

ABERFORD & DISTRICT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 16th March 2010 in the school.

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

Apologies were received from Cllr R. Alderson.

Also present: Clerk and 6 members of the public

10/137 MINUTES

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday 16th February 2010 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.

10/138 POLICE MATTERS

Due to operational requirements, no police representatives were present.

10/139 MATTERS ARISING

(a) Minute 10/130(g) Parish Footpaths. The Chairman welcomed Rosie Watts, LCC Community Access Officer, to the meeting. She outlined the current situation in that she was now in a position to work with the PC to re-survey the footpaths and see what work was required. The City Council would retain legal liability over such paths. Ms Watts would let the Clerk have dates so a Councillor could walk the paths with her. She had been unable to find the survey report which Cllr Hancock had sent to her Department some time ago. Broken stiles were the responsibility of the landowner to repair but, in some cases, help could be given by her Department. Where an improved stile was installed then LCC could pay for the improvement. Ms Watts agreed to look into the broken 'kissing gate' at the end of Field Lane as horses and bikes were being ridden up and across the bridge over the motorway and much litter was building up in that area. She would make the Lotherton Hall Estate Manager aware that bikes and horses were being ridden on some footpaths within the estate to the detriment of walkers. The Chairman thanked Ms Watts for a productive discussion.

(b) Minute 10/130(a) War Memorial – ongoing

(c) Minute 10/130(b) Streetlights – to commence 22nd March having been slightly delayed due to Councillors wishing to have a final meeting before work started. It was still hoped to have Hanging Baskets on at least some of the lights this year and the Clerk was asked to liaise with LCC Nurseries and the Floral Initiative Officer, Richard Gill.

(d) Minutes 10/130(c) School Field – Mr Bradley from LCC Parks had met with the Chairman on site to discuss a tidy of the area. Unfortunately the cutting of hedges was not permitted after 1st March to safeguard nesting birds but Mr Bradley was able to programme in the work for October. The Chairman had also spoken to the new Agent for 'the Estate' who said that she was not able to progress negotiations for a pedestrian access/temporary machinery access at this time due to high level discussions going on between LCC and 'the

Estate'. However, the Chairman would continue to try to get permission for a temporary access for heavy machinery in place for October so that the tidy up could be undertaken. He felt sure the new Agent would do all she could to get this permission. This meant that the hoped-for upgrading of the area would not be taken forward for this summer which was a big disappointment after all the hard work so far by the PC but residents could still access it via the existing permissive footpath.

(e) Min 10/130(d) Speed Sign – nothing further. Later in the meeting a resident asked that this be progressed as soon as possible with LCC Highways as traffic did speed in this area.

(f) Min 10/130(f) Lotherton Lane – ongoing.

(g) Min 10/130(h) Footpath Makin Land – Cllr Forster said this was open at the A656 end but would be assessed when the forthcoming walk-over took place.

(h) Min 10/130(j) Cock Beck – A full walk-over had been undertaken by the Environment Agency representatives and the Chairman. They had indicated they would be carrying out a programme of work and a fallen tree upstream of the bridge in Main Street had already been cleared. The Chairman was to try to get permission from the land owner for machinery to enter onto his land to tidy up the Willow Garth area and widen the channel at that point. The Agency recommended that the trees growing at the side of the footbridge near the Play Area should be removed as they would impede the free flow of the Beck at this point. Cllrs felt this recommendation had to be acted on and the Chairman undertook to liaise with a person he knew who could do the work. He explained that this person worked for LCC Forestry Department and was able to complete the necessary forms to request permission from the relevant authorities and that a quotation would be obtained. Cllrs agreed with this course of action. Additionally the Environment Agency would request the Highways Agency to clear the debris underneath the motorway bridge as it was their responsibility.

(i) Min 10/130(k) Notice Board North End – A quotation from the same company who had supplied the Board on Pump Hill had been obtained and circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting. It was agreed that this should be accepted and the Clerk was instructed to order it and to make arrangements for a local handyman to erect this, which would involve the extra charge of his costs – also agreed.

(j) Min 10/130(l) LCC plans for Waste etc – Cllr Gluck had found nothing affecting the village in this document.

(k) Min 10/131 Reports from Sub-committees/Almshouse Trust – Cllr Stainton said the Trust was hoping to complete the roofing works in 2 stages and empty flats were being offered to those on the waiting list.

(l) Min 10/132(d) Dog Fouling – New notices had been obtained and Cllr Hancock had been putting them up. He had received favourable comments about them and also received some

names of residents who were continuing to allow their dog to foul. However, people were not prepared to make a written complaint, without which LCC could not prosecute offenders. In two cases where more than one resident had verbally reported the same owners, the Clerk was asked to write to them. Dog fouling was the cause of great offence to residents who wanted the PC to take all possible action but such action was extremely limited unless witnesses were prepared to put their complaint in writing.

(m) Min 10/133(c) Wind Farm – the Micklefield Clerk had advised that no further action was asked of the PC at this time for the forthcoming Public Inquiry.

(n) Min 10/135(a) Gulley lids Kingfisher Lane - LCC Highways had confirmed these would be replaced.

(o) Min 10/135(b) Litter – LCC Streetscene Services had put a programme in place to de-litter in the village, starting with the northern end. Cllr Forster said it was disappointing that some areas of Collier Lane were not being dealt with due to safety issues for the workmen. The PC would monitor the situation. A letter from a resident at the southern end of the village concerning litter had been dealt with by the Clerk between meetings. Streetscene Services had now scheduled a litter pick for the outer roads at the southern/northern and Lotherton Lane/Collier Lane areas. Additionally the service would cover the village on Fridays whilst the Lengthsman was on sick leave. The situation would be monitored. Clerk to request a visit from the pavement sweeping machine.

(p) Min 10/135(c) Royal Oak – a new tenant was in situ – the neighbourhood police had visited and would be visiting from time to time. Some concerns had been expressed by residents to Councillors and these were noted. A resident felt that some breaches of environmental legislation might be occurring and of the planning permission conditions which had been imposed when an extension had been built to the rear of the premises. The PC would look into these matters.

(q) Min 10/135(e) Seats – outstanding

10/140 REPORTS FROM SUB-COMMITTEES

NE Area Forum Meeting

Cllr Gluck reported there were two items of interest arising from his attendance at this meeting.

(a) Aberford was the next on the list for a review of the Conservation Area and the Clerk would be contacted about this from LCC.

(b) Cllr Gluck would circulate Councillors through the Clerk on the NE Area Delivery Plan which was part of the LCC Strategic Plan review and comments would be appreciated.

Globe Youth Group

The Chairman invited Mrs Street to give a report on Globe. She now had the assistance of 2 Youth Workers at each session, supplied by LCC Youth Services. The dance course had attracted a good group of young people and the older group were doing an accredited Life

Skills course. There had been 12 older children at their session and there were around 30 regularly attending the younger session. Quotations were being obtained to upgrade the Chapel heating, in consultation with the Chapel Committee and Mrs Street had been able to transfer the promised grant from a sponsor for toilet upgrading to the Chapel premises. A fund raising event was to be held on the 27th March in The Arabian Horse pub with half profits for the Globe and half for St Gemma's Hospice. Things were going very well so far.

10/141 CORRESPONDENCE

(a) A letter from a resident concerning wheelie bins in the area at the junction of Field Lane/access road across Pump Hill had been received and circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. It was noted that residents were following the instructions from LCC Refuse Dept as to where to place their bins and had done so for some considerable time. Councillors acknowledged this but wanted to make sure, with the installation of a new fence and with there being some utility grates in the area, that bins be placed carefully on the access lane surface, adjacent to the fence/grates/grass. This was so as to protect the fence, preserve the grass and protect the utility grates from the weight of full green and brown bins. The Clerk was instructed to write to the residents who, it was acknowledged, were trying to be as co-operative as possible in the matter.

(b) Colin Burgon MP had confirmed his support of Sustainable Communities Act Amendments Bill.

(c) The YLCA Training and Development Programme for 2010 had been received and circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. Any Councillor wishing to go on a course was asked to contact the Clerk.

(d) The W. Yorks Branch of the Society of Local Council Clerks were holding a training day which the Clerk felt would be of benefit to her. The cost was £35 for a full day which included lunch and permission was given for her to attend this event. One of the items to be discussed concerned a case study of how Bramham and Thorner dealt with the LeedsFest concert – Clerk to investigate if Councillors might be allowed to attend this portion of the training day.

(d) An email concerning LeedsFest had been received and circulated to Cllrs. prior to the meeting. Cllrs Mrs Broadley, Mrs Reed and Mrs Roberts volunteered to form a Sub-Committee to deal with this. Other Cllrs. would help with distribution of leaflet/application form around the Parish.

(e) The LCC Parish and Town Council Spring Conference was scheduled for Wednesday 26th May in the Civic Hall Leeds and the Clerk had a link via email available if any Councillor wished or was able to attend.

10/142 PLANNING

Decisions

(a) Application for development of land at Boston Spa (to which the Parish Council objected in support of Boston Spa PC). This was scheduled to go to Public Inquiry on 18th March.

(b) Application P/09/05590/FU – S/s side and Rear Extn. inc. part new pitched roof to front – 3 Haverthwaites Drive. Approved subject to conditions as to materials and the garage being

used solely for storage of private vehicle and incidental purposes. Further permission required for any future insertion of windows to both side elevations.

Applications

- (a) P/10/00772/FU/HE – Detached workshop to vacant land – Ash Lane, Garforth. No objections
- (b) P/10/00916/EXT/E – Extension of time for outline application – North Newhold and Aberford Road, Garforth. No objections.
- (c) P/10/00973/FU/HE – Alterations to form rooms in roofspace – 10 Silkstone Close, Garforth. No objections.

10/143 ACCOUNTS

The Clerk reported the balances as follows:

In HSBC current a/c	£ 1,847.64	
In HSBC No 1 Int. a/c	£25,663.76	
In HSBC No 2 Int. a/c	£38,830.21	
In Barclays Bank c/a	£ 489.80	
In Barclays Bank Bond	£40,000.00	(matures April 2010)

To Pay

- (a) Cheque number 100259, in the sum of £433.00, was agreed and issued to Yorkshire Local Councils Association for the yearly membership charge.
- (b) Cheque number 100260, in the sum of £172.63, was agreed and issued to the Clerk for remuneration and expenses.
- (c) Cheque number 100261, in the sum of £35.00, was agreed and issued to the Society of Local Council Clerks for the Clerk to attend a training day.

10/144 MATTERS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

- (a) A Councillor asked that the neighbourhood police be made aware of the theft of gully lids from Kingfisher Lane. The Chairman said he would raise this at his next meeting with them.
- (b) A further area of concern to be notified to the police was youths congregating at the end of Field Lane near the allotments where cans of alcohol and evidence of glue sniffing had been seen.
- (c) The Chairman urged residents to be careful with car keys as a car had been stolen from The Dale by the thieves taking keys from a place close to a door.

10/145 OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

- (a) A resident expressed concern that scrap metal appeared to be being processed behind the Royal Oak pub and that the car park was filled with various items and vehicles which reduced car parking for persons going to the pub. Cllr Stainton recalled that a condition of the previous tenant being allowed to extend the pub at the back was that the car parking area should also be extended in order not to compromise parking facilities. The previous tenant had complied with that at the time the extension was done. Cllrs. discussed this matter and agreed to look into these points and contact the relevant authorities as necessary.

(b) A resident asked about the provision of a speed sign in Cattle Lane. Cllr Stainton replied that it was proving very difficult to get LCC Highways to agree as to where the 30mph had originally been. However this would be pursued as traffic did speed into the village from Cattle Lane. The resident said that school buses in particular were speeding through the village. Clerk to write to the operator about this.

10/146 CLOSE OF MEETING

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 9.35pm.

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