

ABERFORD & DISTRICT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 16th August 2011 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

PRESENT Councillors D. Gluck (Chairman), I. Forster, P. Hancock, Mrs R. Reed.
Part of time – Councillors D. Howson, Mrs J. Jeffrey
Apologies were received from Councillors R.Alderson, Mrs G. Broadley
D. Stainton.
Also present 5 members of the public and the Clerk.

In the absence of both the Chairman (initially) and the Vice Chairman, it was agreed that Cllr Gluck would chair the meeting.

11/71 MINUTES

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday 19th July 2011 had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was proposed by Cllr P Hancock and seconded by Cllr Mrs R Reed that these were a true record. This was agreed.

11/72 POLICE MATTERS

An invitation from W.Y.Police to attend a meeting with Sir Norman Bettison and Inspectors from Neighbourhood Policing Teams in N.E. Leeds had been circulated to Cllrs prior to meeting. Unfortunately none had been able to attend.

PCSO Geoff Nottingham had given details of secure locks to the Clerk – to be put on the website as a Bullet Point and to be included in next Newsletter. The position on Cold Calling Zones was for PC to suggest where such a zone should be – to discuss at next meeting – with Beech View/Youngs Court possibilities. Cllrs Mrs Reed drew attention to the request for funding of a Police Car which had been mentioned at the Forum meeting. This would be considered when the next Precept was discussed. It was noted that Inspector Marcus Griffiths was retiring and Inspector Paul Dwyer was to take over – Clerk was asked to send a letter of thanks to Inspector Griffiths.

11/73 MATTERS ARISING

(a) Minute 11/63 Lotherton Hall – A meeting had been held with LCC Officers and a Cllr from Barwick & Scholes. Notes of this had been circulated to Cllrs. Responses were to be collated by Officers to take into account against their plans. Cllr Stainton reported via the Clerk that the LCC Executive Board had passed the funding for the scheme but had asked for sight of the responses to the consultation exercise so the Board were obviously aware of the many responses which had been made. Plans were discussed under ‘Planning’.

(b) Minute 11/64(a) War Memorial – ongoing with Clerk

(c) Minute 11/64(b) School Field – A good meeting had taken place with LCC Officers on site. Notes of this had been circulated to Cllrs. LCC Officers were taking forward the legal matters and drawing up a scheme for the site which should be available to put to the PC at the September meeting. It was hoped an initial site clearance could be done in the autumn. Cllr Stainton reported via the Clerk that he was progressing legal matters with the Estate regarding the access lease and footpath lease. The new LCC Localism Officer – Andrew Birkbeck – had been given information on the Scheme and would liaise with Vicky Nunns of LCC on funding and any other matters he could help with.

(d) Minute 11/64(c) – Cock Beck – Cllr Howson would attempt to progress in the autumn.

(e) Minute 11/64(d) Library Service – Cllr Mrs Reed reported on a few teething problems with the new day/times – she would see how things progressed over the next few weeks.

- (f) Minute 11/64(e) Parking Lotherton Lane – Clerk reported that the LCC Officer had become aware of the proposals for Lotherton Hall and it seemed that the work was held up pending whether those proposals would impact on the scheme. Clerk had informed the Officer that the PC's view was that this matter was quite separate and should be done as soon as possible. Response to that was awaited – Clerk to chase.
- (g) Minute 11/64(f) fly Tipping Kingfisher Lane – Some rubbish had been removed but it appeared other waste had been dumped. To be reported – it was felt this was an area the PC could only keep re-visiting and asking periodically for a clear up.
- (h) Minute 11/64(g) Royal Oak – awaiting report by LCC Officer.
- (i) Minute 11/64(i) Skip – Clerk had not had time to progress – Cllr Hancock to take over.
- (j) Minute 11/64(j) – Speed Sign – Cllr Stainton was progressing getting a cable/socket installed in order to extract traffic information.
- (k) Minute 11/66(b) Firthfields closure – investigations had been made and only 2 residents of the village used this service with only 4 from the whole Ward. Only 25% of places available at Firthfields had been taken up. Ward Cllr Mrs Castle asked that the PC should let her know of any resident requiring support and she would help,
- (l) Minute 11/66(d) Bus Clearway – investigations had been made and the PC had indicated to LCC Highways/Metro that they would support a Clearway, with the observation that a registered disabled person should be able to set down and pick up on such a Clearway and citywide. Ward Cllrs had been copied in to this point which the PC felt was one which would be worthwhile to have citywide as was the case in London, and could be raised at the next Forum meeting. Following consultation by LCC Highways, an amended plan was presented to the meeting which showed a slightly shortened Clearway with provision of one disabled parking space. Cllrs were happy with this amendment. It was agreed to let this record show that Mr & Mrs Jubb of The Grove had not asked for the Bus Stop to be moved, they had made their concerns known to the PC/LCC Highways and Metro as they were entitled to do.
- (m) Minute 11/64(a) Blocked Drain Abbotts Close – some work had been carried out but it had not been extensive enough. LCC Highways were to return to carry out more work.
- (n) Minute 11/64(e) Speed of Vehicles Becca Lane – Cllr Mrs Jeffrey was to investigate.
- (o) Minute 11/64(g) Citizenship Award – to be left in the Minutes to discuss at a future meeting

11/74 REPORTS FROM SUB COMMITTEES

Cllr Gluck would bring suggestions re Sub-committees to the September meeting.

(a) MasterPlan

Summaries had been distributed to nearly all residents of the Parish. Return of the questionnaires re Broadband was awaited. The next meeting of the Village Design Statement sub-committee was scheduled for 8th September and progress on that would be reported to the next meeting.

(b) LeedsFest

The proceeds of the sale of tickets had been paid into the Bank this date. Clerk drew attention to the unspent proceeds and it was agreed to ask Cllr Mrs Broadley for her suggestions for the money and discuss at the next meeting.

(c) Footpaths

Cllr Mrs Jeffrey had discussed with LCC Officer Rosie Watts the process and issues surrounding approaching Contractors for the work involved in footpath maintenance. Any Contractor would have to conform to all regulations required by the City Council. LCC Officer could supply alternative Contractors who she could recommend as fulfilling all requirements and who might be interested. Cllrs Mrs Jeffrey would attempt to get the figure

for the length of Parish paths and rates of pay for the work required, with a view to sending out, via the Clerk, an invitation to tender to one or two Contractors. Cllr Mrs Jeffrey would attempt to get agreement from Ms Watts as to which footpaths to follow on with work.

Cllrs Hancock drew attention to the footpath which went from the rear of Parlinton House across the middle of a field to the Barwick Road. He asked if consideration could be given to diverting this to run at the side of the field to join an existing path which would give a more convenient and safer exit into Barwick Road. This would be investigated. Clerk advised that there was the sum of £1,215.00 in the Parish Paths fund before payment of the current invoice.

(d) Allotments

A 'Heads of Terms of Lease' had been received from LCC Asset Management Dept and circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting. The proposed charges were not acceptable at all to the PC and there were minor points which would need clarification. Cllr Jeffrey had made this known to LCC and was awaiting their response. This would be brought to the next meeting. There would be no extra insurance charge required as the PC's Insurance/Public Liability section would cover allotments.

11/75 CORRESPONDENCE

(a) Play Area Inspection Report had been received – there were just a few minor faults to be rectified at a cost of £155.00 plus VAT and LCC Parks had been instructed to carry out the work. Cllr Gluck drew attention to a sign which required attention and that he would try to replace it. He also mentioned the surface deteriorating a little in one or two places and asked that a sum be built into the next Precept for repairs.

(b) An edition of the RAY magazine was available to circulate to Cllrs. The AGM would be at East Keswick Village Hall on 27th November.

(c) The AGM of the Wetherby and District Crime Prevention Panel was scheduled for Thursday 10th November at 7.30pm – presumably in Wetherby.

(d) LCC Environmental Services advised that the new Grass Cutting Contract had been awarded to Continental Landscapes Ltd who were a large company with 3 operational depots in Leeds. New and stronger performance monitoring arrangements had been agreed and would operate from the start of the contract which would commence from 1st January 2012.

(e) Information about a competition to win funding for a Village Community Enterprise project was given to Cllr Gluck as it was felt most appropriate for the Village Hall Committee.

(f) A briefing on Exploring the Scope for Housing Growth in Leeds was to be held on Thursday 25th August but it was envisaged that a proper workshop on this subject would be repeated in September – details to be advised.

11/76 PLANNING MATTERS

(a) Application P/11/02666 – New Road Layout, Lotherton Hall – It was agreed that the Clerk would put together a response drawing together the points where all Cllrs had concerned – principally the new Exit Road. Where an individual had further points then these would be separately communicated.

(b) Application P/11/03271 – Removal of a planning condition restricting occupants of Hayton House Cottage, Grt North Road to members of agricultural profession. Cllrs had no objection to the removal of this condition.

Decisions

Approved:

P/11/02154 – Conservatory to Aberford School

Pending:

P/11/02387 – Green Meadows, Greystones Park

P/11/02597 – Alterations to Swan Mill Barn

P/11/01915 – Gates 2 The Gables/Forget Me Not cottage

P/10/05396 – New House Bunkers Hill

P/11/00349 – Becca Farm amended application. Planning Officer had indicated that further negotiations were taking place between the applicant and Officers.

Clerk reported that some residents had asked the PC to investigate a possible planning matter. A company was trading from a private residence and this was possibly the cause of extra vehicles being parked close to the brow of the hill in Main Street near Green Hill. Parking at that congested point was potentially dangerous having regard to restricted sight lines. Clerk to investigate.

11/77 ACCOUNTS

Clerk reported that the 2010/2011 accounts had been signed off by the external auditors Mazars. There was a slight error in the transposition of two figures which had been corrected. A copy of the accounts was on the Noticeboard and would be displayed for 14 days and put on the website as was required by statute.

Balances

In HSBC Current a/c £ 3,036.61 (+ £1,982.00 from LeedsFest deposited this date)

In HSBC No 1 Int a/c £18,665.86

In HSBC No 2 Int a/c £38,870.96

In Barclays Bank c/a £ 938.54

In Barclays Bond £40,000.00

In Master Plan a/c £ 805.75 (with £130.00 VAT to be claimed)

To Pay from Current a/c

1. Cheque number 100338, in the sum of £170.90 for Clerk's salary, was agreed and issued.
2. Cheque number 100339, in the sum of £16.45, for ink cartridge and paper, was agreed and issued to the Clerk.
3. Cheque number 100340, in the sum of £342.00 for audit services, was agreed and issued to Mazars.
4. Cheque number 100341, in the sum of £44.70, for telephone, was agreed and issued to the Clerk.
5. Cheque number 100342, in the sum of £434.00 for footpath work, was agreed and issued to DB Tree Services (D. Bendelow).

11/78 MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

(a) Vacancies for Parish Councillors – Clerk reported having had no applications. Consideration would be given to trying to attract residents to serve as the current term of office progressed.

(b) Parish Boundary. The Clerks of Thorer/Bramham/Barwick & Scholes were in discussion about small boundary changes to their Parishes. Cllr Howson was to speak to the two residents with properties north of the A64 and get their views. Cllr Forster would attend a meeting with them to see if anything useful to Aberford PC would come forward. It was felt that the much larger area of the Garforth end would have to be addressed separately. Any

suggested changes from the Clerks would have to be taken to the next Forum meeting along with those brought forward by other PCs within the Harewood Ward.

(c) An illegally trading Food Trailer on the B1217 had been dealt with – it was understood the owner would apply for a licence to Highways and presumably the PC would be invited to comment if that was the case.

(d) The missing Brown Bin collection had been dealt with, helped by the Ward Cllr Matthew Robinson. There had been a recovery pick up several days later. The next collection was on schedule.

(e) A resident reporting a wasp nest on Highways land had been helped between meetings.

(f) The PC was now registered on the Government Ordnance Survey site and could access all ordnance survey maps within the terms of the Licence Agreement held by the Clerk. This would be a useful tool to enable such maps to be consulted freely.

(g) LCC had asked for the views of PCs on further Dog Control Orders – it was possible to suggest areas where dogs would be totally excluded such as childrens play areas. This could be considered when School Field was completed. The consultation period was until the 14th October so could be discussed at the next meeting.

(h) Cllr Howson asked for a letter of thanks to be sent to Mr Jack Rodgers who had tidied up the footpath north of Greystones Close following hedge cutting.

(i) Cllrs Mrs Jeffrey had been asked by a company at the northern end of the village to look into them being able to exit the village road north when it was officially closed for the LeedsFest as staff and trucks etc had been turned away in the past. She proposed to liaise with Cllrs Mrs Broadley on this.

(j) Cllrs Mrs Jeffrey had liaised with Balfour Beatty concerning some illegally sited horses on motorway land at the northern end of the village and they had been removed. A copy of the necessary order had been lodged with the Clerk for future reference if required.

(k) Cllr Mrs Reed reported that an LCC Street Cleansing Officer was present at the Forum meeting she attended and had indicated that there would be much closer monitoring of staff in future. The mechanical footpath sweeper and the ‘on foot’ operative would be working on an 8 day rotating shift which meant they would work on different days each rotation and at staggered times. A new Localism Officer had been appointed and his details would be sent to Cllr Gluck by the Clerk.

(l) Cllr Forster asked Cllr Mrs Jeffrey to investigate the path to the rear of his property (Cedar Court Estate).

(m) Cllr Hancock drew attention to a white van parked in Lotherton Lane which had obstructed grass cutting in that area for some time. Cllrs Mrs Jeffrey had ascertained that it was taxed and insured and legally parked so far as the Police were concerned but she would revisit that situation in a couple of months time. In the meantime she would attempt to speak to the owners to see if they could move the vehicle to allow a tidy up of the verge/around the seat.

11/79 OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

(a) A resident asked about the level of compensation received from the LeedsFest organisers which he felt was not enough. This was clarified. Cllr Mrs Broadley had tried to get more tickets but this had not been possible.

11/80 CLOSE OF MEETING

Cllr Gluck thanked everyone for their presence and closed the meeting at 9.45pm.