

ABERFORD & DISTRICT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 15th September 2009 in the School.

PRESENT: Cllrs. D. Stainton,(Vice-Chairman) P. Hancock, D. Gluck, I. Forster, Mrs R. Reed

Apologies were received from Cllrs. D. Howson, R. Alderton, Mrs G. Broadley

Also Present: Clerk and 5 members of the public

09/79 MINUTES

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday 18th August 2009 had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was proposed by Cllr Mrs Reed and seconded by Cllr Hancock that these were a true record. This was agreed.

09/80 POLICE MATTERS

PCSOs Nottingham and Gaynor Duffy gave their report. There were 2 crimes during August – both vehicular. A tractor was stolen from Becca Park but had been recovered. In a separate incident a car had been stopped in the early hours of the morning and some men inside were found in possession of a bunch of keys – which would have fitted various types of vehicles. Police were confident that this had prevented some crimes being committed. The Chairman asked if the local Farmwatch could be made aware of large agricultural vehicles being driven through the village at excessive speed over the last weeks. It was not known where they had originated but Farmwatch would be asked to contact their members.

09/81 MATTERS ARISING

(a) Referring to Minute 09/71(a) War Memorial – outstanding

(b) Referring to Minute 09/71(b) Streetlights – Cllr Stainton had continued to liaise with SEC who knew that the PC was going ahead with Heritage Style lights etc., The areas to be firmed up were the lowering of the Cattle Lane lights, the extra columns for the north end and the exact timing for the work to be done. An application form had been received to apply for help from the N.E. Outer Area Committee.

(c) Referring to Minute 09/71 (c) School Field – Cllr Stainton had asked for Cllr Proctor's help to expedite matters and LCC Parks had now confirmed the area would be made available to the PC on a long lease at a peppercorn rent. Other 'heads of agreement' were being prepared and should be put before the PC shortly. A meeting had been arranged with Vicky Nunn from LCC Parks for 27th October at 3.00p.m. at the Chairman's house and she would be able to help with a feasibility study etc.

(d) Referring to Minute 09/71 (d) Speed Signs, Cattle Lane – still outstanding – Highways had agreed to do a traffic count.

(e) Referring to Minute 09/71(e) Humphreydale Cottage – no plans yet received

(f) Referring to Minute 09/71(f) Play Area Swing Bushes – waiting for Parks Dept.

(g) Referring to Minute 09/71(g) Festival Tickets – Cllr Stainton had spoken to Cllr Mrs Broadley who said that two tickets had been returned at the last minute unsold. However 48 had been successfully sold and the money would be shortly paid into the Bank. Very favourable comments had been received by her – particularly as V.I.P. parking and access had been available along with the tickets. Experience gained would be valuable for next year. Cllr Stainton reminded that the money was to be used for extra Christmas lights and this would be progressed at the next meeting.

(h) Referring to Minute 09/71(h) Fencing Pump Hill – Clerk outlined quotes – From LCC £5600 for new timber fence which included removing old fence. From Nicholls Fabrication £4769.80 to take down wooden fence, supply and fit extra concrete posts to match existing, put chain between. For removing wooden fence/concrete posts and putting 600mm high metal bow top fence (similar to play area) galvanised and polyester powder coated £5829.20. Nicholls quote did not include fencing up the LH side of the access lane to the rear houses. Cllrs were undecided whether to go for wooden or metal fencing – Clerk asked to get a second quotation for both wood and metal in view of the prices quoted and the section up the LH side of the access lane should be included. To liaise with DH/PH.

(i) Referring to Minute 09/71(i) Drainage – Mr Penty of Highways had met with the Chairman and Clerk on site. He had agreed to install a second grate at the junction of Main Street and Pinfold Rise to double the ability to remove water in that area. At the south end of the village Mr Penty would pursue getting a landowner to re-open a drainage culvert to prevent a repeat of the flooding.

(j) Referring to Minute 09/71(k) NE Area Committee meetings – An email had been received giving information on how to place items before the Committee and listing future dates of meetings: the next one being 21st September at 6.00p.m. in Harewood Village Hall. Cllrs Forster and Gluck said they would try to attend.

(k) Referring to Minute 09/71(m) Signs on Verges – the ones on the verges at the south end had been removed. Clerk had asked the owner of the sign on private land at Hook Moor about planning permission. Councillors wanted to be sure that any permissions were properly obtained. Clerk asked to inform LCC Enforcement section.

(l) Referring to Minute 09/71(n) Meadow at Bridge – the owners had been helpful and this had been cut back and was to receive a second cut. It would also be sprayed to deal with weeds in the Spring.

(m) Referring to Minute 09/73(a) Footpath Lotherton Hall – Clerk was asked to reply to lengthy email from Mr Owen of Highways/Cllr Shelbrooke. Cllr Gluck said that perhaps this could be raised under Any Other Business at the NE Area Committee meeting – along the lines of access to a major LCC attraction at Lotherton Hall – there might be other Parish Councils with similar problems in their areas.

(n) Referring to Minute 09/76(a) Local Footpaths – Clerk now had copy of the Parish Paths Partnership Agreement and small plan. Response was awaited from LCC as to the current situation.

(o) Referring to Minute 09/76(b) Hanging Baskets – Looking towards next year the Clerk was asked to get an indication of costs so that a figure could be built into the next budget.

(p) Referring to Minute 09/76(c) Aggressive Dogs Becca Lane – Cllr Stainton had dealt with this matter.

(q) Referring to Minute 09/76(e) Various Highways matters – Cllr Forster reported he was waiting for a reply about the blocked footpath over 'Makin' land, work had been scheduled by Highways on the other items raised. He would be keeping an eye on progress.

(r) Referring to Minute 09/77(c) Aberford in Bloom group had sent an update to the Clerk. Volunteers were wanted to weed the beds on Pump Hill this week and also regularly. Bulbs had been obtained and volunteers were wanted to help plant them up in the autumn. It was hoped to organise a 'get together' one evening in the Arabian Horse. There was discussion about the sponsor boards which had been put on Pump Hill – some Councillors were not aware that this had been agreed. It was felt that there should be some clarification about boards and that someone from the Group should be invited to the next meeting. It was recommended that the Group put up posters asking for volunteers on the noticeboards/shop/pubs.

(s) Referring to Minute 09/77(d) Grass/Hedge cutting Lotherton Lane – a letter had been sent to the owner of the hedge but no reply had yet been received.

09/82 REPORTS FROM SUB-COMMITTEES

There were no reports from Sub-Committees

09/83 CORRESPONDENCE

The annual Parish & Town Council forum meeting was scheduled for Thursday 29th October at the Civic Hall at 7.00p.m. A networking and refreshments session would start at 6.30. A letter asking for any comments had also been received.

09/84 PLANNING

Decisions

(a) Application 09/02366/FU – Removal of certain conditions Silverhills, Collier Lane – Approved.

(b) Application 09/02819/FU – Ext. to Barn Complex Silver Hills, Collier Lane – Approved with reiteration of certain conditions concerning landscaping, the building to be used for agricultural purposes only, provisions to keep mud off the road etc.

Applications

- (a) Application 09/03384/FU/HE – Avlaki, Main Street – bring forward garage and form a small porch. Cllrs had studied the plans and had no objections.
- (b) Application 09/02922/CA/Ne – Nyman Lodge (formerly Laurieknowe) Field Lane – Demolish part of existing house to create room for further dwelling. This proposal had been approved on appeal in November 2008. Cllrs had been consulted between meetings to gather comments which had been sent to Planners.

For Information

- (a) The LCC Enforcement Officer had raised a file for the Old Watermill at the junction of Cattle Lane/Main Street and would be visiting shortly.
- (b) The Officer had been out to the house at the bottom of School Lane and found everything to be in order.
- (c) LCC Planning had been asked if the restrictions on parking at Yew Trees, Main Street were still in force – reply awaited but the Clerk was asked to write to the occupiers on behalf of the PC about the matter.

09/85 ACCOUNTS

The current balances were:

HSBC current a/c	£609.54
HSBC No 1 Hi Int a/c	£30,635.79
HSBC No 2 Hi Int a/c	£38,816.58
Barclays Bond	£40,000

Discussion took place about the Bond due to mature on 25th September. It had paid 2.2% interest and the next offer would pay 1.10% interest. Cllr Forster had not found anything better, nor had the Clerk for the short deposit time. It was decided to take up the offer from Barclays.

To Pay

- (a) Cheque no 100243 in the sum of £25.00 was agreed and issued to Broker Network Ltd for insurance to cover damage to Christmas Lights. It had been found that these were covered for Public Liability for not for other damage.
- (b) Cheque no 100244 in the sum of £116.66 was agreed and issued for Clerk's remuneration.

09/86 MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

- (a) An application form for grants from the N.E. Area Outer Committee had been received. Both street lights and Pump Hill fencing were felt to be items which the Committee could be asked to help with. Cllr Stainton said he would get more detailed costings from SEC. Cllr Forster said he would help to put the application together.

(b) Cllr Gluck said there was a lot of rubbish in Cock Beck at the ford and around the bridge which he would be happy to clear if he could have authorisation to hire a small skip. This was agreed.

(c) Cllr Hancock had noticed that children had been using the Church graveyard as a play area recently. He had seen two in particular riding bikes there. Clerk was asked to contact Mrs Heggie to ask her to speak to children about this.

09/87 OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

(a) Mrs Street reported on her proposed Youth Group. She had been unable to make progress with the Village Hall so she had begun negotiations with the Methodist Chapel and asked if the PC would be supportive of this possible change of venue. Councillors confirmed they would.

(b) A resident reported that the Swillington Nurseries would give Aberford in Bloom group a 10% discount on plants. Other villages all seemed to have sponsor boards for their In Bloom groups.

(c) A resident urged that Christmas lights should be put across the bridge this year which was something he had been asking for over the past 3 years. Cllr Stainton said that the priority area for this year was around the Church but the next area for the future would, he felt, be the bridge area. Costs for more lights were to be obtained.

09/88 CLOSE OF MEETING

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone present before closing the meeting at 9.05p.m.

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.