

EARSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Earswick Parish Council, held in Earswick Village Hall on Monday 3rd November 2014.

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

Parish Clerk: J Fisher

Members of the Public Present:- J McTurk, I Jones, P Doughty, F Martin, A Charlesworth.

1. Apologies for Absence

None

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Wiseman indicated a personal prejudicial interest in agenda item number 10.

3. Minutes of Previous Meetings

Minutes for the Parish Council (PC) Meeting held on 15th September 2014 were approved as accurate records by the Councillors and signed.

4. Members of the Public

Mr Charlesworth commented on the Local Plan, raised comments from the Willow Grove residents about the Earswick Parish Plan and requested changes to that Plan, and asked that residents be consulted if a Neighbourhood Plan is produced. The PC pointed out that the Parish Plan, including the development section, had been on the PC website for two years with no prior comment from residents.

Mrs Jones reported that the new law on dog control had been passed to the Chairman.

5. Ward Councillor's Report

Cllr Doughty reported that the ruling administration at City of York Council (CYC) no longer has a majority. Consequently the final consultation on the Local Plan has been halted. There will be further discussion between the Parties, and a Working Group is to put forward more proposals. This will result in more delay.

On Friday this week Council Leaders will be holding a 'Community Conversation' at Strensall Methodist Hall, 6 – 8pm.

Cllr Wiseman reported attempts to raise a 'stop order' at the site of The Tannery in Strensall. Planning Enforcement (CYC) and the River Foss Internal Drainage Board (RFIDB) are involved.

A public inquiry is taking place in Strensall into the proposed development at Brecks Lane which could have an impact on future developments on greenbelt land within York. The Planning Inspector wants more information about the housing needs in York. There will be a further meeting this Thursday and Friday at Strensall Village Hall. The Inspector is due to send a report to the Secretary of State in the New Year.

6. Clerk's Report

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

- a. Cllrs will meet Mr Hill to agree positioning of goal posts and one session of white-lining. **Action: KP/PL**
The PC agreed Mr Balding (resident) could remove the four existing wooden posts on the football field and roll them into the hedge. **Action: KP**
- b. The Clerk had contacted Planning Enforcement at CYC, regarding £4,008 Section 106 money due to Earswick PC following development at 18, The Village. Ann Curtis confirmed CYC had received payment from the developers on 4/2/14 and had closed the case. She copied her response to the CYC Finance Team. On 16/10 the Clerk emailed the finance team for an update and explanation of the process but has received no response. Cllr Wiseman is going to call a scrutiny review regarding outstanding Section 106 monies. **Action: SW**
- c. Reynolds Plumbing sorted the 'cold spots' in the Village Hall radiators on 20/10/14 at a cost of £40, paid using the Clerk's emergency power. The PC ratified this payment. The British Gas Contract (£24 per month payable by Earswick PC), which had been in existence since 2006, covered 24hr call-out, servicing and free parts. As the new Worcester boiler had a 5 year guarantee with parts, the PC agreed to cancel the British Gas Contract with immediate effect. **Action: JF**
Mrs Cook from the Village Hall Committee (VHC) will contact Worcester direct if there is a problem with the boiler.
- d. LJD construction completed repairs to the tennis court concrete on 19/9/14.
- e. On 1/10/14 Planning Enforcement acknowledged the PC's request to deal with issues outstanding at 113-121 Strensall Road, including closing the entrance nearest the cottages, making good the footpath and tidying the side of 121 Strensall Road.

- f. Yorkshire Ambulance only do first aid courses during the day, Mon-Fri, so the PC decided not to pursue that option. St John's Ambulance do a range of first aid courses for different age groups, which will be followed up. The cost of acquiring a defibrillator will also be investigated. **Action: PL**
- g. The Clerk had phoned the CYC creditors section to ask what figures CYC had supplied to auditors LLP Littlejohn because they did not reconcile. The Clerk is now in liaison with an auditor at CYC and will pursue this information. **Action: JF**
- h. The Clerk had contacted Planning Department at CYC to inform them that tree T1 referred to in planning application 14/01776/TPO 5 High Garth, The Village YO32 9FR (ash trees T1 and T2 tree crown and stem treatment) had already been removed. Planning Dept said it refers to that specific planning application and not Tree Preservation Order numbering.
- i. The Playground Equipment checklist has been renamed Equipment Checklist and now includes tennis courts, dog signs and the information board.
- j. The Clerk had contacted Mr Strong to confirm he may place his bee hives in the flower meadow next year, and that he needs to cordon off the area. The Clerk also reminded him to forward his Beekeepers Assn membership documentation.
- k. The resident's weekend which involved daffodil bulb planting had taken place on 25/26th October.
- l. The Clerk had reminded Mr Hill to supply the barley bales for the pond.
- m. The Clerk had emailed Stephenson's to ask them to remove the foliage growing over the bus stop opposite the garage on Strensall Road. This work should be completed by the 3rd week in November.
- n. Investigation into why communication from the Road Co-ordinator (Neighbourhood Watch) is not getting through is ongoing.

Action:SW

Other information/correspondence issues raised by the Clerk:
CYC had emailed to say they had considered extending the yellow lines on the corner of The Village leading into Strensall Road but had decided current lines were adequate.

Correspondence between the PC and RNLI had revealed the RNLI own no land in Earswick included in the Local Plan.

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

- Mrs Fisher's salary for September and October;
- £24 per month to British Gas for September and October;
- £1,020 to Haxby Builders for VH roof repairs;
- £7.44 to J Fisher for stamps;

- £13.66 to J Fisher for stationery;
- £120 to A Hill for Diamond Wood cut in August;
- £780 to A Hill for cuts to areas 1 & 8 in August;
- £120 to A Hill for EOS cut in August;
- £48 to A Hill for river footpath cut in August;
- £40.20 to Advance Fire Services;
- £40 to Reynolds Plumbing & Heating for VH Radiators;
- £504 to LJD Construction for tennis court repairs;
- £30 to M Whittaker for clearing the VH guttering.

The following payments were authorised:

- £156 to RoSPA for playground equipment check (item 8 below);
- £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 former EOS (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 EOS cut in October;
- £112.50 to Huntcatchkill for mole treatment 1st qtr.

The second half of the precept, £7,125, and £0.66 interest on the RBS Tennis Account had been received. Also, £54.60 has been received from the VHC and £53 from the Scented Garden Committee (SGC) for reimbursement of insurance costs (1/614-31/5/14). Finally, a £500 ward grant for purchasing a bench for the sports field was received in October.

7. Planning Applications

The following planning application was considered by the PC::

- 14/02212/LHE Orchard House 2 Ilford Close YO32 9LP (single storey extension 7.2m beyond rear wall of house). Mr Frieslaar had written to the PC asking it to oppose this application but it was agreed that there were no grounds, under planning law, for

objecting to this application. The Clerk is to inform Mr Frieslaar of the outcome. **Action: JF**

The Clerk had used her delegated powers on application:

14/02187/FUL Harmony Shilton Garth Close (Erection of conservatory to side) to record no objections.

The City of York Council approved the following applications

- 14/01776/TPO 5 High Garth, The Village YO32 9FR (ash trees T1 and T2 tree crown and stem treatment);
- 14/01727/FUL 30 Lock House Lane, YO32 9FT (single storey rear extension);
- 14/02009/FUL The Grange 388 Strensall Road, YO32 9SW (alterations to existing driveway and excavation to form a wild pond). The Clerk was asked to check whether the gate post and wall to this property were included in the plan. **Action: JF**

8. Monthly Equipment Check

A number of signs around Earswick needed replacement. The PC approved up to £25 + VAT for laminates. **Action: SW**

The RoSPA check had been completed and the report circulated to the PC prior to the meeting. A medium risk with the closing mechanism on the park gate was recorded. The Clerk was asked to contact Mr Whittaker for a quote on repairing the gate. **Action: JF**

The RoSPA invoice for £156 was approved.

9. Signage in Earswick

A resident had requested a 'no through' sign in the former Enclosed Open Space (EOS). The PC agreed to produce a sign.

Action: KP/GO

10. City of York Council's Local Plan

NB This agenda item was moved to the end of the meeting and Cllr Wiseman left the room prior to discussion due to her prejudicial interest.

There had been a good turnout at the resident's meeting on 13th October, and approximately £14,000 had been pledged from residents to fight the Local Plan. Following changes to the political situation at CYC, it was hoped safeguarded land will be removed from the Local Plan. Thirteen to fifteen parishes have joined an alliance to fight the Local Plan. It was hoped non-Labour representatives to CYC, such as Ward Cllr Doughty, might make proposals for much more modest developments throughout York.

The PC stated that Cllr Wiseman had declared her prejudicial interest right back in 2013. The PC had in no way been hindered in its support to the Action Group by Cllr Wiseman.

The Clerk had sought advice from the Society of Local Clerks (SLCC) and the Yorkshire Local Council Assn (YLCA) regarding proposed PC Governance of Action Group funds. The SLCC had advised the Clerk not to take on this role and that the Action Group should consider opening its own bank a/c. The YLCA said the PC could maybe use some of the funds under sec137, up to a value of £5,047.20, but there were a number of caveats, eg it was not felt a legislative function of a Parish Council to engage a consultant to fight the Local Plan. Such expenditure would need to be agreed at a PC meeting and the PC would need to place the order for services, etc. The Clerk reminded the meeting that the Village Hall Committee and the Scented Garden Committee manage their own bank accounts and transactions, without any governance by the PC. It was agreed Mr McTurk and Mr Charlesworth would meet and come back with proposals at the next PC meeting.

11. Neighbourhood Plan

The proposal for a neighbourhood plan was discussed.

Advantages:

- More weight legally;
- No need for planning applications as long as any development fits in with development section within the Neighbourhood Plan;
- Lot easier for residents to determine development in Earswick and would give some protection.

Disadvantages:

- Lot of work – maybe 2 years to produce;
- Depends on land owners being willing to develop land.

Other considerations/observations:

- Needs to fit in with Local Authority Plan and national guidelines;
- Can be produced by the PC but tends to be community led ie with input from residents too;
- When the plan is finished, there would have to be a referendum in Earswick with the need for over 50% approving the plan for it to be adopted;
- Will project for the next 15 years;
- The current Parish Plan (2/3 of residents contributed to this) could be used as a starting point for a Neighbourhood Plan.

Not one resident contributing to the current Parish Plan said they wanted anymore development. A small number of residents had said they would like a shop, restaurant or pub. This was mentioned in the Parish Plan, produced two years ago, to reflect minority as well as majority views. No-one had criticised the Parish Plan prior to the emergence of the Local Plan.

The PC agreed to publicise and look for volunteers to produce the Neighbourhood Plan in the New Year. It was considered worthwhile looking at the Village Design Statement in Strensall to get some ideas.

12. Rabbits and Moles in Earswick

The PC agreed to extend the current mole removal contract with Huntcatchkill, for another 12 months, at an annual cost of £450, ie £112.5 per quarter, running from 1 November 2014.

The PC also discussed the issue of rabbits in Earswick and decided no further action unless problems arose. **Action: JF**

13. Hire of Sickle-bar mower

The possible hire of a sickle-bar mower was deferred to next spring.

14. Earswick Trees

The 105 WW1 commemorative trees from the Woodland Trust should arrive by 7th November. The PC agreed to arrange a 'planting day' on 9th Nov, 2pm, in the former EOS. All affected residents have been consulted and are happy for the planting to proceed – one resident asked to be shown where the trees will be planted. The Clerk was asked to put the event on the website calendar. **Action: KP/GO/JF**

Mr Hill kindly donated stakes for the trees. Residents adjoining the EOS will be asked to place grass cuttings around the base of the trees to avoid weeds. **Action: KP**

The PC will now refer to the former EOS as Centenary Wood, in commemoration of WW1. The PC will obtain a quote on cutting Centenary Wood from Mr Hill. **Action: DJ**

15. Playscheme

The Clerk was awaiting a response from the YLCA on whether or not the PC could reclaim VAT if it purchased play equipment using grant money from organisations like Yorventure.

A Halloween party organised by parents supporting the proposed play equipment raised £125 which may be donated towards the new play equipment.

Designs and quotes were going to be obtained from Playscheme, Playdale and Wickstead. **Action: KP**

The need for a village-wide consultation on the proposed play equipment was suggested for the end of January 2015. Parents currently involved were asked to get more people involved. The PC agreed there needed to be a lead person for this project. Until such a

person was identified, Cllr Pace agreed to continue working on the project.

16. Dogs on Public Open Space

The law on walking dogs on leads in public open spaces had been circulated amongst the PC prior to the meeting. The Dog Control Order had reportedly been supplemented by the Antisocial Crime and Policy Act, released on 20 October 2014. Apparently the Police and the local authority can issue a Public Space Protection Order but it is not clear if the PC is considered the 'local authority'. If the PC wishes to proceed down this route in the future it will need clarification on this point from the YLCA.

At this stage, the PC agreed to remind the public of existing byelaws, (ie all dogs on public footpaths, including the river footpath, should be on leads), by erecting new signs. The PC will ascertain how many posts and signs are required, and obtain quotes. The PC also considered doing a press release in the Press. Details are to be brought to the next meeting.

Action:PL/GO

17. Parking Posts for the Village Hall Car Park

No action required.

18. New Bench in the Playing Fields

A £500 ward grant had been received towards purchase of a new bench for the playing fields. A ranger seat from Earth Anchors Ltd had been identified at a cost of £431 + VAT. Fixing bolts cost an extra £14 + VAT. Mr Hill had previously quoted £80+VAT to fix the bench. The PC approved £525+VAT (£25+VAT to come from the Environment Group Provision). The Clerk will contact Mr Hill to see if he will receive the bench. Cllrs Pace and Offler will meet with Mr Hill to show him where they want the bench positioned.

Action:JF/GO/KP

19. Fire Services at Earswick Village Hall

The PC had seen the quote from Minster Alarms and compared it with the existing arrangement with Advance Fire Services prior to the meeting. The PC agreed to remain with Advance Fire Services and the Chairman signed a copy of the contract with Advance Fire Services as there had not been one previously.

Action:JF

Nigel Joesbury had looked at the Village Hall (VH) fire system and verified with the supplier that the wiring was fireproof. He was going to supply a quote for changing the switch to tamper proof switches.

Action:SW

Mr Whittaker is also to submit a quote for replacing the switches. Mrs Cook had confirmed the alarm is tested when Advance Fire Services service it, and it is recorded in the red book hanging by the fire alarm. The emergency procedure is on the notice board in the hallway and hirers are informed of this in the conditions of hire. Mrs

Cook thought it unlikely that anyone who hires the hall carries out a fire drill as for most groups the people change all the time and it is the hirers' responsibility to make sure users are aware of the emergency procedure. The PC felt these procedures were adequate.

20. 2015 -16 Budget and Precept.

Extra strimming for all over Earswick was requested and the PC agreed to obtain a quote from Mr Hill. **Action: DJ**

The PC considered a draft budget prepared by the Chairman and Clerk, and circulated prior to the meeting. Removal of the British Gas contract at £24 per month (as agreed at 6c above) was required. The PC agreed no change to the precept bid of £14,250 for 2015-16.

Action: JF

21. Earswick Parish Council's Internal Audit

Cllrs Leveson and Jones will meet with the Clerk on 13th November to carry out an internal audit. **Action: JF/DJ/PL**

22. Parish Council Ditches

Mr A Hill quoted £120+VAT to clear the ditch on Strensall Road and £70 +VAT to clear the ditch in Centenary Wood, both of which the PC approved. **Action: JF**

23. Earswick Parish Council's Website

Further to the meeting with 1st Byte at which it had been estimated the cost of replacing the PC website would be £4,000, Cllr Jones had obtained a quote of £1,200 from Andrew Jones to replace the PC website. Cllr Wiseman said this quote compared favourably with Cybermill who are creating a website for a sports centre in Strensall and are charging £1,000 for much fewer web pages.

Andrew Jones had also quoted £25/hr for subsequent website adjustments. The PC agreed it needed to find out web hosting costs from Andrew Jones. **Action: DJ**

The PC approved up to £1,200 +VAT for creation of a new website and up to £120+VAT for web hosting costs. **Action: DJ**

24. Items for Information

Cllrs Offler and Leveson had attended the Burial Board meeting but there was nothing to report.

Cllr Wiseman had attended the FIDB meeting and reported there were major problems with the water courses at the Tannery site in Strensall. The FIDB intend to issue a notice to all PCs clarifying the FIDB's responsibilities.

The Clerk had confirmed Mr Hill is holding two tonnes of salt/grit in stock for the PC.

The Clerk was asked to contact the owner of the bus stop opposite The Village (Mr and Mrs Beaumont of Wayside Farm) to see if they would allow the PC to erect a bench which it would maintain. This item to be included in the next agenda. **Action: JF**

The meeting closed at 9.55pm

Joanne Fisher
(Parish Clerk)

Signed.....

Date.....