

ABERFORD & DISTRICT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 20th April 2010 in the school.

PRESENT Cllrs. D. Howson (Chairman), R. Alderson, Mrs G. Broadley, I. Forster, D. Gluck, P. Hancock, Mrs R. Reed, Mrs A. Roberts, D. Stainton

Also Present Clerk and 10 members of the public.

10/147 MINUTES

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday 16th March 2010 had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was proposed by Cllr Stainton and seconded by Cllr Mrs Reed that these were a true record. This was agreed.

10/148 POLICE MATTERS

There had been one burglary from a house where keys had been stolen through a letterbox and a car taken and one where keys had been taken from the changing room of a local pub. Residents were warned not to leave metal objects around as the high value of scrap at the moment meant that thieves were looking for metal. Cllr Hancock said there had been an increase in vandalism over the last weeks and he was told the Police hoped to organise extra resources from other areas to concentrate on the village and Barwick which was experiencing the same increase. The names of some children causing a nuisance/damage had been given to the Police and they would be taking action. A resident complained of motorbikes being driven down Field Lane and up and over the motorway bridge. She was told that action would be taken about this problem and the Clerk was asked to request speedy reinstatement of the gate to prevent access for bikes and horses.

10/149 MATTERS ARISING

(a) Minute 10/139(a) Parish Footpaths – a comprehensive survey was being conducted. Ms Watts would be asked to reinstate the gate in Field Lane and to see if a further barrier could be put at the far end of the motorway bridge as had been discussed during the survey of that area.

(b) Minute 10/139(b) War Memorial – the Chairman had been advised that the Department which dealt with Memorials for LCC had only £2000 per annum for this work for the whole of the city. However they had agreed to price the work required which would allow the PC to explore funding sources.

(c) Minute 10/139(c) Streetlights – there were several outstanding matters and complaints which Cllr Stainton said he would pursue with SEC. In particular it was felt that the cost of the heritage treatment was very high now the results could be seen and brackets had been removed and left strewn around the village. Some had been rescued and were with the Chairman but it was probable that many had disappeared. Some lights in the centre of the village were unlit and these would be reported.

The Clerk was in process of setting up a meeting with the Floral Initiative Officer from LCC to agree the positions of new brackets/hanging baskets and the baskets had been provisionally ordered.

(d) Minute 10/139(d) School Field – nothing further – waiting on discussions taking place between LCC and the site owner.

(e) Minute 10/139(e) Speed Sign – nothing further.

(f) Minute 10/139(h) Cock Beck – the Chairman had obtained permission from the land owner for machinery to enter his land to clear and tidy up the Willow Garth area beyond the motorway. An on-site meeting would be held between the owner, the Environment Agency and the Chairman to discuss a plan of action. The tree clearance at the Play Area was ongoing – a form needed to be signed.

(g) Minute 10/139(i) Notice Board North End – ordered.

(h) Minute 10/130(l) Dog Fouling – Cllr Hancock reported it was very disappointing and frustrating that most of the notices he had put up had been very quickly torn down by someone. Two residents who had been reported for the offence had been written to.

(i) Minute 10/130(n) Gulley Lids Kingfisher Lane – replaced.

(j) Minute 10/130(o) Litter – the machines had been in the village recently on days other than the ones scheduled which was probably a response to the Clerk's request. The next scheduled day was 3rd May according to the LCC website which would, in fact, be a Bank Holiday Monday. The Clerk was asked to point this out to Street Cleansing as being a most unsuitable day and to request another date. Litter was again building up on the approaches to the village.

(k) Minute 10/130(p) Royal Oak – concerns had been communicated to Enterprise Inns and their Regional Manager had scheduled a visit some 3 weeks ago but the Clerk had been unable to get a response as to whether that visit took place and what passed between him and the new tenants. After discussion and following representations from the residents present, the Clerk was instructed to ask LCC Planning Enforcement to make a site visit. Some residents indicated they would approach Enterprise Inns themselves.

(l) Minute 10/130(q) Village Seats – the Chairman reported that none needed repairs but 9 needed repainting green. He undertook to obtain a quotation.

(m) Minute 10/141(d) Training Day – Clerk had booked to attend this and confirmed that any Councillor wishing to attend for the specific item on LeedsFest in the afternoon would be welcome.

(n) Minute 10/145(b) Buses Speeding through Village – this had been reported to Metro.

10/150 REPORTS FROM SUB-COMMITTEES

(a) LeedsFest – Cllr Broadley reported the number of eligible applications was 172 with the deadline still to be reached. Identification would be carefully checked against the Electoral Registers and, if necessary, by other means such as utility bills. The festival operators would be extremely strict this year on identification – especially as the tickets were highly prized and restricted VIP ones. A public draw would certainly have to be held and details would be communicated to applicants. The Sub-committee sought opinion on two matters.

The first was that there were only 16 single name applications at present and it was proposed to draw the applications out with the two names upon them as many would be a parent wanting to accompany a child. It was decided that single names would be randomly coupled with one other so that each application drawn out would be for two named people. Councillors were unanimous in this decision.

The second matter was as to whether those who received a ticket last year should be excluded from the draw for this year only. This was on the grounds that very many residents had complained they were unaware of the availability of tickets last year and those who were aware naturally had taken up the tickets. There was some feeling that those residents should be excluded for this year only. Councillors found this a difficult decision but eventually – by a vote of 5 to 4 – it was decided that all residents of the Parish should be allowed to apply for a ticket and Cllr Broadley said she would make this decision known to those people affected.

(b) Parish Plan – Cllr Gluck explained that, in light of the City Council undertaking a strategic exercise looking at the policies which would take them forward for the next several years, the time was right for the PC to prepare a fresh ‘MasterPlan’. LCC would shortly be contacting the PC to review the village conservation area which they were doing throughout the City and this was just one of the many reviews taking place. There was money available from various sources which could be used for the expenses involved and he felt a new vision was needed for the coming years for the village. The PC should be looking at putting together a list of projects and looking at the big strategic issues. One of these might be housing growth for instance. Another might be encouraging new economic activity such as promoting walking, cycling and riding. A third might be looking at traffic management. Other Councillors would have their own ideas.

As a first step he proposed the creation of a Sub-Committee to work on the MasterPlan and Councillors were in agreement with this. Councillors would have an initial separate meeting. The names of one or two residents who had expressed interest previously and who had some expertise to offer were put forward. They would be contacted to see if they could help. There was a new Community Planner available from LCC. The timescale involved for the exercise would be between May and December. When some proposals had been brought forward, a community consultation exercise would be undertaken to try to reach and involve as many residents of the whole Parish as possible.

10/151 CORRESPONDENCE

(a) An invitation to a Mayoral Reception had been circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting but unfortunately no-one was able to attend.

(b) Lotherton Lodge – LCC Senior Surveyor advised via email that the City Council had provisionally agreed to dispose of the Lodge to an individual by way of a private agreement. It was anticipated that the sale would take place ‘early in the next financial year’. Councillors decided to query this sale as they believed the Lodge was an integral part of the Lotherton Estate and that no part of the estate could be disposed of according to the conditions of it being bequeathed to the people via the City Council.

(c) Coronation Tree/Access Improvement for Disabled Resident Highfields – the Housing Officer had indicated he was not able to have the tree ‘lopped’ on the grounds of children climbing it. The Chairman undertook to progress this through the person who was to do the work at the Play Area. The access would be referred to the Aids and Adaptations Unit by the Housing Officer for them to carry out an assessment of the work.

(d) A letter from LCC Environments and Neighbourhoods, concerning aspects of the overall planning process which was going on, (LCC’s ‘MasterPlan’) was passed to Cllr Gluck to assess. The PC would at least want to be kept informed of the deliberations of the sub-committee which was being set up.

10/152 PLANNING

(a) Application P/10/01173/FU/HE – Conservatory to rear 4 Woodbridge Avenue, Garforth – Councillors had no objection.

(b) Application P/10/01418/FU/HE – Dormer window to rear 5 Raper View, Aberford – Councillors had no objection.

Appeal

APP/N4720/E/10/2125092/WF – Appeal to Planning Inspectorate, Nyman Lodge, Field Lane, Aberford – for lifting of a planning condition – Councillors had some comments which would be sent to the Inspectorate.

Withdrawn

Application P/10/00568 – Humphreydale Cottage, off Kingfisher Lane, Aberford – the applicant had withdrawn this as the LCC Planning Officer had advised it would be refused as proposed. The applicant had said they would try to get ‘member support’. The situation would be monitored by the PC.

10/153 ACCOUNTS

The Clerk advised that the PC had not been chosen for a more in-depth audit this year. Cllr Forster, as Responsible Financial Officer, had audited the books for the year and was satisfied everything was in order. An audit would shortly be undertaken by Sheena Spence from Yorkshire Local Councils Association, after which the return would be made to Mazars.

Financial documents would be available at the May meeting when the Clerk would have several administrative and financial matters to re-adopt/discuss.

The Clerk had re-invested the Barclays Bond into a further issue, the details having been notified to Councillors between meetings. Councillors confirmed this was in order.

Balances

In HSBC current account	£ 1,241.38
In HSBC No 1 Int a/c	£34,668.57
In HSBC No 2 Int a/c	£38,836.91
In Barclays Bank c/a	£ 473.30
In Barclays Bank Bond	£40,000.00

To Pay

Cheque number 100262, in the sum of £116.66, was agreed and issued to the Clerk for remuneration.

10/154 MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

(a) Cllr Mrs Reed asked about the loose fence at the top of the footpath leading from Hayton Wood View to Field Lane. This had been noted on the walkover by the Footpaths Officer who had said she would arrange to have it taken away.

(b) Cllr Hancock drew attention to the lines painted around the Swan to discourage parking in that area. These were yellow and it was recalled that they were to be white so that the police could take action. Clerk was asked to check.

(c) Cllr Gluck advised that a small wall opposite the Swan had fallen down and he felt it should be attended to as it could be a hazard particularly to children passing by. The Chairman said he would speak to the owner.

10/155 OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

(a) A member of the public told of a problem he had experienced when walking in the area to the east of the motorway. The Chairman was able to tell him that the Gun Club which had met in that area had actually ceased now, having been given notice to leave by the farmer.

(b) The problem of lack of grit bins and gritting during the bad weather was raised by a resident who lived in Pinfold Rise which was very a steep road. The PC had made efforts during that time as a local farmer was willing to help but LCC had put many rules and regulations in the way. Cllr Gluck had raised this at the last Forum meeting and many other PCs had experienced the same problems. Cllr Shelbrooke had undertaken to raise the matter at another Committee meeting but the outcome was not known at this time. Cllr Gluck would chase this up at the next N.E Area Forum.

10/156 CLOSE OF MEETING

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 9.35pm.

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