

## **EARSWICK PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the meeting of Earswick Parish Council held in Earswick Village Hall on Monday 14th May 2012.

**Councillors Present:**        **D Jones**  
   **K Pace**  
   **P Leveson**

**Parish Clerk:**                **S Millson**  
**Trainee Clerk:**              **J Fisher**

**Members of the Public Present:- H. Davey, J. Gambold, H. Mead, A. Nichols, M. Harland, G. Harland, M. Johnson, D Johnson, G. Tate, I. Jones.**

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

Councillors Wiseman and Sapsford.

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

None

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

Parish Council Meeting minutes for 12<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> March were approved as accurate records by the councillors and signed.

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

Comments were received from Members of the public concerning the following issues:-

- a. The Parish Council were asked to support rejection of the planning proposal regarding 18 The Village;
- b. A number of cars have been parking on the road near 51 Earswick Chase which is restricting the visibility around the bend in the road for other drivers;
- c. The Agenda for this meeting was not published on the website in error;
- d. A request was made to post the draft minutes on the website prior to the next meeting.

### **5. Clerks Report**

- a. The ongoing action tracker was reviewed and it was noted that:-
  - **Councillors have** arranged a meeting of the Environment Group, and residents of Earswick Chase and Village who directly back onto the Enclosed Public Space, for 11 O'Clock on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2012. Directly before the next Parish Council meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> June, there will be an open meeting for all residents where the Environment Group will present their proposals for best use of this land. The Parish Council will then discuss these proposals and decide any course of action at the following Parish Council meeting;
  - No posts have yet been erected to display the 'No dog fouling' signs;

- Although no site meeting had been arranged with local families to discuss the BMX track, **Councillors have spoken** to families in the parish to request that no-one uses sticks, shovels, etc to 'reshape' the track;
- Financial Regulations have been updated;
- No funding has been found to print the Parish Plan. It is available on the website and residents may request a copy from the Parish Clerk, who can print a copy from the website. However, there are approximately thirty pages in the plan and in line with the parish pricing policy of 10p per sheet, this would cost the recipient in the region of £3;
- An employment contract is required for Mrs J Fisher;

b. The following pre authorised payments have been made for April 2012;-  
 Clerks salary for April;  
 £24.00 to British Gas for service contract for April;  
 £179.10 to K Pace for Wild Flowers, as per Grant Application;  
 £48 (incl VAT) to A Hill for spraying, as per Grant Application;  
 £60 (incl VAT) to A Hill for repair to tennis courts.

The clerk made the following payments using delegated powers:  
 £180 (incl VAT) to A Hill to chip and remove shrub cuttings considered a fire risk;  
 £66 (incl VAT) to A Hill to repair damage at Lock House Lane Car Park, caused by Fire Services attending fire on P.O.S.

£17.98 (incl VAT) was paid to S Wiseman for laminating pouches for tennis membership cards;

The following payments **were authorised**:  
 £276 for YLCA Membership;  
 £744 (incl VAT) to A Hill for Maintenance Contract.

c. Councillors approved the following expenditure (incl VAT) for the forthcoming financial year (April 2012 – March 2013):-  
 £6252.00 - Maintenance contracts of Public Open Space, to A Hill;  
 £84.00 - Riverside hedge cutting, to M Harland;  
 £5350 – Salaries;  
 £288 – Village Hall boiler maintenance, to British Gas;  
 £240 - Fire Equipment maintenance, to Advance Fire;  
 £30 - Water rates, to Yorkshire Water;  
 £270 – Maintenance of Football Field, white lining, to A Hill;  
 £110 – Play equipment check, to ROSPA.

d. Councillors approved membership and authorised subscription payments for:-  
 YLCA  
 SLCC  
 River Foss Society (approx £20 per annum)

e. Annual Accounts to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012. The accounts were agreed and signed by Councillors. The Internal Auditor (Mr J McTurk) has provided a written report and concluded that the accounts show a true and fair record. **Recommendations from the audit will be reviewed at the next meeting.** The audit commission annual declaration was agreed and signed.

## **6. Planning Applications**

Planning application 12/01225/FUL, 18 The Village has been received. Residents gave the Parish Council a copy of a petition of 40 names objecting to this application. Residents voiced their objections to the plans which included:

- Overdevelopment
- Townhouse style not in keeping with other properties
- Most of the garden area being given over to hard paving
- Loss of privacy for neighbours
- Three family homes on this site may overload an already overloaded sewerage system, any excess flowing into the Foss.
- Inadequate access for Emergency Services
- Traffic and parking problems
- Destruction of valuable wildlife habitat
- No similar development in the Village
- Sets a dangerous precedent
- Drainage problems.

Councillors fully supported rejection of this planning application on grounds of overdevelopment.

**Action: SM/JF**

## **7. Monthly Equipment Check**

Councillors considered two quotes to replace the fence at the children's play area. They accepted the lower quote of £2466.00 + VAT from Andy Hill. £2,000 of this will be funded from money already set aside for this project and the remainder will come from 106 money.

**Action: SM/JF**

## **8. Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS)**

Councillors approved £1596 (excl VAT) for a VAS which will be positioned on a post opposite 235 Strensall Road.

**Action: SM/JF**

## **9. Council's Insurance Policies**

One, three and five year policies from two Insurance Companies were considered. Councillors approved a 1 year policy with Zurich **insurers at a cost of £1,104.67 plus IPT Tax.**

**Action: SM/JF**

### **10. Maintenance of Grass Verges on the River Footpath**

Councillors discussed the cutting of the grass verges on the river footpath. It was noted that Foss Internal Drainage cut the riverside grass, but only once a year. It was stated that they would have no objection to the parish council arranging additional cutting of the grass at the top of the banking. A quote of £40 per month to do this cutting had been supplied by Andy Hill. Councillors agreed to this expenditure, to be taken out of 'miscellaneous expenditure' and to commence May 2012.

**Action: SM/JF**

### **11. Printing of the Parish Plan**

Councillors discussed the printing of the Parish Plan. 'The Max' gave the best quote at £538 for 550 copies. The Chairman will mention the availability of the Plan on the Parish Council Website in the next newsletter. Furthermore, he will mention that a copy can be printed by the Parish Clerk, if requested, at a cost of 10p per page (ie approx £3 in total).

**Action: DJ**

### **12. Weeding and Feeding grass at top of Scented Garden**

Councillors approved expenditure of £27 for one annual treatment of Weed and Feed.

**Action: SM/JF**

### **13. Purchase of Strimmer and Insurance Implications**

Purchase of a strimmer for Parish Council use was discussed. Quotes of between £99 and £300 were given. However, because a risk assessment would be required, for insurance purposes, every time such a strimmer was used, the proposal was rejected by councillors.

### **14. Diamond Jubilee Event**

Councillors reported that ticket sales for this event had been slow.

**The Insurance company needs to be contacted to ensure that the event is fully insured.**

**Action SM/JF**

A new notice board as a commemoration of the Diamond Jubilee was discussed. It could display details of the wildlife and fauna that could be seen in areas of the parish. Mr Peter Thompson will be approached to see if he could make such a notice board and if so, what it would cost.

**Action PL**

## **15. Christmas Tree**

Councillors discussed a proposal for the Parish Council to provide a Christmas Tree for Earswick. Despite numerous attempts, the Parish Clerk had not been able to obtain an up to date quote for supply of a Christmas Tree from Speedi-Tree. This was going to be pursued further by the Chairman.

**Action DJ**

Councillors felt more consideration needed to be given to the cost, and location, of charging the battery packs. It was, therefore, decided to carry this item forward to the next meeting.

**Action SM/JF**

## **16. Hedge in the River Access Field**

In response to an email received from a resident, two councillors reported that they had walked along the hedge and confirmed that the necessary replanting had been completed. They went on to say that although the new hedge plants were only approximately 1m high, they were ‘taking off’ quite well. They asked the clerk to reply to the resident.

**Action SM**

## **17. Scented Garden**

Councillors had held an informal meeting with the Scented Garden committee to discuss outstanding issues. A letter had been received from the Secretary of the Scented garden to which the Parish Clerk was going to respond.

**Action SM**

## **18. Julian Sturdy MP and the Early Day Motion (EDM)**

It was explained that the EDM relates to a new Planning Bill and Julian Sturdy had written to the Parish Council looking for support. Councillors agreed to support the EDM and the Parish Clerk will write to Julian Sturdy MP to inform him of this decision.

**Action: SM/JF**

## **19. Bee Hive Sites**

It was agreed that the beekeeper could keep two bee hives in the flower meadow as he had done last year. Consideration for a new or further site for hives will be considered next year.

**Action SM**

## **20. Items for Information/next agenda**

- The Payback Team is booked for 27<sup>th</sup> May, and for once a month for the forthcoming months.

- Earswick Parish Council was represented at a recent Burial Meeting.
- The notice board at the corner of Shilton Garth is damaged and is a potential hazard. The clerk will arrange for it to be removed using her delegated powers.
- Clerk to check on availability of Councillors for July Parish Council meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.25 p.m

Signed.....

Date.....

Sarah Millson  
Parish Clerk