

TOCKWITH WITH WILSTROP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Council meeting held on Wednesday 15th FEBRUARY 2012 in Tockwith Church

Chairman: Councillor C Saunders

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

In attendance: Mrs G Firth (Clerk to the Council) and 3 members of the public.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the February PC meeting.

1. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Savage, Cllr C Billenness and Cllr Mrs Chasney (illness).

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

3. Police matters

No Police present but the Clerk read out a brief e mailed report and apologies:

Since January 1st crime in Tockwith has been minimal – a break in to some containers on Marston Moor Business Park, but nothing was stolen and an assault in the village.

The Police have set up a Business Watch on the Business Parks and they hope this assists in the dissemination of information which will hopefully reduce crime in these areas.

4. Public Questions or Statements

Standing Orders were suspended. Mark Algar spoke about the Tockwith Festival aka the Beer Festival of old which has seen changes this year, following last year's move to the Sportsfield and much bigger Festival with subsequent increase in profits:

- the School/PTFA is not so closely involved
- a new committee, to be set up as a charity, will run the event – hopefully over two weekends in the year, in May (19th) and again in October
- local organisations will be able to bid for grants from proceeds raised, with reciprocal help for the Festival desired
- this year a proper License will be applied for and the Licensee will be Lee Preston
- it is hoped to encourage families to a much broader event with more facilities, suggestions so far include 40 beers on site, a dedicated cider bar, more food, more bands and kids workshops
- it is hoped the marquees could be hired out to other events on the Sundays

Cllr Waller advised on how to organise numbers attending ref the Licence;

Cllr Waller also advised that the Show Committee would be holding a Favours Auction and BBQ to raise funds for the Show on the 20th May;

In answer to a question, it was stated that parking would be in Mick Bell's field;

Cllrs expressed concern about whether two such events in a year were sustainable, in that it may be too much for a small community where other organisations were also trying to raise funds.

Standing Orders were resumed.

Mark was thanked for attending and bringing the PC up to date.

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

Exempt matters of the last meeting were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. These referred to additional remuneration for the Clerk after all the extra work she had done in the last few months.

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

- Cllr Mrs Wardman, having missed the last meeting, asked for clarification about the use of the larger Community Field. She stated she was happy to see that the Scouts would be joining/re-joining the Sportsfield Trust and that a satisfactory resolution had been found to allow village organisations to make use of a community asset.

7. Village Hall

As Mrs Unsworth, the VHMC Chairman, was not present it was agreed to leave this item until later in the meeting in case she attended.

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

In the absence, due to illness, of Cllr Savage a brief emailed report was read out by the Clerk:

- i) NYCC agreed to a zero rise on the rates, central Govt pumping in 2.5% or £6.2 million
- ii) HBC also agreed to a zero rate rise, thereby getting 2.5% from the Government.
- iii) HBC planners went against Officer's recommendations and strongly objected to the Allerton EFW application
- iv) Tockwith Airfield information well circulated
- v) Whixley crossroads, A59, improvements – due to start 16th February – rationalisation and replacement of existing signage on the approaches to the junction – the installation of Vehicle Activated signs is included. These units will flash up a crossroads warning symbol with a 'SLOW DOWN' message. The map type direction sign to the east of the junction is being replaced and relocated slightly to the west of its current position to allow for better sign visibility. The works will require the removal of blackthorns and three small trees in the highway verge. The trees are not in place to screen the road from any nearby properties. It is felt that in the long term visibility of the sign is important as these measures are being introduced in response to the accident record at the crossroads.

10. Wilstrop issues

Nothing much to report except to say that more of a watch is being kept on each others sheep following two attempts to force a gate on the A59 with what is thought to be intent to steal sheep.

11. Report from the Clerk

Adopt a kiosk – npower/northern powergrid invoices – ongoing saga.

Invoices and demands for payment are still being received. Cllrs resolved that the Clerk should

prepare a submission to the Energy Regulator, Ofgem, as well as one to Watchdog, BT and any other means of finally resolving the issue should the current proposals break down.

Land at Cowthorpe – work in progress. Slight hold up due to hospitalisation of one of the workforce. Everything will be sorted in due course.

Street nameplates – two new plates for Marston Road and Westfield Road have been erected on the front wall of the Village Hall.

Airfield – Public Inquiry – took place in Harrogate Council Offices from 17th to 20th January. The Chairman, Cllr Bowyer and myself attended and spoke as 3rd party witnesses. The result of the Public Inquiry has now been received and is an agenda item for tonight's meeting.

Village Hall – an Open Evening was attended by only two visitors and they both had complaints about the proposals.

YC future – I have met the new Leader, a young lady named George. She appears very friendly but, better than that, seems to have a good understanding of what is needed at the YC. She is hoping to have an additional male member of staff soon on a temporary basis – a Senior Manager will be doing the job until someone can be recruited.

Westfield Green POS – fallen tree – agreed works to remove the tree and do stump grinding from a contractor who can do the work at a more reasonable rate than the grounds maintenance contractor.

Vacancy for Clerk – do Cllrs have suggestions for other ways to advertise the post more widely. Cllrs suggested the local press. YLCA to be asked for ideas on how to recruit a new Clerk and Cllrs as well, so that the new Council beyond May 2012 is quorate.

A question was asked about the amount of storage required for parish records when they could no longer be kept at the current Clerk's home. It was stated that the Village Hall would have to be used as a repository for older files and the new Clerk would have to find space at home to store current files, Minutes and important documents.

12. Airfield – Public Inquiry – decision – the result was noted. Resolved to await a report and guidance from Bob Power at HBC before doing anything further.

13. Correspondence

Councillors had previously been forwarded a list of correspondence. Additional correspondence since the list was circulated was made known. Action points were as follows:

i) **Election** in May – papers were given to Cllrs who requested them. The Clerk was asked to pass papers to people who had expressed an interest in standing. Other people coming forward were to be asked to contact the Clerk for nomination papers.

ii) **Speeding on Marston Road** – it was stated that the recordings had been done in the wrong place ie on the village side of the Play Area and not as requested at the east end of the village. Resolved that the Clerk contact the appropriate authority and ask that the monitoring be done again, but this time in the right place.

iii) **CPRE planning booklets** passed to Cllrs for information.

iv) **YLCA** papers passed to Cllrs Mrs Wardman and W J Bowyer who had attended the Harrogate Branch meeting. It had been stated that YLCA would NOT accept requests from Cllrs but would reply only to the Clerk or the Chairman if the matter referred to the Clerk.

v) **Commuted sums to be spent before the end of March** – please would Cllrs advise the Clerk asap of any projects to be worked up so that we don't lose the money.

14. Planning - applications

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

Bracken House, Moorside – erection of single storey extension to form additional living accommodation. Cllr Billenness, who had been given the plans to do neighbour notification, would have declared a prejudicial interest in the item had he been at the meeting. He therefore reported the actions taken to do neighbour notification but himself made no comment on the application. All other members of the Show Committee, Cllrs Waller, Bowyer and Pick, who knew the applicants, declared personal interests in the item. It was believed the applicants had taken advice from the Planning Case Officer at HBC and amended the plans accordingly, to retain the feel of a barn conversion and not to extend into the countryside beyond. No comments either adverse or otherwise had been received from neighbours.

Standing Orders were suspended. Mr and Mrs Hannington were present and were invited to explain the application details to Cllrs. Standing Orders were resumed.

The PC response to be No objections.

Planning decisions – approved with conditions

Lingcroft Grange – change of use of the Groom's cottage and part of the stables to form office accommodation and formation of new door openings.

3, Ralph Garth – erection of 1 single storey extension

15. Accounts

<u>Bank balances</u>		(as at 31/1/12)
Lloyds TSB current a/c		<u>2,501.00</u>
Lloyds TSB deposit a/c	36,025.25	
Less o/s payments	74.98	<u>35,950.27</u>
Total of both a/c's		<u>38,451.27</u>
Loan (ring fenced for specific purposes)		20,469.00
Amount ring fenced for VH expenditure (£5050 - 210.78)		4,839.22
Working balance		<u>13,143.05</u>
<u>A/c's to ratify</u>		
Mrs G Firth (additional remuneration)		1,000.00
Reimbursement for PI expenses		43.72
Part payment to R M Contracts - building contractor at VH (from grant money)		9,600.00

A long and heated debate took place about the matter of paying the building contractor at the VH before any grant money was received. Cllrs had been led to believe the PC would incur no more expenditure other than the £10,000 already donated towards the project together with the VAT involved in PC expenditure which could be reclaimed at the year end. In a meeting dated 12th October 2011 the minutes stated "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"

Mrs Steed, the VHMC Vice-Chair, has signed both contracts with Wren and Yorventure. It is therefore queried whether the PC can be 'the client'. The Wren agreement states it is expecting to receive paid invoices from and pay grant cheques to the PC but the Yorventure agreement is believed to be a verbal one made by Mrs Steed. The contractor started on site on Monday 13th February and will expect payment every two weeks throughout the life of the project, expected to be a reduced time of 6-8 weeks depending on the weather.

The PC has not seen the total costs of the project, the total amount of grant funding received/to be claimed and who has responsibility for paying each bit, or the time and specification of the works.

The PC cannot be expected to 'find' £9,600 every two weeks to pay the contractor, nor can it be confirmed that the Grant funding body will be able to reimburse and get cheques out in less than two weeks from submission of grant claim forms and project progress forms. Cash flow is therefore a worry.

The PC agreed, under extreme duress, to pay the contractor so as not to delay the Project, but only on the understanding that no further cheques would be paid by the PC without money being placed in the PC bank account to cover this, from either the grant funders or the VHMC

Agreed expenditure before next meeting:

Ross Hanley (fallen tree removal) (invoice not yet received)	108.00
Cowthorpe POS expenditure (from commuted sums once invoices sorted)	
Clearance, turfing, gate, seat, bin, piece of equipment	
VH small wall at rear removal (£1,250 + 220 + VAT)	1,764.00

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

16. Date of next Meeting: WEDNESDAY 21st MARCH 2012 in Tockwith Church, at 7.30pm.

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

18. Exempt Matters - None. .