

ABERFORD & DISTRICT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 20th October 2009 in the school.

PRESENT: Councillors D. Stainton, D. Howson, I. Forster, P. Hancock, Mrs R. Reed
Apologies were received from Councillors D. Gluck, R. Alderson and Mrs G. Broadley

Also Present: 11 Members of the public/Clerk/2 Police Representatives
Cllr D. Stainton took the chair as Cllr Howson was indisposed.

09/89 MINUTES

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday 15th September 2009 had been circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr Stainton pointed out that the date for the meeting about School Field should be the 27th, subject to this change, Cllr Mrs Reed proposed and Cllr Hancock seconded that the Minutes were a true record.

09/90 POLICE REPORT

There were two burglaries during Sept/Oct - one from a garage and one from a container. Additionally a house window in Main Street was smashed and a motorised horsebox stolen from Main Street. Residents needed to be extra-careful during winter nights and with Christmas approaching. Priorities for the coming month were speeding in Main Street and Cattle Lane, farm and rural crime and burglaries. A newsletter was being delivered around the village. Some problems at the Royal Oak pub were being dealt with. A resident had experienced problems with rowdy behaviour from people attending a function at the Village Hall. A member of the Hall Committee present answered the resident's concerns and everyone was reminded the police would respond to unruly behaviour. Contact numbers would appear on the latest police newsletter.

09/91 MATTERS ARISING

(a) Min. 09/81(a) War Memorial – outstanding.

(b) Min 09/81(b) Streetlights – the work was scheduled to be done Nov/Dec. An application for a grant towards 3 lights had been prepared and sent to the NE Area Committee for consideration.

(c) Min 09/81(c) School Field – The 'heads of agreement' had been received from LCC and the PC had some issues which would be discussed at a meeting with officers from LCC on the 27th October.

(d) Min 09/81(d) Speed Signs Cattle Lane – still waiting for the sensor devices to be employed to do a traffic and speed count survey.

(e) Min 09/81(e) Humphreydale Cottage – no plans yet received.

(f) Min 09/81(f) Play Area Swing Bushes – Clerk reported these having been collected from her this day so would anticipate the work had either been carried out or would shortly be done. This to include replacing the bolts on the roundabout.

(g) Min 09/81(h) Fencing Pump Hill – quotations had been circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting. It was decided to have a separate meeting to get a consensus which could be ratified at the next formal meeting. Some comments from residents present were acknowledged by Councillors.

(h) Min 09/81(i) Drainage – No works had yet been carried out. Mr Penty would be contacted to get an update.

(i) Min 09/81(k) Signs on Verges – LCC Planning Enforcement stated they were having to prioritise cases due to staff shortage and pressure of cases. It could be some time before they were able to deal with the sign on private land at Hook Moor.

(j) Min 09/81(m) Footpath Lotherton Hall – a reply had been sent to Cllr Shelbrooke with a copy to Mr Mark Owens, covering the various points made by Mr Owens. Following receipt of a proposed maintenance schedule for 2010/2011 for this area from Highways, the Clerk had written to ask that Lotherton footpath should be added to this schedule as a priority.

(k) Min 09/81(n) awaiting update on Parish Paths Partnership scheme from LCC.

(l) Min 09/81(o) Hanging Baskets – the cost of 'hanging pot' type baskets which had a built-in reservoir would be c£25 each. Latest order required by end February. Mr Culloden of LCC Nurseries would come to look where brackets were needed after the new streetlights were installed.

(m) Min 09/81(q) Footpath over 'Makin' land – Cllr Forster said he would check to see if this was still blocked. Some other highways matters he had raised had been attended to.

(n) Min 09/81(r) Aberford in Bloom group. It was reported that posters would be put up within the next few weeks and there were volunteers to plant bulbs for Spring. The small signs which had been put up were acceptable to the P.C. Some lessons had been learned from the planting this year about distance and height from signs etc. and it was hoped to make a few more beds next year around the village. The Chairman said the PC would continue to work closely with the Group bearing in mind the PC's wish to have hanging baskets next year.

(o) Min 09/81(s) Overgrown Hedge Lotherton Lane – this was with the Enforcement Officer as the owner had not acknowledged the P.C's letter or taken any action.

(p) Min 09/83 – annual Parish & Town Council Forum meeting – Cllr Gluck had indicated that he would try to attend this meeting.

(q) Min 09/84 - Old Watermill – awaiting the report from the Planning Enforcement Officer.

(r) Min 09/84 – Parking Yew Trees, Main Street – the occupier stated that employees parked to the rear of the property and the small number of visitors were encouraged to do likewise. They felt the problem was from people attending the Doctor's surgery/new village shop/play area and had experienced problems with cars being parked on their driveway. They asked if the PC could do anything about this. The Chairman said that the situation would be monitored.

(s) Min 09/86(b) Rubbish in Cock Beck at ford – Cllr Gluck would be dealing with this.

(t) Min 09/86(c) Children in graveyard – this was still happening – Mrs Heggie to be asked to speak to children in an assembly.

(u) Min 09/87(a) Youth Group – Mrs Street had reached agreement with the Methodist Chapel for her group to use the premises and was to open on the 23rd of November. Her application for a grant from the PC remained the same as previously. It was agreed that a separate meeting would be held between Mrs Street, the Clerk and Cllr Forster to see how the PC could give some financial help. This would then be brought to the next meeting for Councillors to study and agree.

(v) Min 09/87(c) Christmas Lights – Clerk had been unable to make contact with the Dept. responsible at the City Council. However, it was assumed lights would be put on Pump Hill as previously – a further site near the Church was the PC's priority but the installation of new streetlights might mean this would have to be postponed for this year.

09/92 REPORTS FROM SUB-COMMITTEES

There were none

09/93 CORRESPONDENCE

(a) A letter had been received from LCC Highways containing the proposed maintenance schedule for local roads. A reply had been sent, with a copy to Cllr Shelbrooke, requesting that Abbots Close/Highfield Road be brought forward into the 2010/2011 schedule. The incorporation of the Lotherton Lane footpath into the schedule was also requested. Reply awaited.

(b) The annual general meeting of Rural Action Yorkshire would be held on 21st November at 10.30am at Hoylandswaine Village Hall.

(c) Email about grounds maintenance scrutiny board had been circulated to Cllrs.

(d) Information about a training event for Cllrs was read out.

09/44 PLANNING

Application P/09/03749/FU/MIN – Engineering of land for the formation of a nature conservation pond – Sydenham House, Field Lane, Aberford. The Chairman advised that LCC Planners had asked for a further set of plans as they were not satisfied with those submitted. In view of this it was decided to wait until these were received before commenting. Later in the meeting several residents expressed concerns about the safety of children/flooding etc. and they were advised to write individually to Planners.

09/95 ACCOUNTS

The Clerk reported the external auditors had now signed off the Annual Return with one or two comments which the PC had already addressed. Clarification was being sought about the level of Fidelity Guarantee which the auditors had drawn attention to. The Annual Return, together with the relevant notice, had been published on the village noticeboard where it would be displayed for 14 days in accordance with the statutory obligation.

The current balances were:	HSBC current a/c	£ 2,347.88
	HSBC no 1 Hi int a/c	£30,658.55
	HSBC no 2 Hi int a/c	£38,823.43
	Barclays Bank Bond	£40,000.00
	Barclays Bank c/a	£ 506.30

To Pay

- (a) Cheque no. 100245 in the sum of £178.25 was agreed and issued to Mazars for audit work.
- (b) Cheque no. 100246 in the sum of £155.69 was agreed and issued to the Clerk for services, stationery and renewal of the website hosting for a year.

09/96 MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

- (a) Cllr Forster said that the PC would need to start considering the budget for next year at the next meeting.
- (b) The footpath from the motorway junction back towards Aberford had still not been upgraded to a proper standard, it remained narrowed. It was suggested that a site meeting with an officer from Highways Dept might be the way forward.
- (c) The ginnel between the two estates at Garforth was a problem – it was suggested that Mr Borrass of LCC might be able to help and Cllr Forster said he would pursue this.
- (d) Cllr Howson had received a very large poster from the police warning residents to be on their guard against crime during winter. The size of this poster made it difficult to decide where it could be displayed but it was hoped to find somewhere.

09/97 OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

- (a) A resident was given the name of an officer from LCC to contact about leaking drains near his house and who to contact about an overgrown tree on the public footpath next to his house.
- (b) A resident urged the PC to have a more substantial fence around Pump Hill than the present wooden one. The Chairman said that the options and quotations would be examined and Councillors would then make a decision trying to balance the factors of cost/appearance/maintenance etc.
- (c) A resident offered to assist the PC with extra Christmas lights as he had a relevant connection and he would liaise with the PC and provide some prices. Another resident pointed out that he had been requesting Christmas lights for the bridge for a very long time. He said a petition showed the strength of feeling amongst residents for this to be done and urged that it be done this year. The

Chairman replied that the PC's priority for extra lights this year was the area around the Church. The installation of new streetlights had made things difficult, however the PC recognised the strength of feeling for lights along the bridge for the future.

(d) Some advice was given to a member of the Village Hall Committee about a problem with tree roots bursting through the pathway at the side of the Village Hall.

(e) During discussions about the proposed pond at Sydenham House, attention was drawn to debris having built up under the motorway bridge over Cock Beck. This was felt to be a potential major source of water backing up and flooding at times of heavy rain. The PC undertook to ask the River Authority to clear this blockage.

09/98 CLOSE OF MEETING

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone present before closing the meeting at 9.40pm.

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.