

EARSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Earswick Parish Council, held in Earswick Village Hall on Monday 15th September 2014.

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

Parish Clerk: J Fisher

Members of the Public Present:- B A Woodward, J Gambold, B Gambold, I Jones, S Goodhead, H Davey.

1. Apologies for Absence

None

2. Declarations of Interest

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

3. Minutes of Previous Meetings

Minutes for the Parish Council (PC) Meeting held on 14th July 2014 were approved as accurate records by the Councillors and signed.

4. Members of the Public

The following points were discussed:

- a. The Parish Council (PC) agreed to continue to support coffee mornings from on the first Monday of each month, from November 2014 to April 2015. A list identifying who was going to run each session will be agreed at the next coffee morning in October, which is being arranged by the Village Hall Committee (VHC).
- b. An updated version of the City of York Council's (CYC) Local Plan is on the CYC website if users click on the appropriate menu for an updated version.

5. Ward Councillor's Report

Ward Cllr Doughty reported the following:

CYC had announced the next stage in the Local Plan process by publishing what it would like to include in the Plan. The land previously identified in Earswick was still classed as 'safeguarded' ie reserved for future development. A previous reference in the Plan to overcoming problems to encourage development had been removed by CYC. The Local Plan will go to the Local Working Group on 22nd September. They will be asked to approve the revised consultation documents or ask Cabinet for new consultation documents. If referred to Cabinet on 25th September, they will consider submitting the proposals in the Local

Plan for further consultation. Assuming this consultation goes ahead, the documents are likely to be issued in October and then there will be a 6 week period for responses. The final consultation will be presented to the Planning Inspector. A decision from him would be expected in the New Year.

It is very important for residents to make their views known to the Planning Inspector during this six week period – even if they have commented on the Local Plan previously because the Inspector may not look at those previous submissions. Residents could resubmit their previous comments if they still feel they are valid.

A public meeting with Cllr James Alexander at which the Local Plan will be discussed is due in October/November depending on availability of a venue in Strensall Ward.

6. Clerk's Report

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

- a. The Clerk had emailed Mike Slater in August to ask him to confirm the situation with the Planning Enforcement Officers and legal department regarding £4,008 Section 106 money due to Earswick Parish Council from development at 18, The Village. The Clerk had also emailed Dave Meigh (Planning Dept) and Planning Enforcement too. None had replied. The Clerk had tried ringing Mr Slater and Mr Meigh too with no success. The Clerk had emailed Mr Slater again and phoned Mr Meigh that day also. The Clerk will continue to pursue this payment and the PC will raise this subject at the prospective meeting with Cllr Alexander.

Action: JF

- b. Cllr Pace reported that the Woodland Trust had had a technical problem and lost the details of applicants for their WW1 commemorative tree packs. Cllr Pace had resubmitted the PC application.
Mr Steve Balding, a resident, has kindly taken down broken branches on the trees on the former BMX track and logged them (following completion of a risk assessment).
- c. The Environment Group has been told verbally that its application for a grant for a new bench for the sports field was likely to be successful.
- d. The new boiler for the Village Hall was fitted on 11/8/14. Mrs Cook from the Village Hall Committee (VHC) had reported cold spots in some of the radiators. The Clerk had contacted Mr Reynolds who is coming to check the radiators soon (emailed 14/9). The manual for the boiler will be placed in the Village Hall kitchen. It will be required whenever the boiler is serviced.

- e. £420 +VAT to LJD construction had been approved on 14/7 to repair the concrete on the tennis courts. This had not happened in August as originally planned. LJD Construction will come Thurs/Fri week commencing 15th September to do the work.
- f. Standing Order 30b has been amended to show the tender threshold as £5,000.
- g. Haxby builders repaired the Village Hall roof on 18/8/14.
- h. The Scented Garden Committee (SGC) are following up any action for an information board for the SG.
- i. In March the PC had decided to bill the VHC at 32.5% for 2013-14, which amounted to £123.82. The Clerk had billed the VHC in April and this amount was paid in July. Mrs J Cook agreed the new methodology (ie the PC will ask the insurance provider to provide the actual amount of the premium which relates to the VH contents only) from 1 June 2014 and was happy to let the £123.82 stand. The amount for period ending 31/5/15 is £54.60 and the Clerk has billed the VHC accordingly.
The Clerk has arranged for the Scented Garden arbours and lawn mower to be added to the PC insurance schedule at an additional cost of £53 for which the SGC has been billed.
- j. The Clerk, and Cllrs Wiseman and Jones, met with Minster Alarms on 4/9. Their quote for maintaining the fire alarm system, fire extinguishers and emergency lighting was circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting. The Clerk could not locate a copy of the current contract with Advance Fire Services so she will contact them for a new quote on an annual contract, confirming what is included. **Action: JF**

Minster Alarms pointed out that the wiring to the VH fire system was incorrect because the wire needs to be fireproof and the switch to the alarm system can be switched off. The PC agreed to obtain quotes (from 'Mad about electrics' and another supplier) on replacing the wiring and switch accordingly.

Action: JF/SW

The Clerk was asked to contact the VHC to see if they carry out a weekly check on the Fire Alarm system and, if so, where this information is recorded. Also, the PC wish to know if any groups which hire the Village Hall are given any advice on fire procedures and do any carry out a fire evacuation drill.

Action: JF

- k. The Clerk had emailed Neil Massey, Planning Officer, on 27/8 to point out there are two properties on Strensall Road called The

Grange which has led to some confusion. He said he would raise it with officer that deals with naming to see if anything can be done.

- l. The Clerk had emailed Planning Enforcement on 10/9 (after failing to find the address of the owners) to deal with issues outstanding at 113-121 Strensall Road, including closing the entrance nearest the cottages, making good the footpath and tidying to the side of 121 Strensall Road. The PC agreed to follow this up (and the Section 106 payment) with Dave Meigh and Planning Enforcement. **Action: SW**

- m. The Community Payback Team had come on 27th July to finish strimming the rest of Diamond Wood and put in new tree stakes. Cllr Offler submitted a claim of £4.81 for strimmer cord which was ratified by the PC.
- n. An article regarding a defibrillator for the VH was going to be included in the September Newsletter and residents were going to be asked for donations. The possibility of training residents on CPR was being investigated. **Action: PL**
- o. An article on considerate parking is to be included in the September Newsletter. **Action: PL**
- p. Cllr Offler had purchased the PC chainsaw, and a risk assessment proforma had been prepared by Cllr Jones so the PC felt there was no need for a summary to be prepared regarding statutory guidance, etc.

Other information/correspondence issues raised by the Clerk:

The Parish Council's annual accounts had been approved by PKF Littlejohn LLP. There were some comments from the auditor which the Clerk has circulated to Cllrs and is following up. **Action: JF**

A letter had been received from Cllr James Alexander in response to the PC Local Plan Comments which was circulated to Parish Cllrs.

The Clerk had emailed Mrs Mead on 18/8, regarding Planning Application 14/01722/TPO, to clarify its action at the Parish Council meeting on 16th June, when the first application to remove the walnut tree at High Garth House was discussed. Unfortunately, Mrs Mead's comments given to City of York Council were incorrect. The Parish Council did not vote in favour of its removal because it understood the tree was diseased. Indeed, 'disease' was not mentioned in respect of this tree. The Parish Council voted 4 to 1 for its removal because the tree was in a private garden and it was very big. They did not feel it was a particularly good specimen and a different tree included in the same tree preservation order had already been removed approximately 10 years earlier.

An email had been received from Mrs Mead that day on two other points :

- Is the signage adequate regarding dogs on open space? (See item 19 on agenda.)
- Hedge cuttings have fallen in the ditch and could cause a blockage. Cllr Jones has asked Mrs Mead to let him know if they have been dropped by Mr A Hill.

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

- Mrs Fisher's salary for July and August and overtime for April and May;
- £24 per month to British Gas for July and August;
- £5.00 to J Fisher for stationery;
- £13.10 to J Pace for strimmer oil & petrol
- £27.08 to J Pace for staple gun;
- £19.99 to J Fisher reimbursement for Norton security
- £568.80 to Mark Harrod for goal posts
- £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
- £200.69 to Earswick Village Hall Fund for room hire
- £6.50 to G Offler for shear sharpening
- £500 Grant to Willow Grove Residents Assoc;
- £11.98 to J Fisher for stationery
- £48 to A Hill for river footpath in July
- £120 to A Hill for Diamond Wood cut in July
- £120 to A Hill for EOS cut in July
- £780 to A Hill for grass cuts to area 1 and 8 in July
- £144 to A Hill for clearing ditch
- £1698.12 to Reynolds Plumbing & Heating for VH boiler.
- £112.50 to Huntcatchkill qtr3
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- £120 to PKF Littlejohn LLP for audit fee
- £53 to Zurich Municipal for inclusion of SG items
- £199 to G Offler for Chainsaw

- £7.29 to Yorkshire Water

The following payments were authorised:

- £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 and 8 in August
- £120 to A Hill for EOS cut in August
- £48 to A Hill for river footpath cut in August.

£144 for VH rent and £123.82 for VH insurance contribution had been received from the Village Hall Fund.

7. Planning Applications

The following planning applications were dealt with by the Clerk, using delegated powers, with no objections:

- 14/01727/FUL 30 Lock House Lane, YO32 9FT (single storey rear extension);
- 14/01776/TPO 5 High Garth, The Village YO32 9FR (ash trees T1 * and T2 tree crown treatment);
- 14/02009/FUL The Grange 388 Strensall Road, YO32 9SW (alterations to existing driveway and excavation to form a wild pond);
- 14/01956/FUL 354 Strensall Road, YO32 9SW (single storey rear extension);

*The Clerk was asked to inform the Planning Dept that tree T1 has already been removed and the PC believe the ash trees to be T2 and T3.
Action: JF

The following planning application was not approved by City of York Council:

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

The City of York Council granted a Certificate of Lawful Use for application:

- 14/00982/CLU The Grange, 388 Strensall Road, YO32 9SW (for use of land as private garden and driveway to domestic property).

8. Monthly Equipment Check

There was no action required on play equipment except the goal posts (see item 17). It was agreed the tennis courts, dog signs and Information Board should be added to the checklist. **Action: DJ**

9. Bee Hives on Earswick Parish Council Land

Mr Strong has taken his bee hives away for the winter. The PC agreed he could place his hives in the flower meadow next year where there is more open space and it is therefore safer. The Clerk will inform Mr Strong of the PC agreement and the need for him to fence off the area.

Action: JF

10. City of York Council's Local Plan

The PC was very disappointed that CYC have continued to include Earswick Land in the Local Plan. The PC consider the Action Group, of which the PC has members, is doing excellent work. Action so far includes:

- Guidance sought from a leading barrister in Manchester
- 70% of residents signed petition
- Press releases sent to all media avenues – access from the A1237 picked up in the York Press, particularly the proposal of another roundabout. Also, CYC may be illegal in their use of the word 'safeguarding'. Two local Councils have lost their applications because they are not in line with the National Planning Framework.

The Action Group was meeting that day to agree next steps.

When residents submit their objections to the Local Plan they should focus on the protection of greenbelt land.

It was revealed that Site 810 (the Earswick site) has increased from 88 to 95 hectares but the Action Group does not know why.

The possibility of the PC proposing some sites in Earswick for a much more modest number of new houses, say 120, was discussed but when Strensall did a previous design statement CYC ignored it.

Additional funds need to be raised by the Action Group.

Strensall Action Group has passed its funds to the PC in a ring fenced account.

The Earswick Parish Plan recognises the need to build on some greenbelt land - but not to the detriment of the village. The PC is against the size of the development proposed in the Local Plan.

The PC would consider issuing a statement in the Newsletter supporting the Action Group.

11. Residents' Meeting With Cllr James Alexander

A public meeting with Cllr James Alexander is due to take place in Strensall Ward during Oct/Nov this year, provided a venue can be found. The PC felt it was important for residents to take this rare opportunity to speak with him and so will include a message in the September Newsletter.

Action: DJ

12. Residents' Weekend

The PC agreed to arrange a weekend where residents could purchase a number of daffodil bulbs from PC volunteers, to plant in various locations around the open spaces of Earswick. Any proceeds would go towards the new play area proposed for the sports field. An article on this activity will be included in the September Newsletter.

Action: KP/GO

13. Purchase/hire of Equipment

A rotivator will not be required for planting the Woodland Trust's WW1 Commemorative trees.

A sickle-bar mower would be preferable to a strimmer for Diamond Wood and it costs £44 to hire for a weekend. The PC agreed to place this item on the next agenda.

Action: JF

14. Tree Stakes and Bulbs

Cllr Pace has purchased some daffodil bulbs.

An advert requesting tree stakes will be placed in the September Newsletter.

Action: GO

15. Ditch Clearance and Pavement on Strensall Road

The PC agreed Cllr Offler should meet with Mr A Hill to obtain a quote on removing foliage from the ditch. After removal of the foliage the Clerk will write to Russell Stone at CYC to request repairs to the pavement.

Action: GO/JF

16. Public Open Space Maintenance

The Clerk had asked Mr Hill to chase up his supplier of barley bales for the pond.

17. Positioning of Football Posts

The PC has received the goal posts from Mark Harrod and they are currently held by A Hill who is awaiting instruction as to positioning. The PC agreed Cllrs Jones, Pace and Leveson will meet with Mr Hill to decide on positioning. The PC agreed Mr Hill should proceed with one round of white-lining for the football pitch.

Action: DJ/KP/PL

18. Playscheme

ST Danby met PC members and parents on August 18th. They looked at the 'wish list' drawings made by Earswick children. ST Danby are

producing two designs (£18k and £40k) of new play equipment for the sports field, in anticipation of PC funding from Yorventure. The Clerk passed the PC play equipment brochures from Phil Tonks.

19. Dogs on Public Open Space

It was agreed a number of signs relating to dogs fouling and dogs on leads, which had been lost through wear and tear, should be replaced, and any additional ones required should be erected. **Action: GO/KP**
A new law regarding dogs on leads was due to come into force. The PC agreed to circulate details of the new law amongst Cllrs to see what process surrounds the option of requesting dogs on leads on public footpaths. **Action: DJ**

The matter will be included on the next agenda.

Action: JF

20. Strensall Road Bus Stop Opposite Garage

The Clerk was asked to contact the land agent Stephensons to request removal of the foliage overgrowing the bus stop. **Action: JF**

21. Village Hall (VH) Parking Posts

The posts are still functional at the moment. The opening times of the VH car park may need reconsidering. The posts will be included on the next agenda. **Action: JF**

22. Parish Council Website

Because of the current problems in updating the PC website, the Clerk, Cllr Wiseman and Cllr Jones met 1st Byte to discuss a new website. It was agreed the PC would draw up a specification and obtain quotes from 1st Byte and a number of other suppliers. **Action: DJ/JF**

23. 'Youth' Shelter

The PC decided not to replace the table removed from the shelter or to clean the shelter.

24. Items for Information

Cllr Pace had attended the Foss Internal Drainage Board meeting and reported they are receiving many planning enquiries.

Heritage Healthcare are coming to talk at a future coffee morning. Regarding Neighbourhood Watch, it was reported that communication from the Road Co-ordinators were not getting through. Cllr Wiseman was investigating what could be done about this. **Action: SW**

A theatre company had approached the PC to see if they could put on productions in the Village Hall in Feb and April next year. Cllrs Jones and Leveson are discussing the matter with them.

Cllr Wiseman attended the AGM of the Scented Garden Committee.

A number of mole hills are re-emerging around Earswick. The Clerk was asked to contact Huntcatchkill. **Action: JF**

The flower meadow is due to be mowed as scheduled.

Cllrs Leveson and Wiseman will be away for the scheduled PC meeting on the 13th October. The PC decided to cancel the October meeting and bring forward the November meeting. The Clerk to arrange.

Action: JF

The meeting closed at 9.40pm

Joanne Fisher
(Parish Clerk)

Signed.....

Date.....