

ABERFORD & DISTRICT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 18th October 2011 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

PRESENT Cllrs D. Stainton (Vice Chairman), R. Alderson, D. Gluck, P. Hancock, Mrs R. Reed.

Apologies were received from Cllrs Mrs G. Broadley, I. Forster, D. Howson, Mrs J. Jeffrey

Also Present: 2 members of the public / Clerk

11/92 MINUTES

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday 20th September 2011 had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was proposed by Cllr P. Hancock and seconded by Cllr Mrs Reed that these were a true record. This was agreed.

11/93 POLICE MATTERS

The Clerk gave the September report – an attempt by a suspect to remove a diesel container. Otherwise the parish had been quiet but neighbouring parishes had been experiencing crimes so residents should remain vigilant as always. PCSO Geoff Nottingham had arranged an initial Neighbourhood Watch meeting for Monday 14th November at 7.45 in the Village Hall and this was in the Newsletter going out shortly. It was agreed that the PC would pay the hire charge of £10 for the meeting. Regarding a Cold Calling Zone, after discussion it was decided to leave this in abeyance and see what support there was for a Neighbourhood Watch group who could pursue such a Zone if they thought it a good idea. Wetherby Crime Prevention Panel had offered to put a link on their website to the PC website if so desired. Cllrs thought this a good idea and the Clerk was asked to see if could be implemented.

11/94 MATTERS ARISING

(a) Minute 11/84 Lotherton Hall – awaiting decision from LCC as to any changes to the plans and charging policy. On a related matter re the wide grass verge along Collier Lane beyond the entrance to the Hall, LCC Street Registry had provided a map clearly showing that LCC's area extended over that verge and towards the old bridle path coming from the end of Stocking Lane. For the future this might prove beneficial in facilitating a joined-up footpath network to give access to the Hall and the information would be saved.

(b) Minute 11/84 War Memorial – Work had been ordered and the contractor indicated it would be carried out before Remembrance Day.

(c) School Field – discussed later on the Agenda.

(d) Minute 11/84(d) Cock Beck – ongoing with Chairman

(e) Minute 11/84 (e) Library Service – Cllr Mrs Reed reported there were one or two more residents using the service. Some difficulties with parking had been experienced and the staff had yet to become used to the new arrangements, as different staff had to become familiar with the routine. It was operating to timetable so would be monitored. The service had been mentioned in the forthcoming Newsletter.

(f) Minute 11/84(f) Parking Lotherton Lane – the Clerk reported on a conversation of this date with LCC Officer to the effect that the work had at last been scheduled to be done the first week of December, weather permitting.

(g) Minute 11/84(g) Royal Oak – Clerk reported the LCC Officer was meeting with Enterprise Inns and tenant on the 24th of this month and would then get back to the PC.

(h) Minute 11/84(j) Play Area – between meetings the Chairman had asked the Clerk to order LCC Parks Dept to repair the loose bolts on the roundabout as this whole apparatus could

have been lifted and removed. Workmen had been observed carrying out the work. LCC Parks had also been asked to quote for refurbishing the Play Area equipment – small areas of rust/repainting/repairs to small area of worn safety surfacing. This could then be considered for inclusion in the precept for 2012/13.

(i) Minute 11/84(m) Dog Control Orders – Clerk had responded with PC's views to LCC and indicated that the School Field area would be one to be included when it was refurbished.

(j) Minute 11/86(h) Diamond Jubilee events – Cllr Gluck would be attending the next PTA meeting scheduled for 2nd November and should have more information on what they were planning for the next PC meeting. This had been mentioned in the Newsletter to encourage any village organisations planning celebrations to let the PC know. Information on Jubilee Beacons was passed out by the Clerk for Cllrs to consider.

(k) Minute 11/87(a) Hook Moor Wind Farm Planning Appeal – a letter had been received from a resident expressing disappointment that the PC had not been represented at the recent Public Inquiry. Clerk was asked to reply.

(l) Minute 11/87(b) Design Guide for Householders – Cllr Gluck had downloaded this Guide and might have some comments for the next meeting. It would be relevant to the Village Design Statement as this was developed. Mr Tony Ray – our consultant involved in the VDS – had gone to one of the drop in events.

11/95 REPORTS FROM SUB-COMMITTEES

(a) Master Plan Projects

(i) Cllr Gluck reported the Village Hall Committee were awaiting the finalised Feasibility Study (having considered the draft) and should have more information after their AGM on the 20th October to which all residents were invited. A large amount of funding would be required if they were to go ahead with their plans and they would be looking for some financial support from the PC at that time.

(ii) On Broadband Cllr Gluck reported that Nextgenus had set up a web page for the project and on the Facebook site with a facility for people to ask questions. A leaflet will be going out to residents to enable them to conditionally sign up to the service. This project would not require any contribution from the PC as it would be self-financing but DEFRA was to be approached to see if they might put some funding into the project.

(iii) With regard to traffic/parking etc through the village, LCC Highways were to be asked to do a preliminary walk through and to look at some of the suggestions coming out of the Master Plan so that they could be built into future programmes of work.

(iv) Investigations into the possibility of creating a Community Interest Company were ongoing with the help of a resident with experience of setting up this sort of company. Terms of reference were being drawn up and it would be a case of trying to find residents who might be interested in serving as a 'Board of Directors'.

(v) The Village Design Statement was ongoing and it would be a long process. A meeting was scheduled for 11th November and there was progress on a number of fronts. The consultant working with the Sub-committee was consulting LCC Officers at every stage so there were kept aware as it moved along.

(b) Footpaths

(c) Allotments

Clerk had not received any report on these items.

11/96 CORRESPONDENCE

- (a) A Guide, produced by NALC, on 'How to respond to Planning Applications' had been received. A short free e-learning course would be available shortly and the link could be sent to Cllrs. The cost of obtaining more copies of booklet was awaited. Cllrs felt this would be extremely useful to all.
- (b) LCC Highways programme of work on local roads for 2012/13 contained nothing for Aberford Parish. The programme was however separate to A, B & C class roads and minor revenue funded works. Cllrs were asked to let the Clerk know if they had any suggestions of roads to be added. Resurfacing of Highfields Estate was scheduled for early New Year.
- (c) Information on the Society of Local Council Clerks training courses had been received. There was a 2 day basic course which might be of help to Clerks who did not wish to continue to professional qualifications as such. However the courses for next year were scheduled to be held from the Midlands south which would mean an overnight stay and thus be expensive. The Clerk intended to suggest the Society put on 2 or 3 such courses somewhere like Manchester/Leeds/York/Newcastle.
- (d) The AGM of Rural Action Yorkshire, together with some workshops, was scheduled for 29th October at East Keswick Village Hall. The workshops would be free and lunch provided.
- (e) Information had been received about having a Diamond Jubilee Beacon – this would be circulated for comment at the next meeting.
- (f) The YLCA publication 'White Rose' was given to Cllrs to circulate – it had interesting articles as always and one was about PCs naming community facilities to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee – Queen Elizabeth Fields was suggested for playing fields.
- (g) Information on an LCC Seminar on Localism had been circulated to Cllrs between meetings. Cllr Gluck had attended the meeting and reported on it.
- (h) There had been an exchange of emails with Cllr Robinson who had organised a meeting to discuss arrangements between LCC Highways and PCs if there was bad weather again this year.

11/97 PLANNING

Applications

- (a) Application P/11/03864 – Removal of condition – Swan Mill Barn & The Old Barn. Cllrs had no objection to this.
- (b) Application P/11/03955 – White House Farm Development – appeared to be some changes to the original designs of the houses. Cllrs agreed that Cllrs Stainton and Howson would evaluate this application between meetings.

Decisions

Approval had been given to:

P/11/03271 – Removal of planning condition – Hayton House Cottage

P/11/02597 – Alterations to Swan Mill Barn – Dtc'd grg to front, Cons. To rear.

The following applications were pending:

P/11/01915 – Gates to 2 The Gables/Forget Me Not cottage

P/11/03446 – 10 Parlington Villas – Cons to side

P/11/00349 – Becca Farm Development.

P/11/03804 – 15 Brierlands Close – Cons to rear.

11/97 ACCOUNTS

Clerk reported that the Barclays Bond would mature on 4th November. Details of the new Bond which ran until August 2012 were discussed and, in view of the possibility of this money being required before this maturity date, the Clerk was instructed to have the proceeds

put into the Barclays current account and then to close that account and have the whole amount transferred into the HSBC high interest earning account.

Balances

In HSBC current a/c	£ 3,816.76
In HSBC No 1 Hi Int a/c	£19,972.50
In HSBC No 2 Hi Int a/c	£38,877.72
In Barclays Bank c/a	£ 922.04
In Barclays Bond	£40,000.00
In HSBC Master Plan a/c	£ 764.71

To Pay

- (a) Cheque number 100345, in the sum of £528.00, for Christmas lights was agreed and issued to Leeds City Council.
- (b) Cheque number 100346, in the sum of £25.00, for Village Hall hire, was agreed and issued to Aberford Village Hall.
- (c) Cheque number 100347, in the sum of £170.00, for Clerk's salary was agreed and issued.
- (d) Cheque number 100348, in the sum of £10.00, for Clerk's expenses was agreed and issued.

Budget Discussion

Information on the current financial position had been circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting. Cllr Stainton asked that a copy of the adopted budget for the current year be circulated to Cllrs so that a comparison could be made for the next meeting.

A sum of £200 should be added to the projected expenditure for the current year to top up the Master Plan account in order to meet the consultant's fees previously agreed as it was felt this sum would be due before the end of the financial year. For 2012/2013 a further sum of £1800 should be shown for Master Plan account being the balance of the £2000 which the PC had previously committed to that account to meet costs of spin off projects etc.,

11/98 SCHOOL FIELD/TENNIS COURTS LAND

- (a) Cllrs agreed that they would consider renaming this project having regard to next year being the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.
- (b) This would now appear as an Agenda item and be carried forward by a more formal Sub-committee, the members of which would be confirmed at the next PC meeting as several Cllrs were not present.
- (c) Cllr Alderson, in his capacity as Chair of the School Governors, reported that LCC Legal Dept had been sent some information on the agreement reached between the school and the Parochial Church Council regarding access across the graveyard into school field area for the children. This was moving forward as part of what was required within the overall scheme.
- (d) Notes of the meeting held on 4th October between LCC Officers and Cllrs Howson, Stainton, Alderson and Hancock had been circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr Stainton reported that an amended sketch and costings were awaited and there was much discussion on the way forward.
- (e) Planning permission would be required and LCC Officers indicated they would prepare this – it would take several weeks for this procedure to be completed.
- (f) In view of the above and whilst wanting the scheme to proceed as speedily as possible, Cllr Gluck recommended, and Cllrs agreed, that grant funding should be sought as it was felt

it would not delay the scheme unduly. Cllr Gluck offered to make an approach to Grantscape (Caird Bardon).

(g) With regard to funding, it was agreed as follows:

(i) LCC Officers would be informed the PC had agreed to commit a sum of maximum £75,000.00 to this first major phase of the scheme, plus a contingency for fees and costs. (This sum being the capital reserve having to be spent on capital projects only).

(ii) The PC would, however, be looking to obtain grant funding towards the various phases of the scheme including this first phase. This might mean, if grant funding could be obtained within the timescale, the PC's contribution to the first phase could be lowered releasing funds for further phases.

(iii) LCC Officers would be told that it would be necessary for the PC to obtain 3 quotations for the work, including site clearing work, preparation of the footpath access and fencing etc. together with development of the tennis court and MUGA court. No work incurring expenditure could be agreed to by the PC until a quotation had been selected, agreed and properly ordered by the PC. This was to comply with the PC's financial regulations.

11/99 MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

(a) Christmas Lights – a date for installation was required – Cllrs agreed that this should be during the first week in December.

(b) Boxing Day Hunt – the Clerk was asked to make preliminary contact with the Police regarding arrangements which had worked very well last year.

(c) Winter Snow arrangements - Cllr Robinson was holding a meeting this day to bring together LCC Officers and representatives from PCs within the Ward regarding arrangements for winter. As no-one had been available to attend Cllr Robinson was given information as follows: that Aberford PC had set aside a sum to pay a local farmer to clear the estate roads and would expect LCC to do the main road as usual. A supply of grit salt should be delivered to the farmer free of charge as soon as possible. Feedback from the meeting was awaited.

The Clerk was asked to ensure that Highways remained aware that 3 refills of grit bins had been paid for already by the PC

(d) Cllr Hancock reported that tractors were speeding through the village and there had been several complaints about this from residents – Clerk reported that the police were aware and were dealing with this.

(e) Cllr Stainton asked that the Clerk make all Cllrs, who had specific responsibility for items on the Agenda, aware that they should let the Clerk have a report to present to the meeting if they were unable to attend. Clerk to deal.

11/100 CLOSE OF MEETING

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 9.00pm.

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.