

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 21ST JULY 2009

MINUTES of a meeting of the Parish council held on Tuesday 21st July 2009 in the Methodist chapel.

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

Apologies were received from Cllr D. Gluck but his email communication was received too late for the Clerk to present to the meeting.

Also Present: 12 members of the public, 2 Police Officers and Clerk

09/59 MINUTES

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday 16th June 2009 had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was proposed by Cllr Forster and seconded by Cllr Hancock that these were a true record. This was agreed. Before the meeting proper began, the Chairman said he would like to express his sympathy on behalf of the Parish Council at the sad news of the death of Mrs Joyce Fisher in a car accident. Mr Fisher had given years of service to the community in many ways and everyone's thoughts were with him at this difficult time.

09/60 POLICE MATTERS

The Chairman, Cllrs Hancock and Forster had been to 3 meetings since the last PC meeting. The police had arrested people who were recently thought to have committed burglaries around the village. Over the last month there had just been one theft. On the weekend of 11th/12th July PC Katkowski and PCSO Wales and held a session of marking up of bikes. Over 20 children had bikes marked. A request was made that the police should pursue getting white lines around the area of Cattle Lane/Main Street/Swan Hotel. Traffic Section had been asked to pursue the problem of the large horsebox parked often on the wrong side of the road but the Officers present confirmed they would now also do this. The Chairman said that the N.E. Leeds Outer Committee had agreed to pay for another speed camera to help the police who presently only had two for our area.

09/61 MATTERS ARISING

(a) Referring to Minute 09/51 Cleansing Cllr Stainton had been informed the 'Delitterer' person worked every Thursday doing manual litter-picking. His hours were constrained by his 'clocking on' at 7.30am. then being brought from the depot in Cross Green along with other workers being dropped off at various points. When he finally arrived in the village he had to be collected to be back at the depot for 3.15p.m. The hours between therefore were those available for him to actually work around the village. The PC could request special attention to areas and Cllr Stainton had mentioned from the top of the village towards Bramham crossroads. The road sweeping was done by a mechanical sweeper and Cleansing had offered a meeting to talk about this. Cllr Stainton said the parked cars at weekends made the sweeping ineffective and litter collected in the verges.

LCC stated there was no money to provide litter bins – albeit there were 3 places where damaged bins had been removed but not replaced. Cllr Forster felt this was something to bring up at the N.E. Outer Area Committee meeting. Cllr Alderson wanted it emphasised the PC did not have a large amount of money available – the large balance in hand was for capital spending only and earmarked for the school field/tennis courts project which was progressing. Cllr Forster said that a special gang had to be sent out to clear vegetation from footpaths but he had been told that LCC did not have the money at the moment to do this either. The PC would continue to press for the standard of service the village was entitled to receive.

(b) Referring to Minute 09/51(b) War Memorial – Chairman was chasing and had been promised two quotations.

(c) Referring to Minute 09/51(c) Streetlights – a finalised plan had only just been received from SEC for Councillors to examine, following an onsite meeting to iron out problems and issues raised by one or two residents. LCC had agreed that SEC provide one or two extra lights at the north end where development had taken place at no cost to the PC. The tall lights at the bottom of Cattle Lane would be lowered. The PC had decided to have some 'heritage style' streetlamps from approximately the bottom of School Lane through Main Street to the top of Pump Hill by the old postbox. This would be at a considerable cost as each light would be £900 plus an extra sum for appropriate hanging basket brackets as necessary. Around 12/13 lights would be required.

(d) Referring to Minute 09/51(d) School Field – the latest information from LCC was that they were starting to process the handing over of the land to the PC and there would be contact from their Legal Department shortly. Cllr Alderson said that the Legal Department were still attempting to get an amicable agreement for access for the school children into the school field area.

(e) Referring to Minute 09/51(e) School litter-poster campaign. Cllr Alderson reported this had been a great success with children producing many good posters. Several had been kindly printed and laminated by Mr D. Storr and it was hoped to put up several around the village. The prizes of book tokens had been purchased and presented to the winners.

(f) Referring to Minute 09/51(f) CCTV – the Chairman referred to the meeting he and Cllrs Forster and Hancock had attended recently. Many matters were discussed amongst which the funding of CCTV cameras was raised. Cllrs Castle and Shelbrooke were present and the PC representatives had talked with them. Cllr Shelbrooke had indicated the possibility of LCC paying for 2/3 heritage style lamps. Cllr Forster showed the meeting a leaflet about door locks which had been produced by CASAC Leeds, a scheme funded by the Home Office - 'Community Action and Support Against Crime'. A free security assessment was available and locks could be fitted by the organisation whose profits all go to charity. The address and telephone number being: 0113 3805641 / 233-237 Roundhay Road Resource Centre, Harehills, Leeds LS8 4HS.

(g) Referring to Minute 09/51(g) Cattle Lane Speed Sign – PC trying to prove that the site of the original 30mph sign was further back towards Folly Corner. Cllr Stainton had requested sight of old plans in an effort to convince LCC. A flashing warning sign would need to be positioned further back from the village – later a resident urged this be pursued as very fast traffic came down the hilly Cattle Lane just before the junction with Main Street where a private well-used lane exited into

Cattle Lane. There had been some 'near misses' at this point when residents were exiting from the private lane.

(h) Referring to Minute 09/51(h) Humphreydale cottage – the LCC Compliance Officer, via email, stated the owner was applying for retrospective planning which he was within his rights to do. In the meantime the developer was to make the roof watertight to allow internal works to proceed but the owner had been made aware that any further works were at his own risk.

(i) Referring to Minute 09/51(j) Play Area – Bushes for swings were on order.

(j) Referring to Minute 09/51(k) Noticeboards – to be dealt with.

(k) Referring to Minute 09/51(n) Leeds Festival Tickets – Cllr Broadley had sold all the tickets but found there were, in fact, 10 more available which she had been given extra time to sell. She was continuing to deal with this. Cllr Stainton suggested that the money raised should be allocated towards the cost of Christmas lights.

(l) Referring to Minute 09/51(o) Pump Hill – a meeting was still to be held with Mr Robinson from LCC Parks Dept about the possibility of improved fencing.

(m) Referring to Minute 09/51(s) Surface Water Drainage north end – the gully cleansing machine had been around the village but a meeting was still to be arranged to discuss the general north end drainage in the area of Pinfold Rise.

(n) Referring to Minute 09/56(c) Rats outside Royal Oak – this problem seemed to have been overcome.

(o) Referring to Minute 09/56(d) Overgrown vegetation between the Royal Oak and cottages – this had been cut back via Mrs Fawcett and Mr Richmond.

(p) Referring to Minute 09/57(a) Parking near Swan Hotel – as reported under Police Matters, the PC would pursue having white lines. LCC Highways Dept had declined to put yellow lines on the grounds of no evidence of being a particular blackspot for accidents and limited funds but they did recognise that there was a problem in that area as per their email response to the Clerk which had been circulated to Cllrs. prior to the meeting.

(q) Referring to Minute 09/57(b) Culvert near Play Area – the cover had been replaced.

09/62 REPORTS FROM SUB-COMMITTEES

In the absence of Cllr Gluck there was nothing further at this time on the Parish Plan.

The Aberford in Bloom Group had continued to work around the village. An application form for a grant had been received which would be discussed under Accounts.

09/63 CORRESPONDENCE

(a) The Clerk had information from GrantScape about the money available under the Caird Bardon Community programme. The next deadline for applicants would be the 16th November 2009. This information may additionally be of interest to the Village Hall Committee.

(b) A copy letter about the proposed Hook Moor Wind turbines was put on file by the Chairman. He had attended a meeting, which he had only been notified about the previous evening, of members of LCC on site. Many objections such as those from Ward Councillors, Colin Burgon M.P. and Micklefield/Aberford PCs and the Action Group had not been mentioned in the Public Response and Consultation section of

'the report'. A request was made in the letter for the objections to be fully recorded if the application returned to the Plans Panel. The Chairman said he understood that the Ministry of Defence, and others with nearby airfields, had objected to the turbines on the grounds they would interfere with flight operations and he thought this would carry a lot of weight in deliberations.

(c) The NE Outer Area Committee meeting document pack was with the Clerk. This was held on 6th July preceded by the Police meeting recorded earlier. Cllr Forster had several comments arising from that meeting having gone through the document pack which was very time-consuming but was of interest in many ways. The lack of grants to Aberford as opposed to many other villages was noticeable for many types of schemes. He stated that it was his intention this year to strive for a proper budget to see what could be applied for from the Area Committee/other bodies/even the Police for next year. Information should be collated via the Clerk to put before the PC in, say, November. Such items as tennis courts/play area/speed sign/extra brackets on lamps additional to existing ones/CCTV/watering of hanging baskets were items which needed to be built into the budget and for which grant monies might be pursued. Cllrs should think about what items to be put into the budget. The Police were a source of funding, for example, from their proceeds of crime monies. Cllr Forster had learned that Aberford Albion Juniors had received a grant via the East Leeds Area Committee and not from the relevant NE Outer Area Committee which covered our area which was strange given that the ground and clubhouse were in Aberford. Cllr Alderson thanked Cllr Forster for his efforts and said it was a shame that if funds had been available the PC had failed to apply for them.

(d) Letter from LCC Environmental Services with information on annual competition for groups etc., who had been involved in community improvement – possibly of interest to Aberford in Bloom – Clerk to pass to them.

(e) LCC Standards Committee minutes of April meeting with Clerk for info.

09/64 PLANNING

Decisions

Application P/09/01977/FU – Single storey extn to Ash Tree House, Cattle Lane had been Refused – LCC felt it would have a detrimental impact on neighbouring property in terms of over-dominance and loss of outlook.

Applications

(a) Application P/09/01580/FU/HE – Det dbl garage and wkshop 5 Graystones Close. This was a revised application and Councillors had no objection but the rainwater runoff arrangement should be checked to make sure it did not impinge on the neighbouring property.

(b) Application P/09/02819/FU/HE – Extn to Barn on land opp. Lotherton Farm, Lotherton Lane (Silver Hills). Cllrs had not had time to study this application – a response would be given when this had been done.

09/65 ACCOUNTS

(a) The Clerk reported the current balances which were:

In HSBC current a/c	£1,648.19
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In HSBC no 1 Hi Int a/c	£32,653.79
In HSBC no 2 Hi Int a/c	£38,816.58
In Barclays Bank Bond	£40,000.00

Note: £78,816.58 of this sum can be spent only on capital projects and is earmarked for the school field/tennis court area.

(b) A satisfactory application for money from the annual Grant Fund having been submitted by Ref Fray, cheque number 100234 in the sum of £910.00 for work done on vegetation in the Church graveyard was agreed and issued to ICS Tree Services.

(c) A satisfactory application for money from the annual Grant Fund having been submitted by the Aberford in Bloom Group, cheque number 100235 in the sum of £1000 was agreed and issued.

(d) Cheque number 100236 for £70.00 was agreed and issued to Cllr R. Alderson to reimburse him for the purchase of Book Tokens for the school poster competition.

(e) Cheque number 100237 for £100.00 was agreed and issued to J. Wood for work on Pump Hill.

(f) Cheque number 100238 for £116.66 was agreed and issued for Clerk's remuneration.

09/66 MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

(a) Cllr Forster said that, when the grass cutting contract came up for renewal in 12 months time, the P.C. should object as it has not been satisfactory. He asked if there was a Parish Council Forum and if Aberford P.C. was part of this. Clerk to investigate.

(b) Cllr Alderson reported that the verge outside 7 Lotherton Lane had not been cut for certainly 12/18 months. Clerk to report. He had reported a problem on behalf of a resident of an overgrowing tree from Council-owned property – Clerk dealing.

(c) Cllr Hancock reported on advertising signs having appeared on the grass verges at the south end of the village. Although these were 'tasteful' they might lead to proliferation of such signs. Clerk to deal. A tree at the junction of Highfields and Abbots Close needed to be 'lopped' to prevent youngsters climbing and possibly having an accident. Clerk to deal.

(d) The Chairman said that Mrs R. Reed, the ex Clerk, had indicated her willingness to serve as a Councillor and he would like to propose that she be co-opted. This was unanimously carried and the Clerk was asked to complete the formalities required.

09/67 OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Earlier in the meeting the Chairman said that he would ask, from the next meeting, that if any members of the public had more than one question or multiple points to make, they should be put in writing and given to the Clerk 2/3 days in advance of the meeting. This would both shorten the meeting and let Councillors research and be better prepared at the meeting. He stressed that everyone was very welcome at the meeting.

(a) Consultations between Mrs Street about the Youth Group and the Village Hall Committee were still ongoing. Mrs Street continued to receive support from various sources – Cllr Shelbrooke had been prepared to give a grant of £500 towards arts and crafts. Cllrs awaited a completed Grant application form and had studied the

preliminary request from Mrs Street. Nothing further could be done until agreement had been reached between the Village Hall Committee and Mrs Street.

(c) The untidy state of the meadow area next to the bridge in Main Street was mentioned – the Chairman undertook to speak to the secretary of the group which owned the area. Given the efforts being made by the Aberford in Bloom Group, it was important.

(d) Money for Christmas lights was mentioned – Barwick in Elmet was said to have obtained money from a 'Wellbeing Fund' – Cllr Gluck a while ago had spoken of attending a meeting at which he would mention this. Noted

(e) A large wooden sign, on a concrete base, had been erected at the Hook Moor junction – this needed to be reported to Highways and Cllr Broadley indicated she would see what she could do to have it removed.

(f) The problem of nettles growing on the footpath leading to school at the side of the Methodist Chapel was mentioned. The grass cutting team had declined to cut them saying it was not on their schedule – Clerk to pursue with Parks and Countryside.

09/68 CLOSE OF MEETING

There being no further business the Chairman thanked everyone present before closing the meeting at 9.40p.m.

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