

DRAFT – SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

EARSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Earswick Parish Council, held in Earswick Village Hall on Monday 8th December 2014.

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

Parish Clerk: J Fisher

Members of the Public Present:- J McTurk, B Gambold, P Doughty

1. Apologies for Absence

None

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Wiseman indicated a personal prejudicial interest in agenda item number 20.

3. Minutes of Previous Meetings

Minutes for the Parish Council (PC) Meeting held on 3rd November 2014 were approved as accurate records by the Councillors and signed.

4. Members of the Public

No comment.

5. Ward Councillor's Report

See item 20.

6. Clerk's Report

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

- a. The PC decided to leave the installation of the goal posts and white-lining of the football pitch until spring. Also, the digging up of the wooden posts on the pitch will be left until spring (Resident Mr Balding has agreed to remove at no charge). **Action: JF**

- b. The Clerk has received a remittance advice from City of York Council (CYC) showing payment of £4,008 to Earswick Parish Council for development at 18 The Village. Cllr Wiseman is deciding whether to call a Scrutiny Committee, or an Ordinance and Governance review, to look at the payment of section 106 monies to PCs. **Action:SW**

- c. 105 trees donated by the Woodland Trust to commemorate the centenary of the WW1 were planted on 9th November in the area formerly known as the enclosed open space but now known as Centenary Wood.
- d. A ranger seat ordered from Earth Anchors Ltd has been delivered to Mr A Hill. He is awaiting instruction as to placement. LJD Construction had quoted £285+ VAT to install the seat but the PC had previously approved £80+VAT to Mr Hill for installing the seat.

Action: GO

- e. The British Gas contract has been cancelled and the Clerk has received a £16 refund on the Homecare agreement from British Gas.
- f. Mr Joesbury did not supply a quote to change the fire alarm switch to a tamper proof model, despite a number of reminders. So, the Clerk asked Mr Whittaker to proceed using her emergency powers. The PC ratified the cost at £24. The Clerk had forwarded a signed copy of the fire services contract to Advance Fire Services.
- g. The Clerk had not heard anything further from CYC regarding the outstanding building issues at 113-121 Strensall Rd.
- h. Development of the new website is on-going.
- i. The PC felt it unlikely it would qualify for funding for a defibrillator as Earswick is so close to the hospital, so it decided not to pursue this. The PC will approach St Johns Ambulance to arrange a couple of first aid courses – one in the weekend/evening and one during the day on a weekday.

Action: PL

- j. The Clerk had liaised with the CYC accountant Sarah Kirby over the comments made by the auditors LLP Lilltlejohn on the Parish Council's accounts for 2013-14. Although the PC applied for a £14,250 precept, and the remittance advice statements show two precept payments of £7,125, included in the £14,250 figure was a £332 support grant. This meant the precept should have been shown as £13,918 and the other receipts total should have shown £8,718 (including the £332 support grant). CYC has agreed to show the support grant on future remittance advice statements.
- k. The Clerk had reminded Mr Hill to supply the barley bales for the pond – apparently it is difficult to get small barley bales. The PC agreed to postpone their purchase until the spring. **Action: JF**

- l. The foliage growing over the bus stop opposite the garage on Strensall Road has been removed.
- m. The Clerk had contacted Mr Frieslaar to inform him the PC had no grounds under planning law to object to a proposed extension at 2 Ilford Ct. The Clerk was asked to email the Planning Dept. at CYC to see if the gate posts and wall were included in application 14/02009/FUL The Grange 388 Strensall Road, YO32 9SW (alterations to existing driveway and excavation to form a wild pond).

Action: JF

- n. The ditch at Centenary Wood had been cleared by Mr Hill and he is planning to clear the Strensall Rd ditch on 9/12/14. The Clerk was asked to write to Ms Carr, who owns the culvert in Centenary Wood, to inform her it is in need of attention.

Action: JF

- o. Mr Whittaker had taken a look at the gate to the children's play area and felt the post on which the gate hangs was not vertical – hence it not closing properly. Mr Hill is going to look at the gate on 9/12/14.
- p. The Clerk had returned a copy of the new annual contract to Huntcatchkill for mole removal, to run from 1/11/14 at a cost of £450 pa.
- q. Mr Hill is to quote for cutting Centenary Wood and providing extra strimming.

Action:

DJ

- r. Cllrs Leveson and Jones had performed a successful internal audit on 13/11/14.

Other information/correspondence issues raised by the Clerk:

- The Clerk had responded to an enquiry from CYC on double taxation, requesting a rebate of £252 for grass cutting the verges on Strensall Road in 2014-15.
- The Lloyds Bond matured in November and £170,000, plus £4,238.36 interest, had been transferred into the PC's RBS bank account. The Clerk was investigating bank rates for reinvestment of the £170,000 capital sum which the PC is not permitted to spend. If the PC decide to transfer the money from within RBS a CHAPS transfer will be required at a charge of £20 from RBS. The PC approved this amount in the event of a CHAPS transfer. The Clerk is to bring interest rates to the next meeting for PC agreement on reinvestment.
- £504 expenditure to LJD Construction for tennis court repairs was incorrectly paid from the main PC account, and this amount will need to be repaid to the main PC account from the tennis account.

Action: JF

Action: JF

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

- Mrs Fisher's salary for November
- £24 to British Gas for November (see section 6 above);
- £156 to Playsafety Ltd for RoSPA playground equipment check;
- £9.99 to J Fisher for ink;
- £7.44 to J Fisher for stamps;
- £5.00 to J Fisher for stationery;
- £3.75 to J Fisher for stationery;
- £48 to A Hill for river footpath cut in September;
- £120 to A Hill for Diamond Wood grass cut in September;
- £120 to A Hill for full cut of Centenary Wood (Sept);
- £780 to A Hill for grass cuts to areas 1 & 8 in September;
- £72 to A Hill for area 4 pond strim in July;
- £72 to A Hill for area 4 pond strim in September;
- £84 to A Hill for weedkilling footpath (area 5);
- £300 to A Hill for flower meadow cut;
- £48 to A Hill for river footpath cut in October;
- £780 to A Hill for grass cuts to areas 1 & 8 in October;
- £120 to A Hill for Centenary Wood cut in October;
- £112.50 to Huntcatchkill for mole treatment 1st qtr.

The following payments were authorised:

- £534 to Earth Anchors Ltd for sports field bench;
- £24 to M Whittaker for new fire alarm switch;
- £103 to Society of Local Council Clerks;
- £9.99 to J Fisher for ink;
- £7.44 to J Fisher for stamps;
- £22.99 to B Wiseman for laminates.

7. Planning Applications

The Clerk had used her delegated powers, recording no objections from the PC, on applications:

- 14/02497/FUL Orchard House 2 Ilford Close YO32 9LP (single storey rear extension);
- 14/02610/FUL 10 Earswick Chase YO32 9FY (single storey rear extension)
- 14/02745/FUL The Birches 2 Laurel Close YO32 9FW (single storey rear extension and first floor balcony);

The City of York Council approved the following application:

- 14/02187/FUL Harmony Shilton Garth Close (Erection of conservatory to side).

8. Monthly Equipment Check

The PC agreed to obtain a quote on repairing the fence in the Lock House Lane car park.

Action: DJ

The PC agreed to add 'fences' to the equipment check list.

Action: DJ

9. Signage in Earswick

'No through way' signs have been erected at the entrance of Centenary Wood.

Laminate signs reminding the public to clear up after their dogs have been produced and the PC approved £22.99 to Cllr Wiseman for the laminates.

The PC approved up to £75+VAT for three signs from Signs Express reminding the public to keep their dogs on leads on public footpaths.

Action:KP/JF

10. Dog Bins

Sam Watling from Neighbourhood Services, CYC, will be reporting back to the PC on the possibility of repositioning the dog bins on more level sites.

Action:KP

11. Neighbourhood Watch

It was reported that the level of communication from the Principal Co-ordinator of the Neighbourhood Watch had not been as high as expected over the last two years.

Subsequently, the PC decided to consider the appointment of another Principal Co-ordinator. The Clerk was asked to write to Mr Norman to thank him for his work as Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator, and to ask for a list of all co-ordinators. Also, the Clerk is to write to Mr Gambold to invite him to take on the role as Principle Co-ordinator.

Action: JF

Registration form A184 will need completing and forwarding to the PSCO on appointment of Mr Gambold if he accepts the role.

Action: SW

The new Inspector of Police for the North of York is Lee Pointin (collar no. 1051). Jimmy Hannon continues as PSCO for Earswick.

12. Section 106 Payments

It was reported that the conditions attached to any section 106 payments will be given in the planning approval documents associated with each property.

The Clerk will draft a response to CYC regarding the usage of section 106 money received by the PC, and relating to 122 Strensall Road.

Action:JF/DJ

The Clerk had left a message with Dave Meigh asking him to clarify what information he required on a number of properties he had highlighted in an email to Cllr Wiseman. It was reported only the footings are in situ for 4 Willow Grove.

13. Tree Pruning

Residents in Stablers Walk had asked if trees in the flower meadow could be cut back as they were overshadowing their gardens. The PC agreed they would consider removing these trees but not trim them as there would be an ongoing cost. Before any action is taken, the PC agreed to ask the affected residents if they would be happy for the tree removal.

Action:GO

The PC approved up to £400 + VAT for the tree removal, estimating two days work for Mr Hill.

The PC agreed to look at the trees in Centenary Wood to see if some needed removing.

Action:DJ/KP

14. Play Equipment

The PC agreed a public consultation is required to ask if residents support the proposed play equipment. A group of Mothers who raised the proposal will arrange the consultation, hopefully by the end of January 2015.

15. Removal of Posts on Sports Field

The PC agreed to reconsider this item in spring 2015.

16. Possible Bench in Bus Shelter

The Clerk had sent a letter to Mr and Mrs Beaumont on 7/11/14 requesting permission to erect a bench in the bus shelter opposite The Village. She had also sent them a copy of old lease papers held by the PC for their solicitor who is investigating ownership.

The possibility of tarmacking the triangle of grass near this bus-stop will be included in the next agenda.

Action:JF

The PC approved up to £300 +VAT for a new bench should the owners of the bus shelter give permission.

17. Parish Council Meetings in 2015

The following dates were agreed for 2015:

January 12 th	July 13 th
February 9 th	September 14 th
March 16 th	October 12 th
May 11 th	November 9 th
June 15 th	December 7 th

18. Items for Information

Cllr Offler attended a CYC meeting and reported that litter picking and snow warden volunteers are insured by the CYC if they have received CYC training on these matters.

There is a 'Smarter York' App which allows users to send photos of problem areas, such as potholes, directly to the CYC.

19. Clerk's Pay Scale

The Clerk is on Spinal Column Point 15, currently paid £8.428 per hour. The SLCC and NALC are recommending increasing the hourly rate for SCP 15 to £8.613 from 1/1/15. The PC approved this increase for Mrs Fisher. **Action: JF**

20. The Local Plan and Earswick Action Group

Cllr Wiseman left the meeting.

Cllr Doughty reported:

- There had recently been a Local Plan seminar organised by CYC, and presented by ARUP and Oxford Econometrics, who were giving evidence to support their housing figures which fed into the Local Plan. The same figures will be considered by the forthcoming Local Plan Working Group. It was estimated that there would be 24,300 extra people living in York by 2030, of which only 3,100 would be of working age. It was estimated that 16,000 extra properties would be required.
- Liberal Democrat Nigel Ayers had issued a Freedom of Information request to CYC for details of phone calls between ARUP, Oxford Econometrics and three CYC officers, but the request was refused.

The Earswick Action Group has pledged of £16,300 but is aiming for £20k. The Group agreed to support the PC in the development of the Neighbourhood Plan. Mr Charlesworth has offered to lead the drafting of the Neighbourhood Plan.

The PC agreed to create a sub-group of the PC for developing the Earswick Neighbourhood Plan, led by Mr Charlesworth. It was agreed at least one PC member will join the sub-group.

Action: DJ

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

Joanne Fisher

(Parish Clerk)

Signed.....

Date.....