

EARSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Earswick Parish Council, held in Earswick Village Hall on Monday 11th November 2013.

Councillors Present: D Jones
P Leveson
G Offler
K Pace

Parish Clerk: J Fisher

Members of the Public Present:- I Jones, S Winspear, L Blackburn, N Eden, M Burnham, K Beamish, J Nicholson

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllr Wiseman, Ward Cllr Doughty.

2. Declarations of Interest

None.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting.

Minutes for the Parish Council Meetings on 14th October were approved as accurate records by the Councillors and signed.

4. Members of the Public.

Members of the public raised the following points:

- 'No Fouling' dog notices were requested for the end of The Village.
 - **Action: KP**
- Residents asked what plans there were for the Enclosed Open Space (EOS). They expressed concerns regarding the Parish Council's proposal to erect a new gate and stile to one end of the EOS. Their concerns included security of their properties, hazards to the public and the possibility of more litter. They asked if the matter could be discussed with them before any action was taken. Also, they requested a risk assessment of the area.
- There is a gap in the double yellow lines at the top of The Village which is a driving hazard when cars park there. The City of York Council (CYC) has refused to do anything about this in the past when asked by the Parish Council (PC). The PC agreed to approach the CYC again. **Action: JF**
- A significant amount of leaf fall was reported on the corner of Strensall Rd and The Village, making the area slippery. The PC agreed to take this matter up with CYC. **Action: JF**
- The PC was asked why it had decided to place cut vegetation around the trees in the EOS. The PC had agreed to do this to keep the weeds down. Lower branches had been taken off trees to allow lawn mower access by the PC ground maintenance man, Mr Hill.

The PC has instructed Mr Hill to cut around the trees once a month. The EOS has a full cut once a year at present - in September.

- The PC explained it had decided to dispose of some vegetation in the EOS using bonfires rather than shredding because it was much cheaper.

5. Ward Councillor's Report

None.

6. Clerk's Report

- a. The ongoing action tracker was reviewed and the following points were made:-
 - i. Work to find details of the insurance cost split between the Parish Council and the Village Hall (VH) Committee, in the Parish Council (PC) minutes from 2005 to 2008, is ongoing. **Action: JF**
 - ii. Work by Mr Williams, from Huntcatchkill, to remove moles from the playing fields, and the area to the right of the VH is continuing.
 - iii. The Clerk had emailed Cllr David Jeffels (CYC) to see if any decisions had been made regarding the £500 grant for playground equipment for which the PC had applied. The PC agreed to wait to see if it receives this grant before contacting Image Playgrounds to discuss playground options.
 - iv. The Clerk had notified the unsuccessful bidders of the open maintenance contract and had sent a draft contract for the successful bidder, Mr A. Hill, to Cllr Jones for approval. **Action: DJ**
 - v. Repairs to the damaged rendering to the VH are underway by LJD Construction.
 - vi. The PC agreed to meet with Huntington school in April 2014 to discuss their requirements for a sponsored walk across PC land in June 2014. A date will be arranged nearer the time. **Action: JF**
 - vii. The Clerk had placed posters in all noticeboards advertising the PC coffee morning dates. Cllr Jones agreed to arrange the next one on 2nd December. **Action: DJ**
 - viii. The PC Internal Audit was successfully completed on 21 October 2013.
 - ix. Draft minutes for the October meeting were placed on the PC website.
The Clerk had spoken to Mrs Cook from the VH Committee and she had agreed to liaise with her regarding the placing of VH events on the website. **Action: JF**

Other information/correspondence issues raised by the Clerk:

- Mr A Hill had reported to the Clerk that the SG Committee would prefer to have the SG perimeter hedge cut in March rather than October. The PC agreed to this request and requested all Mr Hill's hedge cutting be left till March. **Action: JF**

- The Clerk is to ask Mr Hill if he will take off the top of the hedges around the Fossland's bus stop as opposed to cutting them with a 'slope' because they are growing into the trees. **Action: JF**
 - The Clerk circulated a letter she had received from a resident whose dog had been subjected to vicious attack by another dog. The PC agreed to keep the incident on record. If the offending dog and its owner are seen by PC members they will ask the owner to put her dog on its lead.
 - The Clerk also circulated a letter from Julian Sturdy MP regarding the Local Plan. He said a shorter consultation will take place by March next year. In Spring 2014, the 'submission' version of the Local Plan will be put to full Council to be voted on. Providing it makes it through this vote, it will then go to the Planning Inspectors who will host a public inquiry and further consultation over the Summer.
 - On a general note, Mr Sturdy is inviting PC representatives to a meeting on 20th February at All Saints Church Hall, Poppleton from 6.30pm to 7.30pm.
 - North Yorkshire County Council are running a consultation (closes 22.12.13) on making savings on Household Waste Recycling Centres and other options. Their consultation page can be visited at www.northyorks.gov.uk/hwrccconsultation, or email customer services @northyorks.gov.uk or phone on 0845 8727374.
 - The Clerk had forwarded a resident's email to all Cllrs, regarding her concerns of potentially hazardous ground sinkage in the EOS. The PC will be looking into the issue in conjunction with item 18 on the agenda. **Action: All**
 - The PC agreed the need to review their standing orders in light of new NALC guidelines. **Action: JF**
- b. The following pre authorised payments have been made since the last Parish Council meeting:-
- Mrs Fisher's salary for October;
 - £24 to British Gas for October;
 - £159.60 to Playsafety Ltd for RoSPA playground check;
 - £744 to A. Hill for maintenance contract (September);
 - £48 to A. Hill for cutting river footpath (September);
 - £37.80 to Advance Fire Services;
 - £15.98 to J Fisher for stationery;
 - £7.50 to J Fisher for stationery;
 - £24.84 to Mrs Fisher, reimbursement for parking post locks;
 - £23.52 to Mrs Fisher in 'back-pay';
 - £30 to Mr Whittaker for replacing tennis lock.

The following payments were authorised:

- £7.20 to Mrs J Fisher for stationery;
- £325.86 to Linear Fencing for Stablers Walk gate;
- £25 to Mrs G. Offler for printing newsletters.

7. Planning Applications

Planning application 13/02925/FUL 126 Strensall Road, YO32 9SJ (Dropped kerb to allow vehicular access) had been approved by the CYC.

8. Monthly Equipment Check

No action required.

9. Plants for Earswick Planters

The PC approved up to £50 (excl VAT) for compost and flowers.

Action: KP

10. Concreting in of Football Posts

A quote from LJD Construction was considered too expensive by the PC. The PC agreed the Clerk would arrange for Cllr Leveson to meet Mr Whittaker to discuss the fixing in and painting of the football posts. The £250 approved by the PC to Mr Whittaker on 13/5/13 still stands.

Action: JF/PL

11. Lamp Post at the end of Whitelands

A resident has requested a lamp post to be placed between Nos 10 and 12 Whitelands. The Clerk will write to CYC to make the request. **Action: JF**

12. River Foss Society's Grant Application for Information Board

The River Foss Society (RFS) has received a grant of £810 towards the cost of an Information Board. It has applied for a grant from Earswick PC to purchase two boards at a cost of £2,800 + £200 installation costs + VAT, less the £810 grant already held by the RFS. Mrs Nicholson, representing the RFS, reported that the RFS has subsequently agreed to pay the £200 installation costs.

Due to the cost, the PC felt it could only support the purchase of one board and approved expenditure up to £2,300. The PC asked Mrs Nicholson if the RFS could supply two quotes for the board.

Any board purchased will be placed on the riverside, at the end of the path leading to the river from the Village Hall, and will have an RFS acknowledgement.

The Clerk is to contact the Yorkshire Local Council Assn to see if the PC can order the board, thus being able to claim back the VAT on the total sum, and have the RFS reimburse the PC the £810 grant received from elsewhere.

Action: JF

13. Parish Council Meetings

The PC meeting originally planned for the 9th December was cancelled. Instead the Councillors will attend the tea/coffee morning on the 2nd December and invite all residents for an informal chat. The Clerk will produce a notice. **Action: JF**

Parish Council meeting dates for 2014 were agreed as follows:

13th January, 10th February, 17th March, 12th May, 16th June, 14th July, 15th September, 13th October, 10th November, 8th December. As usual, these will all be held in the Village Hall at 7.30pm. The Clerk will check availability of the Village Hall for these dates. **Action: JF**

14. Neighbourhood Watch Information on Parish Council Website

The Clerk had forwarded some Neighbourhood Watch material from Mr and Mrs Norman to the Cllrs. The PC agreed to incorporate this information on the website. **Action: DJ/JF**

The Clerk unsuccessfully tried to upload the Police Report to the PC web page. A change request has been sent to the website provider.

Action: JF

15. Installation of Two Water Taps in the Scented Garden

It was agreed the Scented Garden (SG) Committee needed to submit a grant application form to the PC. Mrs Jones from the Committee agreed to arrange this.

16. 2014-15 Budget and Precept

Cllr Jones had circulated a report to the PC on estimated Income and Expenditure for each financial year up to and including 2016/17. It was agreed that Cllr Jones and the Clerk will prepare a draft budget for 2014-15 based on this report. **Action: DJ/JF**

17. Future Projects

The poor drainage at the river end of Diamond Wood was discussed. Despite the Foss Internal Drainage Board (FIDB) having apparently repaired a pipe in that ground, it remained boggy. It was agreed this matter would be pursued with the FIDB. **Action: KP**

Consideration of any new playground equipment is on hold until the PC hear whether or not its grant application (see 6a(iii) above) is successful.

The PC agreed to consider the placement of a bench on the football pitch as a future 'project'.

18. Installation of Stiles in Diamond Wood and Enclosed Open Space

The PC discussed and approved up to £379.14 to Linear Fencing for erection of a stile at the Strensall Rd end of Diamond Wood. **Action: KP**

The PC explained to residents that the City of York Council (CYC) has queried on a number of occasions why Earswick PC has not organised proper public access to the Enclosed Open Space (EOS). It was in response to this that the PC was proposing to replace the existing fencing and gate – only at

the Scented Garden end of the EOS – with a new fence (same height as the existing fence), stile and a gate, which would be padlocked. None of this would be attached to residents’ fencing.

The PC felt this would meet the needs of the CYC, would look better and would only allow access to walkers. The PC could consider restricting access to dogs as it is a nature area.

A resident asked if it was safe to place a stile where the land appears to be sinking. Also, the land is very boggy so residents’ suggested a risk assessment before any work undertaken. A resident’s objection to the proposed gate, stile and fencing was recorded.

The PC agreed to approve a sum of £578.98 to Linear Fencing (subject to a risk assessment in the EOS of the culvert, and land drainage matters), should the PC subsequently decide to proceed with a new fence, gate and stile.

Action: All

19. Contract to Cut River Footpath Hedge

The PC agreed to employ Mr M Harland to cut this hedge for three years (commencing financial year 2014-15) at an annual cost of £100 (incl VAT).

Action: JF

20. Items for Information

Cllr Pace had reported some fallen branches, by Lock House Lane, to the FIDB who said there was no danger to river flow. The FIDB has completed piling of the river bank.

The Village Hall Committee is holding a quiz night on 29th November at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.55pm

Joanne Fisher
Parish Clerk

Signed.....

Date.....