

EARSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Earswick Parish Council, held in Earswick Village Hall on Monday 12th January 2015.

Councillors Present: D Jones
S Wiseman
P Leveson
G Offler

Parish Clerk: J Fisher

Members of the Public Present:- J McTurk, I Jones, N Eden, P Doughty, P Norman.

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllr Pace

2. Declarations of Interest

None

3. Minutes of Previous Meetings

Minutes for the Parish Council (PC) Meeting held on 8th December 2014 were approved as accurate records by the Councillors and signed.

4. Members of the Public

Regarding the recent crime incident (item 9 on the agenda), it was suggested the Parish Council (PC) make the Police and Crime Commissioner aware, particularly as it was felt the police response was inappropriate.

5. Ward Councillor's Report

Ward Cllr Doughty reported:

- In December, the majority of a Local Plan Working Group voted to proceed with the proposed option of 926 new houses per year - with an additional 20% buffer (which could increase the number to 1,100 per year). Another Working Group was proposed for the 29th January 2015.
- There will be a Health Scrutiny Committee meeting on Wed 14th January, 5.30pm, West Offices, where City of York Council (CYC) will be asked what can be done to avoid difficulties in A & E reoccurring.

Ward Cllr Wiseman reported she was still fighting the Bar Lane closures.

6. Clerk's Report

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

- a) The Clerk had spoken to Mr Hill who was happy to hold the goal posts until spring and erect them then.
- b) Cllrs were going to meet with Mr Hill again to agree siting of a new bench. He will be asked not to lay flag stones under the bench.

Action:GO/DJ

- c) The Clerk had not heard anything further from CYC regarding the outstanding building issues at 113-121 Strensall Rd. The PC asked the Clerk to remind CYC of the issues. **Action: JF**

- d) Development of the new website is on-going. The first draft of the new website had been circulated that day for comment. A one hour training session was included in the original cost from Andrew Jones. Andrew Jones had purchased the web hosting site at an annual cost of £50 approximately.

- e) 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

- f) The Clerk has cancelled the order for the Barley Bales from Mr Hill
- g) The Clerk had contacted the Planning Dept at CYC to see if the gate posts and wall were included in application 14/02009/FUL, The Grange, 388 Strensall Road, YO32 9SW (alterations to existing driveway and excavation to form a wild pond). Neil Massey replied if the gate/fence is less than 2m high and set back from the road, planning permission is not required.

- h) The ditches at Centenary Wood and Strensall Rd have been cleared by Mr Hill. The Clerk wrote to Ms Carr, who owns the culvert in Centenary Wood, on 19/12/14, to inform her it is in need of attention. The Clerk was asked to follow up in a couple of weeks if she had not heard anything. **Action:**

JF

- i) Mr Hill had taken a look at the gate to the children's play area and applied WD40.

- j) Mr Hill quoted £60 +VAT for cutting Centenary Wood (a path around the area per month) and £200+VAT to provide an extra strim to Area 1, in the period May to October 2015 (previously contracted for two strims in that period). These amounts were approved by the PC. Mr Hill's contract will need subsequent updating. **Action: DJ**

- k) Cllr Wiseman was considering whether to call a Scrutiny Committee or Audit & Governance Review on section 106 monies.

The Clerk had replied to CYC on the usage of Section 106 money, pertaining to 122 Strensall Rd, on 22/12/14.

- l) Mr Hill had quoted £70+VAT to renew two posts for the fence in Lock House Lane car park, which was approved by the PC. **Action: JF**

- m) 'Fences' had been added to the equipment checklist

- n) The PC is still waiting to hear from CYC on the possibility of repositioning dog bins on more level sites.

Action: KP

- o) Residents whose properties adjoin the flower meadow, and are affected by overhanging trees, were consulted to see if they were happy for the PC to remove these trees. The residents didn't want the trees removed so Cllr Offler had offered to prune branches from the offending trees (behind Stablers Walk properties).

Trees in Centenary Wood had been examined and the PC decided one needed removal and some of the others pruned. Cllr Jones had informed Mr Hill.

- p) It was reported Mr Charlesworth had agreed to lead a sub-group to produce the Neighbourhood Plan. A volunteer from the PC was required.

Other information/correspondence issues raised by the Clerk:

- Sarah Kirby from CYC had reported an amendment to the 2015-16 Support Grant figure which will be £275 for Earswick.
- The Clerk had taken personal details on Cllrs Offler, Wiseman and Leveson into RBS in person for them to update their records.

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

- Mrs Fisher's salary for December;
- £534 to Earth Anchors Ltd for sports field bench;
- £24 to M Whittaker for new fire alarm switch;
- £103 to Society of Local Council Clerks;
- £9.99 to J Fisher for ink;
- £7.44 to J Fisher for stamps;
- £22.99 to B Wiseman for laminates;
- £66 to York Sign Co Ltd for Dogs on Leads signs;
- £7.29 to Yorkshire Water;
- £47.22 to Advance Fire Services;
- £504 transferred from the tennis a/c to current a/c (concrete repairs).

The following payments were authorised:

£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.

7. Planning Applications

The City of York Council approved the following application:

- 14/02497/FUL Orchard House 2 Ilford Close YO32 9LP (single storey rear extension);
- 14/02610/FUL 10 Earswick Chase YO32 9FY (single storey rear extension).

8. Monthly Equipment Check

Mr Hill has agreed to fix some loose posts around the pond as part of the ongoing maintenance of the pond.

9. Village Hall Noticeboard and Crime Incident 12140219819

Following vandalism of the main PC noticeboard on 20.12.14, the Clerk had contacted Zurich Insurance. There would be a £100 excess to pay if the PC claimed but the PC could look at a replacement board in the region of £1,200 with no increase to its premium. The PC decided to proceed with an insurance claim and approved up to a further £300 for a replacement noticeboard. The Clerk was asked to contact Mr Whittaker for a quote on installing a new noticeboard, and the PC approved up to £50 for the installation. **Action: JF/GO**

The PC felt if the police response was unsatisfactory it would consider contacting the Police Commissioner and local secondary schools. Also, it felt a message requesting responsible use of Facebook should be included in the next Newsletter.

10. Neighbourhood Watch

Mr Norman reported there was no Neighbourhood Watch in York at present as the Chair, Treasurer and Secretary had all left.

The PC reported that Street Co-ordinators had come to PC members because they had not received any communication. Incidents were happening, and police reports were being issued, but Street Co-ordinators were not receiving any information.

The PC felt the Neighbourhood Watch needed kick starting. Another resident had offered to take on the Principal Co-ordinator role. Mr Norman stated that he didn't wish to relinquish the role. It was agreed North Yorkshire police would communicate with whoever they felt appropriate.

11. Signage

Dogs on leads signs had been placed but it was felt another sign was required so the PC authorised up to £30. **Action:KP**

The sign at the bottom of the path leading from the Village Hall (VH) to the river needed repositioning as it could not be read clearly.

Action: KP

12 Lock House Lane Barrier

Cllr Jones holds 5 keys and the Clerk 2 – all of which fit the locks on all the car parking posts. The PC did not feel it needed anymore at this time.

13. Play Equipment

The PC 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 26th January at 7.30 pm. The PC approved £14 to pay for hire of the Village Hall. (This meeting has subsequently been postponed to March). **Action: KP**

14. 2015-16 Precept

The Clerk pointed out that the likely reduced interest rate on the treasury deposit a/c will reduce the interest received from approximately £4,250 to £2,295 per annum, and thereby affect budget figures. Nevertheless, the PC agreed to keep the precept request at £14,250, and the Chairman and Clerk signed the CYC precept request form. **Action: JF**

15. Reinvestment of £170,000 ring fenced money.

The Clerk had circulated a list of the current interest rates and terms on treasury deposit type a/cs to the PC. She had also forwarded papers from CCLA regarding Property Funds. The PC did not want to invest in CCLA because of risks in the property market. The PC did accept the Clerk's recommendation of splitting the £170,000 investment between two banks to spread any risk, and because the Government will only safeguard up to £85,000 in any one bank. Consequently, the PC agreed to invest £85,000 in RBS and £85,000 in Lloyds bank.

Action: JF

16. Bus shelter opposite the Village

The Clerk had copied a letter from Mr and Mrs Beaumont to the PC in which they had said they were going to remove the shelter to avoid any liability. Cllr Jones had subsequently met with them and they had agreed to lease the shelter to the PC provided it took on the responsibility for maintenance and any liability. They would not agree to installation of a bench as they felt it might encourage youths to gather in the shelter.

The Clerk had contacted Zurich Insurance to see if both of the Earswick bus shelters could be covered in its insurance policy. Zurich has arranged this with immediate effect, and will add a further £16.20 to the annual PC premium when it is due for payment in June. The PC approved this increase.

The PC ruled out the possibility of tarmacking the grass 'triangle' near the bus stop because it believed it was an access strip for one of the adjoining properties.

17. Items for Information

- Cllrs Offler and Leveson had attended a Burial Authority meeting and reported burial fees were being increased because expenditure had exceeded income as more people opted for cremation.
- The coffee morning organised by residents in January was considered to be the best one yet. The rota for the next coffee mornings was:
2nd Feb (Earswick PC), 2nd March (Village Hall Committee), 13th April (Scented Garden Committee – note change of date due to Easter), 4th May (residents – Wendy, Pauline & friends).
Clerk to update noticeboards. **Action: JF**
The British Legion were going to send a receipt to Cllr Offler for monies donated at the coffee mornings. There will be a collection for York against Cancer at the next two coffee mornings.
- Cllr Wiseman attended the Foss Internal Drainage Board (FIDB) meeting and reported there is a problem at the Tannery Site in Strensall. The new properties have been built too close to the edge of the river bank, not allowing the requisite 9m access strip. Yorkshire Water has not as yet adopted the water system until the disputes over the siting of the drainage system are resolved. The sump for the foul water drainage is within the 9m access strip.
The PC asked Cllr Wiseman to speak to FIDB regarding trees which have fallen into the River Foss, downstream from the weir.
Action: SW
- The play ‘My Brilliant Divorce’ (by Geraldine Aron), presented by the Library Theatre Touring Company, will be held in the Village Hall on 20th February. Tickets cost £12.50, which include a pie and a drink, with proceeds going to York Against Cancer. Food will be served at 6.45pm with the play starting at 7.30pm.
- Cllr Jones attended the Earswick Action Group meeting on 8th January. The Action Group is leaning towards engagement of a planning consultant at a cost of £1,500 +VAT. Also, they are reconsidering employing the services of a barrister.
Consequently, the Group may be collecting residents’ pledges in the next few weeks. Also, they may do a letter drop to ask for donations from people who haven’t pledged.

The Action Group has a Keep Earswick Rural website.

The meeting closed at 9.40 pm

Joanne Fisher

(Parish Clerk)

Signed.....

Date.....