

ABERFORD & DISTRICT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 17th November 2009 in the school

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

Apologies were received from Councillors Mrs R Reed, Mrs G Broadley – Cllr Gluck was absent.

Also Present: 13 members of the public, Clerk and PCSO G. Nottingham.

It was drawn to the attention of Councillors by a member of the public present that the death had occurred some weeks previously of Mr Gordon Armfield who had served on the Parish Council for some years. The Chairman responded that mention of this had been an oversight and Mr Armfield had given much service to the village.

09/98 MINUTES

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday 20th October 2009 had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was proposed by Cllr Hancock and seconded by Cllr Stainton that these were a true record. This was agreed.

09/99 POLICE REPORT

PCSO Nottingham had hoped that his colleague would be able to attend but urgent duties prevented this. He introduced himself and gave an update on crime during October – there had been 3 burglaries and 1 criminal damage. The burglaries were of power tools from garages and one from a commercial premises. This time of the year saw an increase generally in crimes so residents were reminded to take all possible precautions. There had been 3 more crimes in the last few days but a car had been recovered.

09/100 MATTERS ARISING

(a) Min 09/91(a) War Memorial – ongoing.

(b) Min 09/91(b) Streetlights – Cllr Stainton said it appeared unlikely that the work would be carried out in the next few weeks.

(c) Min 09/91(c) School Field – there had been a productive site meeting between officers of LCC and Parish Councillors at which 'heads of agreement' had been finalised. Footpath access was discussed, depending on formal approval by 'the estate'. LCC would prefer to have access granted jointly to themselves and the PC in order to safeguard this right as landowner for the future. The Chairman was to meet with the new Agent for the estate, having asked the outgoing Agent to draw up the existing verbal agreement in writing before he left. Legal costs had been discussed with LCC. As they were offering free assistance in design and finding sources of funding, the PC would pay the legal costs, subject to these being a

reasonable figure. Residents would be consulted via a public meeting on what they would like to see on the site as the design was being developed.

(d) Min 09/91(d) Speed sign – ongoing.

(e) Min 09/91(e) Humphreydale Cottage – as no plans has been received from LCC it was decided to ask them if they were pursuing this with the owner.

(f) Min 09/91(g) Fencing Pump Hill – a design and supplier had been selected, from the companies approached. The fence would be wooden posts with a tubular black metal rail and the Clerk was instructed to place the order with Norex Fencing.

(g) Min 09/91(h) Drainage – according to Highways, the extra gully at the junction of Main Street and Pinfold Rise was scheduled to be installed. Mr Penty of LCC was to chase up the work asked for on the blocked culvert at the south end of the village.

(h) Min 09/91(j) Lotherton Lane pavement – an email had been received from Mr Bellamy, Principal Engineer, LCC in which he said that the upgrading of this pavement might meet some criteria used to give priority to such work and he would make the situation known to Mr Tim Parry of LCC who was responsible for the needs of cyclists and pedestrians. Cllrs wanted to continue to progress this and the Clerk was asked to contact Mr Parry.

(i) Min 09/91(k) Parish Paths Partnership – contact had been made with the Community Access Officer and it appeared some of these agreements were working for other Parish Councils. Clarification was to be sought re funds etc.

(j) Min 09/91(m) Footpath 'Makin' land – Cllr Forster would take this up with the Community Access Officer.

(k) Min 09/91(o) Overgrown Hedge Lotherton Lane – the land owner had cut this.

(l) Min 09/91(q) Old Watermill – the Enforcement Officer had been unable to gain entry to the premises and had written to the owner to arrange to do so.

(m) Min 09/91(s) Rubbish in Cock Beck – nothing to report in Cllr Gluck's absence.

(n) Min 09/91(u) Youth Group – Cllrs had been circulated with details of the agreement reached between Cllr Forster, Clerk and Mrs Street. This set out the financial help the PC would give to support the 'Globe' Group. During the current financial year this would amount to around £1300. During the next financial year it would amount to around £1520. Support would be given for one year only and subject to certain conditions which would be set out in a formal letter to Mrs Street. Cllrs formally agreed to the above figures which would allow the Clerk to release monies to Mrs Street when adequate paperwork was presented by her.

(o) Min 09/93(a) Maintenance Schedule for local roads – LCC had stated they were not able to bring forward the planned work to Highfields Road/Abbots Close.

(p) Mins 09/96(b) & (c) pavement from Motorway Junction towards Aberford, ginnel between Garforth estates – Cllr Forster was chasing this.

(q) Min 09/97(e) Debris Motorway Bridge/Cock Beck – the Environment Agency had indicated a walkover was planned. They would be asked for an update as to what they found and what action they would schedule. In later discussions, residents present expressed their concerns about silting up and debris in Cock Beck along the length from the bridge extending through to the east side of the motorway. It was felt that if a group of residents could get together and approach the Environment Agency it would add weight to the request to get some work done. Cllrs encouraged this approach.

09/101 REPORTS FROM SUB-COMMITTEES

There were none

09/102 CORRESPONDENCE

(a) Acknowledgement of the PC's application for a grant towards the cost of heritage streetlights had been received from the N.E.Area Committee.

(b) Email from Cllr Mrs Reed was communicated to Cllrs - concerning having a register of one or two people who were willing to do small maintenance jobs around the village for the PC. Cllrs felt this was a good idea and one gentleman had already indicated his interest. Clerk to keep details.

(c) LCC were preparing a 'Core Strategy' document setting out their vision for future development of Leeds over the next 20 years – this was a follow-on from the Unitary Development Plan of several years ago. There would be exhibitions and consultation events. The currently available documents could be seen at Libraries and One Stop Shops until 7th December and were available online. Cllrs noted this.

(c) The latest Newsletter of Rural Action Yorkshire was available – this had very good information about community buildings such as the Village Hall – energy audits and where to get funding for them etc.

09/103 PLANNING

(a) Barwood Developments had been granted approval for a non-illuminated free standing sales hoarding for the site.

(b) Application 09/02922/CA – Nyman Lodge, part demolition. Approval had been given subject to various conditions.

(c) Application 09/03384/FU – Avlaki, Main Street – garage/porch extension. This had been withdrawn.

(d) An email had been received from the Clerk to Barwick & Scholes PC asking other PCs to consider writing a letter of support of Boston Spa PC in their effort to prevent a large development taking place in Boston Spa on a Greenfield site. After debating the issue Cllrs decided to lend their support to Boston Spa and the Clerk was instructed to send this to LCC Planning Dept.

09/104 ACCOUNTS

(a) The auditors Mazars had explained that the present Fidelity Guarantee cover was a little below the figure recommended. Cllrs. debated this but decided that the projected outgoings to the end of the financial year would probably bring the figure within that recommended. It was decided to leave the cover at the present £100,000 for the time being and review it at the start of the next financial year.

(b) The Precept request had been received from LCC for the next financial year. A budget update for the current year and budget predication for 2010/2011 had been prepared by Cllr Forster and the Clerk and circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting. This was debated and it was agreed to try to finalise this at the December meeting, although the deadline was the end of January.

Account Balances

In the HSBC c/a	£ 2,013.94
In the HSBC no 1 Int a/c	£32,653.79
In the HSBC no 2 Int a/c	£38,823.43
In Barclays Bank c/a	£ 506.30
In Barclays Bank Bond	£40,000.00

Note: The last 3 amounts are ring-fenced for capital project spending.

To Pay

Cheque number 100247, in the sum of £187.54 for Clerk's salary, telephone and printer cartridge expenses was agreed and issued.

09/105 MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

(a) The Chairman reported a slippery pavement at Bunkers Hill with fallen leaves and overgrown vegetation at head height presenting a hazard to walkers. The pavement from the football ground towards Priory Park was also suffering from overgrown vegetation. LCC Highways would be asked to cut this back.

(b) The PC would shortly receive an invoice for the Remembrance Day wreath which the Chairman had laid – Cllrs noted this and agreed it would be paid when received.

(c) There was a problem with vegetation which needed clearing on the PC land at the north end of the village and some overhanging trees needed cutting back. Cllrs agreed that a local contractor should be asked to carry out this work as the cost was estimated to be around £250/350. Chairman to arrange.

(d) The owner of the land at Hook Moor was carrying out tidying up work there and intended to try to prevent vehicles parking there. Hopefully that area would be visually improved as it tended to suffer from litter problems.

(e) Clerk was asked to look out some information on Litter Bins for the next meeting and Cllrs could consider the costs.

09/106 OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

(a) Extra noticeboards were discussed with two possible areas mentioned. However a resident queried whether these were needed if more regular newsletters could be produced. He reiterated his offer to help to print these as cheaply as possible. It was hoped to produce one before Christmas but only the occasional one was possible at the present time.

(b) A resident said he hoped remedial works would be done on Pump Hill after the new fencing was installed as one area was in a poor condition where bins had been placed. This was noted.

(c) A resident asked if he might put a small amount of rubbish into any skip Cllr Gluck arranged for his proposed clearance of rubbish from Cock Beck. There were some materials left from the scaffolders who had worked on the bridge. Clerk was asked to liaise on this.

(d) It was pointed out that there were some repairs necessary at the footbridge – a contractor had done some work but had to finish the job. The Chairman was to chase this up. It was reported that the grass cutters had knocked down a further post at the ford.

09/107 CLOSE OF MEETING

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone present before closing the meeting at 9.20p.m.

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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.