

EARSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Earswick Parish Council, held in Earswick Village Hall on Monday 14th July 2014.

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

Parish Clerk: J Fisher

Members of the Public Present:- K Beamish, H Davey, S Brown, S Leach, J Gambold, M Leach.

1. Apologies for Absence

Ward Councillor Doughty

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Wiseman declared a prejudicial interest in item 10 which was deferred to the end of the meeting so Cllr Wiseman could leave before it was discussed.

3. Minutes of Previous Meetings

Minutes for the Parish Council (PC) Meeting held on 16th June 2014 were approved as accurate records by the Councillors and signed.

4. Members of the Public.

Members of the public had no comments other than some drawings to pass to Cllr Pace from residents' children showing play equipment they would like in Earswick.

5. Ward Councillor's Report

Cllr Wiseman made the following points:

- The Tour de France was a great success;
- The second phase (ie consultation) of the Local Plan finishes on 16th July;
- Lendal Bridge fines were due to be refunded to those people who applied for a refund although there were plans to refund everyone who was fined;
- There is a Neighbourhood Forum Meeting on 23rd July in Strensall Village Hall. Ward funding application forms would be available for community groups that may wish to apply for Ward funding.

6. Clerk's Report

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

- i. The Clerk reported that new goal posts had been ordered from Mark Harrod at a cost of £568.80. Mr Hill had agreed to receive the posts and Mark Harrod will ring him 1 hour before delivery. Payment is required before despatch. The posts were expected by week ending 25/7.
- ii. Mrs J Cook from the VH Committee (VHC) had agreed to the proposed change to charging insurance costs to the VHC ie the PC will ask the insurance provider to provide the actual proportion of the premium which relates to the VH contents only. The amount for period ending 31/5/14 was £53.01. The PC agreed to proceed with this methodology. The Clerk will bill the VHC accordingly.

Action: JF

Mrs Cook confirmed the VHC feels the current value of Village Hall contents insured is sufficient.

Cllr Wiseman reported that the Scented Garden Committee (SGC) want the PC to include the Scented Garden arbours and lawn mower under its insurance policy, at a cost of £53 per annum, which will be charged to the SGC. The Clerk will arrange with Zurich Municipal and bill the SGC accordingly.

Action: JF

- iii. On 4/7 and 14/7 Dave Meigh, Operations Manager at City of York Council (CYC), emailed the Clerk to say the CYC finance department still hadn't confirmed the situation regarding the section 106 money (£4,008). The Clerk was asked to contact Mike Slater (and copy to Dave Meigh) and ask him to confirm the situation with the Planning Enforcement Officers and legal department.

Action JF

- iv. Mr Hill and Mr Harland have forwarded their insurance documents.
- v. The Huntington School Sponsored Walk ran smoothly.
- vi. The PC agreed that as drainage in Diamond Wood is on the Foss Internal Drainage Board (FIDB) list for review, the matter should be removed from the action tracker.
- vii. Mr A Hill has cleared the ditch in the Enclosed Open Space (EOS).
- viii. The Community Payback Team had come on 8th July and strimmed around the trees in Diamond Wood, from Strensall Rd end to the kissing gate. They are booked to come again on 27/7 to finish the rest of Diamond Wood. As there may be two teams coming they may also be used to strim around the former BMX track, the pond, Lock House Lane car park and sports field. Cllr Pace agreed to

show Cllr Jones what area needs strimming by the sports field.

Action: DJ/KP

- ix. Cllrs Leveson and Offler agreed to supervise the two Community Payback teams on 27/7. **Action: PL/GO**
- x. Cllr Pace submitted a claim for £13.10 for oil and petrol for the strimmers, which was ratified by the PC.
- xi. Mr Steve Balding, a resident, has agreed to take down any broken branches on the trees on the former BMX track and log them. The PC agreed he would need to complete a risk assessment. Cllr Jones is to supply a form to Cllr Pace. **Action:DJ/KP**
- xii. The Environment Group has applied for 105 free trees from the Woodland Trust.
- xiii. The Environment Group has applied for a grant for a new bench for the sports field.
- xiv. Following on from the four quotes obtained to put a new boiler in the Village Hall (VH), the Clerk had contacted Sleep Safe to ascertain any extra costs for a magnetic filter and the annual service charge. The PC agreed to purchase the boiler from Reynolds Plumbing as they had quoted the cheapest price. The boiler will be installed on 11th August 2014. **Action: DJ**
- xv. The Clerk's contract was amended to show the actual payment date of 27th of each month, in line with the Internal Audit recommendations.
- xvi. Cllr Offler had looked through Health & Safety guidance relating to the use of a chainsaw. Everyone working with chainsaws should have a certificate of competence unless they have used a chainsaw prior to 1998. Mr Offler has used a chainsaw prior to 1998 and has his own safety clothing. The PC agreed to purchase a chainsaw at up to £300 plus VAT. Cllr Offler agreed to write out a summary of her investigations into the statutory guidance, etc, and to order the chainsaw. **Action:GO**
- xvii. Mr Hill had cut the overgrown shrubs and hedges.
- xviii. The Clerk had emailed Mike Slater from City of York Council (CYC) to ask for a copy of the plans for the High Garth development and any information on why tree T1 was removed and details of any action taken. Verlie Riley from the Planning Dept had emailed a number of documents in response to this request, which were forwarded to the PC. In short, tree T1 was removed because it was rotten. The PC agreed to pursue no further at this stage.
- xix. ST Danby has been invited to Earswick Sports Field at 2pm on August 18th. They will look at the 'wish list' drawings made by Earswick children and propose some new play equipment for the sports field. The PC agreed to apply to Yorventure for a grant. **Action:KP**

xx. The Clerk had asked JP Roofing, Haxby Builders, Fenton & Fenton and Mike Slater to quote on resetting the ridge tiles and gulleys on the VH roof. As JP Roofing were unable to supply a fixed quote, the PC ruled them out. Mike Slater had given a verbal quote but no written specification. The PC approved up to £1,020 (incl VAT) for roof repairs but asked that the written quote from Mike Slater be circulated amongst Cllrs before they agree with which firm to proceed.

Action:JF

xxi. The Clerk had asked Mr Hill to proceed with acquiring three barley bales for the pond.

xxii. Cllr Wiseman had contacted the Highways Dept and ascertained Garden Village is not an adopted road and the PC is not permitted to erect a 'Drive slowly, children playing' sign there. Residents would need to approach Persimmons if they wish to erect a sign.

xxiii. The PC authorised £27.08 to Cllr Pace for a staple gun and staples. It also authorised £6.50 to Cllr Offler for shear sharpening.

xxiv. 'Home Instead' had been invited to do a presentation at a future coffee morning.

xxv. ST Danby do not make information boards suitable for children, to go in the Scented Garden. The SGC will talk to Adrian Bury Associates, who made the River Foss Information Board, and apply for ward funding.

Other information/correspondence issues raised by the Clerk:

A letter had been received from St Andrew's Church asking for donations towards a new floor covering for the entrance lobby and toilets. The PC decided not to make a donation.

The Clerk had received an email from Norton Security to say their cover on the PC laptop was due to expire on 13/7/14. For security reasons, the Clerk renewed the cover at a cost of £19.99 and this amount was ratified by the PC.

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

- Mrs Fisher's salary for June;
- £24 to British Gas for June;
- £525 to York Pressure Cleaning (moss killing tennis courts);
- £25 to YLCA for training;
- £7.29 to Yorkshire Water;
- £8.50 to J Fisher for stationery;
- £2.03 to J Fisher for postage;

- £22.71 to J Fisher for stationery;
- £12.47 to D Jones for stationery;
- £5.98 to G Offler for plants;
- £60 to Adrian Bury Associates for Information Board;
- £35 to Information Commissioner for Data Protection
- £103.50 to Advance Fire Services (£31.50 approved 17/3. Other £54.75 + VAT authorised under emergency procedures).

The Clerk was asked to contact Minster Alarms to see if they can quote on servicing the Village Hall Fire Alarms.

Action: JF

The following payments were authorised:

£5.00 to J Fisher for stationery;

£18 to River Foss Society;

£48 to A Hill for cutting river footpath in May;

£780 to A Hill for grass cuts to Areas 1 and 8 in May;

£48 to A Hill for cutting river footpath in June;

£780 to A Hill for grass cuts to Areas 1 and 8 in June;

£120 to A Hill for cutting EOS in June;

£120 to A Hill for cutting Diamond Wood in June; £11.98

to J Fisher for stationery.

£0.66 interest had been received from the Royal Bank of Scotland on the tennis account.

7. Planning Applications

The following planning application was dealt with by the Clerk, using delegated powers, with no objections:

- 14/00982/CLU The Grange 388 Strensall Road, YO329SW (Certificate of Lawful Use for use of land as private garden and driveway to domestic property);

The following planning application had been withdrawn:

- 14/01217/TPO High Garth House, The Village YO32 9SL (fell walnut protected by Tree Preservation Order CYC 155);

The City of York Council had approved the following planning applications:

- 14/00952/FUL 6 Northlands Ave YO32 9FS (two storey and single storey side extension and dormer windows to the rear),

- 14/01055/FUL 1 Ilford Close YO32 9LP (single storey rear extension with balcony).

The Clerk was asked to contact Neil Massey, Planning Officer, to point out that two properties on Strensall Road are called 'The Grange' - which has led to some confusion.

Action: JF

8. Monthly Equipment Check

There was no action required on play equipment except the goal posts and tennis courts.

9. Tennis Court Concrete

The PC agreed £420 + VAT to LJD Construction for repairs to the concrete on the tennis courts.

10. Please see below.

11. Information Board for Diamond Wood

The PC agreed to take this item off the agenda until next year when the trees in Diamond Wood are more mature.

12. Defibrillator for the Village Hall

The PC agreed to invite the Yorkshire Ambulance Service (YAS) to come to Earswick to train residents on CPR. The subject will be included in the September Newsletter. **Action: PL**

The PC and residents had listened to a talk from Neil Marsay (YAS) on the benefits and use of a defibrillator. The PC agreed to include this subject in the September Newsletter and ask residents if they would like to make a donation towards acquiring one for Earswick.

Action: KP/GO

13. Parking in Earswick

The PC agreed to remind residents to park considerately, particularly in cul-de-sacs and on kerbs, in the September Newsletter. **Action: PL**

14. Building work at 113 – 121 Strensall Road

The Clerk was asked to write to the landlord of properties at 113 to 121 Strensall Road (and copy to Alan Kendall, Planning Enforcement Officer) to ask him to make good the footpath, to close the entrance nearest the cottages (because it is too near the ring road) and to tidy the area to the side of 121 Strensall Road. **Action: JF**

15. Earswick Parish Council Website

The PC agreed to organise a meeting with 1st Byte who provided the York Against Cancer website. **Action: JF**

16. Standing Order 30b

The PC decided the threshold of £1,000 was too low to warrant formal tender procedures. The PC agreed, therefore, to reduce the threshold for formal tender from £10,000 to £5,000 with immediate effect. The Clerk will amend the Standing Orders accordingly. **Action: JF**

17. Payment for hire of Village Hall

The PC approved payment of £200.69 to the Earswick Village Hall Fund for hire of the hall up to 31/3/14. **Action: JF**

18. Review of the Action Tracker

The PC decided the action tracker should not show all action taken to date – just the last action taken (and any payments authorised).

Action: JF

19. Village Hall (VH) Parking Posts

Visitors to the VH are driving on the parking posts and consequently bending the bar at the base, which prevents them from locking. The posts have been straightened 3 times and are getting weaker so may need replacing. LJD Construction is coming to look at the posts. The Clerk will give them Cllr Jones' contact details to discuss the issue and it will be included on the next agenda.

Action: JF

20. Items for Information

- The SGC made approximately £450 from its last plant sale.
- The next coffee morning is on 4th August. **Action: PL/GO**
- Donations from residents attending coffee mornings totalled £71.50 for Marie Curie. The PC agreed to place a charity box at each coffee morning (York against Cancer at the next coffee morning) and change the charity every 3 months.
- Cllrs attended the Huntington Burial Board (HBB) AGM. The HBB has a vice chairman and was unaware that the Local Plan would result in development right up to the HBB land border.

10. City of York Council's (CYC) proposal to 'safeguard' land in Earswick for Development

Cllr Wiseman left the meeting. The following points were made:

- 1,500 homes proposed, to be built by the Housing Association, on land to the east of Earswick – 50% to be affordable housing of which 50% will be social housing.
- Earswick landowners were approached by a consortium over a year ago to develop this land, apparently encouraged by City of York Council (CYC).
- Earswick Chase has 8 houses per hectare. The proposed development will have 42 houses per hectare.
- The development included no plans for a community centre or play area because the developers (Thirteen Group) expect new households to use Earswick's existing Village Hall and Play areas.
- Sites 755, 756 and 777 (in Earswick) had previously been rejected by CYC because of problems of access and infrastructure. However, CYC has amalgamated these sites to

make one site 810 making the site more attractive to developers who will make contributions to overcoming these original issues.

- Earswick started a petition against the Local Plan proposals in Earswick on 7/7/14. Over 60% of Earswick households had signed the petition by 14/7. Ward Cllr Paul Doughty is going to present the petition to full Council.
- John Williams from the Action Group has 3 minutes to present to full Council on 17/7.
- Cllr Doughty is going to ask CYC what dialogue they have had with Thirteen Group.
- Leaflets had been dropped in Strensall to ask residents to support Earswick against the development.
- Earswick Action Group has appointed a leading planning Barrister in Manchester.
- Consultation on the Local Plan will close on 16/7. It is estimated that the Action Group has until Oct 2014 to get a fighting fund. Strensall has asked every resident for £25 for its 'fighting fund'.
- Willow Grove Residents Assoc has donated £500 to Earswick Action Group (EAG) funds. The PC received a grant application for £500+VAT from the Willow Grove Residents Assoc on behalf of the EAG (because EAG do not have a bank account as of yet). As 60% of Earswick residents had signed the petition the PC approved the grant application. The Earswick Action Group will also seek funds from residents and businesses.
- The Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer of the Willow Grove Residents Association are all members of Earswick Action Group (EAG). Cllr Leveson is the PC representative on EAG.
- Residents can object on the electronic petition at democracy.gov.uk

21. Clerk's Hours of Work in producing annual accounts.

Due to the extra work required to produce the annual accounts, the PC authorised 10 extra hours for April in October 2013. The Clerk felt it was more appropriate to split this over April and May so the PC agreed to authorise 5 hours for April and 5 hours for May at a cost of £42.14 per month.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

Joanne Fisher (Parish Clerk)

Signed.....

Date.....