

## **ABERFORD & DISTRICT PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES** of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2011 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

**PRESENT** Cllrs. D. Howson (Chairman), Mrs G. Broadley, I. Forster, D. Gluck, P. Hancock, Mrs J. Jeffrey, Mrs R. Reed, D. Stainton  
Apologies were received from Cllr R. Alderson  
Also present – 4 members of the public, PCSO Jackson, Clerk.

### **11/101 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2011 had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was proposed by Cllr Hancock and seconded by Cllr Mrs Reed that these were a true record. This was agreed.

### **11/102 POLICE MATTERS**

PCSO Jackson gave a report – drawing attention to the need to secure vehicles left on driveways. In particular there was an upsurge in the Force Area of thefts of SatNavs from Audis as they could be easily removed and sold. There had been good results in apprehending poachers in the last month. Cllr Hancock reported on tyre dumping at the end of Lotherton Lane – probably on the previous Sunday night. Tractors speeding through the village whilst potato gathering had been a great concern with a few ‘near misses’ and this was discussed at length. The Chairman had been to talk to the farmers employing the contractors to ask them to speak with the drivers but this seemed to have had little effect. It was agreed to put this on the Agenda prior to the season next year so that tractors speeding would be more pro-actively dealt with. A resident reported concerns at seeing a young child, who appeared to be unaccompanied, coming out of a local pub very late at night. The police were aware of certain issues and monitoring the situation. Inspector Dwyer joined the meeting to introduce himself as the new Inspector in charge of Wetherby Station. There was a good discussion and arrangements were in hand for Boxing Day Hunt.

### **11/103 MATTERS ARISING**

- (a) Minute 11/94(a) Lotherton Hall – plans had been passed.
- (b) Minute 11/94(b) War Memorial – work had been completed and was very satisfactory with several residents expressing their appreciation at the Remembrance Ceremony. The ceremony was very well attended with the Chairman laying a wreath.
- (c) Minute 11/94(d) Cock Beck – ongoing.
- (d) Minute 11/94(e) Mobile Library Service – being monitored – a few more people using it.
- (e) Minute 11/94(g) Royal Oak – awaiting reply from LCC Officer.
- (f) Minute 11/94(h) Play Area – a quotation had been received for the minor refurbishing work which would amount to around £520 if carried out by LCC Parks. This did not include surfacing attention. Attention was drawn to the Japanese Knott Weed incursion which needed to be dealt with – Clerk to deal.
- (g) Minute 11/96(d) Diamond Jubilee Beacon – Cllrs felt this would not be suitable to pursue by the PC but Cllr Mrs Broadley would bear it in mind in co-ordinating village events.
- (h) Minute 11/96(h) Winter Weather – meetings with Cllr Robinson and Officers had resulted in arrangements being made for a supply of grit salt to be delivered to Mr Watson. He would use it for the side streets if necessary. A replacement grit bin was needed for Beech View – Clerk asked to investigate getting best price for this.

## **11/104 REPORTS FROM SUB-COMMITTEES**

### **(a) Master Plan Projects**

#### **(i) Broadband**

Cllr Gluck informed Cllrs there were now two companies looking to provide Broadband to the Parish - Nextgenus CIC and LN Communications. Cllrs agreed that it would be preferable for the two companies to work together but, if that was not possible, then for the PC to issue a Newsletter to residents explaining the background to the Broadband initiative and the facts about both companies and what they are offering. It was noted that both companies had expressed a strong desire to work closely with the PC and the new Community Interest Company - once established - and this was welcomed.

#### **(ii) Village Design Statement**

The group met on 11<sup>th</sup> November and were working towards presentation of a draft document to the Parish in Feb 2012 with a view to submitting the draft document to LCC by end March.

#### **(iii) Village Traffic Management/Pedestrian Safety**

An initial walk-through with LCC Officer Nick Borrás/Cllrs Gluck and Robinson had been arranged for 10am on 24<sup>th</sup> November. Cllr Gluck asked for any other Cllrs available to join this initial assessment.

#### **(iv) Aberford School Playground Project**

For information, Cllr Gluck reported the Head had approved revised plans and parents/children were now being consulted. This scheme would probably be done in phases and the PTA were seeking approximately £10k funding to put with their own funds.

#### **(v) Village Hall**

Cllr Gluck reported, for information, that the Hall Committee had endorsed the feasibility study they had had produced. Fund raising was ongoing for the estimated £300k for conversion. However it appeared a resident wanted to put a further proposal to the Hall Committee and this was awaited. It was expected that the proposal would be put forward at the next Committee meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> November. The Hall interior had been repainted in the last couple of days.

#### **(vi) Aberford & District Community Interest Company**

For information Cllr Gluck reported that four Directors had volunteered to serve: Messrs D. Gluck, M. Oakes, T. Archer and Mrs D. Spencer. A meeting would be held on 25<sup>th</sup> November to complete necessary paperwork to register the company. The aim of this not-for-profit company would be: to provide benefit to residents and workers in the Parish (as defined by the Parish boundary) by undertaking activities to enhance the availability of services to the benefit of local residents and those working in the Parish. The company would also try to ensure that other rural communities in the surrounding villages in West and North Yorkshire were able to learn and benefit from the work of the Company. Cllr Mrs Jeffrey asked what sort of activities might be within the scope of the Company. Cllr Gluck replied things like Broadband provision, perhaps running certain facilities within the Village Hall as they developed, some form of community transport scheme if one was ultimately developed. At the moment there was a car parking problem for two Aberford-based companies for instance and exploring better connections such as with Garforth railway station might be one for such a Company to take forward. Income streams would be channelled back into the Parish.

### **(b) Footpaths**

Cllr Mrs Jeffrey reported on a problem with Becca Lane bridleway which she was dealing with. A gate erected by a farmer would need to be looked at by the LCC Footpaths Officer. Some maintenance work had been carried out by our contractor and an invoice was submitted for payment.

### **(c) Allotments**

Cllr Mrs Jeffrey outlined the problems still remaining and, after discussion, it was agreed that the potential costs involved in taking on these allotments meant that it would be totally uneconomic for the PC. The Clerk and Cllr Mrs Jeffrey would liaise to make this known to LCC Officers.

### **11/105 TENNIS COURT/SCHOOL FIELD PROJECT**

Cllr Stainton reported the result of many discussions/exchanges of email – all of which were moving the project forward. It was agreed that a Sub-Committee would be formally appointed and consist of Cllrs Stainton, Hancock, Howson, Mrs Reed and resident Mrs L. Street if she would serve. Cllr Gluck was delegated to ask her.

LCC Parks & Countryside Dept. had quoted a price of £9999.99 for Phase 1 (site clearance) and it was agreed that this was acceptable in principle, subject to receiving a formal detailed quote, showing the breakdown given to Cllr Stainton verbally. It was unanimously agreed the requirement in Financial Regulations to seek two further quotations would be waived on this occasion.

The reasons for this unanimous decision of Cllrs were that the Parish Council was working closely with Leeds City Council on this project, LCC being the owners of the area and leasing it to the Parish Council at a peppercorn rent for 25 years. Furthermore LCC Parks and Countryside Department Officers were giving their expertise and guidance to the Parish Council free of charge in matters such as planning, site clearance and procurement of equipment from companies they had dealt with on such developments. There had been several meetings and plans had been prepared for the Parish Council together with planning application assistance as required. LCC Parks Department had surveyed the clearance work to be done and were able to speedily perform the work which might be delayed and incur costs by having to seek other reputable contractors.

A Sub Committee meeting would be held as soon as possible to assess further phases of the scheme from a schedule of works LCC Parks Dept had been asked to provide. These works would be for the access path and fencing, the extension to the car park and security gate for the Bowling Club, the MUGA and tennis court and ancillary works. The overall cost would need to be known and must be within the total capital funds committed to the project as per Minute 11/98(g) (i) of October 2011 as far as the amount the PC could put into the scheme was concerned. Quotations would be obtained for these further phases either by LCC Parks Dept or by the PC directly.

LCC Officers were finalising a Grant Application on behalf of the PC which would be submitted by 21<sup>st</sup> November. The outcome would be known next Spring. It was hoped that grant money would be forthcoming for the further phases of work but, in any event, the PC was committed to allocating the funds referred to above.

### **11/106 CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence.

### **11/107 PLANNING**

There were no applications this month. Between meetings Cllrs Howson and Stainton had studied the plan showing small amendments to the design of houses (P/11/03955 – White House Farm) and had no objections to them. Cllrs agreed with this assessment.

## Decisions

Approved: P/11/03446 – Cnsvty to side – 10 Parlington Villas  
P/11/00349 – Becca Farm development  
P/11/03804 – Cnsvty to Rear – 15 Brierlands Close, Garforth

Pending: P/11/03864 – Rmvl of cond. – Swan Mill Barn & The Old Barn  
P/11/01915 – Gates – 2 The Gables/Forget Me Not Cottage

## **11/108 ACCOUNTS**

### **Balances**

In HSBC current a/c	£ 3,253.76
In HSBC No 1 Hi Int a/c	£19,972.50
In HSBC No 2 Hi Int a/c	£38,877.82
In Barclays Bank c/a	£ 1,251.14
In Barclays Bank Bond	£40,000.00
In HSBC M/Plan a/c	£ 764.71

### **To Pay**

#### From PC current account

1. Cheque number 100349, in the sum of £170.90, for Clerk's salary was agreed and issued.
2. Cheque number 100350, in the sum of £57.86, for website annual renewal and expenses was agreed and issued to the Clark.
3. Cheque number 100351, in the sum of £175.00, for autumn Newsletter was agreed and issued to Zebra Print Management Ltd.
4. Cheque number 100352, in the sum of £1022.40, for refurbishment work on the War Memorial, was agreed and issued to RAM Masonry Ltd.
5. Cheque number 100353, in the sum of £615.70, for annual maintenance contract, was agreed and issued to Swarco.
6. Cheque number 100354, in the sum of £434.00, for footpath maintenance, was issued to DB Tree Services after the close of the meeting – to be ratified at the next meeting.

#### From Master Plan account

1. Cheque number 100015, in the sum of £360.00, for consultancy services, was issued to Mr A. Ray after the close of meeting – to be ratified at the next meeting. This was part payment of the £1000 fees previously agreed.

### **Budget Discussions**

There was further discussion and the Clerk was asked to amend the projection for 2012/13 for the next meeting. A final decision was not required until the January meeting latest.

## **11/109 MATTERS FOR INFORMATION**

- (a) Cllrs were asked whether they wanted to comment on the subject of directly electing Mayors. They did not.
- (b) There had been some reports of missing and very late buses – notices could be put up in the shelters asking residents to give full details to the Clerk.
- (c) Advance notice had been received of highways works on the B1217 between the Crooked Billet pub and the entrance to Lotherton Hall starting after New Year. It was thought that diversions would not unduly affect the village but the Clerk had details of contact numbers.

(d) The Chairman advised that he had met the new Agent working for Strutt & Parker and he would be dealing with affairs on behalf of 'the Estate' from now on from a new office in Harrogate.

(e) Cllrs Mrs Jeffrey reported that potato gathering from fields off Parlinton Lane had caused a lot of problems to the surface of the Lane. Whilst declaring an interest as her property bordered the Lane, she felt that the co-operation of the people doing the work had been poor in safeguarding the Lane. For the future, if the same crop was planted, then this was something the PC should be concerned about. Cllrs noted her remarks for the future.

(f) Cllrs noted that there were two deep ruts in the footpath close to Hook Moor where heavy tractors/trailers had crossed the footpath. LCC Highways would be contacted with details of the farmer concerned and requested to ask for the ruts to be dealt with.

(g) Cllrs Mrs Reed had attended the Harewood Ward Parish & Town Forum meeting. There was a good discussion about street cleaning/Lengthsmen. An LCC Officer (Mr John Woolmer) spoke to the meeting and he made a very good impression on all present. He asked Cllrs to contact him with problems.

#### **11/010 OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

There were no matters raised by the members of the public present.

#### **11/011 CLOSE OF MEETING**

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for their presence and closed the meeting at 9.45pm.

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