

ABERFORD & DISTRICT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 21st April 2009 in Aberford Church of England School.

PRESENT: Councillors D. Howson (Chairman), D. Gluck, D. Hancock, D. Stainton, I. Forster, Mrs G. Broadley.
Apologies were received from Cllr R. Alderson

Also present: 11 members of the public, Clerk, Mrs Heggie and several parents and children

09/31 MINUTES

The Minutes of the last meeting held on 17th March 2009 had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was proposed by Cllr Forster and seconded by Cllr Hancock that the same were a true record. It was noted that there was no quorum at that meeting and certain financial matters required to be ratified under Accounts – Councillors so noted.

09/32 REPORTS FROM SUB COMMITTEES

Referring to Minute 09/24 (b) Parish Plan – it was agreed to take this item first as children at Aberford school had been working on seeking out views of what residents would like progressing in the new Plan. Children wanted to put forward their own ideas and they had come along to the meeting to make a short presentation. Cllr Gluck first gave a short outline of what had been achieved against objectives mentioned in the 2003 Plan:

- (a) On transport and roads the main street had been resurfaced and the bridge surface completed after a long wait for extensive repairs to be carried out to the bridge itself. The bus service was perhaps not as good as people might have wished but the P.C. intended to see what support there was for extending the new fast service between Leeds and York.
- (b) On improvements to the natural and built environment there were gateway signs with extensive spring bulb planting and the recent ‘in Bloom’ group being formed. On the down side the village only had a lengthsman for a short time each week and litter was constant problem. The PC did call for one off cleans from time to time.
- (c) On better facilities for the whole community there had been new benches and the main improvement had been new equipment for the Play Area which had been achieved by working with an enthusiastic group of residents. Landscaping had been done next to the new Beckside development. There had been lots of investment in the school for new furniture and fencing. Dropped kerbs throughout the village helped disabled residents. The PC was making efforts to secure a lease from LCC for the old tennis courts and land around it in order to improve this area.
- (d) On better facilities for young people there was now a Childrens’ Council at school and after school clubs. There was work to be done to achieve something for older children such as playing field and youth group but both of these things were being actively encouraged and pursued.

- (e) On community safety there was a very good relationship with our community Police who regularly reported to and attended PC meetings. Speed signs had been erected on the north and south approach roads. A walking bus had been introduced.
- (f) On planning for the future there was improved contact with the City Council. Councillors attend various outreach forums like the Neighbourhood Forum for our area. The village now had only one PC which amalgamated the old Parlington and Lotherton Councils making for a united voice. On the down side there were only 7 Councillors serving out of a full complement of 11 and the Councillors would welcome more people to serve which would make it easier to share the work.

Two children – Harry and Millie – then presented their findings. Some of the things which they would like to see were shopping facilities, more open places for children to play, less traffic, more activities and clubs followed by sports facilities for children, children’s library. The strongest emphasis was for a football pitch and open play area. There was a large display in the Hall of work the children had done and pictures of the vision of the village they had in mind which Councillors could look at. Cllr Gluck and the Chairman thanked the children for their efforts and told them the P.C. was working towards getting the area around the tennis courts leased from the City Council so that some facilities could be developed there for everyone to use. Cllr Gluck explained that the next step for the Parish Plan was to present it to the whole community and seek the views and input of residents.

09/33 MATTERS ARISING

(a) Referring to Minute 09/24(a) Aberford In Bloom – the group had been mentioned in the recently circulated Newsletter. Pump Hill was to be the first main focus and the group was drawing up plans.

(b) Referring to Minute 09/24(c) Dog Fouling – Cllr Hancock had put up some more notices. A letter from LCC Streetscene Services said demand outweighed supply at the moment with their limited funding. Purchase by the PC would be at a cost of £400 per bin including fitting by them. After discussion it was decided to ask for the supplier’s details and to point out that the bin outside the former Fish Shop could be removed to another position. LCC should be asked if they would reimburse the PC for any bins purchased. The Chairman said there were still issues about dog fouling in Parlington although residents seemed to be complying with the notices.

(c) Referring to Minute 09/24(c) War Memorial – waiting further information from the person from Lawnswood Cemetery – Chairman to chase.

(d) Referring to Minute 09/24(e) Streetlights – no further communication from Mr Brummitt – noted a trench was being dug in Cattle Lane and other works in Lotherton Lane were being undertaken.

(e) Referring to Minute 09/24(f) Footpath Lotherton Lane – it was agreed to ask Highways for a site meeting in view of the poor state of the path. In one place it had been undermined and might be affecting the actual road itself.

(f) Referring to Minute 09/24(g) School Field/Tennis Courts – no reply had been received from LCC.

(g) Referring to Minute 09/24(j) Parking St Johns Garth – nothing further from Mr Lyttle as yet.

(h) Referring to Minute 09/24(n) Aspen House – later in the meeting a member of the public present informed Councillors that the Enforcement Officer had visited the property and was satisfied there had been no breach of planning.

(i) Referring to Minute 09/24(p) Litter/School involvement – left to next meeting in the absence of Cllr Alderton.

(j) Referring to Minute 09/24(q) Possible CCTV Main Street – The Chairman reported that fuller information with costs would be given to the Councillors at some point when the police were able to come to a meeting. Some preliminary work with a camera van had been done to find possible locations.

(k) Referring to Minute 09/24(s) Cattle Lane Speed Sign – LCC Highways Dept had offered an on-site meeting and the Chairman and Cllr Stainton would attend.

(l) Referring to Minute 09/25(a) LCC Allotments Working Group – Cllr Hancock reported that 4 members of the village allotment holders group had attended the LCC meeting and joined the Working Group. They would report back to the PC as necessary.

(m) Referring to Minute 09/25(c) Parish & Town Council Spring Conference – Clerk to circulate details by email in case any Councillor wished to attend.

(n) Referring to Minute 09/25(f) Outer NE Area Committee Meeting – Cllr Forster had attended this and was very disappointed that the Minutes/Agenda/Documents not circulated early enough for them to be fully read through; not enough time to prepare comments/items for the meeting to discuss, particularly as visitors' speaking time was restricted; room badly set out which did not allow full participation by reason of difficulty in hearing. The Clerk was asked to forward comments to the LCC Governance Services Unit.

(o) Referring to Minute 09/27 Accounts Items (a) and (b) – the cheques detailed in the Minutes of 17th March 2009 were ratified by the Councillors.

(p) Referring to Minute 09/29(e) Vegetation over Post Box, Main Street – the owner had cut back.

(q) Referring to Minute 09/24(f) South end speed sign – Cllr Stainton said that this was triggered according to the speed of the approaching vehicle which gave a greater distance to slow down. However the north end sign had stopped working and the Clerk was asked to notify the suppliers immediately.

09/34 CORRESPONDENCE

(a) Letter from YLCA about the selection of an additional Parish representative to the LCC Standards Committee – noted.

(b) West Yorkshire Archive Service letter/list of recently deposited material – Chairman to sign and return list – one copy to be filed with Clerk.

(c) The LCC Standards Committee Agenda was with the Clerk – noted.

09/35 PLANNING MATTERS

Applications

(a) Application P/09/01135/FU/HE – Alterations to triple garage to form annex Brackenridge House, Ridge Road, Micklefield. An objection was registered on the grounds that permission had only just been granted to change the building from stables into a triple garage and this much greater change of use would create a second dwelling in a green belt situation which the PC felt would be inappropriate.

Decisions

(a) Application 08/00988/FU – Additional seasonal workers caravans and poly tunnels at Sturton Grange Farm, Berry Lane, Micklefield. Permission had been granted subject to very many detailed conditions. Cllr Forster commented that there had been such conditions attached previously but he would like to know how these were being monitored.

(b) Application 08/00198/FU – S/s extension to rear 26 Greystones Close - approved with one or two conditions.

(c) Application 09/00473/FU – Alterations to detached double garage Rowan House, Main Street – permission had been refused.

(d) Application 09/00630/FU – S/s front extension and two balconies Ash Tree House, Cattle Lane – permission had been refused.

(e) Access road and office units North Newhold, Aberford Road, Garforth - Approved

Waiting for Replies

(a) Stopping up of a doorway Providence House

(b) Work going on at Humphreydale – Compliance Officer to visit.

09/36 ACCOUNTS

(a) Cheque number 100223 in the sum of £264.49, for Clerk's salary and expenses in connection with the Newsletter printing etc., was agreed and issued.

(b) Cheque number 100224 in the sum of £388.70 for repairs to the Play Area swing bushes was agreed and issued.

(c) The sums in hand were: Barclays Bank £40,000.00

HSBC c/a	£ 3,946.48
HSBC No 1 a/c	£33,648.27
HSBC No 2 a/c	£38,809.73

- (d) A draft year end statement of accounts was circulated and Mrs Spence of the YLCA had agreed to audit the accounts which could be carried out on the 28th April. It was agreed to appoint Mrs Spence. Subject to a satisfactory audit the 2008/2009 accounts would be presented at the next meeting.
- (e) Councillors confirmed that Mrs M.R. Piper had been employed as Clerk, on a self-employed basis, as from the October 2008 meeting of the Parish Council. She was to continue on a monthly remuneration of £116.66 plus expenses incurred for telephone, office supplies etc.
- (e) The insurance policy was due for renewal by 1st June 2009 alternative quotations to be obtained.
- (f) Clerk recommended a simple Grants Policy be adopted and a draft would be prepared for Councillors to consider at the next meeting.

09/37 MATTERS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

- (a) Cllr Gluck asked for everyone to keep a watch in the Becca Lane area for any suspicious activity.
- (b) Clerk was arranging for the Play Area to be inspected a.s.a.p. A slightly more formal procedure was recommended for inspecting the Play Area in that a simple record would be kept to show that it was being looked at regularly.
- (c) The Clerk's self-employed status was confirmed.
- (d) A Complaints procedure concerning complaints about administration and procedures was recommended by the Clerk – Councillors would consider this for the next meeting. This was part of the ongoing expansion of the website under the Freedom of Information etc acts.
- (d) A 'no parking' sign outside Yew Trees, Main Street had been queried – the Chairman undertook to speak to the owner.
- (e) There was discussion about the Lengthsman and cleansing in and around the village – it was decided to pursue this with LCC and if necessary to involve the Ward Councillors.
- (f) Cllr Hancock said he had received a good response from many residents about the spring bulbs being seen around the village this year and that the grass cutting company had been sensible in their mowing this year. It was decided to write to the company to thank them.
- (g) The Chairman reported some damage at the school done by younger children who had been caught on the CCTV camera but the image was not very clear.

The police were attempting to improve the image so that the culprits could be dealt with.

09/38 OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

- (a) A Grants Policy was a good idea and it could be linked with the Parish Plan to indicate which areas of the Plan the applicant was supporting. LCC should have a plan concerning the speed sign in Cattle Lane which could help to prove the historic site. The lady who had recently cleared glass from the Play Area should be thanked as she had done a very good job – this was Mrs Sunderland and the grass cutting was much improved this year.
- (b) It was felt there should be more Notice Boards – Clerk to investigate. The toilets in the Village Hall were being worked on and the PC would be approached shortly for help towards the cost.
- (c) Mrs Street gave Councillors an update on negotiations/arrangements for the proposed Youth Group. In response to a question from Cllr Stainton she confirmed that access for disabled people was to be taken into consideration.
- (d) Appreciation of the recent Newsletter was expressed. The PC was urged to take up the matter of the footpath to Lotherton Lane with LCC. One or two locations were suggested for extra Notice Boards.

09/39 CLOSE OF MEETING

There being no further business the Chairman thanked everyone present before closing the meeting at 9.15p.m.

The Parish Council complies with the Mandatory Publication Scheme under the Freedom of Information Act. Information about the Council can be obtained from the website at: www.aberfordonline.com or by contacting the Clerk.