

## **EARSWICK PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the meeting of Earswick Parish Council held in Earswick Village Hall on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2012.

**Councillors Present:**     **D Jones**  
                                      **S Wiseman**  
                                      **P Leveson**  
                                      **K Pace**  
**Parish Clerk:**             **J Fisher**

**Members of the Public Present:-** I Jones, J Gambold, I Brown, R Brown, C McIntosh, Ward Councillor P Doughty

**1) Apologies for Absence**

Councillor Sapsford

**2) Declarations of Interest.**

None

**3) Minutes of Previous Meetings.**

Minutes for the Parish Council Meeting on 23 July 2012 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:-

- The Parish Council (PC) was asked to consider health and safety issues with regard to the request to place a beehive next to the Scented Garden (item 17 on the agenda).
- The PC was asked if the Enclosed Open Space was due to be cut. The PC replied that a cut was due in September.
- A number of members of the public wanted to talk about issues with Lock House Lane car park and the PC asked them to speak at item 16 of the agenda.

**5) Ward Councillor's Report**

Councillor Doughty had nothing to report

**6) Clerks Report**

- a) The ongoing action tracker was reviewed and it was noted that:-
  - i) A letter from the City of York Council (CYC), regarding Parish Boundaries, had been circulated to Councillors and a notice placed on the Village Hall notice board. Proposals regarding Parish Boundaries are to be published on 16 October 2012 and the subsequent consultation ends 10 December 2012.
  - ii) The children's play area fence has been replaced.
  - iii) Annual treatment of Scented Garden grass is complete.

- iv) Weed spray and maintenance of footpaths and tennis courts has been done.
  - v) Strimming and maintenance of the pond area has been done.
  - vi) A cut and weed spray of the River Access Land was done in August.
  - vii) The Clerk was told that work is due to commence at 18 The Village in the next two weeks and the contractors will remove the fallen tree from the Parish Council (PC) ditch. If access to PC land is required, Mr Burns of RBDA Ltd will contact the PC.
  - viii) The Register of Interests was returned to the City of York Council by the required deadline. This now needs to be added to the PC website. **Action: JF**
  - ix) The Clerk has sent a request to 'Parishcouncil.net.' to have a section on 'Neighbourhood Watch' added to the homepage of the website. **Action: JF**
  - x) A response from Zurich Insurance, regarding the PC's policy and whether it included coverage and replacement cost, had been forwarded onto Mr McTurk, Internal Auditor, to see if he is satisfied. **Action: JF**
  - xi) Andy Hill had been asked on the 27<sup>th</sup> July and 22<sup>nd</sup> August to replace the football nets.
  - xii) Councillors had chosen the wood for the Jubilee Commemorative Board and decided less lettering was required. This explained why an invoice for £216 (incl VAT) had been received from Peter Thompson Joinery which was much less than originally expected. The frame for the Woodland Trust certificate was still to be chosen. Councillors Pace, Jones and Leveson agreed to meet on 25<sup>th</sup> September to agree positioning of the Board. **Action: PL, KP, DJ**
  - xiii) The Clerk had not yet heard from Councillor Wiseman as to whether or not the PC could buy PC equipment through the CYC's IT department at a preferable rate. **Action: SW**
  - xiv) The Clerk had written to residents regarding the Council's decision not to allow use of Earswick Tennis courts by Wigginton Tennis club.
  - xv) The Clerk had responded to the consultation on payments by Parish and community Councils and Charter Trustees.
  - xvi) A letter was received from 'York Get Growing' who are asking to develop food growing areas. The PC agreed not to pursue this.
- b) The following pre authorised payments have been made since the last Parish Council meeting:-
- i) Mrs Fisher's salary for July and August.
  - ii) £18.00 River Foss Society Membership
  - iii) £26.67 (incl VAT) stationery expenses to Mrs Fisher.
  - iv) £40.71 travel costs to Mrs J Fisher for WWYC courses in June and July.
  - v) £30.00 to the YLCA for training costs for Councillor Wiseman
  - vi) £2,232 (incl VAT) to A. Hill for Maintenance Contract (June, July and August).

- vii) £144.00 (incl VAT) to A. Hill for cutting the river footpath in June, July and August.
- viii) £30.00 to Yorkshire and Humber Regional Training for WWYC course.
- ix) £30.00 to 1 Van 1 Man Removals Ltd.
- x) £48.00 to British Gas for July and August.
- xi) £15 to Rob Warriner Lawn Services for fertilising the Scented Garden lawn.
- xii) £276.00 (incl VAT) to A Hill for weed treatment of footpaths from BMX track and along tennis courts.
- xiii) £240.00 (incl VAT) to A.Hill for cutting grass and weed treatment on the River Access Land.
- xiv) £2,466.00 (incl VAT) to A. Hill for replacing the children's play area fence.
- xv) £288.00 (incl VAT) to A. Hill for cleaning and staining the Scented Garden benches.

The clerk reported that £0.48 interest on the RBS tennis account had been received.

The Clerk made the following payments using delegated powers:  
£35.00 to the Information Commissioner for Data Protection

The following payments were authorised:

- £9.88 (incl VAT) to Mrs J Fisher for stationery;
- £216 (incl VAT) for to Peter Thompson Joinery for Commemorative Jubilee Board with carved lettering;
- £6.65 to Yorkshire Water;
- £141.90 (incl VAT) from Advance Fire Services for quarterly check and replacement of smoke detector in the gents toilet.

## **7) Planning Applications**

The following planning applications have been approved by City of York Council (CYC) subject to conditions:

- 12/02138/FUL, 127 Strensall Road (single storey rear extension and replacement garage roof),
- 12/02438/FUL, 1 Laurel Close (single storey side extension)
- 12/02503/FUL 39 The Village (two storey side extension, single storey rear extension, porch & 2 dormer windows to rear)
- 12/02485/FUL Foss Bank Farm Strensall Road (First floor extension to rear).

The following planning applications were dealt with by the clerk using delegated powers:

- 12/01752/FUL 2 Northlands Ave (Installation of 3no dormer windows to rear)
- 12/02721/FUL 4 The Garden Village (erection of porch to front).
- 12/02495/FUL 18 Earswick Chase (installation of 3no. rooflights to rear).

### **8) Monthly Equipment Check**

It was reported that bolts from the stepping stones have come away. Councillors resolved to ask M Whittaker to see if he can replace them.

**Action: JF**

The payback team have been used to fill holes on the BMX track. The PC resolved no further action was required.

### **9) Removal of three hawthorns by Drainage Board**

It was reported that the Drainage Board are having difficulty cutting the bank in the flower meadow because of three hawthorns restricting access for equipment. It was resolved that the Drainage Board will be informed that they have PC permission to remove these hawthorns which will be done at no cost to the PC.

**Action: JF**

### **10) Grit Bins**

The Clerk reported that most of the grit bins were two thirds or more full. The exception was the one in Willow Grove which was nearly empty. Furthermore, Mr A Hill has two tonnes of grit in storage for the PC. It was resolved the Clerk would consult with Mr Hill to decide whether another tonne of grit should be ordered and authority was given to do so at a cost of £130 plus VAT.

**Action: JF**

### **11) Seating and Flagstones for the Scented Garden**

The Scented Garden Committee had forwarded a letter and Grant Application form requesting £315 from the PC to contribute towards the purchase and installation of seating and flagstones for the Scented Garden. The PC agreed to grant £315 but asked that any grant money not utilised be returned to the PC. This purchase is expected in Spring 2013.

### **12) Village Hall Chairs**

The Village Hall Committee had forwarded a letter and Grant Application form requesting £500 from the PC to contribute towards the purchase of new chairs for the Village Hall. This was agreed by the PC.

### **13) Funding training for lifeguards/ teaching staff at New Earswick Pool**

The PC resolved not to contribute any monies as this is a private enterprise.

**Action: JF**

### **14) Two Earswick Sign Planters**

A quote of £240 (including VAT and installation) from R&S Landscaping & Paving Services, for two cobbled stone planters to be positioned under each Earswick sign on Strensall Road, was approved.

**Action: JF**

### **15) Mazars Audit Fee**

Councillors authorised the Mazaras audit fee for 2011/12 of £342.00 (incl VAT).

**Action: JF**

## 16) Residents concerns

Members of the Public reported they are experiencing loud, anti-social behaviour in and around the Lock House Lane car park and, in particular:

- Some users of the car park are dropping litter and leaving 'questionable items' in the bushes. Indeed the residents suspect the car park to be a drop off/collection point for drugs.
- Residents feel there is no need for cars to be parked in the car park after dark unless there is a function at the Village Hall.
- Cars often speed in and out of the car park and, following several near misses, residents are concerned about the safety of their children.
- Residents have approached the Police on a number of occasions and they have moved the offenders on but they come back when the Police have gone.
- Seven residents in the Lock House Lane car park area have signed a letter to the PC suggesting the installation of a lockable post which the residents would lock and unlock on a rota basis. Residents have investigated the costs of a lockable post and estimate one to be approximately £60 plus installation costs.

The PC discussed the residents' comments, and correspondence received from other residents, and raised the following points:

- A lockable post would be considered on the understanding that residents would not confront any offenders but ring the police if there is a problem;
- The CYC empty the bins at 5.30am on a Tuesday morning. This is done on foot so it was felt a lockable post would not hamper this process;
- The bushes have just been cut by the payback team so that should alleviate the problem of the 'questionable items';
- The PC raised the issue of how the proposed rota might be affected should residents move away, go on holiday, forget, etc. It was decided that a policy document would need to be drafted with Councillor Pace taking the lead; **Action: KP, DJ, JF**
- There was concern that the offenders might move to the Village Hall car park if the Lock House Lane car park is closed at night. The PC asked the clerk to cost a single lockable post for the Lock House Lane car park and two lockable posts or a lockable barrier for the Village Hall car park. **Action: JF**
- The PC is unable to close the car park permanently because it was included under Section 106 when the estate was built.
- The PC agreed to review the situation with a view to installing speed humps at the entrance to the Lock House Lane car park.
- A request for volunteers to lock/unlock these barriers will be placed in the PC newsletter.

A resident had raised an issue with the goal posts behind Lock House Lane. It was reported that one set of goal posts had been removed since the resident had written and has been stored in A Hill's lock-up. The PC agreed

these posts would stay down and asked the Clerk to instruct Mr A Hill to repaint the football pitch lines so they run East to West as opposed to North to South. It was decided wooden posts in position behind Lock House Lane would remain as it would be too costly to remove them. **Action: JF**

The PC discussed a request to plant more trees behind Lock House Lane. The PC reported that the estate was landscaped in accordance with the original planning application for the estate and, therefore, felt they could not support a request for further trees in this area.

The PC discussed a further issue raised by a resident regarding the recent quality of maintenance work on the estate. The PC reported that the same contractor had been used for the previous three years and it was felt any recent shortcomings in maintenance work were due to the inclement weather. No further action required. The Clerk will reply to the resident's letter. **Action: JF**

#### **17) Placement of Bee Hive next to the Scented Garden**

The PC agreed that Councillor Pace should meet with Mr Strong to ascertain where he is proposing to place a bee hive before a decision by the PC can be made. **Action: JF/KP**

#### **18) Vehicle Activated Sign**

The PC agreed to the City of York Council's proposal to place the VAS opposite The Garden Village. Estimated installation is November 2012. **Action: JF**

#### **19) Parish Council Newsletter**

Up to £50 was authorised for production of the Newsletter.

#### **20) Use of Strimmers by the Parish Council**

Zurich Insurance reported that any member of the PC would be insured to use PC strimmers providing risk assessments were done and adequate training given. Zurich Insurance went on to say any residents/members of the public who volunteered to use the strimmers would not be the PC's responsibility as they do not work for the council. The PC resolved to review this in 2013.

#### **21) BMX Track Signage**

Councillors discussed placing a sign to remind users of the BMX track not to alter the tracks in any way. It was resolved that no further action was required.

#### **22) 2013/14 RoSPA Inspection**

The Clerk reported that PlaySafety Ltd had written to say they would charge for three inspection sites next year when they have only charged for one site this and preceding years. The PC asked the Clerk to see if RoSPA have a list of other accredited organisations and, if so, to obtain other quotes. **Action: JF**

**23) Parish Councillor Vacancy**

The Clerk reported Councillor Sapsford's resignation as of 14 October 2012. The PC resolved the Clerk would put a notice on the notice board and the position would be advertised in the PC Newsletter. **Action: JF/DJ**

**24) Items for Information**

- Councillor Leveson is due to attend a Huntington Burial Authority meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2012; **Action: PL**
- Councillor Wiseman will circulate information on the General Power of Competence to all Councillors; **Action: SW**
- The proposed PC meeting for the 8<sup>th</sup> October is cancelled. The next PC meeting will be on the 12<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.12pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Joanne Fisher  
Parish Clerk