

ABERFORD & DISTRICT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting of Parish Councillors held on Tuesday 16th December 2008 in Aberford Church of England School.

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

Apologies: Mrs G. Broadley, R. Alderson.
Also Present: Clerk and 10 members of the public.

08/110 POLICE MATTERS

No Police representative was present but the Chairman reported he had liaised with P.C. Katkowski between meetings and had been given a contact at Leeds City Council to arrange removal of graffiti. Both the Village Hall and bridge had been vandalised with graffiti which had been removed by L.C.C. Photographs were taken of the damage to use as evidence. Clerk was asked to make a formal complaint to Wetherby Police Station and a member of the Village Hall Committee was asked to do the same to facilitate prosecution should the offenders be caught. Chairman also reported that speed checks had been carried out during the preceding week and eight people had been caught driving at a speed in excess of 40m.p.h. in the 30 m.p.h. area.

08/111 MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 18 November 2008, had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was proposed by Cllr D. Stainton and seconded by Cllr D. Gluck. that the same were a true record.

08/112 MATTERS ARISING

- (a) Referring to Minute 08/103(a) Speed Awareness Signs. Cllr Stainton reported that the maintenance contract had been signed and sent to Dambach – to come into force on 4th September 2009. Later in the meeting a resident reported that the north end sign did not seem to be working properly. Cllr Stainton said he would report this.
- (b) Referring to Minute 08/103(b) Parish Plan Review. A first draft had been circulated prior to the meeting and some comments had been given to Cllr Gluck which would be incorporated into the second draft. Once finalised he suggested the Plan could be circulated to residents, perhaps via a Newsletter. Publication of the full document would be costly and he would see if the N.E. Area Team might be prepared to grant money towards that. In any event residents would be given the chance to comment and it might be possible to summarise the Plan within a Newsletter for that purpose. Cllr Gluck would progress the Plan for the January meeting.
- (c) Referring to Minute 08/103(e) Dog Fouling on approach to Triumphal Arch. The Chairman had not been able to meet with Mr Holiday but he reported the farmer having had trouble with a dog chasing in-calf cows. The ‘estate’ woodman had put another notice up but Cllr Gluck felt the P.C. should still pay for an appropriately worded notice after the Chairman had spoken to Mr Holiday.
- (d) Referring to Minute 08/103(i) War Memorial Restoration. Cllr Alderson had passed information to the Clerk about grants being available from the War Memorials Trust.

Information had been obtained on how to make an application which would take further work to put together a funding bid. The first thing to establish was the actual owner of the Memorial as permission had to be given by them in order for any bid to be considered. Cllr Stainton suggested that this project might be one Cllr Alderson might like to take forward. Clerk was asked to try to find the legal owner as a first step. The date for bids to be submitted was not until April 2009.

- (e) Referring to Minute 08/104(a) Website. The website was now online at www.aberfordonline.com and would be developed over the coming months. Some items would need to be approved at monthly meetings by Councillors as material was gradually added. Cllr Gluck provided the 2003 Parish Plan to be put on the website – this would be followed by the new Parish Plan as it progressed.
- (f) Referring to Minute 08/104(m) Planning Notification to Residents. LCC Planning Department stated in their letter of 3.12.08 “we would notify all neighbours abutting a site, this would include properties to both sides, rear and properties fronting the site”. Cllr Stainton said this had not been done in the case of a property in Greystones Close. Clerk asked to inform Planners about this omission. Cllr Gluck reported that the subject of notification was shortly to be discussed at the Major Development Forum.
- (g) Referring to Minute 08/107(b) Street Lights. Some residents had been notified by Southern Electric Contracting that work was to start shortly and certain streets had been marked up. The company had been contacted immediately and reminded that the P.C. wanted them to consult about the scheme for the village – particularly for Main Street. Mr Brummitt (Performance Manager, Design) had promised a site meeting together with Mr Ian Moore (LCC Monitoring Officer) and Clerk was waiting for date/time. It was suggested the information be obtained from Barwick & Scholes P.C. as to the performance of SEC in their area and whether/how they were able to obtain funding for special lights in their conservation area. Cllr Stainton was to meet with Highways in the new year about the area in front of the Church and he reported that instructions had been given to move the 30 m.p.h. sign along the Barwick Road to its original position further back.
- (h) Referring to Minute 08/107(g) Footpath to Lotherton Lane. Cllr Hancock asked that the overgrown footpath again be reported to LCC as it had not been dealt with.
- (i) Referring to Minute 08/107(l) School access to playing field. The Chairman reported that Cllr Alderson believed that LCC was not going to take forward a legal challenge about access. There was to be an emergency Governors meeting shortly.
- (j) Referring to Minute 08/108(c) Manhole Covers Kingfisher Lane. Enquiries by Cllr Alderson had revealed confusion about ownership according to some plans he had obtained. However Cllrs. and the previous Clerk recalled correspondence with LCC Highways Dept wherein they had acknowledged ownership of the lane. Efforts would be made to trace this and the P.C. was doing everything it could to get the problem resolved.

08/113 CORRESPONDENCE

1. Information from Countrywide Grounds Maintenance – they had been advised to contact LCC direct if they wished to be considered for work.
2. LCC Democratic Services: Parish/Town Council Forum: Planning Working Group: member for our ‘wedge’ Cllr David Thompson of Boston Spa and S. Wood, Clerk of Thorner.
3. Cllrs. notified between meetings of a public exhibition of Barwood Developments proposals for the Newhold site. Cllr Forster had attended and given some comments – this would continue to be monitored. Comments about the access roads had been given to Mr Nick Flood of LCC Highways Design and Construction Dept separately.
4. The annual report of Yorks. Rural Community Council was available via the Clerk.
5. Letter from LCC Parks & Countryside: Allotments Working Group asking if the P.C. was interested in being represented. The Group met 3 times a year and last Minutes were available. Later in the meeting a member of the public present suggested the name of a resident who might be interested in joining the Group and reporting back to the P.C. Clerk to investigate.
6. The Electoral Register for our Parish was available with the Clerk but there were strict guidelines for access to this document.
7. LCC Technical Services were unable to find any culverts, drains or public sewers within the boundary of 27 Greystones Close but Clerk asked to obtain from Yorkshire Water a plan of the public sewers in that area.
8. NALC notification of a forthcoming Conference for Parish and Town Councillors : Saturday 21st February 2009, Hospitium Building in the grounds of the Museum Gardens, Marygate, York. There were several workshops which may be of interest to Councillors and Clerk. Booking deadline 13th February 2009. Cost to members £75.20 per person. Councillors to consider further at January meeting.
9. LCC Democratic Services : Standards Committee Meeting Agenda 16.12.08. With Clerk for reference.
10. LCC Electoral Services Manager: letter regarding the place where voting takes place, thought not to affect Aberford but Clerk required to display notice on Noticeboard.
11. LCC Environment Services : the overgrown path along the Garforth Road : passed to the relevant Department for action.

08/114 PLANNING

(a) Applications

Number 08/06502/FU/NE: 15m High Wind Turbine, Whitewell Farm, York Road
Councillors had no objection to this.

Number 08/06656/FU/HE: Single storey front extsn. Depot House, Main Street.
Councillors had no objection to this.

(b) Correspondence etc with Planning Dept.

Clerk had not received a reply to an enquiry about a resident stopping up a doorway in a terrace property in Main Street.

(c) Planning Decisions

Number 08/05229/FU

Conservatory to rear 2 Anning Fold, Garforth. APPROVED

- Numbers 08/05442/LI Illuminated signs Priory Park, Aberford. and 08/05443/ADV APPROVED
- Number 08/04913/FU Single storey side extension to 1 School House, Main Street, Aberford. APPROVED.
- Number 08/05392/FU Change of use dwellinghouse to shop, Arabian Horse, Main Street, Aberford. APPROVED.
- APP/N4720/A/08/2079043 Laurieknowe, Field Lane, Aberford.
APPEAL GRANTED BY PLANNING INSPECTORATE –
Councillors had been sent the Inspector’s Report by Clerk.

08/115 ACCOUNTS

- (a) Cheque number 100216 in the sum of £188.13 for Clerk’s salary and costs of setting up the Council Website was approved and issued.
- (b) Sums in hand were:
- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------|
| In Community a/c | £ 4,438.97 |
| In Money Management a/c (1) | £25,497.66 |
| In Money Management a/c (2) | £78,422.32 |
- (c) Councillors discussed the Parish Precept for 2009 and considered anticipated possible expenditure such as tennis courts, streetlights, CCTV coverage of central area, Christmas lights, support to young peoples facilities and ongoing annual commitments. It was decided the Precept request to LCC would remain as that for 2008 – namely £8000.

08/116 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

- (a) Cllr Forster reported no action had yet been taken about the overgrown path along the Garforth Road. Clerk to chase.
- (b) It was reported that the damaged plastic bushes on Play Area swings required attention – Clerk to progress with Parkdale Play and Leisure Ltd. Cllr Gluck reported there was a small amount of graffiti around the area – the Chairman undertook to contact the relevant Dept. of LCC to see if it could be removed or if advice could be given as to how to do this.
- (c) Cllr Hancock reported there was still a hole beneath the north end speed sign which required to be filled in. Clerk to contact Yorkshire Water.
- (d) Cllr Hancock reported the footpath in Main Street between Highfields and Becca Lane was suffering from overgrown vegetation from the gardens alongside the footpath. Chairman undertook to speak to the owner.

08/117 OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

- (a) Mr Lyttle, a resident of St Johns Garth, had contacted the P.C. between meetings about parking provision in the area. He was informed Cllrs did not object to some further modest parking being created provided they could see the plans for this as they would wish to preserve as much green area as possible. Mr Lyttle was asked to liaise with the Clerk when he had more information. Clerk to reply to Cllr Castle with Councillors’ comments.
- (c) Mrs Louisa Street updated Councillors on her efforts to set up a Youth Project in the village. She proposed to have one evening per week for young people aged between

11-14 years and one for those between 14-18 years. Mrs Street was waiting for a decision from the Village Hall Committee as to whether they would allow her to use the Hall. If she could obtain a venue she would wish to approach the P.C. for help in funding the project. If the PC could help then this would, in turn, help her to obtain further funding such as grants which were available. Cllr Gluck commented that the P.C. had not achieved as much as they would have wished for older children in the village and he felt Mrs Street should be supported and the P.C. should be generous in helping with funding. Cllr Stainton commented that perhaps such a Youth Project could be joined in some way with the refurbishment of Tennis Courts that the P.C. were still working towards. All Cllrs were eager to support Mrs Street and she was asked to keep the P.C. informed of progress.

- (d) A resident complained about the pond which had been created some time ago in a field off Field Lane. He said the site had been left in an awful state. The Chairman undertook to speak to the owner to see if it could be tidied up.
- (e) A resident asked for an assurance that the channel dug on Pump Hill for utilities to be installed would be reinstated in a proper way. The Chairman said that the householder had been requested to ensure this was done.
- (f) A resident raised the problem of missing manhole covers in Kingfisher Lane and said he was disappointed at the length of time it was taking to get these repaired. The Chairman told him that enquiries had been made to try to establish ownership of the lane which was disputed by LCC. Clerk to progress this.
- (g) The problem of litter in hedges etc around the village was raised. It was thought that a 'one off' litter picking exercise could perhaps be requested from LCC Cleansing Dept. Clerk to enquire.
- (h) Christmas Lights – after some discussion it was agreed to raise the question of funding for 2009 with the Ward Councillors to see if they could help.
- (i) Mr Tom Archer, a resident, made himself known to Councillors at the meeting. He volunteered that he had some expertise which might be of help to the P.C. and was interested in possibly joining the Council. He was thanked for his interest and invited to have an informal discussion after the meeting.
- (j) A resident, who was on the Village Hall Committee, referred to Minute 08/98(a) of the 21st October 2008 which stated permission had been refused for a lady to use the Village Hall for a Youth Group. He pointed out that, at that time, no formal request had been received by the Village Hall Committee and was disappointed that it had been recorded the Committee had refused the request. This was noted by Councillors. He went on to say that, although there may be some problems, it might be that these could be overcome and the Hall Committee had not yet made a decision. The next meeting of the Hall Committee was scheduled for 30th December.
- (k) A member of the public raised the issue of the sums of money which the PC had invested in a single Bank at this time of difficult economic conditions. Cllrs. noted.

08/118 CLOSE OF MEETING

There being no further business the Chairman thanked those in attendance before closing the meeting at 9.15p.m.

Note:

The Parish Council complies with the Mandatory Publication Scheme under the Freedom of Information act. Information is available from www.aberfordonline.com or from the Clerk.