

TOCKWITH WITH WILSTROP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Council meeting held on Wednesday 18th JANUARY 2012 in Tockwith Church

- Chairman:** Councillor C Saunders
- Present:** Councillors N Waller, Mrs L Chasney, W J Bowyer, S Harrison, P Pick and C Billenness
- In attendance:** County & District Cllr Savage, Mrs A Unsworth and Mrs S Corbett (VHMC), representatives from The Sportsfield Trust, Junior Football Club and Scout Group, Mrs G Firth (Clerk to the Council) and 1 member of the public.

The Chairman wished everyone a Happy New Year and welcomed all to the January PC meeting.

1. Appointment of new Clerk to the Council The Chairman made known the letter from Mrs Firth. He asked for the Council to ratify his reply. An advert for a new Clerk had been produced – this would go on the Noticeboards, in the Parish magazine and on the website. YLCA publish such adverts and the PC may wish to consider this way of advertising, as well as informing clerks of neighbouring parishes who may wish to take up the position.

The Chairman and Cllrs expressed their thanks to the Clerk for all she had done for the parish during her 22+ years as Clerk.

2. Apologies for absence were received from District/County Cllr Savage and Cllr Mrs Wardman (hospital).

3. Declarations of Interest – Cllr Harrison would declare a personal interest if any agenda item included the Scouts.

4. Police matters No Police present and no report.

5. Public Questions or Statements

Standing Orders were suspended.

Mark Kennett wished to express his thanks and gratitude as a member of the public for all the work the Clerk has done over the years. Her advice and guidance to the Council had been much appreciated.

Standing Orders were resumed.

6. Minutes of the last meeting – having been circulated and taken as read were amended on page 4, line 11, to state that Bob Power would ‘look at’ not vet all witness statements. They were then 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.

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

- Cllr Billenness asked if the amount of spam received by the Clerk had been reducing. The Clerk said NO and the Cllr agreed to have another look at the problem.
- Christmas lights – had not been erected at the beginning of December and by the time they were to go up the gales came and it was decided as a matter of Health & Safety not to provide lights this year.

Community Field – Representatives from the Scouts, the Sportsfield Trust and The Junior Football Club (JFC) were present. Cllr Harrison declared a personal interest in this item and duly signed the Interest book.

Standing Orders were suspended.

Mr Morris, from the Scouts, summarised the current position. Access to an open field was a valuable asset for the Scouts. Ideally they would like to place a store for all their equipment on the Field and ultimately and aspirationally have a Scout Hut for meetings as well. In order to carry out required works to the Field, like getting a water supply and planting trees, they would require security of tenure. A 25 year Lease was suggested, in order for the Scouts to benefit from their investment. The Scouts were not looking for exclusive use but would want control over activities on the back half of the Community Field. Mark Kennett had drawn up a prospective plan for how this could work. The front half of the Field would still be available for a practice area for the JFC with open access for general use/any other village organisation. The JFC Leader present said he was happy with the Scouts’ plans and minor works to the front half of the Field would make it a useable practice area for the JFC and there would be no fixed goalposts. For practical purposes and to avoid using the access track for Millfield Farm an alternative access to the back half of the Field was proposed up the right hand side when viewed from Tockwith Lane. It was suggested that the Scouts should become part of the Sportsfield Trust, as they were in the past. The Sportsfield Trust representative present saw no problem with the suggestion. The Scouts could then have use of the Sportsfield building. It was stated that the Scouts should not rely on being able to get planning permission for storage or a building for a meeting place on a field so remote from the village as the Local Planning Authority had given a definite no to suggestions that the Village Hall/Community Centre could be built in this location, so it was not felt right that the Scouts should have false expectations. The matter of a Lease raised problems, as the PC had not budgeted for such costs and it could be a while before such expenditure could be considered.

Standing Orders were resumed.

It was resolved that the PC would be willing to enter into a Lease with the Scouts, for use of the back half of the Field, subject to them returning to the PC within 24 months demonstrating they had enough funds to cover the legal cost of a Lease, as per the plans shown to the PC for non-exclusive use of the back half of the Field with the JFC

having non-exclusive use of the front half of the Field. It was also resolved that the Clerk write to the Sportsfield Trust, granting non-exclusive use of the front half of the Field to the JFC.

9. and 10. Report by County/District Cllr Savage In the absence of Cllr Savage there was no report.

11. Wilstrop issues

- Flooding at the Lane end – a meeting had been held regarding resurfacing the road and measures to sort the flooding problem.

The usual answer was received - that no organisation had sufficient money to resolve the problems. As there was no major effect on local dwellings the issue was not considered a priority. Basically, affected residents/the PC would have to pay for models/clue doors etc – which would be vastly expensive and cost tens of thousands of pounds. Cllr Mrs Chasney had asked for and received all the reports in writing, which had been copied to the Clerk.

- The road had now been patched.
- There has been another accident in the dip and a Policeman had ended up with a broken leg having been hit by another vehicle.
- The issue of the caravan is still receiving attention and Cllr Mrs Chasney and the Clerk would continue to liaise with HBC about this.

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

Standing Orders were suspended. Mrs Unsworth gave a report.

- Since the last meeting a grant has been obtained and a phone line and broadband were being made available at the VH. It is the intention to run an internet café and training sessions for anyone who wishes to learn more about the internet. The Workers Education Authority are to help run courses for residents.
- Youth Club – latest news – “at a January meeting that Mike Josh attended with Paul Carswell, the Senior Manager for NYCC Youth Support Services – Harrogate District, it was acknowledged that a letter had been received from the PC regarding the future of Tockwith YC; as a probable consequence of this letter Mr Carswell assured Mike that the YC would continue to serve the needs of Tockwith Young People and Community. Mike asked what staffing would be in place after 31st January when he had to leave and emphasised the essential need for 3 Youth Workers, of which one should ideally be a male worker. The new workers will be Georgina Dickinson, Catherine Beresford and 1 other to be announced before Tuesday February 7th. Another NYCC Youth Service Re-organisation is due in June 2012 and could have implications for Tockwith”.

Cllrs expressed concern at the supervision of the YC if there were to be no male workers present, given the ages of the young female workers and the ages of the older male members of the YC. A watching brief was to be kept on the YC and any problems reported promptly to the PC.

- The development is due to start on February 13th and will take 8-10 weeks. The VH

will be fully in use until the last few days when the toilets will not be useable due to the new plumbing which needs to be done.

- An Open Meeting is to be held on Friday 27th January at 7.30pm in the VH for anyone interested to see the plans and talk about potential storage in the finished building. All Cllrs are welcome to attend.

Audrey wished to express her thanks to Gill for all her work for the PC, the VHMC and the Community during her time as Clerk to the PC.

Standing Orders were resumed.

12. Report from the Clerk

- **Adopt a kiosk – npower invoices** – ongoing saga.

In spite of previous advice and following npower sending a receipted invoice for disconnection of the electricity supply to the kiosk, I am still receiving invoices and demands for payment. Barriers were placed in the vicinity of the kiosk for a few days at the beginning of January and after a week or so the barriers disappeared. It is assumed the supply has been disconnected although no-one has had the courtesy to inform me of this. I have had notification of an increase in electricity prices from 1st January for 'deemed customers' like the PC, without a contract. I've also had another request to supply them with an inventory of the equipment we own which uses electricity! From April 2011 to December 2011 the total charge for consumption was £1.41 in addition to which they are trying to charge us £253.25 administration and 3p for climate change levy! Watch this space.

- **Land at Cowthorpe** – work in progress. Turf to be laid soon and gate provided. I will meet on site with the contractor to discuss the extras.
- **Street nameplates** – Westfield Road – two new plates for Marston and Westfield Roads to be erected on the VH wall near the Bus Stop. I am liaising with the HBC Officer about placement.
- **Airfield – Public Inquiry** – taking place in Harrogate from 17th to 20th January. The Chairman, Cllr Bowyer and me to speak as 3rd party witnesses.
- **Committed sums before the end of December** – again last minute messages from HBC. I have attempted to progress for Cowthorpe POS so we don't lose the money.
- **VH roof slates/tiles** – some damage during winter gales – being sorted.
- **CPRE** – obtained additional planning booklet as requested.
- **Streetlight, Marston Road** – reply from NYCC to say they will not provide an additional light. They would arrange and do the work if the PC paid for it and agreed to be responsible for its future maintenance. A ball park figure of £1,000 was given, if there's a nearby supply to connect to.
- **RoSPA** – will send electronic Reports in future – Playground Inspection next due in September.
- **Cowthorpe Planning Enforcement case** – ongoing – no further details other than allegedly the landowner has been told to tidy up the site.

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:

- **Commuted sums expenditure** – Cllrs were asked to come up with potential projects which the Clerk would then progress regarding commuted sums, obtaining quotes etc. The Community Field may be a suitable project given the requirements of the Scouts and other users of the Field.
- **Westfield Green POS** – the Clerk was delegated authority to sort the hedge and fallen tree, first obtaining quotations for the work required.
- **LM Resident – Airfield wartime history** - the Clerk had done her best to help the writer and pointed him in the right direction.
- **LTP Highways & Transportation survey** – was taken by the Chairman for completion.
- **Cub Scout Leader request** – the Clerk to collate replies and pass them on to the Cub Scout Leader.

14. Planning - applications

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

Clydemont, 14, Marston Road – conversion of outbuildings to form holiday let and store. *Whilst the PC did not object to or support the application the following comments were made: 1. Marston Road is a busy road through the village. Many properties do not have off-road parking. Additional traffic from a holiday let, given the difficulties of access/egress in this location, may add to the problems; 2. The proposed 'holiday let' in the application description is, on the application form, stated to be for 'additional family accommodation' for Clydemont; 3. The outbuildings adjoin the Snooker Club and the level of residential amenity is questioned/challenged for any holiday occupant/family member; 4. Because of the proximity of the Snooker Club and the parking requirements of its members, difficulties have arisen in the past about there not being good sight lines for traffic when exiting Clydemont. Additional traffic would add to the current difficulties and have the same problems; 5. As the Doctors Surgery is opposite the application site and the Methodist Church is undergoing conversion to residential properties, with take up of car parking within the old Church grounds where patients currently park, parking and traffic problems in this area of the village will only get worse without adding to them.*

Lingcroft Grange, Cowthorpe – change of use of the Groom's cottage and part of the stables to form office accommodation and formation of door openings. *The PC had no objections to this application.*

160, Prince Rupert Drive – erection of single storey rear extension to replace conservatory. *The PC had no objections.*

3, Ralph Garth – erection of 2 single storey rear extensions. *The PC did not object to or support but made the following comments: Whilst the PC does not object to the principle of development of the modest extensions proposed, it is requested that care is taken*

that there is no loss of light or residential amenity to the sitting room of the neighbours at number 1, Ralph Garth as the proposed extension is higher than the existing hedge and fence.

Moorside Business Park – erection of 24.6m high wind turbine Cllr Pick declared a personal interest as he farms adjoining land. Following debate when it was stated that:

- there would be no turbine flicker from the reduced height of the turbine;
- concern remained that the development would have a substantial impact on the surrounding area;
- it was considered inappropriate development in an open countryside location;
- it was queried whether the reduced height of the turbine would get enough wind to make such a project viable;

The PC objected to this application on the following grounds:

The PC wishes to remain consistent in responses to applications regarding constructions of this height in the flat landscape of the Vale of York:

- *The proposed height of the wind turbine at 24.6m plus the blade height, which is not accounted for in this figure, is not so different as to overcome objections to the original application, which was withdrawn, as it would still make the turbine a visually intrusive element in the landscape and therefore affect the visual amenity of nearby residents at Moorside and BroadOak..*
- *Should the Borough Council be minded to approve the application, either in its amended form or after further modifications the PC would like to be kept informed/consulted on any changes*

NYCC – Planning application accompanied by an Environmental Statement for a Waste Recovery Park (Allerton Waste Recovery Park -AWRP) The Clerk had sent a letter of objection, which was ratified.

- *The Chancellor of the Exchequer has vowed to reassess the PFI system, on which the proposals are based, because of failings in the present system.*
- *The project will leave the ratepayers of North Yorkshire with a huge financial burden both now and in the future.*
- *NYCC does not have a Waste Core Strategy in place so the proposals are preemptive.*
- *The principles of the Waste Hierarchy have not been followed as incineration should always be a last resort*
- *There are other more environmentally friendly and less expensive options to deal with municipal waste*
- *An open rural location, notwithstanding that a quarry exists there at present, is not a suitable site for a development of this proposed size. Government agrees that such developments should take place in built up areas or on the urban fringes.*

- *Traffic generated on local access roads will make the A168 difficult to use, given the large number of agricultural vehicles which have to use the road since the A1 was upgraded to the A1M and the large number of HGV's already using the A168/A59/A1M to access local towns and villages.*
- *The proposals are not sustainable in traffic terms as waste from an extremely wide area will have to be transported by road to this remote location. Any saving accrued from waste disposal/recovery will be more than offset by the cost of transport and fuel.*
- *The size and siting of the proposed development will have a huge and detrimental impact on the landscape and environment in this rural location.*
- *The remoteness of the location means it could be a target for travelling criminals from the North East and West Riding of Yorkshire who see the wide open spaces of North Yorkshire as easy pickings and use the local roads and the A1M as get-aways.*

In conclusion, the PC contends that this is the wrong technology in the wrong place at the wrong time. The PC earnestly requests that these comments are given due consideration during the planning process and that common sense will prevail and the application be refused.

Planning decisions – approved with conditions

Cromwell House, 45, Marston Road – conversion of storage area above garage to form home office with erection of dormer window and installation of 2 roof lights.

Rose Cottage, Kendal Lane – erection of first floor extension (revised scheme)

127, PRD – erection of single storey extension

Lingcroft Grange, Cowthorpe – erection of first floor extension, single storey extension and porch

Clydemont, 14, Marston Road – conversion of outbuildings to form holiday let and store

160, PRD – erection of single storey rear extension to replace conservatory

Tree Preservation Orders Nos 30/2011 and 33/2011 confirmed

15. Accounts

Bank balances (as at 22/12/11)

Lloyds TSB current a/c 2,500.00

Lloyds TSB deposit a/c 29,478.05

Total of both a/c's	<u>31,978.05</u>
Loan (ring fenced for specific purposes)	20,469.00
Working balance	<u>11,509.05</u>
<u>A/c's to ratify</u>	
Mrs G Firth (salary, expenses, petty cash and reimbursements) Keytek (as above) £117.42	1,200.34
Christmas raffle prize for VH Xmas Fair (as above) £20.00	
Expenses at Public Inquiry (as above) £45.10	
Viking Direct (stationery supplies)	334.81
Cllr Billenness (reimburse Streamline.net)	74.98
Mark Tabert (VH project architect) (from £10,000 donation)	210.78

Agreed expenditure before next meeting: Drain clearance at VH Cowthorpe POS clearance, turfing, gate, seat, bin, play equipment etc VH small wall at rear removal

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

Cllrs discussed the fact that the Clerk worked many more hours than contracted for. It had been a particularly heavy workload recently taking into account the Allerton objections and the Public Inquiry, at which the Clerk had acted on behalf of the PC.

17. Date of next Meeting: WEDNESDAY 15th FEBRUARY 2012 in Tockwith Church, at 7.30pm.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attendance, moved the resolution for exempt Matters regarding remuneration of the Clerk, which Cllrs agreed and declared the meeting closed to the public.

18. Exempt Matters The Clerk left the room during debate on this item. Cllrs discussed payment to the Clerk for additional hours worked over the last 3 months. There is also an exempt minute for this item.