

EARSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Earswick Parish Council, held in Earswick Village Hall on Monday 13th January 2014.

Councillors Present: D Jones
S Wiseman
P Leveson
G Offler

Parish Clerk: J Fisher

Members of the Public Present:- I Jones, J Nicholson, P Doughty

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllr Pace

2. Declarations of Interest

None.

3. Minutes of Previous Meetings

Minutes for the Parish Council (PC) Meetings on 11th November 2013 and 2nd December 2013 were approved as accurate records by the Councillors and signed.

4. Members of the Public.

Members of the public raised the following point:

Dog fouling is still a problem on Strensall Road from Earswick Chase to the A1237.

5. Ward Councillor's Report

There is a Ward Residents Meeting at Stockton on the Forest on the 22nd January. Organisers of the York Marathon are coming to discuss this year's marathon arrangements.

6. Clerk's Report

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

- i. Cllr Leveson met Mr Whittaker to discuss repairs to the goal posts. The paint on the posts is peeling and could cause splinters. Mr Whittaker suggested having the posts sandblasted to remove the old paint. Cllr Wiseman agreed to talk to John Chapman to see how much Strensall PC paid to have their posts sandblasted. **Action SW**

It was agreed the Clerk will ask Mr Hill to quote on painting and resetting the goal posts. **Action: JF**

Work to find details of the insurance cost split between the Parish Council (PC) and the Village Hall (VH) Committee, in the PC minutes from 2005 to 2008, is ongoing. **Action: JF**

- ii. Mr Williams, from Huntcatchkill, has been paid for removing 23 moles and reimbursement for stolen traps. The first quarter of his annual contract (1/11/-31/1/14) has also been paid. A new mole hill has appeared on the football pitch but Mr Williams will take action when 3 or 4 appear. It was reported that he monitors the situation every week.
- iii. Section 106 money (£4,008) has not yet been paid to the Planning Dept for development of 18 The Village, so it cannot be forwarded to the PC yet. Dave Meigh, Operations Manager at City of York Council (CYC), has asked Matthew Parkinson from Planning Enforcement to pursue this matter. **Action JF**
- iv. The Clerk is awaiting a reply from Cllr David Jeffels (North Yorks Council) after emailing him again to see if any decisions have been made regarding the £500 grant for playground equipment for which the PC has applied. **Action: JF**
- v. Mike Harland has been informed of the PC's decision to use his services to cut the riverside hedge for three years from April 2014. The Clerk is still to produce a contract. **Action: JF**
- vi. Repairs to the damaged rendering to the VH has been completed by LJD Construction.
- vii. The stile at the Strensall Rd end of Diamond Wood has been installed.
- viii. The PC is still 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**
- ix. The next coffee morning on 3/2/14 will be arranged by Cllrs Ofler and Jones. **Action: GO/DJ**
- x. The Clerk has received instructions from the website provider on how to load the Neighbourhood Watch and Village Hall events on the web, but they didn't appear to work. The Clerk will contact the website provider again. **Action: JF**
- xi. 'No Dog Fouling' notices have been placed at the end of The Village.
- xii. CYC is due to review the 'gap' in the double yellow lines at the Strensall Rd end of The Village in Spring/Summer 2014.
- xiii. A request to clear the leaves at the Strensall Rd end of The Village was forwarded to the Street Cleaning Dept at CYC.
- xiv. The Clerk had instructed Mr Hill not to cut hedging until March. He was also asked to take the tops off the hedges around the Fosslands bus stop.
- xv. The Clerk needs to review the Standing Orders in line with the new NALC guidelines. **Action: JF**
- xvi. Plants and compost have been purchased and planted into the village planters.
- xvii. The Clerk has contacted CYC to see if an additional lamp post could be placed between 10 and 12 Whitelands. Because standards are

currently met, CYC will not supply a further lamp post. The PC agreed not fund a further lamp post either because it would cost in excess of £1k. Resident to be notified. **Action: DJ**

xviii. Cllr Jones and the Clerk are to produce a draft budget. **Action: JF/DJ**

xix. The drainage of the area leading to the river from Diamond Wood was discussed. Cllr Wiseman reported that the Foss Internal Drainage Board (FIDB) is due to look at the problem shortly to consider whether the laying of hard core or a land drain will address the problem.

Action: SW

xx. Further to the PC decision to remove the gate and fencing at the Scented Garden end of the Enclosed Open Space in March, the Clerk reported that she had notified all residents whose properties adjoin the space of the PC's agreed action, and supplied them with PC Hannon's contact details should they wish to discuss security issues.

Other information/correspondence issues raised by the Clerk:

- CYC had inadvertently removed the PC grit bin from Willow Grove but then repositioned on grass outside 10a Willow Grove. Following a complaint from a resident and the Clerk subsequently contacting CYC, the grit bin has now been replaced in its original position.
- The Clerk and Chairman signed the Precept Notice 2014/15, to CYC, requesting an annual precept of £14,250. **Action: JF**
- The PC approved a request from Suzanne Relton (Eborienteers) to use the area around Earswick VH on 20/4/14 for an orienteering event. **Action: JF**
- A resident has asked if oil drums near the weir could be removed. Cllr Wiseman agreed to contact the FIDB. **Action: SW**

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

- Mrs Fisher's salary for November and December;
- £48 to British Gas for November and December;
- £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;
- £112.50 to Huntcatchkill 1st qtr mole removal contract;
- £190 to Huntcatchkill for mole removal and traps;
- £101 to SLCC for membership fees;
- £360.78 to Linear Fencing for the Diamond Wood Stile;
- £32.95 to J Pace for planters plants and compost;
- £200 to Parish Websites Ltd;

- £7.09 to Yorkshire water;
- £6.28 to P Leveson for tea/coffee;
- £144 to LJD Construction Services Ltd for VH rendering.

The following payments were authorised:

- £41.22 to Advance Fire Services;
- £216 to A. Hill for footpath maintenance;
- £240 to A. Hill for maintenance to open space (Area 3);
- £540 to A. Hill for maint.to hedges/shrubs (Area 6) excl SG;
- £168 to A. Hill for cut & bale of flower meadow;
- £180 to A.Hill for white lining football pitch;
- £48 to A. Hill for cutting footpath October;
- £744 to A Hill for grass cutting October.

The Clerk reported that £160 and £440 were authorised by the PC in April to A. Hill for strimming the pond area (twice), and cutting and weedkilling Diamond Wood (twice), respectively during 2013. The actual amounts which should have been authorised, based on 2012 quotes, are £168 and £480 respectively. The PC authorised the aforementioned £168 and £480 to Mr Hill.

The Clerk also reported £4,273.29 interest has been received on the Lloyds account. £354.34 double taxation rebate has been received from CYC. £0.64 interest has been received on the tennis account.

7. Planning Applications

The following planning application was considered by the PC with no objections raised:

- application 13/03895/FUL, 11 The Village YO32 9SL (Single storey side and rear extensions and canopy to rear).

Planning application 13/03244/FUL 78 Earswick Chase, YO32 9FY (Conversion of garage loft space into habitable room) has been approved by the CYC.

8. Monthly Equipment Check

No action required.

9. Removal of Tree Brash From Public Open Spaces

Tree brash taken down by volunteers is reportedly building up all over Earswick. If this brash could be moved to the end of the Lock House Lane car park, the Village Hall car park and the end of Earswick Chase, the PC felt a chipper could be brought in to chip the brash. The PC agreed to contact the Community Payback team to see if they would be able to move the tree brash. **Action: GO/KP**

Mr Hill will be cutting low branches in February to assist his grass cutting and will have his chipper in situ then. If the Community Payback team can move the brash then the Clerk will ask Mr Hill for a quote to chip the brash. **Action: JF**

10. Watering System & Conifer Hedge in Scented Garden (SG)

The PC approved £167.02 grant to the SG Committee for the installation of two taps in the SG. **Action: JF**

The water tank has been removed leaving a concrete base, which was considered too expensive to take away. Instead the SG Committee are planning to screen off the taps and stand green bins on the hard standing. The SG Committee want the hedge at the corner where the old water tank stood to be cut to the same height as the hedge near the shed, and will ask Mr Hill to do this when he cuts the hedge in March. The SG Committee is going to ask Mr Hill for a quote to remove pump housing and pipes, and to flatten the nuts in the concrete. **Action:SW**

There is a lamp post on the other side of the SG hedge so, to avoid trespassers, the SG Committee want to paint the lamp post (and the shed roof) with anti-climb paint. A sign would be required notifying the public of the paint. The PC approved up to £20 for the anti-climb paint which will be organised by the SG Committee. **Action:SW/JF**

11. Extra Grass Cuts to Land Between Earswick Chase & The Village

The public open space maintenance contract awarded to Mr Hill, commencing in April 2014, allows for two cuts to this land. The PC approved £400 plus VAT for four additional cuts per annum.

Action: JF

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

The River Foss Society (RFS) had obtained three quotes for an Information Board - £3,645 (excl VAT) from Bivnac, £2,961 (excl VAT) from Red Bonsai and the cheapest which was £2,195 (excl VAT but including installation costs) from Adrian Bury. This amount is greater than the quote obtained for the previous meeting because the RFS now want to purchase a 'vault type panel', ie one with no frame which it was felt would require much less maintenance. The PC approved £2,195 (excl VAT).

The Clerk had contacted the Yorkshire Local Council Association (YLCA) to confirm the PC could order and pay for the board as it was for PC use, thus enabling the PC to reclaim the VAT. The YLCA also confirmed it would be acceptable for the RFS to reimburse the PC the £810 grant money it held, and the £200 installation costs. The Clerk will place the order. **Action: JF**

The PC is happy for the RFS to decide on the information shown on the board and does not need to approve before manufacture.

The board will be placed on the riverside, on Earswick PC land, at the end of the path leading to the river from the Village Hall (on the right hand side beside the end of the hedge), facing the river, and will have Earswick PC and RFS acknowledgements.

The PC agreed Cllr Pace will meet the installers before the board is placed to ensure correct positioning. It must not be placed on FIDB land.

Action: KP

The Clerk will contact Zurich Insurance to ensure the new board is covered by the PC insurance policy.

Action: JF

13. Parish Council Complaints Procedure

The Clerk had circulated a proposed draft procedure to all Cllrs for consideration but the PC decided as there was no legal requirement for a complaints procedure against the PC that none would be implemented.

14. Items for Information

Cllrs Leveson and Offler attended the Burial Board meeting at which there was a unanimous vote not to increase burial prices. The charges for burying children from both in and out of the area have now been made the same. A new tractor has been bought and the Board would like to acquire additional land behind the graveyard (Oak Gate). Cllr Wiseman agreed to talk to the FIDB regarding the potential charge for this land.

Action: SW

Cllr Wiseman attended the FIDB meeting and reported that the land around Monks Cross has been reclassified as development land. This might change again after the Local Plan has been decided. The FIDB has purchased a new tractor and has finished the piling along the Earswick stretch of the River Foss.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm

Joanne Fisher

Parish Clerk

Signed.....

Date.....