

## **TOCKWITH WITH WILSTROP PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of a Council meeting held on Wednesday 21st March 2012 in Tockwith Church**

**Chairman:** Councillor C Saunders

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

**In attendance:** County/District Cllr Savage, Mrs Unsworth (VHMC Chairman), Mrs G Firth (Clerk to the Council), Mrs Helen Algar (Prospective new Clerk to the Council) and 5 members of the public.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the March PC meeting.

#### **1. To ratify the appointment of a new Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer and the appointment and remuneration of a Deputy Clerk in the interim.**

The Chairman outlined the facts:

- As Gill will be retiring at the end of April her successor had been sought.
- Advertisement of the post and application by Mrs Algar had been followed by an interview conducted by a panel of Cllrs.
- Mrs Algar was an excellent candidate and the Chairman invited his fellow Cllrs to ratify the appointment of Mrs Helen Algar as Clerk/RFO from 1st May.
- In the interim, Helen will act as Deputy Clerk from 1st April and will liaise with Gill to try and ensure a smooth handover.
- Helen will be paid for her work during April before her appointment begins.

Cllrs ratified the appointment unanimously. Helen was congratulated and told a letter of appointment and Contract of Employment would follow.

**2. Apologies for absence** were received from Cllr C Billenness (business)

**3. Declarations of Interest** – none known about at this time.

#### **4. Police matters**

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

- Overnight 29/30 January – containers entered on Marston Moor Business Park
- Overnight 12/13 February Fuel stolen from a vehicle on Rudgate Business Park
- On 11th March a vehicle was entered and personal belongings stolen from a horse event at Tockwith
- Overnight 14/15 March there were three burglary others where sheds and a stable were broken into and tools/machinery and diesel were stolen from Tockwith.
- There has been no crime in Wilstrop.

Please remind members of the public to keep all valuable items out of sight and keep all buildings locked up securely as now is the time when lots of garden machinery/tools are being stolen. In fact, as you can see from the digest above there are lots of different things being stolen at the moment and there is no 'current' crime pattern so everyone should be extra vigilant and report suspicious incidents/vehicles to us on the new phone number 101, unless its an emergency then ring 999.

## **5. Public Questions or Statements**

Standing Orders were suspended. KW asked as a point of clarification whether matters surrounding the airfield would be discussed at tonight's meeting. He was told there was correspondence about the matter. Standing Orders were resumed.

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

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

- Cllr Mrs Wardman asked whether there had been any response to the request that speed monitoring on Marston Road should be repeated but this time in the correct place. The Clerk said she had not had a reply or acknowledgement and would follow this matter up before the next meeting.
- Use of (east/front part of larger field) Community Field by JFC – the Clerk had prepared a paper and obtained agreement and signature by the Sportsfield Trust, the parent body of the JFC. The Chairman read out the agreement and Cllrs unanimously ratified it with an additional comment that 'keeping the area tidy at all times' should be a matter included in the supplementary management arrangements to be agreed.

**8. Village Hall** Mrs Unsworth, the VHMC Chairman, gave a report.

- Although the VH is in disarray during the building works everyone is being supportive of the project and completion is very much looked forward to. It is hoped the building works will be completed by the second week of April.
- A film Show, the third and last of the trial series, is to be held on Saturday afternoon 24th March – RANGO – a family film. Refreshments will be available.
- SUNDAY 22nd APRIL – Grand Opening of the completed refurbishment and extension project to be followed by a Quiz evening – ALL WELCOME!
- Groups are working well, even with disruption – problems are being addressed as they arise. (Gill and Audrey have made the VH their 2nd home for the duration!)
- The hardest problem is getting groups/users to report problems to the right people. Audrey has visited all user groups on many occasions and asked them to report problems to her but then she hears of incidents only days later after e mails are disseminated.

Mrs Unsworth was thanked for her report and hard work during the building project.

## **9. and 10. Report by County/District Cllr Savage**

Cllr Savage gave a report:

- The Alzheimers Society in Ripon is to become Dementia Forward.
- HBC and NYCC have agreed there will be no rate rises but there may be a backlash in 2015/2016
- HBC – Planning Committee voted to strongly object to the Allerton proposals and
- HBC Full Council voted that the application should be called-in by the Secretary of State BUT HBC is only a consultee
- NYCC Highways have asked for a 6 month delay whilst Highways issues relating to the A1 are sorted out.
- HBC - Tockwith Airfield – Public Inquiry – Inspector's Decision – although 4 out of the 6 Enforcement cases were upheld, HBC have not yet put in place the measures required to ensure that the airfield operator complies with the Inspector's decisions. Cllr Savage would be having a meeting with the CEO, Mr Sampson, to try and expedite matters and obtain replies to

emails and letters from local PC's and others.

Cllr Savage was asked to raise, again, the matter of the footpaths from Kendal Gardens to Marston Road, as they still need attention. Cllr Savage was asked to chase Area 6 Highways to make sure the promised works to Norfolk Gardens are done by the end of March as the road has disintegrated and needs complete resurfacing.

**11. Wilstrop issues** The only issue this month had been the planning application to which there were no objections.

## **12. Report from the Clerk**

**Adopt a kiosk** – ongoing saga.

**Land at Cowthorpe** – work almost complete. Turfing done, awaiting wider gate so as to be DDA (Disability Discrimination Act) compliant. Commuted sums being chased.

**Westfield Green POS** – fallen tree – works to remove the tree and do stump grinding completed at less cost than expected.

## **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 – the Clerk offered to take all completed nomination papers to Harrogate before the deadline.
- ii) **Commuted sums to be spent before the end of March** – the Clerk is attempting to obtain commuted sums for Cowthorpe, the Community Field and the Village Hall before the deadline.
- iii) **SLCC (Society of Local Council Clerks) Training Day and AGM** – it was agreed that attendance by the Clerk and Deputy Clerk would be paid for by the Council.
- iv) **CPRE (Council for the Protection of Rural England)/YLCA (Yorkshire Local Councils Associations) Training Course** – book two places for Cllrs Waller and Mrs Wardman
- iv) **Airfield - HBC Enforcement Officer's e mail relating to the Inspector's Decision:** – progress from HBC is slow and they are about to write to Mr Moore in order to agree what is or will be required from him in order to comply with the requirements of the various enforcement notices. - The Environment Agency has become involved with the matter of tyres stored on the airfield. Cllrs did not agree with the approach of the enforcement officer regarding 'planning harm' - if something is illegal or unauthorised it should not be happening anyway. Much was expected of Cllr Savage's meeting with Mr Sampson, the CEO, tomorrow. Cllr Savage was asked to let the PC know the outcome of that meeting. The PC is still awaiting the promised 'letter of guidance' from HBC. Standing Orders were suspended.

Mr Wilson had sent Bob Power an 8 page document in early March, asking for clarification of points in the Inspector's Decision letter. No reply had been received. He believed the response or lack of it from HBC was most unsatisfactory as was the progress or lack of it relating to the Noise Abatement Order on the airfield. Nothing further had been heard from The Environment Agency regarding the situation with Eco Terra Tyres and the prosecution and sentencing of the operator. Mr Wilson was still urging the PC to assist with paying for 'independent third party professional advice' from TLDP. He stated that Bob Power was keen for the help of a third party

and the Barrister used in the Public Inquiry was not involved in the detail of the decisions. It was pointed out that even if such advice was obtained HBC would not be bound by it. If HBC required professional advice and were not capable of doing the job required then they should pay for it. It was stated that individual residents and the TRA would potentially contribute to the costs if the two PC's also did. The aim was to get HBC to carry out the requirements of the Inspector's decision as robustly as possible in order to stop or minimize the airfield activities. Mr Wilson had asked HBC about supplementary action relating to the Ginetta track as operational development but had not had a reply.

Mr Wilson believed if it is left to HBC, nothing will happen. He believed the February letter to HBC from TLDP had been the catalyst for the PCN (Planning Contravention Notice) and subsequent PI (Public Inquiry).

Standing Orders were resumed.

It was resolved that the Clerk contact The Environment Agency for an update and invite Mr Stevenson to the April PC meeting. The Chairman stated that the PC had previously resolved to await the guidance from HBC before taking any further action and this decision could not be overturned for 6 months, according to Standing Orders. Cllrs agreed.

Cllrs believed HBC should apply to the legal experts used during the Public Inquiry if professional advice was required. If they wished for the advice of TLDP (The Land and Development Practice) or anyone else they should pay for it.

The fact that Cllrs and residents had lost faith in the system/confidence in the ability of HBC to carry out their duties was a cause for concern and should be made known to the CEO and the Leader of the Council.

The Chairman thanked everyone for a robust debate and said Cllr Savage's report back was eagerly awaited.

#### **14. Planning - applications**

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

**The Barn, Skipbridge Farm, Moor Monkton** – conversion of garage and single storey extension to form meeting/study, WC and utility room. *NO OBJECTIONS.* **T**

**ockwith CE Primary School** – installation of 54 solar panels in three blocks to the School roof. *NO OBJECTIONS* Cllrs Saunders and Waller declared personal non-prejudicial interests in this application being school governors.

**Eastfield Grange, Marston Road** – outline application for erection of agricultural workers dwelling with all matters reserved. *NO OBJECTIONS.*

#### **Planning decisions – refused**

**Moorside Business Park** – erection of 24.6m high wind turbine

#### **15. Accounts**

Bank balances (as at 29/2/12)

Lloyds TSB current a/c 2,501

Lloyds TSB deposit a/c 41,782

Add outstanding credits:

Banked 2/3	5,000		
Banked 6/3	200		
Banked 10/3	3,200		
BACS (WREN) 15/3	8,000	16,400	
Less o/s payments	521		
	9,600		
	12,731	-22,852	<u>35,330</u>
Total of both a/c's			<u>37,831</u>
Loan (ring fenced for specific purposes)			20,469
Amount ring fenced for VH expenditure			5,782
Working balance			<u>11,580</u>

A/c's to ratify/pay

Mrs G Firth (salary and expenses to 31/3)			1,007.52
New Wood Gardening:			
1. Parish Grounds Maintenance from Sept to March	592		
2. Cowthorpe POS expenditure	700		1,292.00
Part payments to VH Building Contractor			22,330.80
Building Inspector			520.80
Ware & Kay			120.00
Ross Hanley (fallen tree Tockwith POS)			96.00
To pay before 31st March:			
R M Contracts (small wall to rear of VH)			1,764
R M Contracts (Damp proofing/pointing work at VH)			324
New Wood Gardening (gate and extras at Cowthorpe POS)			600.00
R M Contracts (stage payment for extension)			21,452
Cartridge supplies			109
car parking space at VH			252
Porta-loo hire			402
additional radiators at VH			1800

Cllrs stated that the cost of additional items required by the Building Inspector, e.g. price of grab handles, was scandalous. Resolved that commuted sums expenditure at the Community Field be left with the Clerk and Cllr Pick to sort.

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

**16. Date of next Meeting: WEDNESDAY 25th APRIL 2012 in Tockwith Church, to follow the Annual Parish Meeting which starts at at 7.30pm.**

Cllrs ratified the change of date for the April meeting. Cllrs were reminded to prepare their reports to the Annual Parish Meeting, which precedes the April meeting.

**17. Exempt matters** – none.

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

