

ABERFORD AND DISTRICT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 19th October 2010 at 7.30pm in the School

PRESENT: Cllrs D. Howson,(Chairman) R. Alderson, I. Forster, D. Gluck, P. Hancock, Mrs J. Jefferies, Mrs R. Reed, Mrs Ann Roberts.

Apologies were received from Cllrs Mrs G. Broadley and D. Stainton

Also Present: 5 members of the public and P.C. Nottingham

10/212 MINUTES

The Minutes of the previous meeting, held on Tuesday 21st September 2010, had been circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting. It was proposed by Cllrs Mrs Roberts and seconded by Cllrs Mrs Reed that these were a true record. This was agreed.

10/213 POLICE MATTERS

P.C. G. Nottingham was pleased to report that there had been no crime in the village during September. However, surrounding villages had been subject to quite a few crimes involving old Europrofile locks. These were barrel locks with 4/6 pins which could be sprung together and thus the lock opened. Householders had found items missing but locks in the locked position having been opened and then re-locked. He advised anyone with these locks to oil them so that the pins could not all be ‘jumped’ at the same time.

The Wetherby Crime Prevention Panel had people available to give talks and advice to any village groups who would like this. They had their own gazebo/table to display many small crime prevention items for sale plus a variety of leaflets. Where possible they could bring an ‘ancient’ police vehicle which attracted much attention. Groups should contact them on 01937 582441/email ifo@kalsom.co.uk from 25th October. Some nuisance was being experienced from groups of teenagers gathering – particularly in the Play Area. The police were aware of this and regularly spoke to any groups they found to try to persuade them to respect the equipment and nearby field.

10/214 MATTERS ARISING

(a) Minute 10/204(a) War Memorial – Both Cllrs Stainton and Roberts had re-visited the Memorial and were of the opinion that the cracked concrete was not caused by tree roots and that the pressing work was overhanging branches. The concrete could simply be filled/repared. It was agreed that the Chairman would get two quotations for cutting back the overhanging trees and making good the broken concrete at the base. The Clerk would circulate these quotations to Cllrs with a view to instructing a contractor to carry out the work so that the improvements could be done before Remembrance Day. This could then be formally ratified at the next meeting. The Clerk would continue to progress getting quotations for the parts of the work which appeared to be eligible for grant aid.

(b) Minute 10/204(b) Streetlights – still awaiting the final light on the bridge and the moving of three in Cattle Lane. Cllr Stainton by email, whilst approving payment in principle, he hoped that such payment would not delay the fitting of the final light etc.

(c) Minute 10/204(c) School Field/Access – Cllr Stainton, by email, reported a breakthrough in that the Estate had approved in principle the footpath access and a licence to enter across their land for developing the area. Draft documents would be forthcoming and there would be some legal fees asked of the PC. He recommended that a meeting with LCC take place,

when the Heads of Terms have been received from the Estate, in order to dovetail these agreements with the lease for the School Field area. After all legal matters had been concluded then a scheme could be worked on. The access agreement specifically for school across the adjoining lane was still being negotiated. There was some discussion about the payment of legal costs. A decision on these costs and whether the school would be asked to bear some of them – pertaining to access across the land into the field - was deferred awaiting what those costs would be.

(d) Minute 10/204(d) Cock Beck – Waiting for the Environment Agency to advise if they had completed their survey. The concrete blocks in Cock Beck near the footbridge had been reported but were still there – Clerk to chase. Balfour Beatty advised there were no objects actually blocking under the motorway bridge at this time.

(e) Minute 10/204(f) Village Hall – there was to be an AGM on Tuesday 26th October which had been publicised on the Noticeboards.

(f) Minute 10/204(g) Planning application for development at Becca Farm – see ‘Planning’.

(g) Minute 10/204(i) Untidy Garage entry Main Street – pending reply from LCC Officer.

(h) Minute 10/206(a) Wind Farm and Preparatory Works – the response from Micklefield PC was read to Cllrs. They had no objection to the temporary preparatory works as such but their original objection to the whole scheme remained and would be stated at the Public Enquiry which had started on this date. Cllrs were content to let their original objections to the whole scheme remain on the record.

(i) Minute 10/206(b) Possible charge for using School – Cllr Alderson, as Chair of the School Governors, had informed the Clerk that he believed no charge would be levied for PC meetings at least until April 2011. This was subject to receiving no contrary instructions from LCC Education. An application had been submitted to LCC for continued use up to that time and reply was awaited. Confirmed booking was required for November and thereafter. Some groups had been informed they would now be charged but this would be as low as possible. If the PC now had to pay then it would be factored into the budget for next year.

(j) Minute 10/209(a) Drain Cleansing – the machine had been seen in the village.

(k) Minute 10/209(b) Fallen Branches north end – it had been found necessary to remove the whole tree as it was rotten.

(l) Minute 10/209(c) Winter Gritting – information from LCC had been gathered. The Clerk was asked to first identify which streets had bins and then those which seemed to merit one, having regard to the steepness of the street. LCC would then be asked if the suggestions met the criteria they had established. If they did not then the PC would have to consider the matter further. If LCC provided extra bins then the PC would have to pay for these and any refills and a person had to be appointed to be responsible for such things as requesting refills/reporting vandalism etc which could be quite onerous.

(m) Minute 10/209(e) Design of Bus Shelters in Village Conservation Areas – awaiting response from Metro.

10/215 REPORTS FROM SUB-COMMITTEES

(a) Master Plan

Cllr Gluck reported that a meeting had been held with the preferred Consultants - Bluefish who were based in York. The time to formally appoint them was now fast approaching and a draft Contract would be emailed to Cllrs within the next day or so. One or two copies of this were passed around the meeting. The Contract would be quite A standard document covering the circumstances and legalities drawn from Cllr Gluck's previous experience in this type of work. The exercise was aimed at producing both a Master Plan and a Village Design Statement which would become a supplementary guidance aid to LCC when considering developments for the Parish. It was hoped that one of the firms of Architects based in the village would be willing to donate some time and expertise, either at no cost or low cost. The Conservation Area plan was also ongoing and would feed into the Master Plan. The Estate would also be putting forward their thoughts.

Cllr Gluck asked that all Cllrs study carefully the draft Contract and email their thoughts and/or assent to it being signed to the Clerk for her records. When such assents had been collated, and to allow matters to proceed speedily, then the Contract could be signed and this would be ratified formally at the next PC meeting. Cllrs agreed to this.

Cllr Gluck confirmed that any conditions and requirements stated by the Grantees of money to the project would be fully complied with and he had all the necessary paperwork. The Clerk asked that all receipts and documents pertaining to expenditure be obtained and kept carefully – such as those for room hire/print costs etc. This was acknowledged and understood by Cllrs.

A meeting would be held within a few days between the Sub-Committee members and the appointed Consultants to sign and exchange the Contract (as assented to) so that the work could actually be started and Cllr Gluck hoped that as many Cllrs as possible would attend that meeting.

Cllr Jefferies asked about the original Parish Plan and it was confirmed that the Master Plan was a successor to that.

(a) Footpaths

Cllrs Mrs Jefferies reported that a large map of the Parish was being obtained so that the various footpaths could be marked on it. Some confusion was caused by more than one path being allocated the same number and allocating some names individually on a larger map would enable areas to be accurately identified. Priorities would then be given along the lines of the most used footpaths receiving attention first. The rates for work indicated by LCC seemed to be quite generous and she felt there would be no difficulty in getting contractors.

10/216 CORRESPONDENCE

The annual meeting of the Parish and Town Council/LCC Forum was to be held on Monday the 29th October starting at 6.30 in the Civic Hall. Cllr Jefferies said she would attend and the Clerk would pass all documents to her.

10/217 PLANNING MATTERS

Applications

(a) P/10/03891/FU – Two storey Extn with Balcony to rear, Double Garage and new Driveway with Entrance Pillars and Gates – Green Meadows, Greystones Park, Aberford. Cllrs Stainton and Howson had visited the site and their comments were agreed – to be forwarded to LCC Planning.

(b) P/10/04297/FU/HE – Juliet Balcony F/F Rear – Holly Tree Barn, 17 Beckside, Aberford. Cllrs had no objection.

(c) P/10/02705/FU/E – Polytunnels at Sturton Grange Farm, - Cllrs had no objection.

Decisions

- (a) P/10/03310/FU/NE – Becca Farm development – still pending a decision.
- (b) P/10/03756/FU/HE – Humphreydale Cottage, Kingfisher Lane, Aberford. – Approved.
- (c) P/10/03825/FU/HE – Single Storey Rear Extn to 30 Parlington Villas – Approved.
- (d) P/10/03056/FU/HE – Ash Tree House – Refused.

10/218 ACCOUNTS

- (a) Between meetings the Clerk had consulted the Chairman and Cllr Forster, as RFO, about the renewal of the maintenance contract for the speed signs. The price remained the same as the previous and authority had been given for this to be renewed for one year. Danbach had been duly instructed. Cllrs ratified this decision.
- (b) A letter had been received from the charity, Neighbourhood Elders Team, thanking the PC for their donation.

To Pay

- (a) The invoice for the Heritage Streetlights had been received from LCC and was as quoted by Mr Brummitt of SEC in his email to the PC of 5th October 2009. The total cost was £11,716.78 and a cheque, number 100292, in this sum, was agreed and issued to Leeds City Council. There was no VAT to be reclaimed but the Clerk would complete the necessary paperwork to claim the donation from the N.E. Forum.
- (b) A cheque, number 100293, in the sum of £239.48, for Clerk's salary, ink cartridge costs, Domain Name renewal, 2 years web hosting and 1 year Renewal of Privacy was agreed and issued.
- (c) A cheque, number 100294, in the sum of £200.00, for felling unsafe tree was agreed and issued to DB Tree Services.

Balances

In HSBC current a/c	£ 674.73
In HSBC no 1 Int a/c	£28,710.35
In HSBC no 2 Int a/c	£38,850.61

In Barclays Bank c/a	£ 423.20
In Barclays Bond	£40,000.00

Cllr Forster had not yet raised the matter of charges with Barclays.

Transfer Letter

The Chairman and Cllr Gluck signed a letter to HSBC Bank Plc., authorising the transfer of £13,000 from the No 1 Int account into the current account to meet outgoing cheques.

10/218 MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

- (a) Cllr Mrs Jefferies had received complaints from two residents of the Beckside Estate about the silting up of the stream known as 'the Crow'. They were anxious it would flood if not attended to. Weed growth seemed to be to blame and the Clerk was asked to approach LCC Land Drainage Dept. and liaise with Cllr Mrs Jefferies.
- (b) Cllr Mrs Reed proposed that the PC should again buy a wreath for the War Memorial for Remembrance Day. This was agreed. The Chairman would be attending on behalf of the PC.
- (c) Cllr Gluck reminded the meeting that the Wetherby News was still wanting any articles on the village – the Clerk had the contact details.

(d) An LCC consultation document called ‘What If’ was in circulation and Cllr Gluck undertook to fill this in on behalf of the PC.

(e) Cllr Forster said that the road from junction 47 towards Lotherton Hall had a lot of litter and that the grass needed cutting. Clerk was asked to report this and copy in our Ward Councillor who had responsibility within the Ward for Highways matters.

(f) Cllr Hancock had a report of a faulty streetlight in Lotherton Lane – he would report the number to the Clerk shortly.

10/219 OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

(a) In response to some discussion about litter around the village, the Clerk stated that a ‘one off’ litter pick could be requested if she was notified of a particular area.

(b) A resident asked about the Mobile Library which appeared to have missed recently. However it had been seen in another part of the village on that day but possibly at a different time to that on which it was expected. If it was felt to be a problem then the PC would pursue the matter.

10/220 CLOSE OF MEETING

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 9.00pm

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