

EARSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Earswick Parish Council held in Earswick Village Hall on Monday 23rd May 2011.

Present:	Councillors	D Jones S Wiseman K Pace P Sapsford P Leveson
	Clerk	S Millson

Members of the Public Present:- J Hepworth, DR Jones, J Hepworth, I Jones, J Gambold, P Doughty, K Beamish, J Sharpe, N Blackburn, L Baxter, D Mooney, G Ofler, Mr Eden, Mrs Eden, H Thornthwaite, M Thornthwaite.

1. Apologies for Absence

None.

2. Declarations of Interest.

Councillor Wiseman declared a personal and non prejudicial interest on agenda item 17.

3. Minutes of Previous Meetings.

Parish Council Meeting minutes for 16th March approved as an accurate record by the councillors and signed.

4. A Report from the Local Police.

PSCO Michael Hannon attended the meeting and explained the changes to the Police structure in the area. Earswick come under the Rural Police which is under the responsibility of PC Ruth Atkins. He reported that they had responded to calls from Earswick and had found under age people consuming alcohol, in this situation the alcohol is poured away and parents are informed. He also reported that when a 95 Alive form is submitted the road in question will be investigated.

5. Members of the Public.

Comments were received from Members of the public concerning the following issues:- York City Football and Rugby teams moving to a site near the Earswick Fire Station, cutting of the grass verges in The Village, cutting the grass verge opposite the vets which is held in trust by Stephenson's, cutting of the verges along the River Foss, a major problem with the weed Horsetail which is growing in the enclosed Public Space behind Earswick Chase and is encroaching into people's gardens, overgrown trees in the enclosed Public Space, and along the public footpath. The New Ward Councillor, Mr P Doughty, gave his concerns regarding the proposal to provide a cycle path along the River Foss from Earswick to Huntington.

19. Maintenance and Future of Enclosed Public Space.

This item was discussed earlier in the meeting as many members of the public had expressed an interest in this agenda item. Councillors discussed the problem of the

Horsetail weed becoming rampant but needed to seek advise as to how it could be killed off. A quote had been received to use Round Up but the clerk will contact Mr Ryecroft for further advise. Councillors authorised £200 for weed killing the area.

ACTION SM

Councillors discussed the possibility of selling the enclosed Public Space and decided to have a feasibility study to look into this, initially contacting Legal Services.

6. Clerks Report

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

i. A quote of £250 had been received to plant the hedge in the River Access Field but that due to the dry spring this would have to wait until the end of the year.

ii. The new bin had been delivered to the bus stop on Strensall Road and the clerk was trying to contact CYC to ask them to move the bin further off the road and to attach it to the fence to prevent it being moved.

iii. The clerk had visited the Royal Bank of Scotland who had given assurances that if Councillors returned New Mandates to the manager all records would be updated.

iv. The Lease to the Village Hall states that the rent is £12 per annum and still has 10 years left to run. The clerk will investigate whether the lease can be altered . **Action SM**

v. The signs have been put up in the Lock House Lane Car park but the trailer is still being parked. Councillors decided to put a notice on the trailer saying that it will be removed in 7 days. **Action SW**

vi. A resident had contacted the clerk concerned about the safety of the footpath by the River Foss at the end of The Village, as the banks had been eroded by dogs climbing out of the river. Richard Hoyland had been contacted at CYC and is looking into the matter.

vii. The clerk had been approached by the River Foss Society asking permission to remove the invasive weed Himalayan Balsam from Parish Council land. They would like to have a working party on 18th June, Councillors were happy to agree to this.

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

£24.00 per month to British Gas for service contract for April and May.

£744.00 to A Hill for contracted work.

The following are due to be paid:-

£27 to R Warriner for grass treatment in the Scented Garden.

£267.00 to YLCA for membership renewal.

£35 to The Information Commissioner.

£69.60 to Signs Express

The following were authorised:-

£8.50 to Home skills Hanyman for work at the tennis court.

£35 to YLCA for Councillor Levison to attend a course.

c. Councillors approved the following expenditure for the forthcoming financial year (April 2011 – March 2012)

i. Maintenance contracts of Public Open Space to A Hill £6603

ii. Salaries £5298

iii. Chairman's Allowance £50

iv. Society memberships as agreed at the Annual General Meeting 12th May 2010

v. Meeting Room Rent £200

vi. Insurance £2100

vii. Audit £350

viii. Boiler maintenance £300

- ix. Fire Equipment maintenance £200
- x. Water rates £60

d. Annual Accounts. The accounts were presented and agreed and signed by Councillors. The Internal Auditor has provided a written report and concluded that the accounts show a true and fair record. All recommendations from the previous audit had been carried out and no other weaknesses had been picked up this year. The audit commission annual declaration was agreed and signed.

7. Planning Applications

None received.

8. Grant to Scented Garden

Councillors discussed the Scented Garden accounts which had been presented to them and received a report from the Committee. They decided to give the Scented Garden the grant of £1000 which had been set aside for this purpose from Section 106 money received.

Action SM

9. Monthly Equipment Check

The grass is long in the BMX track and Councillors will arrange a working party to tidy the area. It was noted again that the fence around the children's play area will need replacing. The clerk has received one quote but is awaiting another from Sleightholme Landscapes who have experience of providing this service for City of York Council.

Action SM

10. Strensall Road Feasibility Study

A feasibility study had been carried out concerning the provision of a cycle path along Strensall Road from Strensall to Earswick. Although the opinion of the report was favourable the proposed cost of one million pounds would prohibit this being put into action at the present time.

A further proposal had been received by the Parish Council to provide a cycle path along the River Foss from Earswick to Huntington to enable children to cycle to school. Councillors discussed the fact that this would run along the flood plain and the River can rise very quickly which cause the path to be closed, Foss Internal Drainage Board often have heavy plant working along the proposed route so again the path would have to be closed and the path may be damaged by the machinery. In places the path would need to be very close to the river and this could lead to someone falling in. It is also a secluded area and security could be a problem. Councillors propose that these points were portrayed back to Alison Newbold, the Public Rights of way Officer.

Action SW

11. Maintenance of Grass Verges in the Parish

Councillors discussed the cutting of the grass verges in Earswick. It was noted that the verges on Fosslands had been adopted by CYC but that they did not cut them, the residents of Fosslands have been paying to have to them cut privately. The Parish Council had paid to have the verges cut in The Village but had voted not to include them in this years maintenance program. The clerk had received confirmation from CYC that they would cut the verges in The Village on a fortnightly basis. Councillors decided that all the verges should be cut by CYC and that they would approach them with this proposal.

Action SW

12. White Lining the Football Pitch

A quote had been received for this work and Councillors decided that it had been so successful last year that they would authorise £175.00 plus VAT to A Hill to repeat the work.

13. Newsletter

Councillors discussed producing a newsletter to inform residents about the new Councillors but decided to update the website and notice boards and issue a newsletter later in the year. **Action |SM**

14. Royal Wedding and Queens Diamond Jubilee.

The Royal Wedding event had been a success and a profit of £522 had been made. This will be deposited in the Parish Council bank account and be Ring Fenced for a future event. The proposal is to hold a similar event to celebrate the Queens Diamond Jubilee. A larger committee would be set up to plan the event.

15. Community Events

It was proposed to hold a picnic in the Scented Garden with live music in July. This task would be given to the community group who organised the Royal wedding celebration, P Sapsford, J Gambold, D Jones, K Pace, H Tate, K Beamish and a representative from the Scented Garden committee.

16. Christmas Tree

Councillors listened to a proposal for the Parish Council to provide a Christmas Tree for Earswick. It had only been possible to secure one quote from a company which used a battery to power the lights at a cost of £1138.15 plus VAT. This does not include the cost of the tree which could be a further £300.00. This company provides this service to other Parish Councils who do not have an electricity supply available. Councillors were in favour of the idea and it was decided that the Chairman and clerk should have a meeting to look at the budget to see if savings could be made in other areas. If it is possible to find the money out of this years budget councillors authorised £1250 to Speedi- Tree.

17. Maintenance in the River Access Field

Councillors had received quotes to fulfil the following, move bark chippings to the hedge at the Scented garden £20, move barbed wire which is laying in the field £40, and to move the fence behind number 12 Shilton Garth up to the hedge £160. All prices are plus VAT. Councillors authorised all the work to A Hill. **Action SM**

18. Update on the Proposal to create a wood in the River Access Field.

A grant application had been submitted to Morewood and it has been approved. The next stage is to set up a site visit and discuss the type of trees which can be planted. Parish Councillors decided to approach residents who live in close proximity to the field and seek their opinions on the proposal. Further grants could be applied for to help purchase the trees. **Action SW, PL**

It was also decided to look at the budget to ascertain what funds are available to have the field and the Flower Meadow cut and sprayed and to obtain a quote for the work.

Action SM

20. Items for Information/next agenda

There is a planning training course being held by CYC in early July.

Street sport were not intending to come to Earswick because the facility had not been utilised in the past.

It was reported that at 10.30 pm on the night of the Royal Wedding there had been a problem with youths drinking at the Youth Shelter and the police had been called.

Next Agenda- village survey, white lining the grasscrete in the car parks.

The meeting closed at 10.00 p.m

Signed.....

Date.....

Sarah Millson
Parish Clerk