

EARSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Earswick Parish Council, held in Earswick Village Hall on Monday 17th June 2013.

Councillors Present: D Jones
S Wiseman
P Leveson
G Offler
K Pace

Parish Clerk: J Fisher

Members of the Public Present:- I Jones, I Yeowart, N Thiede, S Brown,
K Beamish

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllr Doughty

2. Declarations of Interest

None

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting.

Minutes for the Parish Council Meeting and the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council, both held on 13th May 2013, were approved as accurate records by the Councillors and signed.

4. Anti-social behaviour in Earswick

Jimmy Hannon (PCSO 5637) discussed anti-social issues, in Earswick, with the Parish Council (PC). Three incidents during the preceding 90 days had been reported in Earswick. Consequently, he was putting Earswick forward for extra patrolling. However, Earswick is in competition with other parishes such as Clifton and New Earswick, where there is much higher incidence of anti-social behaviour, so Earswick is unlikely to get extra patrols. He urged residents to ring 101 and report incidents – only by recording more evidence is Earswick likely to get extra patrols.

The PC agreed to include this issue in the next Newsletter. PCSO Hannon is happy for his contact details to be given in the Newsletter. **Action: DJ**

5. Members of the Public.

Comments were received from members of the public on the following issues:-

- The new properties at 18 the Village have steel chimneys for wood burning stoves and the Clerk was asked to contact Matthew Parkinson, Planning Enforcement Officer, to see if these were on the planning application. The Clerk was also asked to enquire after an earlier query raised by a Councillor regarding the high level of the back garden. **Action: JF**

- Trees at 139/141 Strensall Road had been overhanging the footpath. It was understood that work was ongoing on these trees. It was agreed the residents would ring the Clerk if the tree cutting was insufficient. Other trees on The Village were felt to be overgrown also. Councillor Wiseman will let the

pafisher 12/11/12 11:13
Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

Clerk know the house numbers of the responsible property so the Clerk may write to the owner and request trimming. **Action: SW/JF**

- Residents requested playground facilities for older children (10 years+). Residents were asked to give the Clerk any ideas. The subject will also be included in the next Agenda. **Action: JF**

6. Ward Councillor's Report

Cllr Wiseman pointed out there was a Local Plan meeting at New Earswick Folk Hall on the 4th July at 7pm. Also, Strensall Community is holding a gala day on 7th July at Durlston Drive Sports Field, 11am to 4pm.

The Boundary Commission consultation is ongoing but the outcome will not affect Strensall Ward.

7. Clerk's Report

a. The ongoing action tracker was reviewed and the following points were made:-

- i. On 16th June, RBDA Ltd reaffirmed contractors will remove tree from ditch before the houses at 18 The Village are complete. Cllr Wiseman was told by the builders that they have taken down the branches overhanging the ditch.
- ii. On 29th May, Lewis Tree Surgery was instructed to postpone removal of the tree debris in the enclosed open space until August – after birds have finished nesting.
- iii. The planning application for 12 Whitelands has been called to the July Committee..
- iv. The Clerk contacted Richard Hoyland, Asst Rights of Way Officer, on 12/6 regarding repair to the Landing Lane Bridge kick boards. He was obtaining costs last week and should update me this week. The Clerk will follow this up. **Action: JF**
- v. Work on the Earswick Parish Guide is continuing; **Action: PL/SW**
- vi. The frame displaying certificates and photos from the Diamond Jubilee was kindly hung in the Village Hall by Mr Whittaker.
- vii. The Clerk had returned more RBS forms and taken her id into the bank again with the continuing aim of making Councillor Offler a signatory for the PC. The Clerk will pursue this further. **Action: JF**
- xiii. The PC is in the process of obtaining signs for play areas, asking owners to keep their dogs under control. **Action: SW/GO**
- ix. Mr Whittaker has scheduled to concrete in the goal post tubes and paint the goal posts by the end of June.
- x. No invoice had yet been received from the Scented Garden (SG) Committee for the secure cupboard for the shed.
- xi. The Clerk is waiting for information on costs and dates for RoSPA training from the Strensall Clerk. **Action:JF**

pafisher 12/11/12 11:13

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

- xvii Lewis Tree Surgery has removed the dangerous willows but not the poplars. They thought the PC wanted to wait until August. The PC would like this work completed asap. **Action: JF**
- xviii The Clerk has written to Mr Hill asking him to trim the shrubs outside 16 Lock House Lane.
- xiv The Clerk has written to the owners of 1 Lock House Lane asking them to trim back the foliage overhanging the footpath.
- xv City of York Council (CYC) has cleared the damage caused by an accident on Strensall Road.
- xvi. In response to one of Mr McTurk's (Internal Auditor) queries, the Clerk pointed out that details of external auditors invoices are given on their website. The Clerk will inform Mr McTurk. **Action: JF**
- xvii The Clerk had spoken to Jenny Cook regarding the percentage of the PC's insurance costs paid by the Village Hall Committee (VHC) – another query raised by Mr McTurk. The VHC is apparently responsible for the buildings contents insurance and the public liability insurance. (The Clerk had not yet found any documentation to support this). The 32.5% figure had been calculated from a previous bill when the costs were shown separately. Historically, it was difficult for the VHC to get building contents and public liability insurance so it passed to the PC. Also, it was felt it would be cheaper to cover all the insurance and bill VHC separately. If the Insurance Co. will separate out the cost separately, the VHC would pay. The Clerk will ask the VH Secretary to look through early VH minutes. **Action: JF**
- xviii Paperwork regarding the SG and VH responsibilities has been copied for forwarding to Mr McTurk. **Action: JF**
- xiv. Mr Whittaker has changed the code for the Lock House Lane (LHL) fence to match that of the LHL Lockable post.
- xv. The insurance schedule and comparison sheet had been circulated to all Cllrs before Zurich Municipal was instructed to provide the PC's insurance cover at a cost of £956.77 (incl IPT) per annum for three years.
- xvi Using emergency powers, the Clerk had been asked to arrange for Mr Whittaker to remove the gates, fencing and posts at the former BMX track site because youths had been making jumps from the wood. The PC ratified the cost to Mr Whittaker of £60.
- xvii. Mr Strong the beekeeper will be reminded to supply a copy of his beekeeping association insurance certificate. **Action: KP**

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

- Mrs Fisher's salary for May;
- £24 to British Gas;
- ££744 to A. Hill April Grass Cutting;
- £36 to A. Hill April weed kill of pond area;
- £12.69 to J Fisher for stationery.

pafisher 12/11/12 11:13

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

The Village Hall (VH) Committee has paid Earswick PC £144 for the 2012/13 VH rental.

The following payments were authorised:

- £956.77 to Zurich Municipal Insurance;
- £7.09 to Yorkshire Water;
- £150 to Mr Whittaker for removal of the stepping stones;
- £90 to Mr Whittaker for installation of the arbours;
- £60 to Mr Whittaker for dismantling gates, posts and fencing at the former BMX track;
- £113.75 to the Earswick Village Hall Fund for PC hall rental

c.. The 2012-13 Earswick Parish Council accounting statements were returned before the deadline.

It was agreed the Clerk would liaise with Cllr Pace to provide a response to the Local Account Questionnaire. **Action: JF/KP**

The Clerk was awaiting a quote from Mr Whittaker regarding the securing of the bin at the former BMX site.

8. Planning Applications

Planning application 13/01599/FUL 8 The Village (Single Storey rear extension and first floor extension with dormers to front and rear) was dealt with by the clerk using delegated powers.

9. Monthly Equipment Check

No action required.

10. Data Protection

The Clerk reported that the ICO was only going to accept payment for data protection on-line or by direct debit. The PC decided to pay by direct debit and the mandate form was signed. **Action: JF**

11. Open Space

Following removal of the stepping stones and BMX track, and in line with the resident's comments above, the Councillors will review the play equipment and consider what funding may be available to install new equipment, eg Yorfunding. **Action: All**

The PC agreed to meet with Mr A Hill to discuss which areas of open space should be cut, weedkilling and priorities. Also, the PC will consider whether more areas of open space could be turned over to wild flowers.

Action: DJ/KP/GO

12. Removal of Moles From Sports Field

The Clerk was asked to obtain two quotes for removal and control of moles on the football pitch and surrounding field area. **Action: JF**

13. Renting Sports Field to Local Football Team

The PC discussed the possibility of renting the sports field. It was felt the football pitch could be converted into an adult pitch if surrounding trees were removed. Its current size may meet the requirements for a junior –sized pitch.

pafisher 12/11/12 11:13
Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

pafisher 12/11/12 11:13
Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

It was estimated to cost in the region of £30k to resurface the area for a five-a-side pitch. The PC agreed no further action.

14. Repositioning of Lock House Lane (LHL) Lockable Post

LJD Construction Services Ltd quoted £354 + VAT to resite the lockable post. The PC agreed to leave the post in its current position and to instruct Premier RoadMarkings Ltd to paint white triangles on the speed hump asap.

Action: JF

15. Replacing Kissing Gate leading to Diamond Jubilee Wood

Clr Offler explained if the PC replace the kissing gate then the City of York Council (CYC) would want it made into a larger gate, costing the PC much more money. In line with CYC rules, the PC is unable to replace the gate like for like. It is permitted to repair the gate. The PC agreed no further action but voluntary repairs would be permitted.

16. Removal of Tree Stumps and Landscaping

The PC had approved this work from LJD Construction Services Ltd at the 22nd April meeting. However, since then the firm had become VAT registered. The revised quotes were £540 (incl VAT) for the landscaping, and £228 (incl VAT) for stump removal, both of which were approved.

17. Water and Electrics to Scented Garden

The PC gave approval for the Scented Garden Committee to approach the Village Hall Committee to consider how water and electrics can be connected directly to the Scented Garden from the Village Hall.

18. Local Draft Plan

Although Earswick is not directly affected by the Local Plan, it was felt there may be heavier traffic levels passing through Earswick as a result of the extra housing proposed in North Lane, Strensall. Also, there was uncertainty regarding the placement of wind farms. It was felt more information would be available after the Local Plan meeting with Julian Sturdy so the item will be included in the agenda for the PC meeting on 15th July. **Action: JF**

19. Grass Cutting Shilton Garth Close

The PC felt the CYC had made a very untidy job of cutting the grass verges in Earswick. However, if the PC cut all the grass verges in Earswick it was estimated it would cost an extra £1,700 pa. The PC agreed to consider adding this as a separate job for tenders when the open space maintenance contract is up for renewal. **Action: JF**

20. Treatment of Hogweed

It was revealed that Giant Hogweed is a notifiable weed and is eradicated by cutting back and spraying with weedkill. As per item 11 above, priorities need to be discussed with Mr Hill. Mr Hill will be asked to cut and weedkill Diamond Wood as a priority. He will be asked to contact Clr Wiseman first. **Action: JF/SW**

21. BMX Track Area

A Parish Councillor had been asked by young people if they could make their own jumps on the site of the former BMX track. Unfortunately, if the PC is

aware of alterations to the land and someone injures themselves on the alterations, then the PC may be liable. The PC agreed no such alterations to the land would be permitted.

22. Lawn Mower for the Scented Garden Committee

No grant form had yet been received. No further action.

23. Village Hall Payment

A bill for £113.75 for hire of the Village Hall by the PC, for meetings held up to and including 18/3/13, was approved. Cllr Jones will send a copy of a former agreement between the PC and the VH committee to the Clerk. **Action: DJ**

24. Noticeboards

The PC approved £86 to Geoff Lea for repairs to the Stablers Walk and Northlands noticeboards. **Action: JF**

25. Microsoft Office Software

The Clerk explained that the option to purchase Microsoft Office Professional 2013 software on disk did not exist. The PC agreed to purchase the Microsoft Office Professional 2013 product 'key' at a cost of £340 + VAT. **Action: JF**

26. Items For Information

Cllr Pace had attended the Village Hall (VH) AGM. Bookings for the VH were successful. A quiz night is to be held on 29.11. The VH Committee is hoping to book a jazz duo. Mrs Jenny Cook is going to obtain quotes for replacing the VH windows and doors.

Cllr Wiseman reported:-

- the arbours for the Scented Garden (SG) are finished. The SG is being used by a group with Special Needs.
- the Foss Internal Drainage Board (FIDB) has removed vegetation along the river bank, from the A1237 bridge to the bridge at the end of the Village, to gain machinery access. The FIDB has not finished piling the river bank because it is having difficulty sourcing the wooden piles.

Item for next Agenda – parking on the pavement. **Action: JF**

Items for next Newsletter – parking on pavement and cutting back vegetation. **Action: DJ**

The meeting closed at 9.20pm

Joanne Fisher
Parish Clerk

Signed.....

Date.....