

EARSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Earswick Parish Council, held in Earswick Village Hall on Monday 16th September 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 Hannon (PCSO 5637), Ward Cllr P Doughty.

1. Apologies for Absence

None

2. Declarations of Interest

The Clerk declared an interest in item 16.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting.

Minutes for the Parish Council Meetings on 15th July 2013 were approved as accurate records by the Councillors and signed.

4. Members of the Public.

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

PCSO Hannon reported that Earswick was the lowest crime ward in York after Stockton Hall. Krissie White (PCSO 1951) is Earswick's new full-time beat manager. No sergeant has yet been appointed. Speeding camera vans will be positioned on Strensall Rd shortly.

Concern was expressed regarding low overhanging branches at 139 and 141 Strensall Rd. It was reported that Mr Hill has been asked to remove the low branches.

Unusually high numbers of youths have been seen coming and going from a property in Willow Grove. The Clerk was asked to notify PCSO Hannon.

Action: JF

The Clerk was asked to write to the owners/occupiers of 139 Strensall Rd to ask them to refrain from parking on the pavement.

Action:JF

The Scented Garden (SG) Committee have planted two magnolias, kindly donated by Mr Cuthbertson, and have removed two rabbits from the SG.

5. Ward Councillor's Report

Cllr Doughty reported that he had responded to the gritting consultation. City of York Council (CYC) is trying to save £60,000 by downgrading routes from primary to secondary routes which means they will not be gritted every evening but when deemed necessary. Both Cllrs Doughty and Wiseman have

sent a report to CYC supporting a request to have Earswick Chase upgraded to a primary route because of the size of the population.

Ward Committees are now known as Neighbourhood Forums and the intention is to invite more community groups. The next Forum is on 21 October, at 7.30pm, in Earswick Village Hall.

CYC has approved 4 green bins for the Scented Garden Committee. Bin labels will be supplied by CYC to say the refuse will be collected at no charge.

The height of the chimneys at 18 The Village was discussed and it was agreed the Clerk would contact the planning dept at CYC to see if they will be reduced in height. **Action:JF**

6. Clerk's Report

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

- i. Work has been completed on removal of the tree brash from the Enclosed Open Space by Lewis Tree Surgery, and payment of £432 (incl VAT) was authorised.
- ii. Repairs to the Landing Lane bridge were completed by CYC in August.
- iii. Cllr Jones agreed to produce the Earswick Parish Guide next year. **Action: DJ**
- iv. Cllr Offler was confirmed as a signatory by RBS on 26 July 2013.
- v. Mr Whittaker has not yet fixed the goal posts.
- vi. The secure locker for the Scented Garden (SG) shed was delivered to Mr Tate on 30.7.13.
- vii. Lewis Tree Surgery has completed work on removing dangerous trees from the river bank.
- viii. The Clerk has forwarded an email from the YLCA, regarding the external auditor's costs, to the Internal Auditor, Mr McTurk. The Clerk has also copied to him paperwork regarding ownership of the Village Hall.
- ix. Mrs J Cook could not find details of the insurance cost split between the Parish Council and the Village Hall (VH) Committee in the VH minutes. She suggested the Clerk go through the Parish Council (PC) minutes from 2005 to 2008. **Action: JF**
- x. The Clerk had contacted CYC to see if Parking Enforcement Officers would visit Earswick to warn/penalise offenders who park on pavements. If there are no parking restrictions the Enforcement Officers can take no action and it is a matter for the police.
- xi. The work at 12 Stablers Walk, for which the PC agreed access over PC land, was completed and the access key returned to the PC on 1/8/13.
- xii. The Clerk had checked the plans for 18 The Village and there was no agreement to have the front hedge removed. However, Kevin

O'Connell (planning officer) had confirmed that the hedge was not protected and no condition had been stipulated in the plans to retain it. Therefore, no enforcement action could be taken.

- xiii. The approval notice for 18 The Village refers to £4,008 Section 106 money, which is payable on occupation of the property. Mr O'Connell has reminded the Agent that this amount will be due. Dave Meigh, Operations Manager at CYC, has confirmed that Earswick PC will receive this money.
- xiv. Cllr Wiseman had contacted James Stephenson to arrange strimming of the vegetation on the corner of Willow Grove.
- xv. On 26/7/13 the Clerk sent a letter to CYC, on behalf of the PC, supporting the lifting of greenbelt restrictions from Foss Bank Farm with the proviso that any new development was in keeping with surrounding properties.
- xvi. The Clerk and Cllr Wiseman are to go through PC files to try and determine ownership of the culvert on the nature reserve.
- xvii. A reply from Cllr James Alexander, to the PC's comments on the Local Plan, was circulated to the PC.

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

- Mrs Fisher's salary for July and August;
- £24 to British Gas for August;
- £11.55 to J Fisher for stationery;
- £8.40 to J Fisher for stationery;
- £7.99 to J Fisher for stationery.
- £11.99 to G Offler for warning tape;
- £214.98 to SG Committee for lawn mower;
- £2,016 (incl VAT) to Lewis Tree Surgery for removal of dangerous trees;
- £35 to The Information Commissioner for Data Protection.

The Parish Council has received a £300 grant from CYC, on behalf of the Environment Group, for repairs/maintenance to the Diamond Wood Kissing Gate.

The following payments were authorised:

- £20 to M Whittaker for removal of hazardous wood on river footpath;
- £7.09 to Yorkshire Water;
- £432 (incl VAT) to Lewis Tree Surgery for removal of tree brush from the Enclosed Space;
- £744 to A Hill for maintenance contract (July);
- £744 to A Hill for maintenance contract (August);
- £48 to A Hill for cutting river footpath in July;
- £48 to A Hill for cutting river footpath in August;

- £240 to PKF Littlejohn LLP for external audit fees;
- £7.20 to J Fisher for stationery.

7. Planning Applications

No planning applications or approvals had been received since the last meeting.

8. Monthly Equipment Check

No action required.

9. Playground Equipment

The Clerk was asked to contact the Clerk at Stockton-on-the Forest to ask which Co. supplied her Parish with children's play equipment.

The Clerk was asked to apply for a £500 grant from the York and North Yorkshire Playing Fields Association. **Action: JF**

10. Diamond Wood Kissing Gate

In light of the £300 grant received by the Environment Group from CYC, the PC agreed to obtain quotes on the like for like repair of the kissing gate.

Action: GO/KP

11. Removal of Moles From Sports Field

The PC approved £224 to Huntcatchkill for initial clearance of the football field and the grass area to the right of the Village Hall. The PC also approved £450 for an annual contract to clear the aforementioned area.

The PC approved up to £60 to Huntcatchkill for reimbursement of stolen traps.

The PC agreed to Keith William's (Huntcatchkill) proposal to place a camera at the football field to try and ascertain who has been stealing his mole traps – but at his own risk.

The Clerk will ask Mr Williams to notify Cllr Jones when he next places his traps so Cllrs may 'police' the area to see who is taking the traps. **Action: JF**

12. Maintenance Contract

The PC discussed and agreed the requirements of the Earswick open spaces contract, due for renewal in April 2014. The PC also agreed to include all the works in one contract as opposed to arranging multiple contracts.

The PC decided to invite the following businesses to tender: A M Hill; Dean Landscapes Ltd; Noel Winteringham; York Landscaping. **Action: JF/DJ**

The Clerk was asked to contact M Harland to ask him if he will be able to cut the hedge (both sides and the top) along the river footpath once a year (in Sept/Oct) and, if so, how much he would charge. **Action: JF**

13. Sponsored Walk across PC Land

The PC approved a request from Huntington School to walk across PC land as part of a sponsored walk.

14. Restricting Large Lorries through Earswick

The PC discussed the possibility of restricting the size of vehicles passing along Strensall Rd. As it is an arterial road there would be no weight restrictions so the PC agreed no further action.

15. Items for Information

The Scented Garden (SG) Committee had asked if it could put bamboo/plywood onto the gate leading to the Enclosed Open Space, to act as a windbreak. The PC approved this proposal.

The Foss Internal Drainage Board is considering what action to take regarding a willow tree falling into the river by the bridge. Piling of the river bank will resume shortly.

16. Clerk's Salary 2013-14

It was agreed the Clerk will remain on Spinal Column Point 15 but the rate will increase by 8.4p per hour, backdated to 1 April 2013, in line with the revised pay scales issued by the National Association of Local Councils and Society of Local Council Clerks.

The PC agreed to consider increasing the Clerk's hours for the month of April, for preparation of the annual accounts, at the next meeting. **Action: JF**

The meeting closed at 9.35pm

Joanne Fisher
Parish Clerk

Signed.....

Date.....