

TOCKWITH WITH WILSTROP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Council meeting held on Wednesday 12th October 2011 in Tockwith Church

Chairman: Councillor C Saunders

Present: Councillors Mrs J Wardman, N Waller, P Pick, W J Bowyer, S Harrison

In attendance: County & District Cllr Savage, Mrs Unsworth (VHMC Chairman), Mrs Steed (Vice-Chairman VHMC), Mrs G Firth (Clerk to the Council), 18 members of the public (during the evening – not all present at the same time). Antony Long (Chairman Marton-cum-Grafton PC), Brian Cooper (Marton-cum-Grafton) Representatives from The Sportsfield Trust and The Scouts.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Pre-meeting and introduced Mr Long and Mr Cooper (lead members of a joint PC and Town Council Group opposing plans for the incinerator). They were invited to do a presentation on the plans for Allerton Park quarry.

3. Presentation by PC Group re Allerton Park Incinerator

With the aid of a laptop and screen, Mr Long gave a short presentation on plans for an Incinerator at Allerton Park. He said a question and answer session would follow the presentation. Three years ago proposals were first mooted for an Incinerator to serve the whole of North Yorkshire. The aim of the presentation was to look at the details and assumptions surrounding the proposals regarding waste volumes, technologies and finances. A planning application from Amey Cespa had been submitted to NYCC a few weeks ago but had not yet been validated and circulated for consultation. The PC Group considered that the wrong technology was being proposed for the wrong place at an exorbitant cost to current and future ratepayers of North Yorks. More detail of the presentation is included for information as an appendix to these Minutes. In summary District, Town and Parish Councils and individuals are being asked to write to NYCC asking them:

- To delay signing the Amey Cespa Waste PFI Contract;
- To do a proper Value for Money comparison with modern, less costly and more environmentally friendly thermal MBT systems such as that used by Darlington;
- To ask the Government for determination of any Amey Cespa planning application at a Public Inquiry;
- To accept that to sign the proposed contract now would pre-empt and undermine the recently announced Minerals and Waste Development Framework Consultation.

In addition to objecting to NYCC, groups and individuals are asked to object to County and District Cllrs; to give time and technical expertise to the Group; to raise funds to support obtaining legal advice. More information can be obtained from the website www.marton-cum-grafton.org or the NYWAG website at www.nywag.org

The Chairman thanked Mr Long and Mr Cooper for the presentation and answering questions which followed and hoped everyone would work together to oppose the Incinerator.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the October PC meeting.

1. Apologies for absence – were received from Cllrs Mrs Chasney (prior commitment) and C Billinness (work) and The Police. Cllr Algar had resigned.

2. Declarations of Interest - Cllr Harrison declared a prejudicial interest in item 4, being a Scout Leader.

3. Presentation – as above The Chairman praised the very good presentation and said the PC should decide to support the PC group when the time came to make a response to NYCC on the AmeyCespa planning application. He stressed the need for local experts to become involved if they had a contribution to offer.

4. Community Field – use by village organisations

Standing Orders were suspended.

The Secretary of the Sportsfield Trust (Sp.Tr.) spoke of the support for the Junior Football Club (JFC), who needed extra land for additional pitches as their numbers had increased. They felt the JFC should have use of part of the large field in order to get more youngsters out in the fresh air. The Leaders of the JFC were available to answer specific questions regarding future plans. The Scouts said they were working on an environmental project for the field as the field was owned by the PC but was for the use of the community not just the Sports Clubs. In excess of £10,000 was being invested in improvements to the field. The field fulfilled the needs of the Scouts. Standing Orders were resumed. The Chairman said it was regrettable that neither organisation had come forward with a solution whereby the field could be shared. This is the last Community Field and cannot be given to any one organisation for its exclusive benefit.

Both organisations were asked to get together, discuss individual needs and come back to the PC with a viable programme for community use of the field for the future.

5. Police matters

The Chairman read out to the meeting the monthly crime figures for the area and the Clerk reported on her meeting and discussion with PC Brookes. Theft of 30 mattresses and SMV – Unit 11c Marston Moor Business Park Theft of 2 metal gates – Cowthorpe Burglary dwelling – horse tack stolen -Goosemoor Farm, Cowthorpe Theft from unattended motor vehicle – 4 x alloy wheels – M M Business Pk. Burglary – other (non-dwelling) (no entry gained) – M M Business PK.

- Lorries and buses – overweight and speeding issues – residents are encouraged to set up 'lorry watch' or bus watch' groups, to record registration numbers, dates and times of incidents, then report them to a co-ordinator who can pass information to Fire and Rescue for speed monitoring or Trading Standards for weight issues.
- Mobile phone use whilst driving – again pass details to a co-ordinator who can pass details to the Police or if there are regular offenders the Police can focus efforts on specific times and issue warnings/action by on-the-spot fines.
- Drug dealing Southfield Lane – the Police would be grateful for any information on incidents and/or registration numbers so that this matter can be resolved asap.
- Youths on School premises – now dark nights are here, the Police would be grateful for any information so the offenders can be caught.
- Dark nights/opportunist crime – residents are warned to be extra vigilant and make sure garages and sheds are locked/secured.

6. Public questions or Statements

Standing Orders were suspended. A resident raised the matter of the large gap between streetlights on Marston Road beyond the Doctor's surgery. A request was made for an additional light. The County Cllr stated that with the current state of Council finances additional lighting was unlikely. Standing Orders were resumed. Resolved that the Clerk write to the County/District Cllr with a request for an additional streetlight in this location.

The Chairman moved to alter the order of business to facilitate those present. Cllrs agreed.

9. Village Hall – Standing item - report by Chairman of VHMC

Standing Orders were suspended.

3 Taster Sessions had now been held with varying degrees of success. After the 6th session the VHMC will review the situation and decide whether to continue any on a regular basis.

VH Extension Project

Extra VHMC meetings have been held to decide on the final plan, the chosen contractor and the way forward. Quotes for Plan C have been obtained, clarification on need for number of toilets relative to maximum occupancy, amount of storage to be provided and whether all funding is in place have all been considered. The VHMC would like the PC to allow them to proceed with work on the project, sanction the preferred contractor and prefer the PC to be the client and therefore sign the contract with WREN and the contractor in due course. Cllrs asked questions about the total costs of the project and the breakdown and assigning of the costs to different groups, sustainability of the chosen contractor, satisfaction that all procedures had been carried out correctly to allow the PC to sign the contract. Cllrs had reservations and would not be willing to proceed to signing the contract until all costs are known, all funding is guaranteed and time and specification of the work is finalised. All the aforementioned would need to be produced in writing for PC approval. Cllrs resolved to give permission for the VHMC to proceed to the next stage and looked forward to greater use of the much improved facility in the future.

Appointment of PC representative on the VHMC – Mrs Unsworth said how much the Clerk was valued as a member of the VHMC and she would like her to remain even if she was unable to do all she had done in the past. The PC would prefer the Clerk to remain involved as the PC representative on the VHMC, at least until the conclusion of the building project. The Clerk said she would consider the matter and subject to her health may continue as the PC representative on the VHMC.

Mrs Unsworth was thanked for her report and explanations.

16. Planning - applications

Responses on Planning applications seen since the last PC meeting were ratified. Standing Orders were suspended.

Moorside Business Park – erection of 36m high wind turbine Steve Milner, Managing Director of Earthmill Ltd attended with site owner Mr James Cook. Residents from nearby properties also attended. An explanation of the need for and description of the technology surrounding this small scale wind turbine plus its effects on nearby residents was given by Mr Milner. The site owner spoke of his work for major supermarkets and the pressure to be 'greener' and being carbon neutral led to every avenue being explored for efficient working practices. Questions from Cllrs and residents were addressed to Mr Milner.

Standing Orders were resumed.

Cllrs believed the PC should be consistent in responses to applications regarding constructions of this height in the flat landscape of the Vale of York.

Resolved, by a majority vote of 4 for the motion and 2 abstentions to object to the application on the grounds that *the proposed height of the turbine at 36m plus the blade height, which is not accounted for in this figure, would make the turbine a visually intrusive element in the landscape and therefore would have a detrimental effect on the visual amenity of nearby residents at Moorside and Broadoak.*

Rose Cottage, Kendal Lane – erection of first floor extension (revised scheme) This application had been scaled back from the original and neighbours had no objections. *Resolved*

that the PC had no objections to this application.

Planning applications approved with conditions:- Rose Cottage, Westfield Road – replacement planning permission for conversion of attached store to form additional living accommodation and formation of first floor over.

Planning Enforcement – result of investigation:- Airfield – importation of materials and excavator – the land owner stated that the excavator had been stored on site for over ten years along with a small quantity of materials but no new materials had been imported to the site. If recycling of imported materials took place on site then it would be a matter for NYCC to deal with.

New notification: Former Parish Hall, adjacent bungalow and garages to rear, Oak Road, Cowthorpe – 2 incomplete properties, adverse condition of site plus security issues.

10. and 11. Report by County/District Cllr Savage Cllr Savage spoke to the following:

- HBC – aiming to move to purpose built offices at Hornbeam
- The Royal Hall has been taken over by Harrogate Theatre
- Airfield – Public Inquiry set for a date in January 2012, venue to be confirmed
- Footpath B1224 – remedial works started
- HBC/NYCC – no rate rises if refund forthcoming from Government as promised
- Wilstrop – delicate matter been resolved
- Wilstrop – still pursuing Internal Drainage Board, Environment Agency, NYCC Highways to have a meeting and resolve flooding problems
- NYCC – money left this financial year for streetlights – the Clerk to write and request an additional lighting column on Marston Road
- Litter bins – no news

The Chairman gave the Cllr warning that a letter had been sent by The School requesting the sign be painted.

A Cllr spoke of the impossibility of getting through by telephone to Trading Standards at NYCC. Cllr Savage agreed to furnish the Clerk with the number which she would then circulate.

It was reported that TAAG had had a meeting, instigated by E Pope of B/B PC, with WARDEN to ask for help and advice but nothing more was known.

Cllr Savage was thanked for his attendance and Report.

7. Minutes of the last meeting of the Council – having been circulated and taken as read were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

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

- Speeding through Tockwith and Cowthorpe – discussed under Police Matters, item 5. It was hoped speed monitoring would be done in November though confirmation was awaited.
- Marston Road Play Area – supports on cradle swings were reported as potentially dangerous by the contractor doing refurbishment. The Clerk had given permission for them to be replaced – just in time – as the bolts sheared off when being replaced. The Clerk reported receipt of the commuted sums from HBC for the refurbishment.

12. Wilstrop issues

In the absence of Cllr Mrs Chasney, current issues had been covered in the report of the County/District Cllr.

13. Report from the Clerk

Adopt a kiosk – npower invoices – the Clerk was in correspondence with npower as they keep sending invoices, demands for payment and emails showing no appreciation for the current situation. This will continue until the matters are resolved. The PC authorised the Clerk to pursue this matter to its conclusion, with a letter to BT asking them to take back the phone box if matters cannot be resolved satisfactorily. The current position is that the light in the kiosk does not work and the kiosk cannot be used because all telephony equipment has been removed!

Community Field – the Clerk pointed out that it had been minuted several times that actions should be undertaken by Cllrs in this regard so it was not true to say the PC had been inactive.

Community Bulb scheme – Cllr Pick agreed to collect the bulbs from Harrogate.

14. Cowthorpe Oak Trees

Resolved that the Clerk write to HBC and ask that the trees along Wetherby Lane be inspected by the arboricultural Officer with a view to putting TPO's on them.

15. Correspondence

Councillors had previously been forwarded a list of correspondence. Additional correspondence since the list was circulated was made known. Cllrs decided to make no responses to the items mentioned on the agenda. Action points were as follows:

- **NYCC - Winter maintenance PC involvement scheme** – Cllrs decided against further involvement in the scheme at this time. A review of that decision would be made when the outcome of the winter 2011/2012 arrangements was known.
- **HBC Consultation meetings** – Cllrs Saunders and Waller reported back on a useful and interesting meeting at Arkendale.
- **Proposed constituency boundary changes for 2013** – the PC decided not to make a corporate response but rather that Cllrs make responses as individuals.
- **The Queen's Diamond Jubilee – Lighting of beacons** – the Council decided not to become involved because of the cost and red tape surrounding the proposals. The villages could choose to celebrate in their own way in a simpler manner.
- **Adopt a kiosk/npower problems** – the PC considered referring the matter to Watchdog if a swift resolution of issues was not forthcoming.
- **HBC – Draft Policies on village facilities/open spaces/village halls** – the clerk asked for authorisation to return the survey questionnaire obo the PC.

17. Accounts

<u>Bank balances</u>		(as at 30/9/11)
Lloyds TSB current a/c		<u>2,501.00</u>
Lloyds TSB deposit a/c	37,308.73	
Recent deposits: BACS – commuted sums	9,929.84	<u>47,238.57</u>
Less o/s cheques:		
Players overpayment	3.81	
Park Lane Services	11,990.40	

(aq) Ltd	144.00		
Information Commissioner	35.00		
Park Lane Services	144.00		
	<u>12,317.21</u>		
		34,921.36	
			<u>37,422.36</u>
Loan (ring fenced for specific purposes)			20,469.00
Working balance			<u>16,953.36</u>

A/c's to ratify

Park Lane Services (cradle swing repair)	144.00
Advance notice of PWLB D/D on 1/11/11	3,791.93

The Clerk reminded Cllrs that the budget for next year's Precept would have to be agreed at the November meeting, so any requests from Cllrs should be received by the Clerk before 9/11/11 please.

Resolved that the bank balances be accepted and accounts paid/to pay be ratified as above.

18. Date of next Meeting: WEDNESDAY 16th NOVEMBER in Tockwith Church, at 7.30pm.

The Chairman gave his apologies for absence as he will be in hospital.

19. Exempt Matters None.

There being no further business to conduct, the Chairman declared the meeting closed.