

ABERFORD & DISTRICT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 20th December 2011 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

PRESENT: Cllrs D. Howson (Chairman), Mrs G. Broadley, I. Forster, D. Gluck, P. Hancock, Mrs J. Jeffrey, Mrs R. Reed, D. Stainton.
Apologies were received from Cllr R. Alderson.
Also Present: 7 members of the public, the Clerk

11/112 MINUTES

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday 15th November 2011 had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was proposed by Cllrs Mrs Reed and seconded by Cllr Stainton that these were a true record. This was agreed.

11/113 POLICE MATTERS

No Police representative was in attendance but the Chairman reported he had attended a meeting of Farm Watch. An ‘undercover’ operation had focussed on the security measures of houses in the Wetherby force area and, in Aberford village, 3 cars and 2 houses had been found to be unlocked in the middle of the night. Residents should be reminded to lock up securely at all times and particularly in winter. Poachers were active in the area.

11/114 MATTERS ARISING

- (a) Minute 11/103(d) Cock Beck – ongoing
- (b) Minute 11/103(d) Mobile Library – being monitored
- (c) Minute 11/103(e) Royal Oak – Clerk to chase
- (d) Minute 11/104(f) Knott Weed Play Area – dealt with.
- (e) Minute 11/104(h) Grit Bin – a replacement bin had been delivered and one at Pinfold Rise refilled.
- (f) Minute 11/109(b) Bus Service – no complaints to Clerk but it was known that the service was erratic. Notices encouraging residents to give details to the PC would be put up in the New Year.
- (g) Minute 11/109(f) Ruts in Footpath Hook Moor – this had been reported to LCC Highways for them to pursue with the local farmer.

11/115 REPORTS FROM SUB COMMITTEES

(a) Master Plan Projects.

(i) Village Design Statement/Neighbourhood Plan

Between meetings the Chairman and Clerk had attended an LCC Strategic Housing Land Area Assessment meeting. A full report of this meeting had been circulated to Cllrs. In short, the City Council had placed Aberford Parish in a geographical ‘wedge’ for housing allocation which covered Alwoodley and the parishes within the Harewood Ward. Many Parish and Town Councils were intending to produce Neighbourhood Plans and the work already done on the Master Plan would help in Aberford PC’s case. Housing numbers had not yet been allocated to the ‘wedge’ – this information was expected in February. Landowners and developers throughout the City had offered sites but nothing was decided anywhere. By the mechanism of producing Neighbourhood Plans, the City Council was encouraging local communities to fully participate in the sites of any new housing. After discussion it was agreed that the PC should take part in the exercise and produce a Neighbourhood Plan. It was agreed that an initial meeting would take place before the next Parish Council meeting to gather information and plan how to take matters forward.

The Village Design Statement work would continue as this would be complimentary to any Neighbourhood Plan produced as well as a document in its own right. The idea of delineated 'gateways' on the approaches to the village was being looked at.

(ii) Traffic Management

Cllr Gluck had done a preliminary assessment with LCC Officer Nick Borrás. Various ideas had been discussed and a report had been circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting. Mr Borrás was to produce a drawing. Some parts of the scheme would be funded by LCC Highways. Other parts, requiring funding, might be looked at for the future to see if they could be budgeted for. This topic would be included as an Agenda item to discuss in more detail at the January meeting.

(iii) Broadband

Ongoing – no expressions of interest had been received from the Garforth end of the Parish so far as Cllr Gluck was aware.

(iv) Community Interest Company

The company was awaiting approval of Memorandum and Articles from Companies House and expected to be up and running early in 2012.

(b) Footpaths

Cllrs Mrs Jeffrey was to pursue subject of the illegal installation of a gate across a bridleway with the LCC Enforcement Officer. There might be another way of addressing the problem by joining up adjacent bridleways and she would try to explore this with all parties.

(c) Allotments

Cllr Mrs Jeffrey reported some progress had been made in that LCC was to look again at the legal costs and would not insist on fencing. The designated access would be the only one which should be used by allotment holders to prevent any 'easement' rights being established. Arrangements satisfactory to the PC were moving closer and the matter would be pursued. LCC Parks Dept had contacted Cllr Mrs Jeffrey about the Youngs Court allotments and the possibility of also taking them on would be looked at.

(d) Tennis Courts Project

The minutes of the first meeting of the Sub Committee held on 24th November 2011 had been circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting. The up to date situation was as follows.

(i) Legal Situation – Cllr Stainton was still trying to complete all the legal processes - delay was due to both LCC and the Estate's Solicitors. When these matters had been completed to the PC's satisfaction then formal letters of appointment would be exchanged with LCC Parks Dept for the Phase 1 works, as referred to in November 2011 Minute 11/105 paragraph two. It was hoped that Phase 1 work could start in February 2012. There was a small alteration to Phase 1 works in that the Bowling Club had asked for their fence to be removed completely and LCC Parks had agreed to this within the overall cost of Phase 1. Costs could be saved if the felled timber could be removed and used locally and Cllrs indicated this could be done.

(ii) Grant Application – Cllr Stainton had answered a few queries from GrantsScape who were progressing the application for consideration.

(iii) Name for Completed Scheme – after discussion it was agreed that the name should be ('The Queen Elizabeth II Diamond') **Jubilee Field**. It was felt that there might be some funding available in return for this as organisations were being encouraged to name amenity fields in this way during the Queen's Diamond Jubilee year. Cllrs Mrs Reed was to look into this. Cllr Gluck was not in favour, indicating he would prefer to adopt a name after residents had been consulted.

(iv) Further Phases – the detailed quotation paperwork was awaited from LCC Parks – this would be brought before the full PC when available.

11/116 CORRESPONDENCE

(a) LCC had given an early indication that the next LCC/Town and PC Annual Forum would be held early in the New Year. The Agenda and Reports would be circulated shortly.

(b) Cllrs Mrs Broadley and D. Gluck declared their interest in this item – both being on the Village Hall Committee. A letter had been received from a company acting as Agent for Mr Cowling who owned land to the rear of the Village Hall. This had been circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting. The PC was aware that the Village Hall Committee was in discussion with Mr Cowling about a possible mutually beneficial scheme of development of the area. The PC's views were being sought at this early stage as the land was subject to flooding and within the Green Belt. Whilst this matter was for the Village Hall Committee and Mr Cowling to progress, Cllrs decided to ask Mr Cowling's Agent to keep them informed if a scheme became more fully developed so that they would have an opportunity to give their views prior to any submission to LCC Planning Dept. Cllr Gluck asked any concerned residents present to attend the next Hall Committee meeting so their views could be heard.

11/117 PLANNING

Applications

(a) Application P/11/04545 – various alterations – Oliver Cottages, Main Street, Aberford. Cllrs had no objections but commented on the proposed height of the boundary wall, asking Planning Dept to consider this.

(b) Application P/11/04797 - Listed Bldg Consent for Windows replacement – Old Coach House, Beckside, Aberford – Cllrs had no objections.

(c) Application P/11/04659 – various alterations – Milestone House, Greystone Park, Aberford. Cllrs had no objections.

(d) Application P/11/04683 – FF Side Extn – 6 Ashley Park Mews, Garforth. Cllrs had no objections.

(e) Application P/11/04836 – Retrospective appl. Change of use part of Agri Bldg. to form storage and distribution – Sturton Grange Farm, Garforth. Cllrs had no objection.

Decisions

Approved:

P/11/03864 – Rmvl of cond. (garage/carport shall only be used for the storage of private motor vehicles) – Swan Mill Barn & The Old Barn, Cattle Lane, Aberford

Refused:

P/11/01915 – Gates 2 The Gables/Forget Me Not Cottage – (on grounds of height)

Appeal Notice

Original Application - P/10/05396 – New House next to Lilac Cottage, Bunkers Hill – LCC Planning and Highways had objected, together with nearby residents. Any comments the PC wished to make had to be made to the Inspector by 26th January. Cllr Stainton to revisit this.

11/118 ACCOUNTS

Budget 2012-2013

After further discussion it was unanimously resolved to raise the precept to £11,000.00 from £9,000.00 which had been held for two years. This would see the charge for a Band D payer raised by around £2 per annum.

Grant Request

A letter had been received from the Village Hall Committee and had been circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting. The letter outlined plans for the reburishment options of the Hall which would require a great deal of money and grants would be sought. Cllrs Gluck and Mrs Broadley declared their interest prior to discussion as per Minute 11/116 (b) above. Cllrs expressed a wish to financially help but a firm figure could not be given at this time until costs of the Jubilee Field development were known. Much depended on whether funding was forthcoming from Grantscape which would free up some funds for further phases and perhaps for other projects. It was agreed that the PC would wish to help in principle but that it would be Spring 2012 before the level of that help could be quantified. Cllr Stainton felt that the money raised from the LeedsFest ticket sale next year could be an initial sum given to the Hall Committee.

Balances

In HSBC current a/c	£ 646.90
In HSBC No 1 Interest a/c	£19,972.50 (Parish Paths Partnership £347.00)
In HSBC No 2 Interest a/c	£80,112.46

This sum is the Capital Reserve consolidated from money which had been deposited with Barclays Bank Plc., and is allocated firstly to the Jubilee Field development. It may only be spent on a capital project.

In HSBC Master Plan a/c	£ 404.71
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To Pay

From PC Current a/c

(a) Cheque number 100354, in the sum of £434.00, for footpath maintenance had been issued to DB Tree Services on Chairman and Clerk's authority and was unanimously ratified.

(b) Cheque number 100355, in the sum of £154.00, for a new grit bin at Beech View, had been issued to LCC Highways on Chairman and Clerk's authority and was unanimously ratified.

(c) Cheque number 100356, in the sum of £234.00, for Play Area inspection and minor repairs, was agreed and issued to LCC Parks Dept.

(d) Cheque number 100357, in the sum of £369.60, for Play Area roundabout repairs, was agreed and issued to LCC Parks Dept.,

(e) Cheque number 100358, in the sum of £75.00, for leaflets printing, was agreed and issued to Zebra Print Management.

(f) Cheque number 100359, in the sum of £170.90 for Clerk's salary, was agreed and issued.

(g) Cheque number 100360, in the sum of £50.69, for Telephone and Web Privacy services, was agreed and issued to the Clerk.

From PC MasterPlan a/c

Cheque number 100015, in the sum of £360.00, for consultancy services, had been issued on the Chairman and Clerk's authority, to Mr A. Ray and this was unanimously ratified. This was part payment of the previously agreed fees.

11/119 MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

(a) Cllr Forster reported that Lotherton Hall was to be closed for various days over the Christmas period which had never happened before and it was most disappointing. The pricing structure had changed from that proposed originally which all felt would be a big deterrent to visitors. Cllr Broadley confirmed applications for tickets for LeedsFest had been received from the Garforth end of the parish and some had been successful in the draw.

(b) Cllr Stainton reported the poor road surface at the A64/A1 roundabout – Clerk to deal.

- (c) Cllr Hancock drew attention to the poor state of the garage block on the Highfields Estate – Clerk to report to Aire Valley Homes.
- (d) Wind Turbines at Hook Moor – Cllrs agreed that early discussions should be instigated with Banks Renewables/Micklefield PC and LCC Highways to find out their arrangements for traffic during the construction phase.

11/120 OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

- (a) A resident drew attention to the surface of Parlington Lane. Cllr Mrs Jeffrey declared an interest since her property exited into the Lane. Due to the passage of large farm vehicles the surface had been badly eroded together with some fencing and a gatepost being knocked down. The repair and maintenance of part of the lane affected was jointly the responsibility of some residents but the deterioration was not their fault. Cllr Howson advised that the residents should seek legal redress as it was a private matter but the PC was concerned as the Lane was such a well-used bridleway. He undertook to inform the Estate's Agent as they owned the Lane and particularly concerning the fencing and gatepost damage.
- (b) A resident drew attention to overhanging thorn bushes along Lotherton Lane – Clerk to contact the owner and ask that these be cut back.

11/121 CLOSE OF MEETING

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for their presence and wished everyone Happy Christmas and Peaceful and Prosperous New Year. The meeting was closed at 10.00pm.

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.