

ABERFORD & DISTRICT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 15th December 2009 in the school.

PRESENT: Cllrs D. Howson (Chairman) D. Stainton, Mrs R. Reed, P. Hancock, D. Gluck, I. Forster
Apologies were received from Cllrs Mrs G. Broadley and R. Alderson

Also Present: The Clerk, 7 members of the public and PC Andy Katkowski

09/108 MINUTES

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday 17th November had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was proposed by Cllr D. Stainton and seconded by Cllr P. Hancock that these were a true record. This was agreed.

09/109 POLICE REPORT

There had been some increased criminal activity in the village as usually happened at this time of the year but overall Aberford was the lowest for such activity in the area. Patrols would be continued as often as possible and the priorities were to counter speeding through the village, particularly early morning and poaching and burglaries leading up to Christmas. The Chairman said he had asked for a police presence on Boxing Day. Some matters were being followed up by the Licensing authorities at the Royal Oak. There had been a problem with drinking glasses being smashed in the area from the Royal Oak to The Dale late at night. Parking at the bottom of Becca Lane was to be looked at. Residents were urged to be a good neighbour if an alarm went off and have a look around the affected property just in case – it could save a lot of heartache at this time of the year.

09/110 MATTERS ARISING

(a) Min 09/100(a) War Memorial – ongoing

(b) Min 09/100(b) Street Lights – Cllr Stainton reported that the work was due to be carried out in February due to the manufacturing times of the heritage style lights. It was unfortunate as the village could have had hanging baskets had this been known. However, the column heights would be lowered from 8 to 7 metres and the two lights at the bottom of Cattle Lane would be moved to the opposite side to give wider access along the pavement by the bus stop for disabled people.

(c) Min 09/100(c) School Field – ongoing. The Chairman reported a co-operative meeting with the new Agent who had taken over from Mr Holiday. She had asked if the PC wanted to rent or buy the small amount of land for the proposed footpath into the area and prices were awaited so a decision could be made. Progress from LCC side was also awaited.

(d) Min 09/100(d) Speed sign – ongoing.

(e) Min 09/100(e) Humphreydale Cottage – contact had come from the owner's Architect and a single page plan was shown to Councillors. There was little comment other than that the PC would have to wait for an official approach to come from LCC Planning Department before they could form a view.

(f) Min 09/100(f) Pump Hill Fencing – work in progress. It was suggested that LCC Cleansing be written to pointing out this new fence and asking that the bin wagon take care in that area.

(g) Min 09/100(g) Drainage – the south end culvert had been completed but the extra gully was still to do.

(h) Min 09/100(h) Lotherton Lane – ongoing. Mr Tim Parry would be contacted.

(i) Min 09/100(i) Parish Paths Partnership – the position regarding funding needed to be clarified to see if LCC would, in fact, be able to underwrite any work needed. The position for the forthcoming financial year would be a factor.

(j) Min 09/100(j) Footpath 'Makin land' – ongoing. Cllr Forster would seek an on-site meeting with the Community Access Officer after Christmas.

(k) Min 09/100(l) Old Watermill – ongoing

(l) Min 09/100(m) Rubbish in Cock Beck – Cllr Gluck would deal when water levels permitted.

(m) Min 09/100(p) Garforth End Pavement – ongoing.

(n) Min 09/100(q) Debris Cock Beck Motorway Bridge Area – ongoing. The Clerk was getting no response to follow-up emails so would be trying telephone calls and the Chairman also said he would try to get progress. It was not known whether any residents had additionally got together to press for a clear up.

(o) Min 09/105(a) Slippery Pavement Bunkers Hill/Overgrown vegetation south end – Highways had indicated the work would be done.

(p) Min 09/105(c) Overgrown trees/vegetation clearance north end – a contractor had been instructed by the Chairman – ongoing.

(q) Min 09/105(e) Litter Bins – ongoing. Clerk to get information when Cllrs would decide where extra bins might be appropriate and consider the cost. The PC needed to know if LCC would take on emptying extra bins.

(r) Min 09/106(a) Extra Noticeboard – an onsite meeting at St Johns Garth had taken place with Mr Palin of LCC Housing Office. He had given his permission for a board to be erected. A planning enquiry needed to be made to see if permission was required and the exact cost determined to allow Cllrs to consider again. The previous board on Pump Hill had cost around £1000.

09/111 REPORTS FROM SUB-COMMITTEES

(a) Cllr Mrs Reed reported she had attended the October meeting of the Harewood and Wetherby Ward Town and Parish Council Forum. A useful contact had been made with the Community Planning Officer for this area whose job was to give all possible help to Parish Councils with any planning issues they might have. Contact details would be contained within the minutes of that meeting when they were published.

(b) Almshouse Trust (Parlington House) – Cllr Stainton reported that the building had some major roofing problems which would be very costly to put right. Some quotations had been asked for but the Trust funds had suffered in the economic downturn and it was going to be a difficult time. He would keep the Parish Council informed.

09/112 CORRESPONDENCE

(a) Information had been received about the LCC Allotments Working Group and the Clerk was unsure who to pass this to. A contact in the Horticultural Society was suggested.

(b) LCC Highways were to make a Waiting Restriction Order covering an area at the junction of Main Street and Cattle Lane. After discussion it was agreed to ask that the area be extended in Cattle Lane towards the rear entrance to the Swan Hotel.

(c) The LCC Standards Committee Agenda for the December meeting was with the Clerk.

(d) Cutting back of verge Lotherton Lane. LCC stated that only a 2.4m 'sight line' cut was done in the area in question. The Chairman said he would ask a local farmer if he would cut back the extra area.

09/113 PLANNING

(a) Application P/09/03749/FU Pond works at land adjacent to Sydenham House, Field Lane – Withdrawn. The project was the subject of discussions/negotiations between the applicant and LCC Planners. The PC was not further involved at this stage.

(b) Application P/09/04902/FU/E Continuation of permission for a building used as a training/leisure facility for temporary workers and a separate borehole shed – Cllrs had no objection.

(c) Application P/09/05265/FE/HE – Extensions to Weigh House, Aberford Road, Garforth – Cllrs had no objection.

(d) Application P/09/05285/FU/HE – Conservatory at 5 Anning Fold, Garforth – Cllrs had no objection.

09/114 ACCOUNTS

In HSBC c/a	£ 1,826.40
In HSBC No 1 Int A/c	£30,658.55
In HSBC No 2 Int a/c	£38,823.43

In Barclays Bank c/a £ 506.30

In Barclays Bank Bond £40,000.00

Note: The last 3 amounts can only be spent on capital projects and are earmarked for the School Field area.

The Clerk reported that Cllr Forster, as Responsible Financial Officer, had checked the financial records on November 27th and had found all in order.

To Pay

(a) Cheque number 100248, in the sum of £259.34, for Chapel rental and telephone costs for Globe Youth Group was agreed and issued to Mrs Street.

(b) Cheque number 100249, in the sum of £116.66 for Clerk's remuneration was agreed and issued.

(c) Cheque number 100250, in the sum of £150.00 for Newsletter printing costs was agreed and issued to ZebraPrint.

Precept

Councillors had been circulated with an updated Budget and projected Budget for the next financial year to help in deciding the Precept. Cllr Mrs Reed formally proposed the figure of £9000 and this was seconded by Cllr Stainton and carried unanimously. It was felt this would maintain a reasonable reserve over projected expenditure.

Request for Financial Grant

A letter was read out from the Chairperson of the Village Hall Committee asking for financial help. Councillors asked that an application form be completed and that financial information should be provided so they could consider this at the next meeting. Later in the meeting it was stated that the AGM of the Hall Committee was expected to take place by the end of December and anyone who wished to join the Committee would be welcome.

09/115 MATTERS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

(a) Cllr Gluck asked that the pavement along Cattle Lane, particularly up from the Bus Shelter be cleaned of leaves and rubbish. This was well used by elderly residents from Parlinton House and Beech View.

(b) Distribution of the Newsletter was well in hand and a copy was on the Noticeboard with one on the website.

09/116 OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

(a) A question was asked about the development of the Newhold site along the Garforth Road and attention drawn to drainage. Water from that area drained into Cock Beck. The Chairman said that a holding lagoon was to be created at the edge of the site.

(b) It was confirmed that the definitive footpath plan had not been changed.

(c) Mrs Street reported that the Globe Youth Group was going well. There had been good attendance on Monday evenings, which was for the younger group, from the start and the older children had now begun to come along on the Friday evenings. There had been no trouble at all and she had a good contact with the LCC Youth Co-ordinator who had offered her a qualified helper on both evenings and they would be working in co-operation for at least the next six months. The Youth Bus would continue to come into the village on Monday evenings when the older children would use it.

09/117 CLOSE OF MEETING

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and wished them a Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year. The meeting was closed 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 their website at: www.aberfordonline.com or by contacting the Clerk.