

## EARSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Earswick Parish Council, held in Earswick Village Hall on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2013.

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

**Parish Clerk:** J Fisher

**Members of the Public Present:-** I Jones, J Gambold, J McTurk.

### 1. Apologies for Absence

Ward Councillor Doughty

### 2. Declarations of Interest

None

### 3. Minutes of Previous Meeting.

Minutes for the Parish Council Meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2013 were approved as accurate records by the Councillors and signed.

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### 4. Members of the Public.

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

- There appears to be a problem with the Village Hall (VH) boiler which is seriously limiting the amount of hot water available. The Clerk was asked to liaise with Jenny Cook. **Action: JF**
- The Scented Garden Committee raised over £600 from the recent plant sale and thanks were expressed to all those who supported the event;
- A complaint was made about the high level of dog fouling between Earswick and Huntington. It was reported that another area which has a similar problem took photos of the offending owners and their dogs and worked successfully with the police.

### 5. Ward Councillor's Report

Cllr Wiseman reported the following:

- There is a current petition on the City of York Council (CYC) website against the proposed reduction in opening times of Towthorpe Tip. Cllrs Wiseman and Doughty are both against another proposal to charge for removal of

residents' green waste. A motion is to be brought to Council regarding all proposed changes to waste management, asking the leading group to reconsider. Both Cllrs are concerned the proposed changes will lead to increased fly-tipping. Furthermore, they want to point out that landfill prices have increased since Acomb Tip closed;

- There is to be a Ward Council meeting on 10th April, 7.30pm, at Strensall and Towthorpe Village Hall. Cllrs Wiseman and Doughty are trying to build up a series of meetings inviting any community group to convey information through them;

- New Healthwatch Teams have been created. These are a conglomeration of people in the community and cover matters affecting the health and well-being of the public. They cover a wide remit including the police, health, playgrounds, healthy eating, etc.

## 6. Clerks Report

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

- i. The Clerk was asked to contact RBDA Ltd to get an update on removal of a tree which has fallen in the Parish Council (PC) ditch at 18 The Village; **Action: JF**
- ii. Mr McTurk, Internal Auditor, was happy with the response from Zurich regarding insurance of the Village Hall. He asked that a copy of the response be placed on file which the Clerk has done;
- iii. The Scented Garden shed has been replaced;
- iv. The flagstones in the Scented Garden have been relaid and cleaned;
- v. The Clerk spoke to Lewis Tree Surgery on 4 March regarding work ordered on Earswick trees. They are aware that the PC order is outstanding. However, the firm has had a bereavement and the weather has not been suitable to bring in their machinery;
- vi. Mr Whittaker has repaired the LHL barrier. He has looked at the fencing again and now considers it unworthwhile to treat it with Cuprinol. He recommends replacing sections as and when required. The PC agreed no further action;
- vii. Mr A. Hill has been instructed to carry out one administration of weed kill around the pond area in March and another in May, at a cost of £30 + VAT for each treatment;
- viii. No further response has been received from CYC regarding the PC's query on adherence to building plans at 12 Whitelands. The Clerk was asked to contact CYC for an update; **Action: JF**
- ix. Richard Hoyland from the Highways Authority is going to arrange repair of the kick board on the Landing Lane bridge;

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- x. Parishcouncil.net is working on updating the Parish Plan Action Plan on the website. The Clerk will contact them for an update;  
**Action: JF**
- xi. Cllr Wiseman had been unable to reach Andy Triffitt to ask for individual quotes to repair each notice board, but she will try again;  
**Action:SW**
- xii. The Clerk was asked to email Richard Hoyland to see if he has been able to arrange replacement of bolts for the gate at the end of The Village;  
**Action: JF**
- xiii. The PC decided it was the Burial Board's position to notify residents in Huntington and Earswick of the opportunity to buy burial plots at a discount;
- xiv. PC Hannon had been in contact with Cllr Wiseman and allocated incident no. 12130023411 to her report of finding drugs in the Lock House Lane car park;
- xv. A new grit bin was purchased (at a cost of £169.26 incl VAT) and positioned in Northlands. A. Hill has filled the new bin with grit and the PC agreed this grit should be taken out of the 2 tonnes (approx) held in stock for the PC by Mr Hill;
- xvi. Cllrs Wiseman and Leveson are working on producing an updated and simplified version of the Earswick Parish Guide;  
**Action: SW/PL**
- xvii. The Clerk reported that she had forwarded a resident's query, regarding a York Energy Co-operative, onto Cllr Merrett. The resident had been notified, and subsequent information from Stephanie Salter and Jacqueline Warren had also been forwarded to the resident;
- xviii. The Clerk had spoken to Mike Harland regarding a quote to weed kill under the river side hedge. He is not licensed to do such a job but recommended the PC wait and see what he can remove when he cuts the hedge (w/c 18.3), and what grows back, before any further action is taken. Mr Hill has quoted £100 +VAT to weed kill under the hedge. The PC agreed to wait;
- xix. Cllr Wiseman has spoken to Nathan Culper from the Foss Internal Drainage Board (FIDB) regarding the undermining of the Landing Lane Bridge. She has also reported there is a tree stuck under the bridge. It was reported that a fence by the weir which belongs to the PC has collapsed. The clerk was asked to include this item on the next Agenda;  
**Action: JF**
- xx. The Clerk reported that the Royal Bank of Scotland have sent more forms for completion by Clerk and Cllr Offler before Cllr Offler can be included as a signatory;  
**Action: JF/GO**
- xxi. Cllr Wiseman contacted the CYC regarding potholes in the old part of the Earswick which have since been repaired;

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

- Mrs Fisher's salary for February;
- £24 to British Gas;
- £20 to Cllr Pace for compost.
- £135 to LJD Construction to repair grasscrete in LHL car park

The Clerk claimed a £2,360.52 VAT rebate and has received notification of its issue.

The following payments were authorised:

- £500 to Earswick Village Hall Fund for chairs;
- £432 to A. Hill for relaying Scented Garden flagstones;
- £96 to A. Hill for jetwashing flagstones;
- £60 to A. Hill for dismantling shed;
- £120 to A. Hill for erecting new shed;
- £6.65 to Yorkshire Water;
- £169.26 to Glasdon UK Ltd for grit bin;

£156 to A.Hill for grit;

£81.60 to Advance Fire Services for 1/4ly inspection & batteries;

£45.83 to J Fisher for reimbursement of annual telephone charges;

£17.15 to J Fisher for stationery costs;

£42.48 to M Whittaker for repairing LHL barrier;

£3.60 to J Fisher for stamps.

## **7. Planning Applications**

The following planning application was dealt with by the clerk using delegated powers:

- application 13/00317/FUL 23 Earswick Chase (Rooflights to front and rear);

The City of York Council approved the following planning applications:

- application 12/03605/FUL 22 The Village (two storey and single storey rear extension including raising ridge of main house);
- application 13/00028/FUL 9 Northlands Ave (installation of rooflight to rear (retrospective));
- application 13/00057/FUL 1 Ilford Close (single storey side extension linking garage to dwelling).

The PC recorded no objections on planning application 13/00520/FUL, 17 Earswick Chase (single storey rear extension).

## **8. Monthly Equipment Check**

Councillors (Cllrs) agreed not to close the BMX track when it becomes flooded. Cllrs also agreed no action was required on playground equipment.

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### **9. Replacement of Village Hall Windows**

It was reported that the Village Hall (VH) windows, particularly the toilet window, and the front door have deteriorated with age. It was noted that the structure of the building is the responsibility of the PC. It was agreed that Cllr Pace will liaise with Jenny Cook to obtain quotes on replacing the windows and door.

**Action: KP**

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### **10. Use of digger around pond area**

A quote of £470 was provided from LJD Construction Services Ltd to level the soil around the pond. There may be an additional £30 charge to dispose of any tree debris. There was an additional quote of £195 from LJD to remove any tree stumps found in the pond area once the land has been levelled.

The PC agreed that Mr M Harland should be asked to quote too. Also, the PC felt enquiries should be made with the Drainage Board to see if they would be able and willing to do this work.

**Action: KP**

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### **11. Framing Letters and Certificates**

A quote of £53.55 was provided from Marginal Arts to make a frame to hold letters and certificates. It was agreed Cllr Leveson will approach Jenny Cook for a quote too as she made the existing frames in the VH.

**Action: PL**

### **12. Grass Verges Damaged by Contractors**

It was reported that the driveway in front of 14, 16 and 18 Earswick Chase has been damaged by contractors. The PC has no authority to pursue reparation. It was agreed Cllr Pace will write to the Fosslands Committee to ask if they can take the matter up with Highways Agency.

**Action: KP**

### **13. Anti-social Behaviour in the Enclosed Open Space (EOS)**

It was reported that a large number of bottles and cans, and an amount of garden waste, have been found on the EOS. It was agreed that the Clerk would draft a letter to be sent to all residents whose properties adjoin the EOS, reminding all that fly-tipping is unacceptable and that any further incidents will be followed up by the PC and could result in prosecution. The Clerk will circulate to Cllrs for approval before distribution.

**Action:JF**

### **14. Lock House Lane (LHL) and Village Hall (VH) Car Parks**

It was reported that Cllrs and the Clerk met with Richard Hoyland from the Highways Authority on 1<sup>st</sup> March. The LHL lockable post is positioned on a public right of way but the Highways Authority is prepared to allow the PC to operate the post provided it does not receive any complaints.

Cllrs rejected the idea of a telescopic lockable post.

Cllrs authorised up to £100 (excl VAT) for a double-sided sign warning drivers of the speed ramp at the LHL car park. A spare post outside the Village Hall will be used to position the new sign at the LHL car park.

**Action: SW**

It was reported that signs for displaying the opening times at the LHL car park had been ordered. An invoice for £64.20 (incl VAT) to Signs Express was authorised.

It was agreed that the key box and key for the LHL lockable post should be passed to Russ Brown. Once the key safe is installed and the opening times are displayed then the LHL residents may begin operation in line with the previously agreed policy. **Action: JF/SW**

Zurich Insurance had replied to the Clerk to say that the PC public liability insurance will cover the parking posts and any accidents caused by the posts. It recommended risk assessments be carried out, and the use of signage to warn the public of any hazards.

Cllr Leveson had done a risk assessment for the VH lockable posts. The main risks were:

- i. They could be a tripping hazard for the visually impaired;
- ii. Cars may be damaged if drivers drive over them too fast when they are laid flat.

Cllr Leveson will do a risk assessment for the LHL car park. **Action: PL**

Cllrs Leveson and Wiseman agreed to investigate the use of reflective material for the posts. **Action: PL/SW**

The Clerk had written to the owner of 14 LHL to ask for the Laurel Hedge, overhanging the drive to the LHL car park, to be trimmed. The owner has asked Mr M Whittaker to do this work.

### **15. Village Activities**

It was reported that the PC had had one request for a coffee morning and one for a games afternoon.

### **16. Dog Fouling**

It was reported that a sign for the BMX track had been ordered from Signs Express, stating: 'No dogs in this area', at a cost of £30 (incl VAT), which was approved by the PC.

A further sign stating 'Dogs to be kept on leads', for the Scented Garden, had also been ordered from Signs Express, at a cost of £27 (incl VAT), which was approved by the PC.

An email had been received from Russell Stone, CYC, who had suggested moving the bin outside the vets to Stablers Walk. The PC felt this was unacceptable. Cllr Pace agreed to pursue this further. **Action: KP**

The Clerk reported that Richard Hoyland had supplied some free 'No dog fouling' signs.

It was reported that Cllrs had put up a number of 'No dog fouling' signs around Earswick.

The PC had received a complaint from a resident who felt a number of unleashed dogs had displayed threatening behaviour towards his grandchild. The Clerk was asked to contact the CYC to see who the PC should apply to for a bye-law requesting all dogs be kept on leads. **Action: JF**

### **17. Appointment of Internal Auditor**

The PC resolved to appoint Mr J McTurk as Internal Auditor.

**18. Removal of Trees and Cutting Branches**

It was agreed that the Environment Group could remove/cut back trees in the green space between the Scented Garden and the river. £15 was approved to Cllr Offler for sharpening of two chainsaw blades.

**19. Purchase of Shrubs**

No further action was agreed.

**20. Replacement of Kissing Gate Leading to Diamond Jubilee Wood**

Richard Hoyland from the Highways Authority had told the PC that they would not replace the kissing gate because it actually functioned. However, he accepted it was in a poor state of repair and told the PC it could pay for a replacement if it wanted to do so. The PC agreed to obtain quotes.

**Action: JF/GO**

**21. Newsletter**

The PC expressed its thanks to Cllr Offler and her husband for producing the PC Newsletter. The PC authorised reimbursement of £138 to Cllr Offler for printing costs.

**22. Police and Crime Plan Consultation**

The Clerk had received a request from the Police and Crime Commissioner for North Yorkshire, Julia Mulligan, to include the plan on the PC March Agenda. The Clerk had also displayed the plan on the notice boards.

**23. Tennis Courts**

The PC agreed to keep the annual fee (£20 for residents, £40 for non-residents) and the rules the same.

**24. Items for Information**

The PC expressed its thanks to the Scented Garden Committee for supplying plants for the Earswick planters.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm

Joanne Fisher  
Parish Clerk

Signed.....

Date.....