

Aberford & District Parish Council

MINUTES of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 18th August 2009 in the Methodist Chapel.

PRESENT: Councillors: D. Howson (Chairman), I. Forster, P. Hancock, D. Gluck, Mrs R. Reed, D. Stainton.

Apologies were received from Cllrs. R. Alderson and Mrs G. Broadley.

Also Present: Clerk and 11 members of the public.

09/69 MINUTES

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday 21st July 2009 had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was proposed by Cllr Stainton and seconded by Cllr Hancock that these were a true record. This was agreed. Before the meeting began the Chairman welcomed new Councillor Mrs Ruth Reed and expressed sympathies to the family of the ex village Policeman Mr M. Norman whose death had recently been announced. He had been a well-liked community constable of several years ago.

09/70 POLICE MATTERS

No police representatives were in attendance but the Chairman said that he knew of a very new tractor having been recently stolen from a farm on the outskirts of the village.

09/71 MATTERS ARISING

(a) Referring to Minute 09/61(b) War Memorial – still outstanding.

(b) Referring to Minute 09/61(c) Streetlights – Cllr Stainton had been liaising with SEC. The work in Main Street was scheduled for mid/late October. 13 heritage lights would be installed at a slightly lower cost totalling nearly £11,000 overall. Basket brackets would be extra. It was hoped to move the lights beyond the Royal Oak (3) to the opposite side of the street to give width for motorised scooters and the like on the pavement. There would be an additional 18 columns to paint outside of the conservation area at a cost to the PC of a little over £700. The Operational Manager had indicated a willingness to fund 11/12 strengthened columns to allow all columns to take baskets for the future. At the northern end of Main Street where extra columns had been asked for – this was still outstanding. The Cattle Lane columns would be reduced to 7m and those near the Bus Stop would be re-visited to see if they could be moved to the other side of the road to allow width for motorised scooters etc. to pass on the footpath. Overall it was felt a good scheme was emerging. Cllr Shelbrooke was to be asked to help to see if a contribution could be made by LCC to costs.

(c) Referring to Minute 09/61(d) School field – Cllr Stainton said he intended to keep contacting LCC on a regular basis to keep the matter alive and was keeping LCC Cllr Mrs Proctor informed. The Chairman, Cllrs Forster/Hancock and the Clerk had met

recently with LCC Mr Bob Bradley and Mr M Wright on site. A rough indication of costs had been given and Mr Bradley was to ask Ms Vicky Nunns of his Department to contact the PC to give help and guidance on all aspects of developing the site and bidding for funding etc.

(d) Referring to Minute 09/61(g) Cattle Lane Speed Sign – ongoing with Cllr Stainton still trying to clarify position. He said he may have to get the Ward Councillors involved.

(e) Referring to Minute 09/61(h) Humphreydale Cottage – no plans received as yet.

(f) Referring to Minute 09/61(i) Play Area Swing Bushes – Parks Dept informed these were now available from the Chairman and asked to do the work as soon as possible.

(g) Referring to Minute 09/61(k) Festival Tickets – Cllr Mrs Broadley had informed the Clerk that all 50 tickets had been successfully sold and monies would shortly be made over to the PC. Cllr Stainton made a formal proposal that the money should be used to buy extra Christmas lights and this was agreed by those present with the proviso that Cllrs Alderson and Mrs Broadley should be asked their views.

(h) Referring to Minute 09/61(l) Fencing Pump Hill – the Chairman, Cllrs Forster/Hancock and Clerk had held a meeting with Messrs Bob Bradley and Martin Wright of LCC Parks. Costings and examples were awaited.

(i) Referring to Minute 09/61(m) Surface Drainage North End – a meeting was still outstanding between Highways and the P.C.

(j) Referring to Minute 09/63(b) Hook Moor Wind Turbines – the application had been refused by LCC. Cllr Stainton said he thought there may yet be an appeal.

(k) Referring to Minute 09/63(c) NE Area Committee – Cllr Forster commented that the PC should keep up with what this Committee was doing, particularly in relation to obtaining funding as to what was going on in the whole area. He wanted to make sure that Aberford would get a share of funds. Cllr Gluck expressed interest in this Committee – it could be located on LCC website but there was usually quite short notice of meetings making it difficult to prepare.

(l) Referring to Minute 09/66 Verge cutting 7 Lotherton Lane – had been reported.

(m) Referring to Minute 09/66 Signs on Verges – a letter from the company was read to the meeting. Cllrs reiterated that the signs must be removed as they were not permitted. Clerk was pursuing removal of a further unrelated sign at Hook Moor.

(n) Referring to Minute 09/67(c) Meadow at Bridge – the Chairman had spoken to the secretary of the owners group who was to make efforts to get a consensus of action from the group. Later in the meeting a resident asked for urgent action as

Himalayan Balsam was growing in the area and if it seeded then the whole area risked becoming overrun with the invasive alien plant.

09/72 REPORTS FROM SUB-COMMITTEES

There were no reports at this time.

09/73 CORRESPONDENCE

(a) Lotherton lane footpath – the section nearest the Hall was to receive attention in October and one or two low barriers had been requested to stop unauthorised parking. Cllr Ann Castle was trying to help and Clerk had requested money should be allocated from the next LCC budget. This might be something to raise at the NE Area Outer Committee meeting. Later a resident suggested asking the LCC Dept responsible for running Lotherton Hall to also become involved in pressing for the path to be upgraded.

(b) LCC Licensing Policy revision with regard to gambling can be seen on their web.

(c) Selby District Council draft Village Design Statements were available to be seen for interest – Cllrs noted.

(d) Rural Action Yorkshire newsletter with Clerk – they could advise on community-owned assets such as buildings and playing fields so could be contacted as necessary.

(e) Clerk had replied to a grant application from a Charity helping sickle cell sufferers – they had been advised they did not fit the PC's criteria.

09/74 PLANNING

Decisions

(a) Application 09/02385/FU – 6 Silkstone Close, Garforth – Cnsvtry – APPROVED.

(b) Application 09/01786/FU – Lyndhurst, Greystones Close – Various extensions – APPROVED with several conditions.

(c) Application 09/01580/FU – 5 Greystones Close – Dble grg/wkshp – APPROVED.

(d) Application 09/02819/FU/NE – Extn to Barn Silver Hills, Lotherton Lane. Comments had been sent in between meetings after a site visit by the Chairman. The Case Officer from LCC Planning had sent a lengthy reply – Cllrs would need to keep a close eye on the site to see if promised planting was carried out.

09/75 ACCOUNTS

Cllr Forster, as Responsible Financial Officer, had completed an internal audit exercise as required and found all in order. An Interim Statement of Income and Expenditure as at 31st July 2009 had been circulated prior to the meeting. The current balances were:

In HSBC current a/c	£ 1451.53
In HSBC no 1 Hi Int a/c	£30653.79
In HSBC no 2 Hi Int a/c	£38816.58
In Barclays Bond	£40000.00

With regard to the Bond, information about investment options would be given to Councillors as soon as they were received from Barclays. As this might be at short notice just a few days in advance of a Bond being available, a decision may need to

be taken between meetings and ratified later. So far this year £1910.00 had been spent from the Grants budget.

(a) Cheque number 100239 for £27.65 was agreed and issued to Broker Network being extra premium to add the Speed Warning Signs to the insurance policy.

(b) Cheque number 100240 for £24.00 was agreed and issued to the Methodist Chapel for hire of room for the July and August meetings.

(c) Cheque number 100241 for £590.04 was agreed and issued to Dambach Ltd for a one year maintenance contract for the speed warning signs.

(d) Cheque number 100242 for £200.30 was agreed and issued for Clerk's remuneration, telephone rental and expenses.

Matters for Information

The external auditors had several queries which had been dealt with in consultation with Councillors between meetings. Some matters needed to be formally ratified.

1. An Operation Risk Assessment was a requirement. One had been prepared and circulated to Cllrs with a copy to the auditors. Councillors formally adopted this. Cllr Stainton commented that he felt it a good idea to back up as much documentation as possible – like the Grants Policy for instance – and create a disc to be held by the Chairman. This would be done.

2. It was a requirement that, in addition to the duties of the R.F.O., a review of the effectiveness of the internal audit should be done. Once a year two Councillors should undertake a cross-reference exercise using the cash book, cheque stubs etc., and report their findings to the full Council. If any action was required then it would be carried out. Councillors formally adopted this requirement.

3. A discrepancy in figures was found - £10,000 was the figure to be used for procurement of goods and services etc., Cllrs found this was agreeable and correct. The Standing Orders for procurement etc. needed to be incorporated into the Standing Orders and this had been done.

4. An Asset Register had been assembled and circulated with a copy to the auditors. Cllr Mrs Reed pointed out that there was just 1 stone trough and the Register would be amended to show this. The Clerk had asked that the Christmas lights be covered by the Council's insurers and was waiting to see if an extra premium would be required.

5. It had been found that the PC was not eligible to receive money from the BBC/Lottery fund which a resident had offered to take forward.

09/76 MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

(a) Concerning the local footpaths, Cllr Hancock reminded that he had done a survey some time ago about which paths the PC and LCC were responsible for. Some local

paths needed attention to overgrown vegetation etc – Clerk asked to look into this matter.

(b) Cllr Stainton said that the hanging basket cost was one which would have to be built into the Budget for next year.

(c) Cllr Hancock said residents should be aware of aggressive dogs when walking up Becca Lane.

(d) Cllr Howson had received a request for a grant from the local police representatives to help with special clothing. They were to begin to use bikes in the local area which could go where cars couldn't. Cllrs felt they could not grant this.

(e) Cllr Forster had several Highways matters: 1. Public footpath over 'Makin' land from A656 appeared to be blocked. 2. Path from Junction 47 to Wakefield Lodge was too narrow and should be widened. 3. Sign on Towton Road at Park Farm required repairing and the letter 'W' missing from 'Wakefield'. 4. Fencing around the roundabout at Junction 47 required repair.

09/77 OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

(a) Attention was drawn to the growth of Himalayan Balsam in the rough field by the bridge. A request was made for the owners to urgently cut down the vegetation as the Balsam was about to seed and, if it did, it would be very difficult to deal with.

(b) A resident asked if a crash barrier of some kind could be put along the Garforth Road to stop vehicles constantly smashing into the old wall there. The Chairman said he would speak to the estate agent.

(c) The Aberford in Bloom group was mentioned and commended for their wonderful efforts on Pump Hill which would be improved greatly when new fencing could be installed.

(d) The grass had required cutting in Lotherton Lane on the village side of the motorway bridge for some time. There seemed to be an impasse in that the grass cutters required the hedge to be cut back in order to cut the grass. An attempt would be made by the PC to contact the owner of the hedge to ask for it to be cut.

(e) It was felt that a notice should be displayed concerning the Leeds Festival tickets to clarify the financial arrangements so that the public understood there was no question of financial irregularity or gain on the part of the PC.

(f) Clerk instructed to send a letter of appreciation to Mr P. Watson and the Aberford in Bloom Group for their work on Pump Hill.

09/78 CLOSE OF MEETING

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