

ABERFORD & DISTRICT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 15th June 2010 at 7.30pm in the school.

PRESENT: Cllrs D.Howson (Chairman), Mrs G. Broadley, I. Forster, D. Gluck, P. Hancock, Mrs R. Reed, Mrs A. Roberts, D. Stainton.

Apologies were received from Cllr R. Alderson.

Also Present: 8 members of the public, 2 police representatives and the Clerk.

10/167 MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting, held on 18th May 2010, had been circulated to Cllrs. prior to the meeting. Cllr Stainton pointed out that the Attendance Record had not been included for the previous year and asked that this be rectified. Subject to this alteration he proposed that the Minutes be approved. This was seconded by Cllr Mrs Reed and unanimously agreed.

10/168 MATTERS ARISING

Minute 10/9 (on Annual Minutes) - Dealing with Media/Press - discussion resulted in the Clerk being asked to contact Wetherby News and have a preliminary talk about the sort of information they might like to be given from time to time. For instance they could be given the 'bullet points' which were put onto the PC website after each meeting. As the Master Plan progressed, for instance, this might be a topic of interest to them.

10/169 MINUTES OF LAST ORDINARY MEETING

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday 18th May 2010 had been circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting. It was proposed by Cllr Stainton and seconded by Cllr Hancock that these be accepted as a true record. This was agreed.

10/170 POLICE MATTERS

The two Officers present reported that one or two farms had been broken into and thieves had broken padlocks by means of freezing and then shattering them. They said the best defence was to have CCTV and a company was willing to supply this to farmers at a discount and farmers were being given this information.

The Chairman had been informed that, due to financial constraints, The W.Y. Police at Wetherby would have to reduce the monthly attendance of Officers at the PC meetings. Officers would attend 4 times a year only but information would be communicated to the PC regularly as at the moment. However, a six month trial of 'PACT' meetings was to take place whereby people from the villages of Aberford/Barwick/Thorner/Scholes and Scarcroft would be given the opportunity to attend a 'surgery' with an Officer. It was proposed to have these surgeries on a 6 week basis and Aberford was the preferred location. Help was asked of the PC to suggest a suitable location and some dates had been suggested which were on Fridays but arrangements were flexible.

Cllrs. discussed this and decided to suggest that such meetings could take place on an 8 week rotation, to coincide with the PC meetings, taking place to start at 7.00pm as they were anticipated to take around half an hour. In this way the two sorts of meetings might be combined.

10/171 MATTERS ARISING

(a) Minute 10/159(a) Parish Footpaths – the LCC Footpaths officer advised that the work of erecting barriers on the Field Lane footpath should be done within the next couple of months.

She asked if the PC wanted to get a local contractor to do the job under the Parish Partnership Project but Cllr Stainton pointed out that the PC had never had a signed copy of that agreement back from LCC. Cllrs felt the job should be left in the hands of LCC Footpaths. The report arising out of the recent walk-over should be with the PC by the end of June.

(b) Minute 10/159(b) War Memorial – due to LCC not taking this matter forward/funding, Cllrs asked the Clerk to contact a company to survey the Memorial and provide an estimate to the PC for the work.

(c) Minute 10/159(c) Streetlights – the main body of work had been completed. The lights on Cattle Lane were still to be moved and the old light on the bridge removed and a new one erected there. The Clerk had sent details of the joint owners of the land next to the bridge to SEC asking them to progress the matter direct – several of the owners had indicated they were willing to have a light on their land but others had not replied to the resident who had been trying to contact them. There had been a good response to sponsorship and most of the money had already been received. Baskets were being erected. Remaining problems would be chased up.

(d) Minute 10/159(d) School Field – the Chairman was organising the cutting of School Field prior to sports day. Information from the Agent to the Estate was that certain high level discussions between them and LCC was stalled due to the economic situation at the moment. In view of this Cllrs decided to resume the approach to the Estate for a footpath access into the area together with a temporary vehicular access which would allow clearance of the area in October. Following that it was hoped to resume negotiations to improve facilities there.

(e) Minute 10/159(f) Vegetation Clearance Cock Beck – the Environment Agency had stated they had not contacted the owner of the land at the far side of the motorway as they could not carry out tree felling until September. However Cllr Howson said that there was ‘dredging’ work additionally which could have been done and it was not known if the Agency had contacted the Motorway Agency about debris under the road which was that Agency’s responsibility. This would be progressed.

(f) Minute 10/159(i) Royal Oak – although neither Enterprise Inns nor the LCC Enforcement Officer had contacted the Clerk, it did appear that some tidying up work had been carried out at the pub and much effort had been made in the garden areas. The rear area had improved but the situation would be monitored.

(g) Minute 10/159(j) Village Seats – ongoing.

(h) Minute 10/159(l) Lotherton Lodge – the Chairman reported that he believed LCC were allowing an elderly couple to rent the Lodge in return for vacating a property which formed part of others that LCC wanted to demolish. He believed LCC were not selling it at this time. The situation would be monitored.

(i) Minute 10/159(n) Lines Swan Hotel – LCC Traffic Management said that the lines were always intended to be yellow as they felt them to be most appropriate to deter motorists where there was no regular enforcement possible. Cllrs felt the lines were being respected and the situation would be monitored.

(j) Minute 10/160(d) Aberford in Bloom – Cllr Hancock reported the group wanted to work on 4 more areas – Lotherton Lane, the Fly Line/Main Street, Cattle Lane/Beech View and either side of the Bus Stop in Cattle Lane. The area around the Bus Shelter was discussed and Cllrs wanted the Spring bulbs to go back in those areas they had been when the time came rather than discarded. Some free plants had been offered to the Group by LCC to arrive shortly. The Clerk was asked to request the Swan Hotel to cut back the overhanging vegetation behind the Bus Shelter to help the Group. Much work had been done on Pump Hill and the 2 beds at either end of the village which the PC greatly appreciated. The application for a grant would be discussed later in the meeting.

(k) Minute 10/162(a) Application P/10/001796/FU/HE – Form house from bungalow 13 Haverthwaites Drive – this had arrived just prior to the meeting and Cllrs had been to view the property in between meetings and a reply had been sent to Planners.

(l) Minute 10/165(d) Barclays Bank Charges – despite a follow up letter having been sent, no reply had been received. A further letter to be sent.

(m) Minute 10/165(e) Cllr Forster, as RFO, had circulated Cllrs with details of the more formal Contract of Employment for the Clerk and recommendations concerning salary. Cllrs were satisfied with these details and agreed that the Contract should be adopted and the salary level adjusted in accordance with NALC scale rates.

(n) Minute 10/163 Instructions(a) – Christmas Lights – the Chairman was to have a meeting with LCC Lights on 16th June to discuss this and would report at the next meeting.

(o) Minute 10/163 Instructions(b) – Play Area – an inspection had been carried out and everything was generally in good order. One or two minor points had been made and these would be acted on. Clarification of one point was needed – Clerk to deal. Cllr Gluck was investigating getting some matching paint to touch up a few areas which were showing small signs of rust.

(p) Minute 10/164(a) Overgrown Vegetation Cattle Lane – Clerk to deal.

(q) Minute 10/165(a) School Summer Gala – the Chairman drew attention to the invitation to all Councillors from the Gala Committee and hoped that many could attend. Cllr Gluck was to have a table to display what he could of the Master Plan proposals and invite comments.

10/172 REPORTS FROM SUB-COMMITTEES

(a) Master Plan

Cllr Gluck reported having had a good first meeting. The LCC Community Planning Officer, Sara Helliwell, and the Conservation Area Manager, Matt Bentley, had been helpful. Mr Bentley had brought examples of the results of the conservation exercise undertaken at Barwick and would shortly contact the PC to do an exercise for Aberford. It was felt that Cllr Howson would be the best person to accompany Mr Bentley. Cllr Gluck was to meet with Amanda Kent of Rural Action Yorkshire concerning their grant of £3000 and to discuss other funding and the sort of help they could give. Mr Lyttle who worked for LCC Environment Agency covering the south end of the village was keen to get involved. As matters developed certain Cllrs and others on the sub-committee would take up certain specific issues. The LCC N.E. Area Committee had promised a grant of £5000 and it might be that the Prudential

Insurance ('the Estate') would contribute as they had a charitable giving arm. Another source of funding might be through the European fund.

In order to access further funding, Cllr Gluck asked if the PC would commit to £2000 'draw down' money which would make up a figure of £10,000 pledged and this figure should be attractive to encourage further funding from various sources. The figure of £2000 would not be needed to put into the separate account immediately but to draw on as and when necessary over the next year. A separate account had yet to be opened but Cllr Gluck had received details from the Clerk. Cllrs agreed on this arrangement with the Clerk to liaise on paperwork for audit purposes.

The Master Plan would produce a finished document which would be read in conjunction with LCC's own citywide plans they were working on and their plans for the area to this side of Leeds. It would provide a kind of blueprint whenever planning issues came up such as when the PC was looking at plans for the Parish. New applications, for instance, within the Conservation Area would be looked at relative to the village Master Plan.

(b) LeedsFest Tickets

Cllr Mrs Broadley had given the money collected so far to the Clerk and reported there were still 3 tickets left through back-word being given. She would redraw from the remaining names and re-offer the tickets. The remaining task was to collect the tickets in August and distribute them. She intended to ask everyone to come at one time to simplify this task. The Chairman thanked sub-committee colleagues for their efforts.

10/173 CORRESPONDENCE

(a) The Rural Action Yorkshire newsletter was passed to Cllr Gluck. Their website also contained information about grants for rural projects which could be of interest to village organisations seeking funds – such as the Village Hall.

(b) LCC Education Lettings had written indicating they were looking at charging organisations who were not presently charged, for using school premises. It was possible that some charges might be introduced for the current academic year.

(c) The Ward Councillors had also written indicating funding would be very tight this year – however the PC had managed to secure a promise of funds for the Master Plan.

(d) A copy letter had been received from a resident who was very angry about the overnight noise nuisance experienced recently by some residents from a Leeds University event held at Lotherton Hall. It was known that some other residents had contacted the Noise Abatement Department of LCC on the night in question. The Clerk had already replied informing the resident that the PC was taking action. The LCC Events Manager had been contacted and Cllr Roberts was to ask for someone to come to the next PC meeting to discuss matters.

(e) A letter had been received from BTCV – a company able to carry out various tasks like construction of footpaths etc. This to be kept on file.

10/174 PLANNING

The Clerk informed Cllrs that decisions would not now be notified to PCs in writing but it would be necessary to access the Planning Portal website to obtain these.

Applications

(a) Application P/10/02283/FU/HE – First floor front Extn School House, School Lane, Aberford – the PC had no objection.

(b) Application P/10/02184/FU – Extensions to 'Forget Me Not' Cottage, 1 Lotherton Lane, Aberford – whilst the PC had no objection as such, Cllr Stainton commented that as the

property was at right angles to another on Main Street it might mean that a view from a first floor window of the Main Street property would be affected. Presumably the latter householder had had the opportunity comment.

(c) Application P/10/02420/FU/HE – 2 Storey Office & Steel fabrication Bldg with associated landscaping and parking – Ash Lane, Garforth. This application was passed to Cllr Forster for his initial assessment and comments.

(d) Application P/10/02274/FU/NE – Biomass Power Plant – Warren Lane, Bramham. This application, whilst out of the Parish boundary, had been brought to the attention of the PC by Cllr Gluck. The Clerk had contacted Bramham PC and their Briefing Note for their Councillors had been circulated to Cllrs. Bramham PC was contacting Tadcaster and Selby Councils and Tadcaster Grammar school and residents along the Aberford Road at Tadcaster. The PC had concerns about this proposal such as access, residue from the chimney, air quality, green belt etc., Comments would be sent to the City Council.

Decisions

(a) Application P/10/01173/FU – Conservatory to rear 5 Woodbridge Avenue, Garforth - Approved.

(b) Application P/10/00916/EXT – Time extension to development at Newhold, Aberford Road, Garforth – Approved.

(c) Application P/10/01428/FU – Dormer window rear 5 Raper View, Aberford – Approved.

10/175 ACCOUNTS

The Clerk reported that it seemed the audited accounts were ‘going through’ satisfactorily this year with just one query so far as to the large balances still remaining. This query had been answered (earmarked for School field).

There were pledges so far for 1 double and 11 single Hanging Baskets and most of the money had already been received.

Balances

In HSBC current account	£ 1,482.89
In HSBC No 1 Int. a/c	£32,168.57
In HSBC No 2 Int a/c	£38,836.91
In Barclays Bank c/a	£ 473.30
In Barclays Bank Bond	£40,000.00

No reply had yet been received to the 2 letters to Barclays Bank concerning the account charges and a reminder would be sent.

To Pay

(a) Cheque number 100270, in the sum of £150.00, was agreed and issued to Zebra Print for the Newsletter printing costs.

(b) Cheque number 100271, in the sum of £93.48, was agreed and issued to Yorkshire Local Councils Association for audit costs.

(c) Cheque number 100272, in the sum of £35.00, was agreed and issued to Rural Action Yorkshire for annual subscription.

(d) Cheque number 100273, in the sum of £60.00, was agreed and issued to Leeds City Council, for the Play Area inspection fee.

(e) Cheque number 100274, in the sum of £190.17, was agreed and issued to the Clerk for salary and office supplies costs.

Application for a Grant

The Aberford in Bloom Group had applied for a grant of £1000 to help towards their efforts. Cllrs discussed this and decided that, rather than handing over a lump sum, the amount of £1000 would be offered to be 'drawn down' over the next 12 months. The Group, subject to satisfactory arrangements with the Clerk, would be able to draw on this money – for instance if they wished to purchase some gardening equipment. The Clerk was asked to liaise with the Group over arrangements.

10/176 MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

(a) Cllr Forster was taking up the matter of grass left on the main road from Garforth to Aberford after cutting and the lack of attention to cutting around his end of the Parish.

(b) Cllr Forster continued to push for a review of the Parish boundary with regard to the Garforth end of the Parish.

(c) The Chairman was waiting for a letter from the City Council concerning the taking down of the trees at the Beck. Cllr Gluck had received one or two objections but the PC hoped that residents would understand this was on the advice of the Environment Agency. The PC would do some planting in the area to soften the impact of the removal of these self-sown trees.

10/177 OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

A member of the public, who was on the Village Hall Committee, made the PC aware of an Extraordinary General Meeting to be held on Monday 19th July. It was hoped that all those who had signed a petition calling for such a meeting would attend it and that some would offer to serve on the Hall Committee. Cllrs were glad of this update and would be interested in the outcome.

10/178 CLOSE OF MEETING

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for their presence and closed the meeting at 9.50pm.

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.