

EARSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Earswick Parish Council, held in Earswick Village Hall on Monday 20th April 2015.

Councillors Present: D Jones
P Leveson
S Wiseman

Parish Clerk: J Fisher

Members of the Public Present:- I Jones, K Beamish, J Ridley, F Martin

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllrs Offler and Pace, and Ward Cllr Doughty

2. Declarations of Interest

None

3. Minutes of Previous Meetings

Minutes for the Parish Council (PC) Meeting held on 16th March 2015 were approved as accurate records by the Councillors and signed.

4. Members of the Public

One of the residents who is raising funds for new play equipment informed the PC that Yorventure wanted confirmation that no planning permission was required to place play equipment on PC land. Also, there is to be a bingo night on 15th May to raise funds for the play equipment.

5. Ward Councillor's Report

Ward Cllr Wiseman reported:-

- City of York Council (CYC) is in purdah which means no political decisions can be made until after the election on 7th May. Planning and licensing departments are the only ones operational at this time.
- The current Chief Executive of CYC and a number of other senior officers are leaving CYC, with Interim Directors holding major roles.
- Ward Cllr Doughty had sent a message to say he had enjoyed working with all local Parish Councils.

The PC recorded its thanks to Cllr Wiseman for her previous eight years as Ward Councillor.

6. Clerk's Report

- a. The ongoing action tracker was reviewed and the following points were made:-
 - i. Mr Hill has erected the goal posts, put the nets up and white-lined the football pitch.
 - ii. The Clerk had contacted Zurich Municipal to see how much extra the PC would be charged in insurance costs if any new play equipment was purchased. Play equipment costing £10k would attract an additional annual charge of £87.74,

£20k a charge of £175.47, £30k a charge of £263.27 and £40k a charge of £351.01.

It was reported by a resident that Yorventure want written confirmation of the following:

- PC commitment to part-funding the play equipment,
- PC agreement to be named as the lead applicant for any grant claim,
- the PC's ability to reclaim VAT on any order it places (which it can),
- PC agreement to take on maintenance and insurance of any new play equipment.
- That the PC does not require planning permission to erect play equipment on the sports field. The Clerk was asked to contact the Planning Dept to confirm this and to put play equipment on the next agenda

Action: JF

The PC asked Mrs Beamish if it could see the proposed play equipment plans. The PC would need to consider the full costs including any fencing, increased insurance and RoSPA inspection costs, maintenance and repair. The Clerk was asked to contact RoSPA to see what would be the extra charge for an additional 5/6 pieces of play equipment.

Action: JF

Cllr Wiseman mentioned that she has a list of potential sources for grant funding.

- iii. The Clerk has again emailed Alan Kendall at CYC on 3/4 regarding the outstanding building issues at 113-121 Strensall Rd. The Clerk was asked to email Jonathan Carr and Michael Slater at CYC.

Action: JF

- iv. A quote of £250 + VAT had been obtained from St Johns Ambulance to hold a first aid course on Sat 11th July 9.30am to 12.30pm. The PC approved this expenditure and £21 for the hire of the Village Hall.

Action: PL

- v. Mr Whittaker had cleared the culvert in Centenary Wood on behalf of Mrs Carr.

- vi. After consideration by a local solicitor, the PC had signed the final version of the bus shelter lease. The Clerk was asked to forward it to Mr and Mrs Beaumonts' solicitors, and arrange the annual payment of £100 to Mr and Mrs Beaumont for lease of the shelter.

Action: JF

- vii. The Clerk had checked the paperwork on Whisker Lane to see if the PC is due any Section 106 money. She could find no mention of it and so had raised an enquiry with CYC.

Action: JF

- viii. The Clerk supplied Nationwide Building Society with the necessary documentation to open a one year fixed rate business saver a/c, at 1.4%, to reinvest the £85,000 section 106 monies currently held in the RBS. The account has now been opened and the Clerk will arrange for a CHAPS transfer from the RBS to the Nationwide.

Action: JF

- ix. The Clerk had contacted CYC to ask if the dog bin near the river could be relocated. The bin has been moved next to the one at the end of The Village. The Clerk was asked to contact Andy Hill to see if he could quote on laying flagstones under the newly placed bin, and the PC approved up to £25 to do this work. The Clerk is also to let Cllr Offler know that flagstones held at her house will be required shortly for this purpose.

Action: JF

- x. The new notice board from Greenbarnes had been erected by Mr Whittaker with help from Mr McTurk to whom the PC offered very grateful thanks. The

Zurich insurance claim of £1,037.18 (£100 excess to pay) is ongoing. A £3 refund to D Jones for magnets was approved. **Action: JF**

The Clerk had written to the Village Hall Co-ordinator, Jenny Cook, to ask her to instruct hall hirers not to park directly in front of the Village Hall doors and bike rack, which would obstruct access to the new notice board.

- xi. The PC agreed to contact the Foss Internal Drainage Board (FIDB) to ask them to remove the trees which have fallen into the River Foss asap.
Action: SW
- xii. On 24/2 the Clerk had written and emailed parishcouncil.net to cancel the contract for website services and ask for a final invoice. There has still been no reply.
- xiii. Mr Whittaker had looked at the VH car park fence and recommended replacing the lost piece of fencing and 10 of the metal strips. He quoted £70 which the PC approved.
Action: JF
- xiv. The garden waste which had been tipped into Diamond Wood from a resident's property has on the most part been removed. The PC will speak to these residents regarding the remaining waste.
Action: PL
The Clerk was asked to write to the owners of a property adjoining the public open space near the sports field to ask them to remove gravel which has been placed outside their gate.
Action: JF
- xv. The Clerk had written to CYC asking them to remove the moss from Earswick Pavements who subsequently wanted more specific details. The Clerk to supply.
Action: JF
- xvi. The PC had requested a quote from Orion Windows to replace the VH windows and doors.
- xvii. The Annual Meeting of the PC has been arranged for the 8th May 2015 (NB Following Yorkshire Local Council Association's advice – the Annual Meeting of the PC must be held between 12th and 25th May so the meeting will not take place on the 8th– new date tba).
- xviii. The Clerk was asked to contact Andy Hill to ask him to postpone cutting the hawthorn hedge until after July 14th.
Action: JF
- xix. The Clerk had met with six prospective Parish Councillors on 30th March to go through nomination forms. Andrew Flecknor had accepted them as completed accurately. As there are seven seats available, the six prospective candidates will be appointed on the 7th May 2015. They are Derek Jones, Sian Wiseman, Pat Leveson, Gill Offler, Jacky Ridley and Allan Charlesworth.
The Clerk has posted a vacancy notice to co-opt a person for the remaining seat on the PC.

Other information/correspondence issues raised by the Clerk:

- York against Cancer had written to thank attendees of the PC coffee mornings for their donations of £70.
- The Clerk had received a letter from resident Azra Kirkby complaining of anti-social behaviour in the VH car park late at night. The Clerk is to inform Mrs Kirkby that the matter will be included on the agenda for the next PC meeting. Also, costs for barriers to be brought to this meeting. **Action: JF**

- b. The following pre authorised payments have been made since the last Parish Council meeting:-
- £84 (incl VAT) to A Hill for repairs to LHL Fence;
 - £480 (incl VAT) to A Hill for tree pruning;
 - £300 (incl VAT) to A Hill for cutting Scented Garden hedge;
 - £5.00 to Clerk for printer paper;
 - £11.75 to S Balding for a saw chain;
 - £1,244.61 to Greenbarnes Ltd for the notice board;
 - Clerk's salary for March.

The following payments were authorised:

- £274 membership fee to Yorkshire Local Council Association;
- £30 to R Warriner for treatment of Scented Garden grass;
- £7.56 to J Fisher for stamps;
- £5.00 to J Fisher for stationery;
- £2.50 to J Fisher reimbursement of travel expenses for training at West Offices;
- £13.99 to Cllr Jones for ink and notice board magnets;
- £419.40 to Yourlocale for Neighbourhood Plan workshop;
- £1,441.61 refund of unused grant monies;
- £1,101.56 to Zurich Municipal annual insurance fee.

Other finance matters:

- VAT of £2,520.12 has been received;
- £0.62 interest had been received on the RBS tennis a/c;
- £60.24 interest had been received on the RBS current a/c;
- £252 had been received from CYC as a double taxation refund

7. Planning Applications

The Clerk reported that she had used her delegated power to report no objections to CYC on the following applications:

- 15/00431/FUL The Gables 344 Strensall Road, YO32 9SW (First floor rear extension);
- 15/00352/FUL 16 Lock House Lane, YO32 9FT (Two storey & single storey rear extension);
- 15/00430/FUL 1 The Garden Village, YO32 9TP (Erection of chimney stack to conservatory);
- 15/00481/FUL 5 High Garth, YO32 9FR (Single storey side extension).

8. Monthly Equipment Check

The posts around the pond may need attention. Mr Hill has been asked to examine them and quote for any repairs thought necessary.

Action: DJ

The Clerk was asked to write to the Footpaths Officer, Richard Hoyland, to ask him to examine both bridges over the River Foss because they are both deteriorating. In particular, the wooden boarding on the bridge nearest The Village needs attention.

Action: JF

The Clerk was asked to contact Keith Williams from Huntcatchkill to deal with increased mole activity on the Sports Field.

Action: JF

9. Neighbourhood Plan (NP)

The PC discussed the NP in the light of the issues that were identified as a result of the workshop held on the 30th March.

It was reported that the neighbouring parish of Huntington was continuing with its own NP and that subsequent to the workshop both Strensall and Wiggington parishes (the latter having attendees at the workshop) had now decided to start a NP. There are also a number of other parishes in the York Outer area that are in varying stages of developing such plans. It was felt that Earswick might be an 'easier target' if it didn't have a NP.

The PC also believed that in the current absence of a Local Plan for York it would be difficult for CYC not to take into account the wishes of Earswick residents, as identified in a NP, when finalising the Local Plan. If this were to happen the PC felt that by at least having a NP in development Earswick would have better grounds for raising objections to an Inspector when opposing any future housing development plans.

The PC believed that the production of a NP was the right way forward for the village in that it facilitated community involvement at various stages of the process and offered a degree of legal rights over future planning proposals.

New grants for up to £8,000 are available from Locality to help fund development of NPs.

The PC resolved to continue with the development of a NP for Earswick and to carry on seeking residents to join a working sub-group that would be representative of all areas of the village.

Action: DJ

The PC approved £419.40 to Yourlocale for the NP workshop held on 30th March 2015. Also, they approved a refund £1,441.61 of grant monies to Locality for the amount of the £1,912 Locality grant not used by 31.3.15 – part of the condition of the grant award. A refund of £10.99 ink costs for printing for the NP was approved to Cllr Jones.

10. Removal of the Shelter behind the Village Hall

It was reported that the shelter is giving rise to anti-social behaviour so the PC agreed to remove it. Mr Whittaker had verbally quoted £140 to remove the

shelter and Mr Hill had quoted £50 plus VAT. The PC approved £50 plus VAT to Mr Hill.

Action: DJ

11. Parish Council's Insurance

The PC approved the renewal premium of £1,101.56 to Zurich Municipal.

Action: JF

12. Items for Information

- The FIDB enforcement action at the Tannery (ie restoring the 9m edge along the River Foss) was being actioned.
- Burial Board meeting due in 10 days time.
- Yorkshire Local Council Association (YLCA) meeting due start of June.
- Scented Garden plant sale 25th and 26th April.
- The Clerk was asked to include security measures, Village Hall signage and play equipment on the next PC meeting agenda. **Action: JF**

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.

Joanne Fisher
(Parish Clerk)

Signed.....

Date.....