

ABERFORD AND DISTRICT PARISH COUNCIL.

MINUTES of a meeting of Parish Councillors held on Tuesday 18TH November 2008 in Aberford Church of England School.

PRESENT: Councillors: D. Howson (Chairman)
R. Alderson
R. Ian Forster
D. Gluck
P. Hancock
D. Stainton
Mrs G. Broadley was not present.

IN ATTENDANCE: Clerk plus 9 members of the public
P.C.S.O. Sillers

08/101 POLICE MATTERS

P.C.S.O. Sillers was invited to give his report to Councillors. During October there had been 1 burglary from a garage, some criminal damage to a bus shelter and a theft of York stone walling from the Garforth/Aberford road. Talks had been given to Primary Schools in the area about road safety crossing procedures. Although the piece of equipment needed for the drive against speeding motorists had not been available, there had been some speed checks done in the village throughout last week.

Residents should be on their guard for a 'scam' which Police had become aware of involving a company calling themselves 'P.D.S.' who put a card through people's letterboxes telling them there was a parcel waiting and asking them to call a number. If the number was called it would automatically charge the caller £15 and there was, of course, no parcel for the caller. The Chairman asked that residents of Parlington House and older people in the nearby bungalows be made aware of this scam and P.C.S.O. Sillers agreed to arrange for this. Trading Standards were working with the Police to track down and stop/prosecute the company.

There was a discussion about the problem of parents parking on the apron at the bottom of school lane. Highways Dept. had promised to have some 'zigzag' lines painted in this area. P.C.S.O. Sillers said that if this was done then the Police could obtain some signs about parking there. He also said he and a colleague would try to attend the scene when children were going to and from school to speak with people. The Chairman pointed out that it was a worry at the moment due to there being no Crossing Patrol person and the darker weather at this time of the year.

The Chairman asked for the Police to keep an eye on the Play Area whenever they were passing during the hours of darkness to check for older unauthorised children/teenagers. P.C.S.O. Sillers confirmed this would be done and any older children seen there would have their names and addresses taken and asked to respect the area. The purpose of taking details was so that a follow up could be done if any damage was later discovered. P.C.S.O. Sillers said that LCC had a dedicated team available to help with removal of graffiti but the Chairman said this seemed to only be if the graffiti was of a certain kind. However this was noted.

08/102 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 21st October 2008 had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was proposed by Cllr Hancock and seconded by Cllr Forster that the same were a true record and these were approved.

08/103 MATTERS ARISING

- (a) Referring to Minute 08/94 (a) Speed Awareness Signs. Cllr Stainton reported these were working satisfactorily having had the angle and sensor adjusted on the one at the north end of the village. If he was kept informed of any problem then the signs could be adjusted as necessary. There was a 12 months warranty, to 3rd September 2009 during which the company would repair/adjust as necessary. After that time an annual contract was available covering replacement/maintenance of

all parts and labour as necessary. The charge for this contract would be £256.54 per sign – total £513.08. Cllr Stainton recommended that the Parish Council enter into the annual contract and budget for it at the end of the current period. It was resolved that the Parish Council would take this action and Cllrs Howson and Stainton took charge of the Contract for perusal/signature.

- (b) Referring to Minute 08/94 (b) N.E. Area Management Team Planning for Real Event and Parish Plan Review. At the end of the meeting Cllr Gluck took colleagues briefly through the paperwork. It was agreed that Councillors would study this and comment to him, via email if they wished. Cllr Gluck would eventually collate all responses and put together as a draft action plan to put out to the public – perhaps through a Newsletter – for consultation/comments.
- (c) Referring to Minute 08/94 (c) Becksides Play Area. Chairman requested Clerk to send a letter to the company who had repaired the ‘talking telephones’ thanking them for their work.
- (d) Referring to Minute 08/94 (a) Area Forum Meeting. Cllr Gluck said the meeting had discussed the issue of grass cutting but he had been unable to attend the latest meeting which had taken place last Thursday. However he would be getting any feedback and would inform Councillors when he had it.
- (e) Referring to Minute 08/95 (b) Dog Fouling on approach to Triumphal Arch area. A discussion had taken place between the Chairman and Mr Holiday from the Parlinton estate. Cllr Gluck felt a further appropriately worded sign ought to be provided, funded by the Parish Council as ‘the estate’ had provided a sign previously and attention could be drawn to this problem in any future Newsletter.
- (f) Referring to Minute 08/95 (c) Grass Cutting. Nothing further had been received from the Clerks of neighbouring Parish Councils. Councillors view was that they would support Parish Councils having more control of the quality of the work in future. Later in the meeting Cllr Hancock pointed out that, as there had been extensive bulb planting on the grass verges, the Contractors who cut the grass should be informed and asked to make their first cut at a later time after the bulbs had flowered.
- (g) Referring to Minute 08/98 (b) Easement over Pump Hill area. Cllrs. Howson and Stainton had dealt with this matter as it was urgent and had given permission for gas/water to be laid by the utility companies. Cllr Howson had signed the easement document.
- (h) Referring to Minute 08/98 (c) Cllr Gluck reported that he had raised the possibility of funding help at the Forum meeting he attended and there was a chance of this. Barwick & Scholes P.C. had applied and been granted some money and could be approached to see how they went about making this application. This would now be for 2009 after the new streetlights had been installed.
- (i) Referring to Minute 08/98 (d) Wreath for Remembrance Ceremony. Chairman had attended, as had the Clerk and Headmistress Mrs Heggie with several children. There had been a large number of residents. Discussion took place about cleaning the Memorial and attending to the vegetation around it. The cleaning work would require some specialist work and Cllr Alderson said he would progress as he had a good contact .
- (j) Referring to Minute 08/98 (f) Aggressive Dog (Humphrey Dale). The Chairman had spoken to P.C. Katkowski about this matter and he was to visit the area to see what action he could take to help.
- (k) Referring to Minute 08/98 (h) Spring Bulbs. The Chairman thanked Cllr Hancock for taking charge of the planting up and asked that all helpers be thanked for their hard work. There had

been a delay in planting the bulbs allocated to the school but these had eventually been planted by two Dinner Ladies in their own time.

- (l) Referring to Minute 08/98 (i) Leeds in Bloom. Cllr Forster informed the meeting that someone from Leeds in Bloom would be coming to the January meeting to discuss this and suggested it could be advertised in the village, like on the Noticeboard etc. Any interested 'parties' could also be contacted about the meeting.
- (m) Referring to Minute 08/99 (a) Planning Notification to Residents. Cllr Stainton said the Planning Dept seemed not to be notifying people of applications which were close to their properties and which might affect them. Clerk requested to ask clarify what the routine procedure was.

08/104 CORRESPONDENCE

- (a) There were several items received from the Yorkshire Local Councils Association.
 1. Mandatory Publication Scheme under Freedom of Information Act. All Parish Councils must pass a formal resolution to adopt the generic scheme by 31st December 2008 or submit their own scheme for approval. They must complete the "Guide to Proactively Published Information" in those sections which are relevant to their P.C. and publish the above information: either on a Website or, say, Noticeboard. It was agreed to adopt the generic scheme.

In connection with this Councillors discussed the setting up of a Website just for the Parish Council – an example having been circulated to them prior to the meeting. Mandatory information would be put on the site together with Councillors' contact details and the occasional Newsletter. The costs would be: for the web address £17.98 for 2 years, an initial set-up fee of £9.99 and £9.98 for a 'privacy marker' for 2 years, hosting for 1 year £22.20 and with VAT to add the inclusive upfront cost would be £70.68 with a further £22.20 + VAT to extend it for a second year. Clerk to progress a site in 'dummy' form and contact Councillors to view it.
 2. A request for financial information to help the Association canvass Government to extend the Financial Services Compensation Scheme had been replied to by Clerk between meetings (permission obtained from Clls.Howson and Stainton).
 3. A Guide to Tree Preservation Orders was available via Clerk
 4. Consultation document on Councillors' Code of Conduct – available via Clerk
 5. Newsletter covering various topics – available via Clerk
 6. Publication concerning Rights of Way produced by the Planning Inspectorate Guidance, advice notes and appeal decisions included. Cllr Hancock asked Clerk to obtain a copy for his reference.
- (b) Mins. of meeting of W.Yorks. Rural Transport Partnership - this organisation may not continue after March 2009 if further funding is not forthcoming. Mention was made that LCC Mobile Youth Service were obtaining vehicles, two of which had been delivered end October, and these were earmarked for East Leeds villages and Outer North East Leeds. No details of when/where/how often calling etc. were given but presumably Aberford would be on the list for a visit. Clerk has asked for details.
- (c) LCC had notified the P.C. of a consultation meeting (held 10.11.08) about the Yorks & Humber Plan (regional spatial strategy).
- (d) The Clerk of Barwick/Scholes P.C. had asked about exchanging Minutes with other P.Cs. in that it might be useful to see what others were concerned about. Clerk pointed out that if a Website was created then other P.C. Clerks could access it. Barwick/Scholes Clerk had sent a copy of their October Minutes – available to see via Clerk.

Planning Charter Working Group : same Clerk emailed that their Cllr George Hall wanted to offer himself for election to this group. He is their lead Cllr on matters of planning and he attached a

recent response to a planning application which Cllr Hall was responsible for – available to see via Clerk.

From same Clerk: re removal of planning notices – when applicant receives notification of decision they are requested to remove any relevant notices – there is no monitoring procedure – suggests it is raised at next Town & Parish Council Forum meeting by the Planning Working Group – assume Cllr Hall will raise this.

- (e) Letter had been received from Mr Picton-Phillips, Church Warden and Royal British Legion PAO, thanking the Chairman for attending the Remembrance Ceremony and for laying a wreath on behalf of the P.C. He confirmed the Parochial Church Council would be happy for Christmas lights to be put in the churchyard trees at no cost to the P.C.C. He expressed thanks for the Spring bulbs and raised the matter of the cost of wreaths which had been underwritten by the P.C. previously. It was agreed that this cost of £19 would be met by the P.C. A copy of the recent survey undertaken by the Church was enclosed – available from Clerk.
- (f) An invitation received from the Mayoress of Morley to attend an ‘At Home’. Noted
- (g) Tadcaster Town Council requested some posters displaying for their forthcoming Christmas market’ festival – Clerk to deal

08/105 PLANNING

(a) **Applications:**

Number 08/06036/FU/NE Disabled access ramp to Surgery, Jessamine House Surgery, Main Street.
No objections: Cllr Stainton felt that the provision of an internal ramp might be ‘flagged’ with Planners.

Number 08/06078?FU/NE Extension to form 3 Bed House to side of existing House inc. Single storey front extension to Kennimar Lotherton Lane.
Councillors felt the garden area which would be left would be too limited and the provision of only two parking spaces would mean visitors parking on the adjacent road. Comments in full would be given to Planners – Clerk to liaise with Cllr Stainton.

Number 08/06137/FU/HE Retrospective application for detached triple garage
To front: Ridge Road Farm, Ridge Road, Micklefield.
Cllrs Stainton/Howson to make a site visit.

Number 08/06230/FU/NE Two detached livestock buildings at Silver Hills,
Collier Lane. Cllrs Stainton/Howson to visit site.

(b) **Planning Decisions:**

Number 08/04582/FU 4 bed detached house on land opposite 7 North End Cottages: REFUSED

Number 08/04835/FU Shop to residential at Bankfield House, Main Street
APPROVED

Number 33/174/04/FU Use of part of agricultural land to light aircraft take off/landing strip: at Sturton Grange Farm, Garforth : APPROVED.

(c) **Notifications:**

Number P/08/05471/FU/E Increase in roof height and dormer windows to both Sides to form new first floor to bungalow and conservatory to rear, 27 Greystones Close. WITHDRAWN
Planners pointed out that the conservatory was Permitted Development. Cllr Stainton asked Clerk to make sure Planners had considered our remarks about a Main Drain in the area under the conservatory and that provision would be made for it. A plan of the Main Drain would be appreciated by residents.

(d) **Comments Sought:**

Mr Nick Flood of LCC Highway Design and Construction had asked for the Council's comments on the proposed roadway design for the development at North Newhold, Aberford Road, Garforth. Cllr. Stainton had prepared full comments and, after discussion, Clerk instructed to write reply to Mr Flood.

08/106 ACCOUNTS

- (a) Cheque number 100214 in the sum of £116.66 for Clerk's salary was approved and issued.
- (b) Cheque number 100215 in the sum of £19.00 for Parochial Church Council for cost of wreaths was approved and issued.

Parish Precept Return to be made no later than 31st January 2009.

No decision was taken concerning depositing some funds with another Bank.

08/107 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

- (a) Cllr Forster reported he had sent a note to the 3 Ward Councillors about the proposed overhaul of Leisure facilities across Leeds. A copy was lodged with the Clerk for Councillors to see. It was felt that one such Centre based at Kippax would not be adequate to serve Garforth and surrounding area due to transport difficulties/distance users would have to travel.
- (b) It was confirmed to Cllr Forster that nothing further had been heard about the change of streetlights. There was a discussion about the site of the Cattle Lane speed sign which used to be further from the village – Cllr Stainton was to mention this matter to Highways.
- (c) Waste Skip – this was ordered just once per year in Spring
- (d) It was noted there was a lot of mud on the road at Collier Lane right through to the Selby boundary.
- (e) Cllr Forster asked if the 'layby' along the Garforth Road could be surfaced properly. Chairman said this was once a bus stop and not an official layby so far as is known, although heavily used.
- (f) Cllr Stainton felt the Contractor for the gas pipeline was to be praised for the way in which they had restored the site at the north end of the village. He hoped the remainder of the site would be restored to the same standard. Clerk to send letter.
- (g) Cllr Hancock raised the matter of the footpath to Lotherton Hall which needed attention – it had become narrowed due to overgrowth of vegetation. Clerk to deal
- (h) Chairman reported that the spoil heap left at Beckside was due to be dealt with in the Spring.
- (i) Cllr Gluck reported he had been invited to become a member of the LCC Major Development Forum and he would attend and report back to the P.C.

- (j) The Field Lane sign required to be refixed – Clerk to deal
- (k) Cllr Alderson expressed concern, which all Councillors shared, about ways to involve people and attract them to serve on the Council so it might be helped in it's work on behalf of all sections of the village. It would be good reach a wider cross-section of residents such as young people. There were only seven Councillors serving at the moment but there were 4 places empty. Hopefully a Website would attract residents and a Newsletter could be produced a few times a year to hand deliver. A member of the public present kindly offered to help in this as he owned a printing business. Clerk noted.
- (l) Cllr Alderson, in his capacity as a School Governor, gave a report on the negotiations which had been taking place about access to school field/tennis courts. The right of way problem was not looking good for the school to be able to use the driveway to the Old Vicarage to access the field and children might have to go round to the access point from Parlinton Villas or through the new graveyard as at present. The Chairman reported that he was to have a meeting with the Agent of Parlinton estate and that the estate were prepared to discuss access to allow large machinery to get on the site to work on the tennis courts. The nominal 'ownership' of the area had been passed from the LCC Education Dept. to the Leisure Services Dept.

08/108 OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

- (a) A question was raised about the removal of the existing material on the Parish Council from the existing Aberford website run by a third party. Chairman confirmed that this would be done when the new Website was opened.
- (b) It was reported that the plastic sleeves on the hinges of the swings at the Play Area were all broken and required replacement – Clerk to take forward.
- (c) A question was asked about the replacement of manhole covers in Kingfisher Lane Clerk asked to look for relevant correspondence to support the fact that this lane fell under the Highways Dept of LCC. Clerk to deal.

08/109 CLOSE OF MEETING

There being no further business the Chairman thanked those in attendance before closing the Meeting at 10.10p.m.