

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

TOCKWITH WITH WILSTROP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Council meeting held on Wednesday 17th April 2013 in Tockwith Church

Present: Councillors; Mr N Waller (Chair), Mrs J Wardman, Mrs A Wilson, Mrs L Gill, Mrs S Pearce, Mrs S Corbett, Mr C Billenness.

In attendance: Mrs H Algar (Clerk to the Council), PC Sue Brookes, and 7 members of the public.

Apologies: Cllr J Savage (District & County Cllr (late)), Cllr J Thompson, Cllr B Smith.

13/57. Apologies for absence

Cllr Waller opened the meeting RESOLVED that all apologies were accepted for Councillors absent.

13/58 Parish Council Vacancies

13/58.1 To announce appointment of a new Internal Auditor It was announced that Mr Ian Scott Brown has been appointed as the new Internal Auditor to the Council. He has been appointed for the duration of two financial cycles and was recruited from a number of recommended candidates provided by the Yorkshire Local Councils Association. Ian's experience and expertise of local government administration made him an outstanding candidate for this role and the council are looking forward to working with him.

The Clerk confirmed there had been no further interest in the current councillor vacancy.

RESOLVED that the vacancy remain open and continue to advertise.

13/59 Declarations of Interests

Cllrs agreed that they would declare an interest if any items on the agenda concern them.

It was noted however that councillors no longer require a dispensation in order to set the Precept. They now have powers to set the precept without having to declare an interest.

The council agreed to move to item 13/63 Police matters.

Standing orders were suspended

13/63 Police Matters

PC Sue Brookes gave the following report;

070313 – Attempt Burg Dwell – Tockwith
140313 – TUMV – cat converter – Tockwith
150313 – Burg Oth and TUMV – cat converter – Tockwith
150313 – Burg Oth – nothing stolen – Tockwith
150313 – Burg Oth – nothing stolen – Tockwith

Police have visited Blind lane and also Marston Moor business park where fuel and batteries have been stolen. Police hope to meet up with Marston moor business park representatives to see how they can improve the situation. Also now that the weather is improving it is thought that there will be an increase in farm machinery theft. PC Brookes has also written a letter to the

school regarding the parking issue on the bend opposite the turn off to Southfield lane which is to go out via school to parents. The chairman also informed PC Brookes that our grounds maintenance contractor had also found a significant number of butane canisters when clearing up the rubbish on the Public Open Space at Westfield Green.

Council moved to item 13/60 and standing orders were resumed.

13/60 Minutes Minutes of the March meeting were discussed.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the March 20th 2013 meeting be signed and dated as a true record..

13/61 To receive information on On-going issues and decide further action where necessary.

13/61.1 Grounds Maintenance Contractor to discuss progress so far. The new Grounds maintenance contractors have visited the site and it is now looking very tidy a litter pick was done and as a consequence the council were informed that a large number of butane containers were found. This information was passed onto PC Sue Brookes.

RESOLVED that the clerk pay Farm and Land Services for the one off fee for clearing the site of rubbish at a cost of £28 plus VAT.

13/61.2 Dog Fouling Had an email from the dog warden who has confirmed that she will be returning to target the village for a week with and without the van being visible. This will possibly in May/June.

RESOLVED That the clerk ask the dog warden to ensure that she visits at times when people will be taking their dogs out namely morning and evening.

RESOLVED That the clerk inform the dog warden that there is a dog walking service in Cowthorpe that appears to be letting their dogs foul public areas.

13/61.3 Footpath from PRD to Southfield lane to discuss progress so far with NYCC. NYCC have consented to put up some signs to discourage use by equestrians mainly thanks to the pressure from Cllr Savage.

13/61.4 To approve changes agreed at the last meeting to standing orders.

RESOLVED that all changes are as agreed.

13/61.5 To approve changes agreed at the last meeting to financial regulations.

RESOLVED that all changes are as agreed.

13/61.6 To organise a green bin for garden waste at Tockwith Primary school Discussions were made with Cllr John Savage who has now found a contact that the Primary school can work with to dispose of their green waste. This contact has been passed onto the school by the Clerk.

13/61.7 To approve or make comment on Tockwith with Wilstrop Parish Council's Volunteer Policy

RESOLVED that the policy be approved.

Standing orders were suspended.

13/62 Public Questions, Comments or Representations

A member of the public asked whether a brown garden waste bin had been organised for Bert's garden. The clerk had asked Cllr Thompson to deal with this matter and ask Harrogate Borough Council whether they were currently providing brown bins, but she had stated that if necessary she would make her additional bin available.

A member of the public also asked whether it would be possible to find out who should empty the bin at the tennis courts as it is always full. Cllr Corbett stated that the tennis club should empty it as all other organisations on the site deal with their own rubbish. Cllr Corbett agreed to speak to the tennis club and ask them to empty it.

Standing orders were resumed.

Councillors agreed to move to item 13/65 on the agenda.

13/65 Report by County and District Councillor.

The chairman suspended standing orders and Cllr Savage gave a report the main points of which were;

- After confusion over pick ups for waste collection over the bank holiday periods it has been decided that a sticker is to be put on the bins for any change of days moving forward.
- Harrogate Borough Council have not made a decision of whether or not to look for a new town hall as yet.
- The Green bin waste has been sorted at Tockwith Primary School they now have a contact to talk about this to at NYCC.
- Airfield situation is still going on and it appears that nothing is happening think it would be an idea to arrange another joint meeting to find out progress with the issue.
- Good news that NYCC will put up signs on the footpath from Prince Rupert Drive to Southfield Lane.
- Cowthorpe, War Field Lane a disgrace, has met up with Malcolm Smurthwaite and is currently waiting for a full report from him on the situation.
- A59 crash at Wilstrop regarding school minibus and lorry, as yet not had a reply back from Highways.

Cllrs then made the following comments on Cllr Savage's report

- Regarding the A59 the safer neighbourhood group meeting stated that three serious accidents is all that is needed for highways to have to consider making some remedial action at the site and there has been at least that at Wilstrop.
- Cllr Waller impressed on Cllr Savage that our Parish is not at all well served by Highways.

RESOLVED that the Clerk ask Cllr Savage for a copy of Mr Smurthwaites report as soon as it is available and to copy in Richard Flinton and James Malcolm at NYCC.

RESOLVED that Clerk ask Highways Area 6 with a copy to Richard Flinton and James Malcolm at NYCC for a list of all the works that have been raised in our Parish in the last three years and for this list to also show their current status.

13/64 Village Hall

Mrs Unsworth was unable to attend the meeting and had sent a report the main points of which were;

- Insurance for the cleaner, as the cleaner is self-employed our policy allows for cover whilst she is on site but she needs to cover herself for any incidents she is deemed liable for.

- Health check, we finished the check and decided that we need to continue to develop our marketing strategies throughout the community, update our risk assessments and keep up to date with changes in the law which affect us.
- AGM will be held on Wednesday 8th May in the Village Hall and posters will be put up this week.

Standing orders were resumed.

13/66 Matters Requested by Councillors

13/66.1 To discuss the motion that "This Council resolves to make a contribution under Section 137 of the Local Government Act to Marton – Cum – Grafton Parish Council in support of a Judicial Review against Amey Cespa relating to the proposals to construct a waste incinerator at Allerton Park".

Cllr Billenness introduced the motion and explained that there were a couple of representatives from NYWAG (North Yorkshire Waste Action Group) and asked that the council agree to suspend standing orders so that they could explain the current situation in more detail. Council agreed to suspend standing orders.

Mr Schofield explained the current situation with the incinerator.

- The government had recently withdrawn 125 million pounds from the scheme.
- The planning consent is however in place should they get another investor.
- NYWAG want to get the planning quashed by a judicial review so nobody else can invest and bring this plant to fruition.
- Parish Council group led by Marton-cum-Grafton PC have launched a judicial review and are awaiting a decision from the judge as to whether the case can go ahead this decision should be here within the month.
- It could then take 12-18 months for the case to come to court. Alternatively it could be that the case is fast tracked and could be within a month of the decision.
- The PC group have to show that they have enough money to pay for the review the amount of money that needs to be raised is 80K. Currently there is 50K available.
- Marton-cum-grafton PC have raised 18K and Coneythorpe 3K but they need more.
- The money pledged or given will be repatriated if not spent.
- A reason to give to this cause is that every house in the parish will have an additional £1200 cost per household should the scheme go ahead.
- The council currently have 50 million pounds in the bank waiting to go on this scheme this 50million could be put into other services not just sat in the bank.
- To stop the additional 3000 lorry miles per year on the A59.
- Road Safety issues.
- Environmental issues of the safety of the plume that is generated and also the visual amenity of the area.

Cllr Billenness added

- If the case was won or if the case did not go ahead any money we gave as a PC would be returned.
- The legal advice already taken says that there is a very strong case for the planning to be quashed.
- We can lawfully as a parish council make a section 137 payment to another parish council.
- We would be giving the money to a Parish Council who are open to financial transparency as ourselves so we should not worry on that front when giving funds.
- The 6.5 million spent by the council and Amey Cespa on consultants so far is a disgrace.

Cllrs then discussed the motion and concerns were made as to whether money should be given or pledged when things are so uncertain. Other views were that the situation has a consequence for every tax payer in our parish should the scheme go ahead. After much discussion the following was resolved unanimously.

RESOLVED that a conditional pledge be made to Marton-Cum-Grafton Parish Council for the sum of £1000 in the event that a Judicial Review against Amey Cespa relating to the proposals to construct a waste incinerator at Allerton Park” is approved and goes ahead. Once the money has been received if more money is raised than required then that sum will be redistributed proportionally and in the event of winning the case then all funds given will be returned to Tockwith with Wilstrop Parish Council.

13/66.2 To discuss the availability of previously thought lost commuted sums from Kendal Gardens of £880 for previously submitted bench scheme. Total Funds available for scheme are £1327.94 provided through available commuted sums.

The Clerk explained that Harrogate Borough Council had contacted her and explained that the previously thought lost funds were still allocated to the bench scheme and if council could agree to go ahead with the purchase of the Cavendish wooden bench with jubilee inscription to be placed at the bottom of Ralph Garth then full funding was available via commuted sums.

RESOLVED that the clerk contact Harrogate Borough Council and confirm that all £1327.94 is available to the bench scheme and that the Cavendish wood bench with jubilee inscription with fitting be ordered by the clerk and paid for by the Parish Council if confirmed that the funds are to be reclaimed from HBC in commuted sums.

13/66.3 To receive a report from Cllr Gill following the recent Knaresborough Safer Neighbourhood meeting.

Cllr Gill gave a report the main points of which were;

- Knaresborough has the most crime in the area.
- As mentioned earlier would be worth passing to Highways that three accidents in three years should mean that work could be eligible for improvement at Wilstrop.
- Overall there has been a 20% decrease in crime.
- It was reported that there has been a door knocking scam where people go and find out information which is then used later.
- Crime in Rural Areas is going to be focused upon as is antisocial behaviour and criminal damage.

13/67 Clerks Update

13/67.1 Updates for all Highways issues from previous meetings. Warfield Lane – letter received regarding state of the lane stating it is a 4b lane one of the lowest in the district and that due to budgetary constraints the passing places and resurfacing will not occur. The request for passing places has been passed on to the improvement team who will get back separately. Soft Verges are under discussion as to what will be done if anything to improve the situation, a response is promised in due course.

White Lines - Fleet lane highways are looking into these at the moment to see if they need re-painting.

Southfield Lane – As yet no response as to whether an inspector has been out to visit the site.

Cowthorpe sign on bend – As yet no response as to whether we are able to buy a sign.

13/67.2 Insurance update regarding increased cover for sign in Cowthorpe. Contacted Zurich insurance and it could be added to our all risk items with cover for theft, damage and vandalism at a cost of £4.45 to the annual premium.

13/67.3 Airfield The Clerk read a number of emails from Bilton and Bickerton PC and resident's as well as a response from HBC which stated that HBC were taking counsel's advice on a number of issues before considering whether further enforcement action would be appropriate.

Councillors thought that although it was disappointing that the site appeared to have stopped removal of tyres it was encouraging that the matter was going to Council.

RESOLVED that the Clerk contact Dave Allenby in conjunction with Bilton and Bickerton PC to get together for a meeting on progress on the site.

13/67.4 Village Hall Central Heating Clerk explained that due to her very heavy workload and in particular the production of the end of year accounts it was impossible to get the time to move this item forward this month.

RESOLVED that council wants the Clerk to move this item up her list and deal with this matter as one of urgency by contacting Duncans plumbing and heating to find out when they could install and how long it would take.

13/67.5 Speed Monitoring Cowthorpe This has now been done and the report is currently being compiled.

RESOLVED that the clerk contact Area 6 and ask that the source data also be provided with the report.

13/67.6 Clerks email and problems with Windows mail. The clerk explained how Cllr Billenness and the clerk had not had an opportunity to get together to look at her PC, Cllr Billenness asked that after thought what was required was a copy of MS Office so that the Clerk could have the correct tools for doing her job. He has looked into how a reduced cost version can be purchased by local authorities.

RESOLVED that the council agree to pay up to £200 excluding VAT to provide the clerk with the correct copies of MS Office.

13/67.7 Flooding New Row, North Yorkshire Now funding. Clerk had emailed Ian Spiers and John Savage about this and Ian has passed onto his superior to find out if any of this funding is available.

13/68 Planning None

13/69 Planning None

13/70 Accounts

13/70.1 To approve Clerks Salary and expenses.

RESOLVED that the Clerk's salary and expenses are approved.

13/70.2 To approve payment of £376 for YLCA annual subscription

RESOLVED that the payment is approved.

13/70.3 To approve payment of £28 plus VAT to Farm & Land Services

RESOLVED that the payment is approved.

13/70.4 To approve payment of PWBL of £3791.93 to be paid by d/d 1/5/2013

RESOLVED that the payment is approved.

13/70.5 To receive and approve a bank reconciliation.

RESOLVED that the council approve the bank reconciliation as part of the unaudited year end accounts.

13/70.6 To approve and sign the unaudited end of Year Accounts and annual return in preparation for internal and external audit. The Clerk presented the unaudited accounts to the council along with the receipts and payments ledger and the cash book.

RESOLVED that the receipts and payments ledger be signed off as a true and just record by the chairman.

RESOLVED that section 1 of the Annual Return be signed off as true and correct by the chairman.

RESOLVED that section 2 of the Annual Return be considered at the next months meeting after the return of the Internal Auditors report.

RESOLVED that the clerk organise for the internal audit to be completed as soon as possible and for the internal auditor to produce his report before the next Parish Council Meeting on May 15th 2013 and for him to complete section 4 of the Annual Return.

13/71 Information Exchange by Councillors

- The Clerk informed Councillors that after attending a training course she felt that a number of council policies need to be put in place over time in particular with respect to Risk Assessments and Employment policies.
- The Clerk also informed Councillors that the way a planning committee should work needs to have it's terms of reference and procedure more clearly defined.

13/72 Date of Next Meeting

RESOLVED that the next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 15th May 2013.

13/56 Exempt Matters None

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