

TOCKWITH WITH WILSTROP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Council meeting held on Wednesday 21st September 2011 in Tockwith Church

Chairman: Councillor C Saunders
Present: Councillors Mrs J Wardman, P Pick, W J Bowyer,
In attendance: County & District Cllr Savage, Mrs Unsworth (VHMC Chairman), Mrs G Firth (Clerk to the Council), 8 members of the public (during the evening – not all present at the same time).

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the September Council meeting.

1. Apologies for absence – were received from Cllrs Waller (holiday), Mrs Chasney (prior commitment), Billenness (work), Algar (work), Harrison.

2. Declarations of Interest - none known about at this time.

3. Police matters – resolved that this item be left until later in the evening in case an Officer managed to attend.

4. Public questions or Statements

Standing Orders were suspended. Three residents of Cowthorpe attended and two spoke of their concerns:

- Bends at either end of the village were considered dangerous, especially with the speed of traffic through the village. Several accidents had occurred particularly to cyclists who had been taken to hospital by concerned residents. Traffic calming measures were requested – reduction in speed limit to 20mph, rumble strips, further or better signage.
- A bus service was requested – perhaps a community bus every 2 hours – as there are several residents who would use such a service.
- The two part-built properties in the centre of the village were commented upon. The buildings were not being completed or the site tidied and left safe. The centre of the village was unsightly and especially Acorn House, which is now dilapidated and unsafe. Something needed to be done.

Standing Orders were resumed.

Cllr Savage agreed to take up the concerns with the appropriate authorities. He arranged to meet on site with the residents tomorrow to see the problems for himself.

5. 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.

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

- Speeding through Tockwith – the Clerk had liaised with Cllr Mrs Wardman, then submitted the request for speed monitoring forms. A response was awaited.
 - Marston Road Play Area – Cllr Mrs Wardman reported that residents had been complimentary about the refurbished area. However, a problem was apparent with the surfacing under the pyramid climber. This was a plastic mesh, through which grass would eventually grow, but it was believed that the area had not been levelled enough during construction so that litter collected in the plastic and was difficult to remove.
- The Clerk agreed to raise the concern with the contractor before paying the invoice. The Clerk

stated she had applied for the commuted sums for this project from HBC.

- Use of Community Field – the Minutes of the last meeting referred to what was supposed to have happened. The PC should have all the facts, from all parties, before an informed decision can be made. It was resolved that an invitation to the next PC meeting should be sent to the Sportsfield Trust so they could come forward with their proposals for joint use of the Field.
- Hammerton Mill Sandbeds – Cllr Pick, with Mr Muir and Mr Watson, had met with the owner of Skewkirk Hall, Mr Slinger. A friendly, pleasant and convivial meeting along with a site visit had resulted in an agreement that an access could be opened up to allow public access to the riverbank. A permanent fenced-off access, not going into the adjacent field, would be created. The Ainsty Conservation Society were willing to get involved. This would hopefully achieve what the Parish Council had been hoping for and would benefit the landowner.

Cllr Savage spoke of the NYCC meeting at which the application for common land/village green status had been unanimously voted down in spite of his efforts and those of Mr Muir, who had only heard about the meeting at the eleventh hour not being on e mail! The Clerk agreed to put the report and other documentation in the next corries file for circulation.

7. Village Hall – report by Chairman of VHMC

Standing Orders were suspended.

- The Entertainment Evening had been successful – around £500 had been raised.
- Taster sessions begin next week, with the first on Wednesday afternoon being Gardening in Autumn. Everyone is welcome.
- The Cinema evenings are going ahead, with the first screening on 15th October. Training sessions had been attended.
- The Management Pack is being worked on and updated and will be given out to user groups.
- WREN – after trying for over 2 years to obtain grant funding, a letter has been received from this Waste Management Company allocating a grant, for the project to refurbish the toilets and add extra storage, of up to £45,000 subject to various conditions.
- A meeting with Yorventure has been held in an attempt to obtain a further £10,000 in grant funding. They require a response before 10th October.
- What proved to be difficult Meetings of the Development Committee and Full Management Committee have been held. There are concerns: i) reassurance is required that we have a quotation based on current costs and VAT; ii) we must be assured that we have sufficient money in grants and from fund raising to cover the costs; and iii) we are aware that the PC as property owners should have the final authorisation of the scheme chosen, given that they will be the signatory to the contract when awarded.
- The VHMC is attempting to come up with an amalgam of Plan A and Plan B which will give us everything required within an acceptable do-able budget. For the grant from WREN to be awarded, the spec must not deviate much from that of Plan A, but this would result in a net loss of storage, together with the movement of the boiler and water heater etc into the kitchen, which would be less than ideal. Plan B would give a net gain of storage but not provide an additional ladies toilet cubicle or gents urinal with larger circulation spaces in both ladies and gents toilets. Meetings will be held with three contractors in the coming week to try and find an adapted plan so that quotations can be sought before the VHMC chooses its' preferred scheme and contractor to put to the grant funding bodies.

The Clerk, as the PC representative on the VHMC, had circulated to Cllrs a report expressing her concerns regarding the various issues. These had resulted in her resigning from the VHMC as her position had become untenable. Cllrs asked questions of Mrs Unsworth related to the project specification and finances. A new PC representative would be required on the VHMC.

Mrs Unsworth was thanked for her report and explanations.

8. and 9. Report by County/District Cllr Savage

Cllr Savage spoke to the following:

- Hammerton Mill Sandbeds – already dealt with elsewhere on the agenda.
- Skewkirk Bridge – the matter should be sent to the Secretary of State within the next 4 weeks.
- Footpath from School to Prince Rupert Drive – completed with a bark surface by NYCC, who now had responsibility for the surface.
- Bilton to Bickerton footpath – a meeting had been held at Boroughbridge between the local PC, Cllr Savage and NYCC Area 6. The three worst areas will be repaired by NYCC at a further cost to the taxpayer of £108,000.
- Oak Trees at Cowthorpe – HBC arboricultural Officer had visited and TPO's had been put on the remaining Oak Trees to the North of Tockwith Road and a blanket TPO on both sides of the road from Cowthorpe village up to Broken Banks. This had been followed by a specific TPO on 6 Oaks and 1 Hawthorn to the South of Tockwith Road.
- Wilstrop issues – Cllr Savage was working with Cllr Mrs Chasney on problems surrounding the road flooding and erosion. A meeting had been held with the Drainage Board and a future meeting was planned with all parties ie Environment Agency, NYCC and Drainage Board with both Cllrs to try and find a solution to the problems. A further confidential matter was being investigated and the appropriate services were being contacted.
- Litter bins for Tockwith – advice was that these would soon be provided.
- Airfield – the case is proceeding but no further news from the Planning Inspectorate yet. A commercial garage appears to have set up on the airfield now.
- Thefts of domestic oil have become prevalent – the public should be made aware that thieves were leaving 2 days oil supply and stealing the rest.
- Sportsfield Trust – would have to go to the Rating Officer at HBC in the first instance and if that fails then to a Valuation Tribunal in Doncaster. Cllr Savage would be happy to help but cannot make the inquiry himself.
- Cowthorpe – buses through the village – were supposed to have stopped. Cllr Savage agreed to follow up the matter.
- It was great to see the Chairman at the recent joint PC group meeting regarding the Allerton Incinerator proposals, led by Marton cum Grafton PC.

The Chairman agreed the meeting had been useful and informative. Local Parish and Town Councils were joining forces to fight the proposals. Both local MP's had attended and were talking to colleagues at Westminster. Resolved that the Clerk write to both MP's with the following concerns and asking for their support in the fight against the proposals: i) the potential cost to the ratepayers of North Yorkshire was shocking and ii) the Planning Committee of NYCC was not an appropriate body to discuss such a planning application, which should be called in and decided by The Secretary of State, as it was NYCC which had awarded the PFI contract. As the Government has scrutinised the PFI contract system and found it expensive and inefficient it was felt this was the wrong avenue to go down. Cllr Savage agreed to let the Clerk have contact details so an invitation could be sent to the Group with a request for a presentation to be done at the next PC meeting.

Cllr Savage Was thanked for his attendance and report.

10. Wilstrop issues

In the absence of Cllr Mrs Chasney, the Clerk read out a report she had sent.

- The mobile Library Service has come to an end and will be sadly missed.
- The issue of solutions to flooding on the road way leading to the railway crossing from the A59 is on-going.

Over the summer meetings have been held with the Drainage Board and the County Cllr over the possibility of fitting a clough door on the far side of the drain flowing under the A59 with a view to

restricting the back flow of water from the river when the water levels rise as a result of high rainfall further upstream. The IDB doubts the effectiveness of this plan and suggested a meeting with the other players to see if a better plan can be thrashed out. All parties to date have suggested that the problem is the responsibility of one of the others!

- There is a rumour that the rubbish collection in Wilstrop is to be altered next year – possibly taking away our man with a van who is great. This matter will be followed up.

11. Report from the Clerk

Land at Cowthorpe – the quote received from the contractor appears high – alternative quotes are being researched.

Adopt a kiosk – npower invoices – after so long, so much frustration and complete silence since the first invoice was sent in error, I have received invoices for charges from February to July 2011 – electricity consumption £6.15, administration charges - £227.48, climate change levy – 0.15p, total costs = £233.78 for 6 months. This in spite of the fact that the contracts with the Distributor and Supplier expired in January 2011 and anyway were cancelled in September 2009. I am in the process of writing to npower and will report back in due course.

12. Cowthorpe Oak Trees

Following the cutting down of three Oak Trees along the North side of Tockwith Road, provisional TPO's had been placed on the remaining Oak Trees at that side of the road. Subsequently a blanket TPO had been followed by provisional TPO's on the trees at the South side of Tockwith Road. Notice has been received of the Opportunity to Speak at next week's Planning Committee meeting at HBC. However, the agenda item is to do with rescinding the blanket TPO protection given to all vegetation during a period of immediate threat. The Clerk asked if Cllrs wished to make any response to the TPO's or representation about protecting the trees on the approach to Cowthorpe village from the Wetherby Lane direction. This would be decided when the Cllr for Cowthorpe was present.

13. 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 wished to be updated on information about progress of the scheme or Training sessions.
- **HBC Consultation meetings** – the Clerk had forwarded a question about the removal and non-replacement of cats eyes.
- **Plans for Community Field by Scout Group** – a letter from the Scouts was read out. This outlined an environmental project to enhance the Community Field. Whilst Cllrs applauded most of the plans, support was not given to the first and last bullet points ie no demarcation of parking spaces by use of logs and no planting of a shelter belt across the field to allow for discreet camping, as both of these would impact on the natural environment. The Scouts were sourcing sponsorship and grants and would be grateful to be considered for a grant from the PC for next year. The PC supported the project with the above amendments and would give due consideration to a grant for next year at the appropriate time.

14. Planning - applications

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

23B Fairfax Crescent, Tockwith – erection of detached double garage with storage space above *The PC and neighbours had no objections.*

Rudgate Auto Repairs, Unit 5, Marston Moor Business Park – raising of the roof height of MOT centre. *No objections*

Rose Cottage, 6, Westfield Road – replacement planning permission for conversion of attached store to form additional living accommodation and formation of first floor over. *The PC did not object to or support the application but made the following comments: The PC commented on the original application and would ask that the same considerations are given to this replacement application:*

- *The stairway appears to be built over the utility room, which is itself built over the cellars of the adjacent Public House. Concern is expressed about the load bearing capacity of the construction and care must be taken in the manner of construction so as not to impact on the property underneath.*
- *As this site is in the centre of the village and also in the centre of the Conservation Area, great care must be taken with the materials used in the construction, which should be sympathetic, so that the extended property ‘fits in’ with its’ surroundings.*
- *As the site is in the centre of the village and adjacent on one side to the Public House and on the other to the Costcutter Store and Post Office and the Main Street through the village has little off-road parking with Bus Stops adjacent and opposite the site, care must be taken so that disruption and parking of contractors’ vehicles has as little impact as possible on the free flow of traffic in this location.*

Moorside Business Park – erection of 36m high wind turbine. A decision on a response would be made after neighbour notification had been done.

Planning decisions – approved with conditions

Village Hall – erection of single storey rear extension

6, Marston Road – condition in relation to samples of clay pantiles

Gowlands Farm, Moor Monkton – conversion of garage to form additional living accommodation and replacement of garage doors to windows.

23B Fairfax Crescent – erection of detached double garage with storage space above Rudgate Auto Repairs – raising of roof height of MOT centre

51, Prince Rupert Drive – erection of single storey rear extension

15. Accounts

<u>Bank balances</u>		(as at 21/9/11)
Lloyds TSB current a/c		2,500.00
Lloyds TSB deposit a/c	26,537.99	
Recent deposits:		
VHMC – WREN	4,950.00	31,487.99
Less o/s cheques:	3.81 (Players overpayment)	
	<u>4,950.00</u> (WREN matchfunding)	
	4,953.81	<u>26,534.18</u>

Loan (ring fenced for specific purposes)	20,469.00
Working balance	<u>8,565.18</u>

A/c's to ratify/pay

Zurich Insurance (3 year agreement)	851.74
Mazars (External Audit fee)	480.00
Mrs Firth (Clerk's salary and expenses)	1,009.03
WREN (match funding for VH project)	4,950.00
Farrer Design (VH planning Consultant's fee)	300.00
WARDEN (annual subs)	10.00
New Wood Gardening (Parish grounds maintenance)	710.40
Park Lane Services (Play Area equipment)	11,990.40
(aq) Limited (domain name & web forwarding)	144.00
The Information Commissioner (re-registration)	35.00
Play Safety Limited (if received before next meeting)	
Wilson Kennett Partnership (Cowthorpe land application)	363.38
New Wood Gardening (Land clearance – when presented)	816.00
Mrs G Firth (salary & expenses)	1,206.18
Tockwith Players (overpayment)	3.81

Insurance: – the Clerk had obtained a preferable quote from Zurich Insurance and paid the Premium as agreed at last month's meeting.

Resolved that the bank balances be accepted, accounts to pay be agreed/ratified as above.

16. Date of next Meeting: WEDNESDAY 12th OCTOBER in Tockwith Church, at 7.30pm. PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE.

17. Exempt Matters None.

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