

ABERFORD & DISTRICT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 20th September 2011 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

PRESENT Councillors D. Howson (Chairman), Mrs G. Broadley, I. Forster, D. Gluck, P. Hancock, Mrs J. Jeffrey, Mrs R. Reed.
Apologies were received from Cllrs R. Alderson and D. Stainton
Also Present – 4 members of the public, LCC Officer, Ward Cllr, Clerk

11/81 MINUTES

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday 16th August 2011 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.

11/82 LOCALISM OFFICER/WARD COUNCILLOR

LCC Officer Andrew Birkbeck introduced himself and outlined his role to Councillors. He talked about the provisions within the Localism Bill going through Parliament which would impact on Parish Councils. Finding funding sources for any projects which the PCs had within the Harewood Ward would be one of his tasks and, in this respect, he was aware of the School Field development. He was in contact with LCC Officer Vicky Nunns and he was made aware of the forthcoming site meeting. There was a good discussion and the Chairman thanked him for his presence and for his anticipated ongoing help.

Ward Cllr Matthew Robinson was allowed to address the meeting due to his pressing business elsewhere. Where his remarks were on a topic elsewhere in these Minutes they have been inserted. It was his intention to trial 'Street Surgeries' within the Ward whereby residents would be invited to air any concerns they might have with a Ward Cllr. The Ward Cllr would tour around the streets – having given prior notice of the day and time – to see what response there was. If successful then this practice would be continued. A start date of 8th October at the northern end of the village was anticipated – this would be publicised.

11/83 POLICE MATTERS

The Chairman had not received any figures due to a computer breakdown. Beech View was suggested as an initial locality for a Cold Calling Zone and the Clerk was asked to investigate. A Grant request had been received from W.Yorkshire Crime Stoppers organisation to help to fund a poster/leaflet campaign through the W. Yorkshire area. After discussion it was decided that a grant would not be given as the PC preferred to direct any such funds directly within the Parish and Ward. Cllr Mrs Jeffrey felt that reinstatement of the Neighbourhood Watch scheme would be a welcome thing and this could be mentioned in the next Newsletter.

11/84 MATTERS ARISING

(a) Minute 11/73 Lotherton Hall – a very full response had been sent to Planners about the proposals for a new road layout. It was understood that LCC Highways had objected to the scheme, one reason being the wrong speed limit having been used for the B1217. There had been many public responses to the overall plans and proposed road layout. Cllr Robinson said that he understood any new pricing would be introduced in January 2012 – the Executive Board would be evaluating the responses.

- (b) Minute 11/73(b) War Memorial works – the Clerk was instructed to accept the estimate from RAM Masonry which would amount to approximately £850.00 and it was hoped the work could be completed before the Remembrance Day service. Cllr Mrs Broadley asked that some money from the LeedsFest ticket sales be allocated to this project and this was agreed.
- (c) Minute 11/73(c) School Field – progressing with the Estate giving permission for the woodman to clear a path for machinery to make initial clearances around November. The Estate had also confirmed they would give the village a Christmas tree free of charge. A meeting with LCC Officers working on the plans had been scheduled for 4th October when it was hoped an initial scheme would be presented to the PC. Cllr Robinson reported that Ward Members had been briefed on the PC's plans for School Field and had supported the peppercorn lease of the land from the City Council.
- (d) Minute 11/73(d) Cock Beck – ongoing – in hand with the Chairman.
- (e) Minute 11/73(e) Library Service – being monitored by Cllr Mrs Reed – new arrangements were hopefully settling down.
- (f) Minute 11/73(f) Parking Lotherton Lane – Clerk trying to progress. Some photos taken by Cllr Hancock would be passed to the Clerk.
- (g) Minute 11/73(h) Royal Oak – Clerk chasing the LCC Officer.
- (h) Minute 11/73(i) Skip – Cllr Hancock would arrange the date and liaise with the Clerk to put posters up. Cllr Gluck would firm up permission to site the skip next to the Village Hall.
- (i) Minute 11/73(n) Speed of Vehicles Becca Lane – to be monitored.
- (j) Minute 11/75(a) Play Area – Cllr Gluck had received a high quotation from Parkdale Play for the minor bolts etc which could use some attention. He recommended that the PC should build a sum into the Precept to carry out a good 'spring clean' of the Play Area. This would include replacing any small screws/bolts etc, dealing with small areas of rust and repainting the whole and attending to any small areas of safety surfacing so that they did not get bigger. This was agreed – to discuss when considering the next Precept.
- (k) Minute 11/76 Planning Matter – a company trading from a private residence had moved to other premises, removing the need for the Clerk to investigate the matter.
- (l) Minute 11/78(b) Parish Boundary – Cllr Forster had attended a meeting of 3 Clerks of bordering parishes. In the case of Aberford PC it was agreed that no further action was necessary.
- (m) Minute 11/78(g) Dog Control Orders – Clerk asked to respond to the consultation. School Field would be the major area where such orders should be considered. At the moment it was widely used by dog walkers and, when developed, this could be a problem which the PC would need to give thought to.

11/85 REPORTS FROM SUB COMMITTEES

(a) Master Plan - Projects

Cllr Gluck outlined how he felt the projects coming out of the Plan should be taken forward. He felt that the Master Plan Sub Committee should be continued with members solely from within the PC but drawing on outside expertise as necessary. On this basis he proposed that himself, Cllrs Stainton and Mrs Broadley form the nucleus of the Sub Committee and commit to meeting monthly ongoing and feed back to the full PC meeting. The Master Plan account should remain open to receive any new funding coming forward to achieve the projects which would keep it ring-fenced from the main PC accounts. These proposals were agreed. On the Broadband project there had been a good response to the questionnaires which had gone to every house and these were being evaluated by NextGenus. The availability of 'piggybacking' on the arrangements of a company in the village had been delayed but might still be possible. In any event the project was being pursued. The PC would work steadily on the various projects over the term of office.

(b) LeedsFest

Cllr Mrs Broadley reported all arrangements, particularly traffic, went well. She was happy to see some of the money raised from this source spent on refurbishing the War Memorial with further sums allocated to a youth facility within the School Field development.

(c) Footpaths

Cllr Mrs Jeffrey was experiencing difficulty in contacting the LCC Officer but she would continue to try to get a breakdown of work required on the Parish footpaths with a view to obtaining competitive quotes.

(d) Allotments

Cllr Mrs Jeffrey had been asked to provide a quotation to the LCC Officer for forming a footpath for access/putting a fence around the allotments, together with the anticipated yearly rental income. This would make it obvious that the PC were not in a position to pay anything other than a peppercorn rent for the allotments. Negotiations would continue to see if a satisfactory outcome could be reached.

11/86 CORRESPONDENCE

(a) The Parish & Town Council Charter had been circulated to Cllrs for information.

(b) The Travel Plan Supplementary Document (SPD) was available on the LCC website. Consultation period was to 30th September and any comments should be sent to LCC.

(c) The Natural Resources and Waste Development Plan was available on the LCC website should Cllrs wish to comment on it.

(d) The Thorner PC Clerk had emailed colleagues pointing out the huge number of subjects upon which PCs were being asked to consult/comment. He was asking whether PCs felt a group should be set up, separately to any in operation, appointed to consult/comment on behalf of participating PCs on all those subjects. After discussion it was felt that there were a reasonable number of groups operating already covering the Ward and contact often was taking place between Clerks and Cllrs where there were subjects of mutual interest and/or implication. Someone would have to be willing to attend yet another meeting over and above those already in operation. It was decided not to take forward Thorner's suggestion but to suggest that the existing N.E.Forum might meet bi-monthly and give a resume of documents to the PCs so they would not have to assess multi-page documents.

(e) An email from Rural Action Yorkshire had been received about a Training Event on Community Led Planning. Cllrs were given details.

(f) An email from LCC had been received about a Seminar on Localism – Cllrs were given details.

(g) A copy of the Barwick & Scholes PC Newsletter was circulated to Cllrs. They asked that they be sent a copy of Aberford PC's future Newsletters – Clerk to deal.

(h) An email from the Deputy L.L. of Yorkshire had been received enquiring if the PC knew of or had planned any celebratory events for the Diamond Jubilee. The key weekend would be 01/06 – 05/06. Cllr Gluck reported that the PTA was planning something. After discussion it was decided that Cllr Mrs Broadley would take the lead on co-ordinating any events planned by organisations in the village. Cllrs Mrs Jeffrey said she would find out what the Church and Chapel were planning.

(i) A letter had been received from a resident about a seat– this was discussed and the Clerk asked to reply.

11/87 PLANNING

(a) Cllrs had been advised that Banks Renewables planning appeal was going before the Inspector and any further comments had to be submitted by 14th September. Cllrs had been content with previous comments submitted.

(b) LCC were to publish a Design Guide for Householders and this was going through a consultation process. Two public consultation events were to be held together with time allowed for PCs to comment. Cllr Gluck asked for details of the 'drop in' sessions.

Applications

(a) Application P/11/03446 – Cnsvty to side – 10 Parlington Villas. Cllrs had no objection.

(b) Application P/11/00349 – Rvsd plans – Becca Farm Development, Main Street. Cllrs were basically of the same opinion as expressed in their very full response to the previous revision. This was that there should be no more than three dwellings created, with adequate parking within the courtyard site and that the design of any new build should be mindful of being in the Conservation Area and sympathetic to surrounding properties. Clerk was instructed to respond.

(c) Application P/11/03804 – Cnsvty to rear – 15 Brierlands Close – Cllrs had no objection.

Decisions

Approved: P/11/02387 – Alterations to Green Meadows, Greystones Park

Pending: P/11/02597 – Alterations to Swan Mill Barn

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

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

11/88 ACCOUNTS

(a) Clerk reminded Cllrs that the Barclays Bank Bond would mature on 4th November. She would hope to have information by the next meeting on what was available but Cllrs might wish to have the money in a more available form with the School Field project now moving.

(b) In the Parish Paths Partnership account there was £781.00, held within the general HSBC current account.

Balances

In HSBC Current account £ 3,150.51

In HSBC No 1 High Int a/c £19,969.31

In HSBC No 2 High Int a/c £38,870.96

In Barclays Bank current a/c £ 938.54

In Barclays Bank Bond £40,000.00

In HSBC Master Plan a/c £ 805.75

To Pay

From the PC current account:

Cheque number 100343, in the sum of £170.90 for Clerk's salary, was agreed and issued.

From the Master Plan account:

Cheque number 100014, in the sum of £41.04 for Clerk's expenses in sending out the Master Plan to various people, was agreed and issued.

11/89 MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

Cllr Gluck reported on some school matters:

(a) The PTA/School were working towards some upgrading of the School playground. He understood they would be approaching the PC for some financial help when their plans were finalised. With reference to this, the Chairman reminded Cllr Gluck to make the School aware that School had a right of access from the lane behind their premises into their site if it was required to allow upgrading works to be carried out.

- (b) It was still possible that the PTA might go ahead with improvements to the field next to the play ground but equally this may not come to fruition
- (c) The Governors had appointed a new Head – a Miss Boulding.
- (d) Refuse collections were discussed with Cllr Robinson in some detail. A trial of food waste collection had taken place in Rothwell and this was being evaluated. LCC's intention was to achieve 50% recycling – in the case of glass the way forward might be for pubs to be a disposal point in each local area. All agreed that having different days for bin collections meant that there always seemed to be bins about in the streets, which was unsightly. Residents could help by placing them where they would not be in the way of pedestrians but if they were out all day at work then they had to be put out the night before and not taken in until the following evening. The collectors also did not replace bins where they had been left.
- (e) Cllr Robinson drew attention to the Boundary Review which was going on at the moment. At national level, Aberford would fall within the Leeds N.E. area and PCs could make their views known about this if they wished.

11/90 OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

There were no matters raised by the public

11/91 CLOSE OF MEETING

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 9.55pm.

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.