

## **EARSWICK PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the meeting of Earswick Parish Council, held in Earswick Village Hall on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2015.

**Councillors Present:** D Jones  
K Pace  
P Leveson  
G Offler

**Parish Clerk:** J Fisher

**Members of the Public Present:-** J McTurk, J P Norman, F Martin .

**1. Andrew Flecknor talk on Parish Council Election Process**

Talk postponed due to Mr Flecknor's ill health.

**2. Apologies for Absence**

Cllr Wiseman and Ward Cllr Doughty.

**3. Declarations of Interest**

None

**4. Minutes of Previous Meetings**

Minutes for the Parish Council (PC) Meeting held on 12th January 2015 were approved as accurate records by the Councillors and signed.

**5. Members of the Public**

Mr Norman reported he had heard from Mr Gambold who had volunteered to take over the role of Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator. He also reported his findings on questions he had posed to some Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators regarding communication issues. The Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators on the PC reported they receive their information from North Yorkshire Police.

**6. Ward Councillor's Report and Update on Local Plan**

In the absence of any Ward Cllrs, the Chairman gave a Local Plan update:

Following the last Local Plan Working Group meeting it was proposed over 1,000 houses per year would be considered when drawing up areas of land for development. The City of York Council (CYC) obtained advice from a barrister who agreed that Safeguarded Land should be included for the 15 years of the Local Plan, plus a further 10 years. Earswick PC and the Earswick Action Group prepared a letter pointing out that there was no obligation under the NPPF to include Safeguarded Land in the Local Plan. It also raised questions on numbers, the use of brownfield sites, etc. The Working Group

voted 6 to 5 to include Safeguarded Land in the Local Plan so Earswick land is still under threat.

Preliminary design work for a new roundabout at Earswick is proposed. The Clerk was asked to contact the Huntington PC Clerk to ask if she would keep Earswick PC informed of any planning applications relating to this development.

**Action: JF**

## **7. Clerk's Report**

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

- a) Mr Hill is going to lay concrete, to which the new bench will be anchored in the Sports Field, on Wednesday 11/2/15. He is hoping to have the bench in place by 15/2/15.
- b) The Clerk was waiting for a reply to her email on 2/2/15 to Alan Kendall at CYC regarding the outstanding building issues at 113-121 Strensall Rd. The Highways Agency had been seen looking at the property on Strensall Road.  
**Action: JF**
- c) The PC was still in discussion with St Johns Ambulance to arrange a couple of first aid courses – one in the weekend/evening and one during the day on a weekday.  
**Action: PL**
- d) The Clerk had written again to Ms Carr, who owns the culvert in Centenary Wood, on 2/2/15, to remind her it is in need of attention and to ask of her plans.  
**Action: JF**
- e) Mr Hill's contract for cutting Centenary Wood (to cut a path around the area once per month, May to September, at £60+VAT per cut – total of 5 cuts) and an extra strim to Area 1 at £200+VAT, in the period May to October 2015 (previously contracted for two strims in that period) had been amended. The Clerk to ask Mr Hill to sign the amended contract.  
**Action: JF**
- f) Mr Hill has ordered two bespoke posts for the fence in Lock House Lane car park, which he may receive this week. He hopes to repair the fence by 22/2/15.  
**Action: JF**
- g) The PC is still waiting to hear from CYC on the possibility of repositioning dog bins on more level sites.  
**Action: KP**
- h) The Clerk had obtained quotes from Greenbarnes, MLS and Village & Urban for a replacement wall mounted, two door, notice board for the Village Hall. The Clerk was asked to order a new noticeboard asap – before any insurance claim received.  
**Action: JF**
- i) Cllr Pace had been in touch with the Foss Internal Drainage Board (FIDB) regarding fallen trees in the Foss. Their removal is earmarked for the summer.

Other information/correspondence issues raised by the Clerk:

- Mr Gambold had emailed the PC to say he had spoken to Mr Norman who does not want to relinquish his role as Principal Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator.

The Chairman had spoken to a representative of North Yorkshire Police. He was informed that the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator role was a voluntary one to be decided by the local residents or their representatives. The North Yorkshire Police would recognise the PC as representatives of Earswick residents. Mr Gambold had submitted forms to the Police applying for the role of Principal Co-ordinator, which had been accepted.

The PC proposed to facilitate a meeting of the two would be NW Principal Co-ordinators with all the Street Co-ordinators and Superintendent Kane. It was suggested both contenders could put their case forward for the role and the Street Co-ordinators could decide who is given the role.

**Action: KP/PL**

- The Clerk had purchased a new Epson printer for personal and PC use (no charge to the PC). Ink costs were likely to be different from previous costs.

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

- Mrs Fisher's salary for January;
- £84 to A Hill for clearing Centenary Wood ditch;
- £144 to A Hill for clearing Strensall Rd ditch;
- £7.44 to J Fisher for stamps;
- £5.75 to J Fisher for stationery
- £120 to A Jones for web site and hosting;
- £1,200 to A Jones for design & creation of new website.

The following payments were authorised:

£30 to York Sign Company Ltd;

£28.49 to J Fisher for ink.

## **8. Planning Applications**

The PC raised no objections to the revised plans for application 14/02745/FUL The Birches 2 Laurel Close YO32 9FW (single storey rear extension & first floor balcony). The PC also had no objections to application 15/00117/FUL 26 Earswick Chase, YO32 9FY (Single storey rear extension).

The PC did raise objections to application 15/00060/ABC3 OS Field 2424 Wisker Lane (Conversion of agricultural building to 3no dwelling houses).

## **9. Monthly Equipment Check**

No action required other than repairs to Lock House Lane fence which are underway.

## **10. Parish Council Website**

The new PC website created by Andrew Jones– [www.earswick.org](http://www.earswick.org) – went live on 9/2/15. The PC agreed future hosting costs (domain name

renewal £20 pa ; Word press hosting £102 pa) payable to Mike Harding. The Clerk was asked to contact the old website provider parishcouncil.net to terminate the contract and obtain the final invoice.

**Action: JF**

The PC authorised £75 to Andrew Jones to attach a product called Analytics to the PC website which will analyse the number of visitors to the website and register what they are viewing.

#### **11. Neighbourhood Plan**

The PC had agreed previously to the formation of a sub-group to develop the Neighbourhood Plan (NP). Alan Charlesworth, leading the sub-group, hopes to have a representative from every part of the Village on the group. Four to five volunteers are required and an advert will be placed on the PC website.

The PC Chairman has been successful in his application for a grant of £1,912 in support of producing the NP. The PC intend to use this money to hire a consultant to explain what's involved in a workshop, and other local PCs will be invited to attend. The Chairman will meet with Mr Charlesworth to discuss this proposal. (Provisional date for workshop is 30<sup>th</sup> March 2015). The Clerk is to supply the Chairman with PC bank details for receipt of the grant. **Action: DJ/JF**

#### **12. Parish Council Newsletter**

The PC approved up to £50 for Newsletter printing costs.

#### **13. Litter Picking**

Due to poor take up from previous requests to help with litter picking, it was decided not to make special arrangements again, but instead, for the time being, to rely on the good will of Councillors and a few kind residents who regularly try to keep the village free of litter.

#### **14. Play Equipment**

The PC had previously agreed a public consultation is required to ask if residents support the proposed play equipment. A group of mothers who raised the proposal will arrange the consultation on 14<sup>th</sup> March, 3.30 – 4.30pm in the Village Hall.

#### **15. Signage**

All required signs are in position.

#### **16. Reinvestment of £85,000 ring fenced money.**

The Clerk reported that the RBS had supplied incorrect information. The 2 year fixed interest deposit account which the York Branch had recommended was only available to personal investors and not to Parish Councils. RBS central office had consequently rejected the application. £85,000 of the ring fenced £170,000 total therefore remains in the RBS

current account with a variable interest rate of 0.75%. The other £85,000 was successfully invested in a Lloyds Bank Treasury deposit for 1 year at 1%. Another Clerk had informed the Earswick Clerk that the Nationwide BS had offered 1.25% to her PC. The PC agreed the Clerk should investigate further and authorised a further £20 for a CHAPS transfer, if required. **Action: JF**

**17. Bus shelter opposite the Village**

The Clerk had circulated to the PC a draft contract from Mr and Mrs Beaumont who have offered to lease the bus stop opposite The Village to the PC - provided it took on the responsibility for maintenance and any liability, and agreed to pay an annual charge of £100. The contract had been shown to Mr John Williams for comment. This item is to be included on the next agenda. **Action: JF**

**18. Tennis Court Rules and 2015-16 Subscriptions**

The PC decided to increase fees to £25 for residents and £50 for non-residents. The existing rules require no change. **Action: JF**

**19. Internal Auditor**

Mr Jim McTurk kindly agreed to do the Internal Audit for the PC for 2014-15.

**20. Items for Information**

- The Village Hall Committee (VHC) and Scented Garden Committee had raised £392 from a quiz night.
- The Village Hall is to be painted in the summer.
- The VHC will be holding a wine tasting evening May/June.
- The VH bookings are good. The VHC hold £7,945.86 in their Current a/c and £6,191 in their Savings a/c.
- There is a Yorkshire Local Councils Assn meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> February.
- Burial Board prices will be emailed to the Chairman for adding to the PC website. **Action: GO/DJ**
- The Royal British Legion had thanked the PC for the £76 donations collected from the coffee mornings.
- The Clerk is to remind Mr Harland about the cutting of the riverside hedge in March. **Action: JF**

The meeting closed at 9pm.

Joanne Fisher  
(Parish Clerk)

Signed.....

Date.....