

EARSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Earswick Parish Council held in Earswick Village Hall on Monday 12th November 2012.

Councillors Present: D Jones
S Wiseman
P Leveson
K Pace

Parish Clerk: J Fisher

Members of the Public Present:- G Offer, J Gambold, I Jones, R Brown.

1. Apologies for Absence

Ward Councillor Doughty.

2. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Wiseman declared an interest in item 12 on the Agenda.

3. Co-option of Councillor and Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Gill Offer was ratified as co-opted Councillor and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

4. Minutes of Previous Meetings.

Minutes for the Parish Council Meeting on 24 September 2012 were approved as accurate records by the Councillors and signed.

5. Members of the Public.

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

A query was raised regarding the timing of payment of the £500 grant (already approved) from the Parish Council (PC) to the Village Hall Committee, for the Village Hall chairs. The PC asked the Village Hall Committee to let the Parish Clerk know when the invoice has been received and to which account they want the grant paid at that time.

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6. Ward Councillor's Report

Councillor Wiseman reported on the e-planning Scrutiny Committee. Parish Councils have no statutory rights to comment on planning applications. The funding of any IT equipment to facilitate e-planning will not be available from the City of York Council (CYC). Parish Councils are unable to set the precept higher to pay for any additional equipment to support e-planning. Earswick PC has three options with regard to examining planning applications under the new proposals and they are:

- view online
- write to the Planning Dept at CYC for full-size plans if it has large applications.
- come to an arrangement with Strensall PC with regard to using their IT and screen facilities.

The Scrutiny Committee are awaiting a report from the Task Force before any further decisions will be made.

Councillor Wiseman reported there was an informal Ward Meeting on 27.11.12 in Strensall and posters advertising this would be on display.

7. Clerks Report

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

Proposals regarding any changes to Parish Boundary lines will be going to the Secretary of State in April 2013.

The PC had replied to CYC to say they understood that once the Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) was in situ Yorkshire Police would not carry out ad hoc enforcement of the 30mph speed limit. Also, the PC understood that it would be responsible for any costs incurred as a result of damage/vandalisation to the VAS and for any repair costs required outside of the 5 year warranty period. Installation of the VAS is expected in Nov/Dec 2012. Expenditure for the VAS will come out of £10k for Capital Projects.

Invoices were received on 12.11.12 from Mr A Hill for the following expenditure:

- £744.00 (incl VAT) for maintenance contract (Sept)
- £90.00 (incl VAT) for labour and marking of football pitch
- £804 (incl VAT) for maintenance contract, area 6
- £48.00 (incl VAT) for cutting river footpath (Sept)
- £744.00 (incl VAT) for maintenance contract (Oct)
- £84.00 (incl VAT) for strimming pond banking
- £48.00 (incl VAT) for cutting river footpath (Oct)
- £240.00 (incl VAT) for cutting grass in river access land and around trees (Oct)
- £156 (incl VAT) for 1 tonne rock salt, filling bins and storage.

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Work had not yet commenced on 18 The Village and, so, the tree has not yet been removed from the ditch.

The Clerk has submitted a request to the PC website providers to have it updated to include the Register of Interests. The section on Neighbourhood Watch has been added to the website. The Clerk was asked to see what the PC is charged for web page maintenance.

Action: JF

The Clerk is still waiting to hear from Mr McTurk, Internal Auditor, as to whether or not he requires any further information from Zurich Insurance.

Action JF

The Clerk emailed Mr Symons of the Drainage Board giving PC approval for the removal of three hawthorns.

A further tonne of grit was ordered through A. Hill and all the grit bins filled. Mr Hill holds two tonnes of grit in storage for the PC.

The Clerk had contacted R&S Landscaping on 2nd September to confirm the order of two cobbled planters. The Clerk spoke to R&S Landscaping again on 9 November. R & S Landscaping suggested the work may be better placed with LJD Construction Services Ltd. The Clerk will contact this Co. to discuss.

Action:JF

Mr A Hill had repainted the football pitch lines so they run East to West.

The Clerk had responded to a resident's list of issues.

Councillor Pace met with Mr Strong regarding the placement of bee hives in March 2013.

The Clerk had contacted RoSPA to see if there were any other accredited organisations to do the playground safety equipment check other than Playsafety Ltd. Playsafety Ltd is part of RoSPA and so they would not recommend any other organisations. The PC will need to budget for at least three times the cost in 2013/14.

Action: JF

The Clerk passed around papers regarding a CYC consultation on new ward boundaries which asks for any PC views by 14 January 2013. Posters have been displayed on noticeboards.

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

- i. Mrs Fisher's salary for September and October.
- ii. £141.90 to Advance Fire Services
- iii. £6.65 to Yorkshire Water
- iv. £216.00 (incl VAT) to Peter Thompson Joinery
- v. £342.00 (incl VAT) to Mazars.
- vi. £20.15 (incl VAT) to Mrs J Fisher for stationery.
- vii. £18.84 to Mrs Fisher for WWYC expenses.
- viii. £8.99 to Mrs Leveson for Jubilee Wood Certificate Frame.

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- ix. £75.60 (incl VAT) to Playsafety Ltd (RoSPA).
- x. £72.00 to British Gas for September, October and November.

The Clerk reported that £7125.00 precept, £0.55 interest on the RBS tennis account, and £126.00 Diamond jubilee monies had been received.

The Clerk made the following payments using delegated powers:

£3.50 to Yorkshire Local Councils Assn for postal costs.

The following payments were authorised:

£27.07 (incl VAT) to Mrs J Fisher for stationery;
£5.00 to J Pace for strimmer petrol.

8. Planning Applications

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

12/03157/FUL 9 Northlands Ave (rooflights to front and rear). No objections.

12/03182/FUL 8 Rowley Court (single storey side extensions and porch to the front). The Parish Council objected on the grounds that the appearance would be overbearing and cramped, and out of keeping with the other houses in Rowley Court.

9. Monthly Equipment Check

Mr Whittaker has been asked to replace the Stepping Stone bolts. Councillors agreed to look at the Stepping Stones to consider whether or not any further action is required and to express their views at the next PC meeting. **Action: All**

The 2012 RoSPA report states that the Multiplay slide fails to meet the requirements of the relevant standard. The same comment was made by RoSPA in previous years. Councillors were aware of this and reported that this piece of play equipment cannot meet the current standards and no further action was required.

10. Scented Garden Shed

The shed in the Scented Garden belongs to the PC. Since the shed was broken into, the doors have needed replacing. The PC agreed to support the purchase of a new shed, in principle. It was further agreed that the Scented Garden Committee should prepare a proposal for the next PC meeting, giving information to enable the PC to make a decision. This

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should include size, cost (purchase, installation and removal of old shed), product design specification (particularly with regard to safety), etc.

Action: SW

11. Relaying of Flagged Footpath in Scented Garden

The relaying of the flagged footpath in the Scented Garden is the PC's responsibility. The Clerk will obtain a quote from R&S Landscaping on relaying and cleaning (itemised separately) the footpath. The Scented Garden Committee would like to open the gardens in February 2013 but the timing of any relaying of the path will depend on weather conditions.

Action: JF

12. Cutting of the Boundary Hedge to the River Access

It was reported that a resident in Shilton Garth has had a PC hedge cut. This resident has had a letter from the PC previously on this matter. The Clerk will locate a copy of this correspondence and circulate to the Councillors so they may consider what further action is required.

Action: JF

13. Resident's issue with other residents' Hedges

The PC will respond to the resident's letter. In the next newsletter the PC will ask residents to be responsible and mindful with regard to the size of their hedge. However, the PC is unable to dictate the size of hedges to residents.

Action: JF/DJ

14. Internal Audit and 2013/14 budget

Councillors Jones and Leveson will meet with the Clerk to do the Internal Audit and work on the budget for 2013/14.

Action: JF/DJ/PL

15. Treatment of Trees in Orchard

£480 plus VAT was authorised to Lewis Tree Surgery to treat the trees in the Orchard.

Action: JF

16. Security Measures to Combat Anti-social behaviour

The Clerk had circulated a draft policy document regarding a proposed lockable post for the Lock House Lane car park to all members of the Parish Council. The PC agreed that the policy document should be circulated to all residents who signed the request to have security measures in place.

Action: JF

Concern was expressed that the anti-social behaviour at Lock House Lane Car Park would move to the Village Hall car park if a lockable post was installed at the Lock House Lane car park. It was agreed that two quotes for installation only (the PC will buy any lockable posts directly from the supplier) of lockable posts at both the Lock house Lane car park and the Village Hall

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car park should be obtained from LJD Construction Services Ltd. Up to £1,000 (excl VAT) was approved by the PC to spend on the two sites, provided the response to the policy documents from the residents of Lock House Lane was accepted by the PC. **Action: JF**

17. Commemorative Diamond Jubilee Board

The PC agreed to pay £36 (incl VAT) to A. Hill for installation of the Board.

Action: JF

18. Clearance of debris around pond

It was reported that there are two piles of vegetation debris around the pond area following clearance by the Environment Group. There is also a pile at the Lock house Lane car park. The PC agreed the Clerk would ask Mr A. Hill for a quote to remove all three piles by chipping where suitable. The PC authorised up to £50 (excl VAT) to clear all three piles. **Action: JF**

19. Placement of bird boxes

The boxes have been placed. No further action required.

20. Items for Information

It was reported that Huntington Burial Authority meetings are null and void if a representative from Earswick PC is not present at the meeting. These meetings are usually held at 7.15pm on a Friday which is not very convenient for attendees. The Clerk will ask Huntington Burial Authority for a copy of the Consitution so the PC may consider requesting changes. **Action: JF**

The Village Hall Committee is awaiting new Village Hall chairs. The old chairs will be kept in the shed.

The Environment Group reported a disappointing turn out by residents for the working party. The PC expressed its thanks to Councillors Pace and Offler for their hard work in clearing the pond area.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm

Joanne Fisher
Parish Clerk

Signed.....

Date.....

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