

EARSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting of Earswick Parish Council held in Earswick Village Hall
on Wednesday 8th July 2009.**

Present:	Councillors	W Gambold M Leach S Wiseman
	Clerk	S Millson

Members of the Public Present: -N Eden, S Eden, J Gambold, A Woodward, M Woodward, D Jones, I Jones, G Offer and S Leach.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were accepted from Councillor Norman and Councillor Anderson.

2. Declarations of Interest.

None received.

3. Minutes of Previous Meetings.

a. Parish Council Meetings – 13th May 2009 and 2nd June 2009.
Councillors agreed the minutes as a true and accurate record.

4. Clerks Report

a. The ongoing action tracker was reviewed and it was noted that:-

i. The Land Transfer documents for the Flower Meadow and the River Access Land have now been received.

ii. The ditch needs to be cleared by Foss Drainage Board. The property owners with culverts are to be contacted in writing to inform them of the action that will be taken in order to clear the blockage.

Action SM

b. The following pre authorised payments have been paid since the last meeting:-
Clerks salary for May and June

£110 to M Whittaker for contract ground maintenance

£35 Information Commissioner

£36.23 Advance Fire quarterly inspection

£1536.40 Deans for contracted ground maintenance

£35 Rural Action Yorkshire

£36.25 M Harland contracted ground maintenance.

Councillors authorised the following expenditure:-

£6.15 S Millson, - photocopying, stamps and stationery.

£75.89 Councillor Gambold - litter picker and weedkiller for the tennis courts.

£15.00 M Whittaker – repair to Hazard in Children's play area

£251.03 M Whittaker – Repair to BMX track fence

£216.00 M Whittaker contracted ground maintenance.

c. Councillors discussed the clerks contract and decided to increase the hours to 10 per week from 1st July 2009.

5. Planning Applications

No new applications received.

6. Swings

Following a site meeting with local residents Councillors decided to purchase 2 swings and to site them in the area of the nodding donkey. The nodding donkey will be removed the swings installed and then the firesmart safety surface will be laid. In the interests of safety it was proposed to position a fence between the new swings and the other playground equipment. Quotes are to be obtained to erect a post and rail fence approximately 20 meters long x 1 metre high. A further ward grant of £2000 is available for the financial year 2009/10 to enable the installation of the swings to be completed and any surplus monies from the ward grants can be used towards the replacement of the nodding donkey. Councillors authorised a further £1000 from council funds to enable this action to be completed. The ward application needs to be completed by 31st July 2009.

Action BG

Councillors authorised an additional sum of £1000 to cover any additional costs incurred with the purchase and installation of the swings and fence.

7. Allotments

Councillors decided to investigate the provision of allotments and seek the opinion of local residents via the next newsletter.

8. Gym Equipment for seniors

Councillors decided to ask local residents via the newsletter whether this type of equipment would be welcomed and to approach Wigginton Parish who already have this type of equipment.

9. Flower Meadow and River Access Land

Councillors decided that the fence and barbed wire need to be removed and Foss Internal Drainage Board are to be approached to carry out the work provided the cost is below £500.

Action SW

Councillors decided that the first step towards the upkeep of the River Access Land and the Flower Meadow would be to cut the grass, they have authorised £500 for the cost of each area. Quotes are to be sought from Mike Harland, Deans and Aspects and the work to be carried out as soon as possible if the cost is within the authorised limit. Councillors are to investigate possible sources of funding to maintain the areas.

10. Overgrown areas in the Public Open Space

Councillors discussed the overgrown Laurel Hedge on the access to the Lock House Lane car park and decided the clerk should write to the occupier to ask them to cut the hedge.

Action SM

Councillors propose to claim ownership of the Hedge on Strensall Road and decided to write to Hogg the builders and City of York Council regarding this proposal and in the meantime authorised £30 to M Harland to cut back the hedge and the undergrowth.

Action SM

Councillors discussed the maintenance of the many shrubs in the Public Open Space and decided that they would arrange a site meeting to look at the work that is required with the view of obtaining quotes to create a maintenance contract. They have however authorised £150 to Deans to cut back the shrubs in the BMX track.

Action ML

11. Bin at Northlands Bus Stop

Councillors proposed to approach York Pride to obtain a larger bin as the present one does not meet requirements.

12. Odd Job Services Contract

Councillors listened to a proposal from Martin Whittaker to amend his current maintenance contract. His current contract allows 16 hours to trim the enclosed Public Open Space however only 6 are required. Councillors agreed that the remaining 10 hours could be used to cut three grass areas in Stablers Walk. **Action SM**

13. General Maintenance of the Village Hall and Playground

Councillors discussed the various maintenance work that is required and decided to seek tenders for all the repairs. **Action SM**

14. Tennis Courts.

The broken mechanism to the net had been mended and councillors approved the expenditure of £40 on the grounds that tennis members had not been able to use the court. It was also noted that there is a small hole in the fence which needs repairing. **Action SW**

15. Items of information/next Agenda

Councillor Leach reported on the Burial Board meeting of 3rd July.
Councillor Wiseman reminded everyone that the Ward meeting would be held in the Scented Garden on Monday 13th July.
Councillors proposed to submit a bid for Ward Funding for a feasibility study into the provision of a Cycle Track along the Strensall Road.

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Sarah Millson
Parish Clerk