

## **ABERFORD AND DISTRICT PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES** of a meeting of Parish Councillors held on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2009 in Aberford Church of England School.

**PRESENT:** Councillors: D. Howson (Chairman), R. Alderson, Mrs G. Broadley, I. Forster, D. Gluck, P. Hancock, D. Stainton

**Also Present:** Mr Richard Gill of L.C.C. 'Leeds in Bloom', Clerk and 13 Public.

### **09/01 MINUTES**

1. The Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2008 had been previously circulated to Councillors. It was proposed by Cllr. Forster and seconded by Cllr. Mrs Broadley that the same were a true record.
2. The Minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2008 had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was proposed by Cllr. Stainton and seconded by Cllr. Gluck that the same were a true record.

### **09/02 LEEDS IN BLOOM**

Mr Richard Gill talked to the meeting about the 'in Bloom' scheme. There were 37 groups in and around the city – one for Garforth had been established around 8 months and was going well. Due to limited funds the groups needed to fund-raise but could ask for support from organisations like the Parish Council. Help and advice was available from Mr Gill who would meet with any interested group and every group was different in size and constitution from quite formal to very informal. Some groups took part in Regional and National competitions. Mr Gill strongly recommended a Group should be set up as LCC were desirous of making a charge for watering hanging baskets but where there was an 'in Bloom' Group then this charge would be waived.

Cllr Stainton spoke about the current replacement of street lighting which would affect the hanging baskets and Mr Gill informed the meeting that there should be no cost to the Parish Council for new brackets wherever there was an existing bracket and that LCC should arrange for the brackets to be reinstated. The P.C. should liaise with Mr Ian Moore the LCC Monitoring Officer on this point. It should also be possible to have single brackets and Mr Moore should be able to instruct the Contractors SEC that this was what was wanted. In addition LCC would have the liability if they reinstated the brackets rather than the P.C. Brackets could be put at a higher level to deter vandalism.

It should be borne in mind that new lights without brackets could not be reinforced in the future if more single baskets were wanted so the PC needed to be sure of the number required. However new lights would take the 'wrap-around' style of baskets without reinforcement in the future.

Several members of the public present offered to become involved in helping this project and their names and contact details were taken. Clerk also reported being in contact with Mrs Picton-Phillips/Horticultural Society in case any members wanted to get involved. The P.C. would be supportive and one or two Councillors would help to take the matter forward. A notice on the village noticeboard would invite interest as

would mention in the forthcoming Newsletter. The Chairman thanked Mr Gill for his information and expressed the hope this could be taken forward.

### **09/03 POLICE MATTERS**

PCSO Sillers, having joined the meeting, gave his report for December 2008 to Councillors. He gave out the first edition of a Newsletter which covered the area including Aberford and said this would be hand-delivered around the villages. If people were at home they would be asked for any comments/information on any local policing matters. There had been some thefts from outbuildings in the area and Farmwatch was alert for anything out of the ordinary. People were urged to contact the local Wetherby number as small pieces of information often helped when put together to apprehend thieves. Cllr Hancock asked for an anti-speeding exercise to be carried out when possible as motorists had become used to the illuminated signs and speeds were creeping up.

A member of the public asked for clarification of how the Police dealt with those caught with a small amount of illegal drug and PCSO Sillers replied. Chairman thanked PCSO Sillers for his attendance and report.

### **09/04 MATTERS ARISING**

- (a) Referring to Minute 08/112(b) Parish Plan – Cllr Gluck reported on this matter having discussed it with one of LCC's Officers for the NE Outer Area he said that an application could be made for a small grant to cover any consultation exercise/publicity etc. The next stage would be to put together projects to put before residents and he proposed, with the consent of Cllrs., to invite Mr L Toone and Mr T. Archer to help him move forward. Mr Toone had helped with the original Parish Plan. Cllrs. were all in favour.
- (b) Referring to Minute 08/112(c) Dog Fouling on Approach to Triumphal Arch – Chairman had spoken with Mr Holiday from 'the estate' – Clerk instructed to organise a suitable Notice asking dog owners not to allow their animal to foul the grass verges.
- (c) Referring to Minute 08/112(d) War Memorial – The Chairman was to meet someone from LCC Lawnswood Crematorium as Leeds Council were responsible for Aberford Memorial. The Memorial could be re-lettered and cleaned as necessary, it was thought at no cost to the Parish Council, but some monetary help might be given if necessary.
- (d) Referring to Minute 08/112(g) Street Lights – a meeting had been held with Mr Brummitt from the contractors SEC and Mr Moore from LCC. A plan for Main Street was awaited. Due to the large number of lights required and the cost of £1000 per light to have 'heritage style' standards, Councillors decided it was not right to commit such a large sum for this purpose. It was felt the cost of painting the standards black, at £30 each could be financed by the P.C. and, when repainting was required, this would be at no cost to the P.C. It was agreed to ask for 2 extra lights at the north end due to extended housing in that area.

Cllr. Stainton reported that LCC Highways Dept were prepared to extend the zigzag markings at the bottom of School Lane as far as the Church steps. Existing markings would be replaced with words to the effect of 'School/Keep Clear'. The work would take about 6 weeks and, on completion, the area should remain completely clear. Any parents stopping in that area to drop off/collect would be warned etc by Police as necessary. Cllrs. were glad to note there was now a Crossing Person.

- (e) Referring to Minute 08/112(h) Footpath to Lotherton Hall – The footpath had not yet received attention. After discussion it was agreed to ask Highways Dept. to take out the grass edges of the footpath and lay a hard surface to enable motorised wheelchairs etc to reach Lotherton Hall.
- (f) Referring to Minute 08/112(i) Cllr Alderson reported that LCC Legal Dept. (Mr David Varley) had organised a meeting between their Education and Leisure Depts. The outcome of which was the Legal Dept. were to contact the local resident to see if a way could be found to get access into the school field.

The Chairman reported on a meeting he and Cllr. Stainton had had with Mr Holiday of 'the estate'. They had obtained agreement that a strip of land, running from Beech View alongside the Bowling Club south fence, would be given to the Parish Council free of charge to form a pedestrian access to the field/tennis court area. Trees would be cleared by 'the estate'. Additionally when the Woodman formed a track to extract the felled trees, permission had been given for machinery to use the track to do all necessary work on the school field/tennis courts. The Chairman was to obtain a letter from 'the estate' setting out this agreement and Cllr. Stainton would send an email to Cllr Alderson about this arrangement so he could inform the school.

- (g) Referring to Minute 08/112(j) Manhole Covers Kingfisher Lane – Clerk had been chasing but gulley lids not yet reinstated – further chasing would be done and Ward Councillor would be asked for help.
- (h) Referring to Minute 08/113(8) – Forthcoming Conference for Parish and Town Councillors and Clerks. Cllrs. authorised the Clerk to attend if she was able to do so, together with any interested Councillor and the cost per person was noted and authorised as necessary.
- (i) Referring to Minute 08/116(b) – Damaged Bushes Play Area Swings. The cost of replacing bushes plus labour by Parkdale Play & Leisure was agreed by Councillors – Clerk to issue instruction to Parkdale. The maintenance warranty did not cover these bushes.
- (j) Referring to Minute 08/116(c) - Hole at North End near Speed Sign – not yet filled in and Yorkshire Water were disputing they were responsible. Clerk to investigate further.
- (k) Referring to Minute 08/116(d) - Vegetation over footpath between Highfield

and Becca Lane – the Chairman had been unable to contact the owner but continuing efforts would be made by Cllrs. Howson/Hancock.

- (l) Referring to Minute 08/117(a) – Parking at St Johns Garth – Mr Lyttle had not reported back to the PC. A member of the public later expressed his concerns that action had not been taken on behalf a disabled resident in that area and urged the PC to do what it could to progress matters.
- (m) Referring to Minute 08/117(d) Pond off Field Lane. The Chairman had spoken to the landowner who said nothing further could be done until the land dried up to allow machinery access. Cllr. Mrs Broadly pointed out that the land was privately owned like residents' gardens, although visible from Field Lane and it was outside the Parish Council's remit.
- (n) Referring to Minute 08/117(g) – Litter in hedges around the Area – A one-off litter pick had been agreed to by LCC and orders had been issued for this.

### **09/05 REPORTS FROM SUB-COMMITTEES**

- (a) Referring to Minute 08/112(b) Parish Plan Review – Cllr. Gluck reported the first part of the Plan had been completed and he could email it to colleagues if they wanted to see it. With regard to an exchange of emails amongst local Parish Councils about Regional Spatial Strategy impact on future housing, this would be discussed at the forthcoming LCC NE Outer Area Forum. Cllr. Gluck was aware of the issues and would report back as necessary. He would also report on any funding for Christmas lights after the January meeting.

Cllr Gluck was involved with Janet Thornton of East Keswick P.C. in trying to set up an Action Group for our Ward to address what everyone could do to help to combat climate change. The Group would hope to form a network of people interested in getting involved at grassroots level and a Public Meeting was to be held in March at Wetherby Town Hall. The aim was to make the Leeds city and surrounding areas more resilient to future effects of climate Chang. Cllrs. would be kept informed and an item could be included in the forthcoming Newsletter.

### **09/06 CORRESPONDENCE**

1. LCC Democratic Services Jan – March 2009 various workshops – Clerk has details.
2. There has been an exchange of emails re Regional Spatial Strategy – sent to Councillors Stainton and Gluck. Also a copy email received from S Wood, Clerk to Thorner to a Harriet Fisher Policy Officer of Yorkshire & Humber Assembly on same subject again copied to Councillors Stainton and Gluck.
3. Yorks Local Council Assn Schedule of Meetings for 2009 with Clerk. Next one for Leeds will be Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30p.m. in Civic Centre. Clerk has documents if anyone wants to attend.
4. Email from Janet Thornton, Clerk to East Keswick, asking the P.C. to include a short item on any Newsletter we put out re 'Climate Change Initiative' – Cllr Gluck involved in this.

## **09/07 PLANNING MATTERS**

### **(a) Applications**

Number 08/06753/FU/HE – 27 Greystones Close: increase in roof height and dormer windows to front and rear. Cllrs had objected to this application on the grounds of creating a house from a bungalow, of a design out of character with the surroundings. A detailed letter had been sent to Planners.

Number 08/06877/FU/HE – Access Point Aberford Road into Newhold site  
Councillors had no objection to this proposal. With regard to the actual site itself Cllr Forster felt the P.C. could only comment on the proposed screening at this moment in time. The high use of Mountain Ash which shed its leaves for several months of the year left the site exposed, particularly from the nearby motorway. Cllr Stainton said the PC should press for some evergreen planting on the site.

Number 09/00029/FU/HE – F/F Side Extension and Porch to front 17 High Field Road – Cllrs. had no objection.

### **(b) Decisions**

The disabled access ramp to Jessamine Surgery Main Street was approved.

## **09/08 ACCOUNTS**

(a) Cheque number 100217 in the sum of £116.66 for Clerk's salary was approved and issued.

(b) The sums in hand were:

In Community a/c	£ 4,115.18
In Money Mngmt (1)	£25,641.91
In Money Mngmt (2)	£78,793.25

(c) Councillors had been given information prior to the meeting about opening a second Bank account to deposit some funds in order to spread the PC's exposure to risk. Resolved to open an account with Barclays Bank and to transfer £40,000 (forty thousand pounds) from the Money Management Account (2) into the new account. Resolved that the signatories to the new Account would be two of any of Councillors David Howson, David Gluck, Paul Hancock and David Stainton. Clerk was instructed to make all necessary arrangements.

## **09/09 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

(a) Prior to the meeting, Cllrs. had been circulated with a list of old Council Records with a recommendation from the Clerk that these be deposited with LCC's Archives Dept. Material would be on permanent loan to the Archives and as such ownership would remain with the P.C. and it could be retrieved if necessary to consult records in the future. Cllrs. agreed to recommendation.

(b) Referring to Item 08/117(c) Possible Youth Group/Village Hall – A member of the public present who was on the Village Hall Committee reported some progress had been made. The Hall Committee were seeking to work with Mrs

Street although there were several matters to agree on. She had not yet been formally written to by the Committee but every effort was being made to lend support to her plans. The next Committee meeting would be in about 4 weeks when there might be more to report. Cllrs asked to be kept informed.

- (c) Cllr Hancock reported some damage to railings at Pump Hill. The Chairman said he would speak to the horse owners who had tethered their animals there, arrange for the fencing to be repaired and either have a rail which could not be chewed or treat the wood with a substance to deter the horses from chewing it.

### **09/10 OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

- (a) Some members of the public present made themselves known to the PC as wanting to become involved in any 'In Bloom' Group formed for the village. Their names and contact details were taken and Clerk asked to put a Notice on the village noticeboard to see if others wanted to help. Cllrs. Hancock and Forster would take forward and the Horticultural Society Committee would be informed and asked if anyone from the Society wanted to get involved.
- (b) A member of the public mentioned the state of a village seat at Cattle Lane/Beech View and volunteered to assist the Chairman in putting in a spare seat. He was thanked for his kind offer.
- (c) The 'hit and miss' notification of planning applications was discussed. There seemed to be two methods – by notice on a nearby lamppost or in a local newspaper. Both methods applied within the conservation area. However neighbours were also written to in some cases. Cllrs. to monitor.
- (d) A resident expressed his pleasure at the progress on several matters which the PC had made in recent months. Hopefully, due to an access being agreed into the School Field, the tennis courts could be brought into use and facilities for young people might be achieved. The PC Website was also much appreciated. Cllrs. appreciated the kind comments.
- (e) A letter was handed to the PC from a member of the Village Hall Committee - to be kept on file.

### **09/11 CLOSE OF MEETING**

There being no further business the Chairman thanked everyone present 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](http://www.aberfordonline.com) or from the Clerk.