several unhelpful comments had been circulating round the village, without any reference to the Clerk to determine the true state of affairs. The water supply at the VH is unsatisfactory as the flow is much reduced. Following a visit from Yorkshire Water, it was concluded that a new supply should be provided. The Clerk was in the process of obtaining quotations for this work. The owner of The School House is to be asked if she wishes to be included in the provision of a new private supply if the PC goes ahead with a private supply to the VH. The parquet flooring in the Hall is in need of repair in a couple of places. The Clerk is obtaining quotes for this.

(ii) Adopt a kiosk – it now appears that permission, in the form of a Licence, will be required from NYCC for the kiosk in Cowthorpe village. The Clerk is progressing this with NYCC.

(iii) The Clerk completed the questionnaire from YNYPFA regarding provision of equipped children's play areas.

(iv) The Register of Interests form is required from Cllr Harrison for returning to HBC asap.

(v) An updated quotation had been obtained from the contractor for bringing the ginnel from Prince Rupert Drive to Fairfax Crescent up to adoptable standard. As previously agreed, the Clerk accepted this and work started today and should be finished by the end of the week.

## **8. Police matters**

In the absence of PC Haydon there was no report. Cllrs were asked to think of questions to put on the agenda at the next SNG meeting.

## **10. and 11. Report by County/District Councillor Savage**

- Allerton Castle conference – Cllrs and Clerk were invited to attend. So far 120 delegates have expressed interest.
- BCB possible Appeal - Cllr Savage assured that NYCC would make a robust defence of the refusal of planning permission at any Appeal.
- Skewkirk Bridge – a decision is expected in June on the application by The British Horse Society.
- Tockwith Airfield complaints – both PC's and residents were thanked for their continued dialogue with HBC. The Chief Executive is now taking a personal interest in the matters raised.
- Rail travel – Cllr Savage is keen to see the York-Harrogate service improved with a new rail halt and car park at Flaxby. The Air Quality in the Vale of York is not very good so better public travel services would play a part in making this better. Obviously incineration would not help the situation!
- Youth Service – there is concern at the lack of young people being interested in Tockwith Youth Club.

## **12. Report back from Working Party – BCB possible Appeal**

There was nothing further to report.

## **13. Commuted sums**

Cllr Algar had spoken with Sean Wright at HBC about possible projects using commuted sums. The Sportsfield Trust was going to put forward a composite plan including the wishes of all Sports clubs.

Standing Orders were suspended.

Representatives of the Tennis Club and The Sportsfield Trust Committee asked questions about the procedure for releasing commuted sums for local projects. The Sportsfield pavilion is in need of refurbishment as it is now 25 years old and there is trouble hiring out a building which is in need of TLC.

Standing Orders were resumed.

The Clerk advised of the procedure to be followed and offered help and assistance in this. She also offered to provide a list of funding agencies to apply to for grant funding for the various projects. The need to comply with the DDA was stressed. Cllr Algar also stated Sean Wright had said that it was possible to use commuted sums to buy raw materials and get someone to do the labour in order to make grants go further. Ideas from the PC included money for the Scouts to assist in making the Community Field user friendly, additional tree and shrub planting, new seats/benches in the villages and a new bench and bin at the Marston Road Play Area. Cllr Algar will liaise with Cllr Mrs Wardman and the Clerk and hopes to have a scheme for the Play Area worked up for the May meeting. Commuted sums to be an agenda item for the May meeting.

## **9. Village Hall**

The Chairman, Mrs Unsworth, gave a brief report:-

- The VHMC is working hard to raise funds. A successful and enjoyable Quiz evening made nearly £600.
- The next major fund raiser is to be MAY MAYHEM, a family fun day on Sunday 23rd May at the VH and around the village. It will include a Teddy Bear's picnic, a Treasure Hunt, live entertainment, music, refreshments, stalls, crafts and other interactive amusements. All are welcome and offers of help will be gratefully appreciated. Proceeds will be for The Development Fund.
- A Grass Roots grant was successfully applied for and this will provide new furniture and curtains for the Hall as well as other items.
- The rear room is well on the way to being finished. This will provide a small meeting venue when a room of the size of the large Main Hall is not required.
- Further grants are being applied for. The Harrogate Volunteers Centre has been helpful in providing advice.
- It is hoped to extend the day-time use of the Hall by senior citizens. A meeting will be held in May to which all older people in the village will be invited and their suggestions sought.
- The refurbishment works at the Hall are really appreciated as it is now much warmer and weather-proof. Many compliments have been received from current user groups for the building and the new wall.

The VHMC Chairman thanked the PC for the work done and the support and encouragement given to the VHMC.

The PC Chairman thanked Mrs Unsworth for her Report and the VHMC for all the hard work done, as this is very much appreciated by the PC and residents.

## **14. Correspondence**

Additional letters, e mails and planning applications/decisions were made known to Cllrs. Following debate, the following action points were resolved:

- **HBC Members Training on Code of Conduct** – the Clerk was asked to contact all local PC's to see if there was sufficient interest to hold this training seminar locally. Once responses are known this could then be made known to HBC, as per their letter.
- **Winter gritting** – the reply from NYCC to be posted on the village notice boards and a copy sent to B/B PC for their information.
- **Bilton bridleway** – Cllr Pick agreed to speak to the local landowners involved.

- **Westfield Lane potholes** – the Clerk to write to all residents of Westfield Lane (beyond Westfield Green entrance) and Springfield Terrace about responsibility for un-adopted roads.

Standing Orders were suspended.

A resident who had fallen and injured himself in the potholes expressed concern at the state of this road and urged that residents fronting the road be made aware of their responsibilities.

Standing Orders were resumed.

- **Adopt a kiosk** - the Clerk to apply to NYCC for the required licence
- **55, Westfield Road** – the PC had been informed of HBC's decision to demolish an outhouse in this location and alter rear access arrangements for the terraced dwellings and allotments. The Clerk to reply to HBC, expressing concern at the access arrangements, the keeping of a mature Rottweiler dog in a rear garden area and the difficulties of manoeuvring wheelbarrows etc through the new gates. The Clerk to also write to residents and allotment tenants advising them of the proposed new arrangements and asking for comments. If people are going to write to HBC, they were asked to copy the PC in to this correspondence.
- **Dog Warden** – a large number of leaflets to be requested, which Cllrs agreed to deliver round the villages. The Dog Control Officer to be invited to attend a future PC meeting.
- **Planning Enforcement** – Kirk Lane – the stable is a moveable item. The owner had informed the PC of his intentions regarding this some time ago.
- **The Land and Development Practice** – The Chairman said that a reply had been received from HBC to the original letter of 5th February. Issues raised in this reply required an answer and further clarification from HOPS. Commissioning TLDP to write further letters would cost more money. This PC would lead any action regarding the airfield activities, in conjunction with B/B PC and residents. The PC does not have unlimited funds and could not commit to a succession of further letters but should consider commissioning a further letter at a cost of £200 + VAT for our share. The Chairman had seen a draft response and believed it needed 'beefing up'. He would be prepared to liaise with TLDP about additions/amendments to the letter if it was decided to go ahead with it. B/B PC had agreed to a 50% share of the costs if the PC decided to go ahead with this response.

Cllrs commented:- Support sending an amended letter, which should state that TLDP were acting on behalf of both PC's and residents. The assertions made in the response from HBC were faulty and should be challenged. There should be an acknowledgement that HBC had taken action following the original letter.

Standing Orders were suspended. Mr Wilson spoke at length and believed the PC should lead in any action taken. He stated that the original letter to HBC had received a reply, which had never been forthcoming in the past. The noise and nuisance had escalated during the last 3 years. The Noise Abatement Order was welcomed but the planning issues about the 1960's and 1970's applications caused concern as HBC were wrong in their assumptions and assertions on extant permissions. He believed that HBC should be challenged and should take Enforcement Action now. He believed that the 1997 Report to the Area 2 Planning Committee was flawed as wrong information had been given by Officers.

The Chairman stated that TLDP had not been professional in their dealings with the PC's. Both PC Chairmen were drawing up terms of reference for any future commissioning of professional consultants. Residents continue to send replies to HBC on their own behalf.

A resident asked if the PC could accept donations to assist with the costs of pursuing matters. The Clerk said this was possible but not for individual items of expenditure. It was also asked if residents would have any input into the Planning Contravention Notice. This would be served on the owner/operator of the site and it was for him to answer the specific points in the Notice. However, residents could inform HBC of all their evidence, collected over many years, as

corroboration/challenge to details given by the site operator.

The ideal expected outcome of sending the letter was questioned, as the PC could not become involved in a long-running issue with increasing costs.

The Clerk advised that there was nothing to stop any affected resident, concerned at the time HBC took to take action, taking private action on the noise issues via the County Court. The PC cannot do this as they would have to prove the nuisance at their 'home' and this obviously does not apply to a PC. It was stated that a Noise Abatement Order served by HBC would carry more weight than a private action taken by residents.

Resolved to commission TLDP to send a letter to HBC , as amended by both PC's, at a cost of £400 + VAT. Each PC would bear half the costs. The Clerk to write a letter to commission TLDP to send the letter having heard back from the Chairman.

### **15. Planning, including standing item: BCB application**

BCB application – nothing further to report.

**232, Prince Rupert Drive** – conversion of conservatory to form leisure room and erection of single storey side extension. *The PC had no objections to this application, following neighbour notification.*

**Land comprising OS Field 6122, Ness Lane** – erection of replacement office and workshop building *The Parish Council had no objections, although neighbours had expressed concern at the 'block' in the landscape of the new buildings and believed there should be plans for screening the new development.*

**Resolved that the PC write to NYCC about the proliferation of signs at the end of Ness Lane/Fleet Lane. 7, Prince Rupert Drive** – erection of single storey side extension. *The PC had no objection subject to neighbour notification.*

### **Planning decisions – approved with conditions**

Tomlinsons – Animalcare Group PLC – change of use of industrial unit (Use Class B8 – Storage or Distribution) to (Use Class B2 – General Industry) and (Use Class B8) and erection of new storage area.

228, Prince Rupert Drive – erection of rear conservatory

Tockwith Methodist Church – conversion of church to form 2 dwellings

Prospect House, 1, Westfield Road – erection of single storey side extension to replace conservatory

### **Planning decision – refused**

New dwelling west of Niddway, Kendal Gardens – erection of first floor extension over garage.

### **16. Accounts**

<u>Bank balances</u>	(as at 21.04.10)
Lloyds TSB current a/c	2,500.00
Lloyds TSB deposit a/c	3,717.92

Loan (ring fenced for specific purposes)	47,725.00
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A/c's to pay/ratify

YLCA (annual subscription)	374.00
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R M Contracts (VH wall)	12,250.00
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M P Silson (VH water supply)	50.00
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MMIDB (drainage rate)	11.12
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Payments agreed but not yet made:

Nick Spence (bringing ginnel up to adoptable standard)	3,055.00
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PWLB (D/D on 4th May)	3,783.64
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R M Contracts (VH roof & associated work)	26,631.37
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Receipts

Allotment rents	227.50
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Resolved that the Bank balances be accepted, and accounts be ratified/paid as above.

Financial year-end accounts for the External Audit were presented.

The PC resolved to receive and ratify the statements produced.

The Clerk reminded Cllrs of the obligation to do an annual review of the effectiveness of the system of Internal Audit.

Resolved that the Clerk put a copy of the Audit Plan in the next circulation file for Cllrs' approval.

It was agreed that grant allocations would be discussed at the Mat meeting.

The Clerk was asked to prepare a list of requests received and amount of grants awarded in past years.

**17. Date of next Meeting: WEDNESDAY 19th MAY 2010 in Tockwith Church, immediately following the Annual Meeting of the PC (old AGM), which will commence at 7.30pm.** Cllr Waller gave his apologies for absence in advance.

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