

## EARSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the meeting of Earswick Parish Council held in Earswick Village Hall on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2010.

<b>Present:</b>	<b>Councillors</b>	<b>W Gambold</b> <b>M Leach</b> <b>D Jones</b> <b>S Wiseman</b>
	<b>Clerk</b>	<b>S Millson</b>

**Members of the Public Present:** - M Woodward, A Woodward, J Gambold.

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

P Anderson.

#### **2. Declarations of Interest.**

Councillor Wiseman declared a personal and prejudicial interest on agenda items 10 and 15. Councillor Gambold declared a personal interest on agenda item 10.

#### **3. Minutes of Previous Meetings.**

Parish Council Meetings – 13<sup>th</sup> January, 1<sup>st</sup> February and 9<sup>th</sup> February 2010..  
Councillors agreed the minutes as a true and accurate record.

#### **4. Members of the Public.**

Mr Woodward enquired as to why there was a large increase in the precept.

#### **5. Clerks Report**

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

i. The rope tunnel was being installed in the children's play area on 18<sup>th</sup> March and the playground would be closed until Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> March to allow the new equipment to set in place. Notices will be displayed and the gates tied closed. **Action BG.**

ii. The fence around the pond is still to be replaced and the contractor needs chasing. **Action SM.DJ**

iii. A working party had been held on 14<sup>th</sup> March and trees cut back in the area of the village hall and tennis courts.

The clerk had received two letters from residents concerned by the increase in the precept. It was decided to produce a mini budget showing income and expenditure along with an explanation for the increase and deliver this to all households.

**Action SM.ML.DJ**

b. The following pre authorised payments have been made since the last meeting:-

Clerks salary for January and February.

£204.70 to Signs Express

£37.01 Advance Fire for quarterly inspection and maintenance.

£23.50 to British Gas for service contract.

£154.71 to Glasdons for a new grit bin.

£585.68 to Sovereign as a deposit for the rope tunnel.

£135.12 to M Harland for contract work.

£146.87 to A Hill for grit.

£705.00 to A Hill for cutting back shrubs by the ditch.

£43.68 to S Millson for backpay.

The councillors authorised the following payments:-

£9.36 S Millson, Stamps.

£14.56 S Millson Stationery  
£61.00 Earswick Village Hall for rent.  
£27.00 to YLCA for Standing Orders book.  
£242.00 to YLCA for annual membership  
£50.00 to S Millson for annual payment for use of telephone.

Credits have been received from;-  
H M Revenue for V.A.T for £919.24

## **6. Planning Applications**

None Received.

## **7. Risk Assessment Policy Document.**

Councillors discussed the document and decided that:-

- i. Indemnity for Parish Councillors should be added to the Insurance Policy.
- ii. The Village Hall committee should be asked to implement a checking procedure to ensure the Village Hall is locked and electric appliances turned off after hire.
- iii. When Councillors check the POS and play equipment they also check the boundary for encroachments or damage. **Action SM**

## **8. Equipment repairs.**

It was decided to power wash the youth shelter when the tennis courts are cleaned.  
It was decided to repair the continuous damage to the fence in the playground and the lock house lane car park and £200 was authorised. It was decided to investigate the cost of erecting security lighting to shine on the play area to try and avoid the continuous destruction of the fence.

**Action SM**

## **9. Maintenance of the Pond**

It was decided to contact the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers to obtain advise on the regular upkeep of the pond. **Action SM**

## **10. River Access Land – Drain and Access from Rose Cottage.**

Councillor Gambold had requested to speak on this item and he advised the Council that the garden of Rose Cottage was to be sold to 3 residents and that they would like to lay a land drain down the garden and connect this to the drain in the River Access Field. To enable the work to be completed the residents requested that the Parish Council grant access through the field to the contractors who would remove trees and lay the land drain. As Councillors Gambold and Wiseman had declared an interest on this item a decision couldn't be taken as a quorum couldn't be met. A future meeting will be arranged to discuss. **Action SM**

## **11. Meeting Dates for 2010**

It was agreed to move the meeting on August 11<sup>th</sup> to July 28<sup>th</sup> and to hold an extra meeting on September 8<sup>th</sup>.

## **12. Notice Boards**

It was agreed to put handles on the notice boards and a padlock on the one at Northlands , a budget of £100 was agreed. **Action SW**

**13. Ditch**

In order to clear the ditch, without removing any more shrubs, it was decided to appoint Mr R Carr to clear the ditch from Strensall Road to the fence before the enclosed Public open space. Councillors approved additional expenditure of £50 for the work on the ditch.

**Action SM**

**14. Development of the River Access Land and Flower Meadow.**

A meeting had been held with residents and several options had been investigated. It was reported that the allotments officer did not think the site suitable as there were problems with access and security.

Councillors Wiseman and Leach had met with Bob Mission the environmental officer. Mr Mission advised that the land may be of interest to Natural England. The land could be placed under Environmental stewardship for a 10 year period with Natural England. They would develop the area and apply for grants to fund the work.

Councillors decided to contact his office and ask for further details. **Action SM**

**15. Boundary Dispute.**

Councillors discussed the issue and decided to approach John Paice, solicitor at Guest Walker and Co in the Shambles, York, and ask him to respond to the letter from Vincent Laverys, solicitors and disclose all the relevant information relating to the Parish Council’s ownership of the land. Expenditure of £250 was agreed.

**16. Clerks Pay Review.**

Councillors agreed to increase the clerks pay scale from SCP 15 to SCP16 with effect from 1st April 2010.

**17. Items for Information/Next Agenda.**

Investigate the fence along the footpath by the ditch on Strensall Road. **Action All**

The meeting closed at 9.45 p.m

Signed.....

Date.....

Sarah Millson  
Parish Clerk