

EARSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Earswick Parish Council held in Earswick Village Hall on Wednesday 16th March 2011.

Present:	Councillors	W Gambold D Jones S Wiseman K Pace
	Clerk	S Millson

Members of the Public Present: P Sapsford, D Jones, I Jones, P Doughty, J Gambold, J Hepworth, DR. JS Hepworth, A Kirby, G Offler

1. Apologies for Absence

M Leach.

2. Declarations of Interest.

Councillor Wiseman declared a personal and prejudicial interest on agenda item 10 but had requested to speak on the item as a resident.

3. Minutes of Previous Meetings.

Parish Council Meeting minutes for 26th January and 8th February 2011 were approved as an accurate record by the councillors and signed.

4. Members of the Public.

Concerns were made concerning vehicles speeding through the village and in particular along Earswick Chase on Saturday mornings. The Scented garden asked whether funding had been approved last year to treat the Parish Council area of grass in the scented garden, the clerk will check the minutes. A resident asked whether there was any further actions the Parish Council could take when they opposed a planning application .

5. Clerks Report

- a. The ongoing action tracker was reviewed and it was noted that:-
 - i. It had not been possible to increase the number of councillors but this was still being dealt with by City of York Council.
 - ii. The clerk was waiting to hear from BTCV regarding the outstanding work at the pond.
 - iii. Speed forms had been delivered to households with the newsletter and they should be returned to the police when completed.
 - iv. The Land registry did not have a record of who owns the grass verges in The Village.
 - v. The dog warden has patrolled the village but hasn't yet caught anyone with a dog fouling and not clearing up. Patrols will continue when possible.
 - vi. The bus shelter was cleaned out at Towthorpe and the resident was very pleased. The clerk had found that the shelter was built by Ryedale and has passed this information to City of York Council for them to investigate further ownership.
 - vii. The clerk had asked the Village Hall committee if Andy Hill could have a key to use the toilet facilities, they replied that he could not hold a key but could use the Clerks key when he was working in the area.

viii. The Village Hall had been asked to waive the rent to the Parish Council but replied that they could not sanction the request but suggested the Parish Council asked them to pay more than the £12 peppercorn rent. **Action SM**

b. The following pre authorised payments have been made since the last meeting:-
Clerks salary for January and February.

£24.00 to British Gas for service contract for February and March.

£50.00 to MAH to clean the bus shelter at Towthorpe,

£5.00 to Land Registry to search the grass verge ownership,

£25.00 to A Hill to repair litter bin lids,

£84.00 to A Hill to repair the gate into the Closed Public space,

£2160.00 to a Hill to cut the hedge and clear the River Access Field,

£6.34 to Yorkshire Water Authority.

The following were authorised:-

£19.03 to S Millson for stationery.

£141.90 to Advance Fire Services as a new smoke detector had to be fitted.

£41.70 to L Brindle for a life buoy for the pond,

£24.00 to A Hill to put up a post to hand the life buoy,

£50.00 to S Milson for the annual payment for the use of her telephone,

£35.00 to YLCA for a course for Councillor Pace,

£68.55 to M Leach for the paper and ink to produce the newsletter,

£48.00 to A Hill to mend the fence by the Village Hall,

£395.00 to M Whittaker (£340.00 for contracted work) an extra £55 to remove a fallen tree from the road.

The Clerk reported that £96.88 had been received from Royal Bank of Scotland for the loss of interest when the CHAPS payment had been delayed to re invest the Ring Fenced Money.

6. Planning Applications

None received.

7. Monthly Equipment Check

The fence around the playground is in poor condition and may need replacing. The clerk is to investigate types of fencing used in other playgrounds. **Action SM**

Councillors agreed to fix a spare net to one of the goals. **Action DJ**

8. Complaints policy

The Complaints Policy was adopted by the Parish Council and will be placed on the website. **Action SM**

9. Publication Scheme

The Publication scheme was adopted by the Parish Council and will be placed on the website. **Action SM**

10. Development of the River Access field

Councillor Wiseman spoke on this item as a resident and then left the room. The clerk had received an e mail from Mr and Mrs Clipstone concerning this item and this was read out to the councillors. Councillors discussed the fact now the height of the hedge has been reduced to 10 feet and the undergrowth cleared away it had left houses, whose land adjoins the field, much more open. Councillors discussed filling any gaps in the hedge with hawthorn plants and decided to allocate £500 for this. A site

meeting was arranged for Monday 21st March when it would be decided where to plant the Hawthorn. **Action SM, KP,DJ**

Councillors also discussed erecting a 6foot barbed wire fence along side the hedge, However they decided against this on advice from YLCA as Parish Council funds should only be spent on a fence if it was to protect the councils land and not that of a resident. It is not the responsibility of the Parish Council to protect residents property.

11. Bee Keeping in the River Access Field and Flower Meadow

This item was discussed after agenda item 5 as the Councillors had invited a local beekeeper to talk to them about keeping bees on the land. Mr and Mrs Strong of Huntington are local bee keepers and are interesting in keeping bees on the Parish Councils Land. Councillors asked questions concerning the risks of keeping bees and the likelihood of them stinging. Mr and Mrs Strong left the meeting and Councillors discussed the idea. Councillors were in favour of the idea and agreed to arrange a meeting with the beekeepers to decide on a possible site. The clerk will write to local residents and invite them to the meeting. **Action SM, KP, SW**

12. Maintenance work in the Flower Meadow

Letters were read from local residents who had responded to the Parish Councils letter concerning the work in the River Access Land. One resident had requested ivy was removed from her wall and overhanging willow tree branches were cut back, the clerk reported that she had called on the resident twice but had not received a reply and had then gone into the flower meadow and removed the ivy. Another resident had written concerning the use of the flower meadow and that people allowed their dogs to run across the land. She asked the Parish Council to consider erecting signs asking people to keep dogs under control. Councillors discussed this but decided that it was not appropriate at the moment and would be difficult to enforce. They would however review the situation if more complaints were received.

13. Street Sport.

Councillors discussed the facilities that Street Sport offered and Councillors Wiseman confirmed that the Ward had allocated funds to Street Sport and that it would cover Earswick.

14. Usage of the Car Park at Lock House Land and the Village Hall.

A car and trailer have been parked for long periods in the Lock House Lane car park. A Councillor had approached the owner who had removed the car but the trailer still remained. Councillors decided to erect signs at both car parks to say 'No Overnight Parking' and £60 was authorised for this. **Action SW**

15. Update on the Royal Wedding Celebrations .

Councillors heard tickets are selling well and Councillor Gambold had received a reply to his letter to Buckingham Palace which he read out. This would be displayed alongside photographs of the event in the Village Hall. The organisers asked permission to rope off the car park whilst the event took place to ensure the area would be safe for children to play, Councillors agree. It was also requested that an area was fenced off to prevent dogs fouling the area prior to the event, this was approved by Councillors.

16. Review of Clerks Appraisal and Annual Pay Review.

This was discussed in closed session due to confidentiality. Councillors heard that the clerk had had her appraisal and had scored highly. The clerk has held the position for 2 years and that of RFO for 3 years and completed the WWYC course. It was suggested that the salary was increased to SCP 22 of Scale LC1 of the current salary range to acknowledge the clerks increased level of skill and knowledge. Councillors approved this increase from 1st April 2011.

17. Items for information/next agenda.

It was reported that Foss Internal Drainage Board had included in their budget for 2011/12 funds to shore up the river bank.

Verge cutting in the Village

Football pitch marking

Scented Garden lawn maintenance

The meeting closed at 9.45 p.m

Signed.....

Date.....

Sarah Millson
Parish Clerk