

## EARSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of Earswick Parish Council meeting held in Earswick Village Hall on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2007

|                 |                                    |  |
|-----------------|------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Present:</b> | <b>Councillors</b>                 | <b>W Gambold</b><br><b>P Anderson</b><br><b>M Leach</b><br><b>S Wiseman</b><br><b>P Norman</b> |
|                 | <b>Clerk</b>                       | <b>S Leach</b>   |
|                 | <b>Responsible Finance Officer</b> | <b>J Cook</b>  |

**Members of the Public present:** - J Hepworth, I Jones, D Jones, W Thompson, J Nicholson, V Bradshaw, J Gambold, M Norman, H Mead, P Fletcher, J Fletcher, B Driver, P Driver, J Gill, M Woodward, A Woodward.

#### **1. Apologies for Absence**

None received

#### **2. Declarations of Interest in Items on the Agenda**

None received.

#### **3. Minutes of the Meeting of 10<sup>th</sup> October 2007**

Councillor Wiseman proposed the minutes as being a true record. All agreed.

#### **4. The Playing Fields Association**

The meeting received a presentation from Paul Allen from the Playing Fields Association who will provide information on funding sources in return for the Parish Council signing a deed of Dedication to ensure the football area remains as a recreational facility in perpetuity. Councillors will debate this at a future meeting.

#### **5. Officers Reports**

##### **5.1 Clerks Report**

- Letters have been sent to the householders in The Village whose properties back onto the Ditch. One resident has responded to ask for advice on whether they need to remove items. **Action:SW**
- The Clerk has confirmed the areas of land to be transferred to the Parish Council from the Thompson estate with City of York Council.
- The responsible farmer has now cut back the overgrown verge along Strensall Road.
- City of York Council continue to work with the residents of High Garth re responsibility for cutting back the hedge on the boundary of their properties and advise that, in their view it is the responsibility of the residents.
- A date was agreed to receive advice from the Rural Community Council re setting up a Parish Plan.

## **5.2 Responsible Finance Officers Report**

- a. The RFO gave the bank reconciliation report.
- b. Councillors considered the installation of a loop system at a cost of £1828 + VAT and agreed to seek further information. **Action:SL**
- c. Councillors discussed the quotes received for the repairs to the roof of the Village Hall. Councillor Leach declared an interest. Councillors agreed to pursue a claim on the NHBC insurance. **Action: SL/JC**  
Councillors agreed that both the work to the roof and the work to the bike shed were needed on the grounds of Health and Safety.
- d. Councillors agreed to convene a working party to prepare a format for setting the Precept to be discussed at the December meeting. **Action: PA/ML/JC**

- e. Authorisation of Expenditure
- £23.50 per month – British Gas for maintenance contract
  - £102.50 – Garden Creation for verge maintenance
  - £740.25 – Deans for grass cutting
  - £88.13 – RoSPA for play areas inspection
  - £1110.38 – Deans for grass and shrub cutting
  - £116.90 – Martin Leach for the printer
  - £158.62 – Mazaars for audit
  - £325.83 – Shirley Leach for Clerk's salary
  - £128.67 – Jenny Cook – RFO salary

Mazaars have advised that an independent auditor is required. **Action:JC/BG**

## **6. Planning Application –07/02386/FUL**

8 Lockhouse Lane – no objection.

## **7. Transfer of Land Under the Section 106 Agreement.**

Item deferred until the legal paperwork is received.

## **8. Tenders for Contracts for Maintenance of the Public Open Space.**

Deferred to end of business

## **9. Maintenance of the Vegetation in the Enclosed POS**

Deferred to end of business

## **10. Maintenance of Play areas.**

Councillors reviewed the recommendations made by the RoSPA Inspector

- Village Hall area – Martin Whittaker to level the paving slab and power wash the surfaces regularly. **Action:SW**
- Quote to be sort to regrout the tiles **Action:ML**
- Mole man to remove moles from football area **Action:SL**
- Advisory signs on basket ball and kick wall **Action:SW**
- Smooth rough areas on seating platforms. (MW) **Action:SW**
- Replace bin **Action:SL**

### **11. Amendments to Standing Orders**

Councillors discussed amending the standing orders to enable Councillors who have a declared interest and members of the public to speak at a Parish Council meeting in relation to planning matters only. It was agreed that the Clerk would draft the amendments for agreement at the next meeting.

**Action:SL**

### **12. Maintenance of the Pond**

Councillors agreed that the Clerk would write to the Clerk of Foss Internal Drainage Board to request a site meeting to clarify what needs to be done.

**Action:SL**

### **13. Repositioning the Bus Stop outside Wayside Farm**

Councillor Wiseman proposed moving the bus stop from its present site. This proposal was not supported. Councillor Gambold proposed an amendment to investigate whether it would be possible for the school bus pick up point to be moved. Agreed.

**Action:SL**

### **14. Bids for Ward Funding**

Councillor Gambold invited comments from members of the public who had submitted bids for ward funding for items related to expenditure or land owned by the Parish Council.

- Creation of a scented garden on the defunct bowling green. Councillors agreed to support this bid subject to the necessary planning permissions being obtained. **Action:SL**
- Funding for a bench on the green in Garden Village. Councillors agreed to maintain the bench from the Precept once the bench is on site.
- Provision of a larger serving hatch in the village hall. Councillors agreed to support this bid.
- Provision of streetlights in The Village. This item is not related to the Parish Council.
- Provision of swings in the playground. This bid was not represented therefore is unsupported by the Parish Council.

### **15. Items for Information**

Neighbourhood Watch and the police are aware of the tent pitched in the copse.

The Parish Council is interested in setting up a web site and quotes are to be sought for the next meeting.

The erection of goal posts etc needs to be arranged following receipt of the grant.

**Action: PA,ML,SW**

Councillor Gambold proposed the following resolution.

Pursuant to Section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 it is resolved that, because of the confidential nature of the business to

be transacted, the public and the press leave the meeting during consideration of the following item. All agreed.

**Tenders for Contracts for Maintenance of the Public Open Space**

Councillors resolved to award the following contracts for a period of three years from March 2008

- Contract 1 – areas 1-5 – Deans
- Contract 2 – area 7 - Odd Job Services
- Contract 3 – area 8 - Odd Job Services and Mike Harland jointly
- Contract 4 - area 9 - Odd Job Services
- Contract 5 - Hedge - Mike Harland

Councillors agreed the total cost of the maintenance contracts at £9001 per year although it was further agreed that there may be some adjustment to the figures in fine tuning the contracts.

Councillors agreed to ask Martin Whittaker to carry out maintenance work to the overgrown trees in the enclosed public open space. **Action:ML**

The meeting closed at 10.23 pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Shirley Leach  
Parish Clerk