

## EARSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of Earswick Parish Council meeting held in Earswick Village Hall on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2008

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

**Members of the public present:-** J Hepworth, J Nicholson, I Jones, J Sturdy

#### **1. Apologies for absence**

none received.

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

Councillor Norman declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item 6 and Councillor Leach declared a personal interest in the same item.

#### **3. Minutes of the Meeting of 13<sup>th</sup> February 2008**

The minutes were proposed as a true record by Councillor Leach and seconded by Councillor Gambold and were agreed.

#### **4. Officers and Representatives Reports**

##### **4.1 Clerks Report**

- The potholes at the junction of Shilton Garth Close and The Village have now been repaired. City of York council do not consider the rest of the potholes to be causing a hazard and have not repaired them due to lack of funds.
- City of York Council has asked Persimmons to finish surfacing the pavements from Earswick Chase to the Garden Village.
- City of York Council's enforcement Officer has been asked to obtain the Section 106 money from Hoggs.

##### **4.2 Responsible Finance Officers Report**

**a.** Councillors received the bank reconciliation report

**b.** Authorisation of Expenditure

£380 – Mole Control

£59 – SLCC subscription

£128.67 – J Cook, RFO salary

£325.83 – S Leach, Clerks salary

£33 – Martin Whittaker for maintenance

£15 – RTBI, for 106 training

£270 – Insurance for the Scented Garden

c. No further progress has been made with regard to the repairs to the Village Hall roof. It is likely that the costs of the repairs will be less than the required excess on the policy but Councillors agreed that the repairs could not be authorised until a written response is obtained from NHBC. A further quote for the work will be required if the insurance claim is not pursued.

**Action:JC**

Mazaars have advised that the fidelity insurance does need to be increased from £100,000 to £200,000 at a cost of approximately £150 per year. Councillors resolved to increase the cover.

**Action:JC**

City of York has advised that the Parish Council will now have to make a claim with regard to double taxation. The cost of the grass cutting at the end of Shilton Garth Close and in Stablers Walk can be claimed back.

**Action:SL,JC**

## **5. Planning Applications**

The clerk, using delegated powers dealt with the following applications.

a.. 08/00242/FUL 58 Earswick Chase –first floor pitched roof side extension and single storey pitched roof rear extension after demolition of existing conservatory. No Objection.

c. 08/00369/TPO- 124 Strensall Road tree works to chestnut and walnut. No objection but safeguards sought.

## **6. Insurance for the Scented Garden**

Councillor Norman left the meeting having declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item. Councillors resolved to pay for the first year's public liability insurance for the Scented Garden Project as a one off agreement. This was proposed by Councillor Wiseman and seconded by Councillor Anderson.

## **7. Lease for the Scented Garden**

Councillors resolved to sign the lease for the Scented Garden area on land previously used as the bowling green.

## **8. Advertising Policy for the Website**

Councillors resolved that advertising would be allowed on the website with any revenue in the future going to offset the Precept. Councillors further agreed that any advert must pertain to the village and that the first six months advertising would be free. This will be reviewed in six months time. The Clerk will be the nominal webmaster.

**Action:SL,PA**

## **9. Land Transfers**

City of York Council has clarified that the Parish Council will not be responsible for the maintenance or repairs to any land drains running across its property unless the Parish Council has caused the blockage/problem. A letter to this effect will be sent to Andrew Thompson whose drains run across the public open space into the nature reserve.

The Parish Council has been advised that any trees within 4 m either side of the land drains need to be removed. Mrs Thompson is aware that the Parish Council is not prepared to take over the nature reserve until the trees have been removed.

City of York Council, acting on behalf of the Parish Council is to write to Mrs Thompson's solicitor to seek clarification on this point and to query the necessity of the clause relating to the residents of the Garden Village having right of access over the land.

Councillors resolved not to sign the land transfer documents until these points are clear. It was also noted that the trees within the public open space within 4 m of the land drains would need removing.

#### **10. The Hole by the Footpath from the Hall to the River.**

A hole by the footpath from the hall to the river appears intermittently. Councillors agreed to spend up to £200 to investigate the possible cause of this. **Action:ML**

Councillors agreed to investigate the possibility of using community service volunteers to keep the vegetation back from the footpath. **Action:BG**

#### **11. Meeting Schedule**

Councillors resolved to alter the schedule to the third Wednesday in every month starting in June 2008. Meetings will therefore be scheduled as follows:-  
16th April –Annual Parish meeting followed by the Parish Council meeting.  
20<sup>th</sup> May – Annual meeting of the Parish Council followed by the PC meeting  
18<sup>th</sup> June  
20<sup>th</sup> August  
15<sup>th</sup> October  
17<sup>th</sup> December

#### **12. Tennis Court Subscriptions**

Councillors resolved to increase the subscription to £20 per household per year. The code is to be changed on 1<sup>st</sup> April. **Action:SL**

#### **13. The Ditch**

A fence still remains on Parish Council land. Councillors agreed that Martin Whittaker and Mike Harland will be asked to remove it. **Action:ML**

#### **14. Maintenance of Additional Public Open Space.**

Councillors agreed that until the future use of the additional public open space has been agreed plans for maintenance couldn't be put in place. Councillors resolved to have a village discussion on this subject.

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

- Sarah Millson has been appointed as the new RFO
- Steve Morrell has been appointed as the internal auditor

- Following public consultation City of York Council has clarified that it is not viable to move the bus stop without provision of a shelter and there is no money available at present.
- A successful working party was held to start the clearance of the vegetation around the pond. A further working party is to be organised.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm.

Signed.....

Date.....

Shirley Leach  
Parish Clerk