

EARSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Earswick Parish Council, held in Earswick Village Hall on Monday 16th March 2015.

Councillors Present: D Jones
K Pace
S Wiseman

Parish Clerk: J Fisher

Members of the Public Present:- I Jones, J Ridley, A Charlesworth,
F Martin, H Douglas, P Doughty

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllrs Offler and Leveson

2. Declarations of Interest

None

3. Minutes of Previous Meetings

Minutes for the Parish Council (PC) Meeting held on 9th February 2015 were approved as accurate records by the Councillors and signed.

4. Members of the Public

- Rowdy behaviour at the shelter behind the Village Hall was reported;
- The PC informed a resident that the department for Trading Standards should be contacted regarding 'cold callers' and details were given on the PC website;
- A gentleman's request to provide a bench in the Scented Garden in memory of his late wife, and to spread her ashes there, was approved by the PC.
- Cllr Helen Douglas introduced herself as one of the prospective Conservative candidates for the Strensall Ward in the forthcoming City of York Council elections. The other being Councillor Paul Doughty. Councillor Sian Wiseman will be standing down as Ward Councillor at the next election.
- The Neighbourhood Plan workshop on the 30th March, 7.30pm at the Village Hall, had been advertised in the PC newsletter and on the website. Earswick Action Group will send out an email informing people of the workshop.

5. Ward Councillor's Report

Ward Cllr Doughty reported:-

- Despite concerns raised by a number of residents regarding the planning application to convert agricultural buildings at Wisker Lane, and implications for the Local Plan, the City of York Council (CYC) had passed its approval. The PC expressed its surprise and disappointment at this decision as it felt the application failed the 'sustainability test' which had seen an application for development at Foss Bank Farm rejected by CYC in earlier years. As legislation changed last year, Cllr Doughty felt there may be a case for Foss Bank Farm to resubmit an application.
- Regarding the Local Plan, it was felt more objections may arise following a precedent set in Durham where questionable housing needs in their Local Plan were challenged. It was felt unlikely there would be any significant developments until after the May elections.

Ward Cllr Wiseman reported:-

- The Foss Internal Drainage Board (FIDB) had used legislation to put a hold on building works at the Tannery in Strensall. David Wilson Homes and Barretts both have to reinstate a 9m access strip along the side of the River Foss. Similarly, FIDB has taken action against developers in Huntington and Derwenthorpe.
- Station Road in Haxby will be closed from the level crossing near the garage to the roundabout at the top of York Road, for 14 days, for resurfacing over Easter.

6. Clerk's Report

- a. The ongoing action tracker was reviewed and the following points were made:-
 - i. Mr Hill will be instructed to install the goal posts around the first week in April. **Action: DJ**
 - ii. Mr Hill has installed the new bench on the sports field. As he didn't fix the bench to flagstones, his original quote of £80 +VAT (already approved by the PC) will be reduced by £20.
 - iii. The consultation with Earswick residents on acquiring play equipment for the sports field took place on the 14th March and no objections were raised from those attending. Fundraising events were discussed at the meeting. The PC reiterated it would contribute £4k section 106 money and £4k 'contingency' money. The Clerk was asked to contact Zurich Insurance to see if any new play equipment would be covered by the existing insurance policy, particularly as the equipment is proposed for the unfenced sports field. It was acknowledged there would likely be increased RoSPA play inspection costs should new sports equipment be acquired. **Action: JF**
 - iv. The Clerk has again emailed Alan Kendall at CYC regarding the outstanding building issues at 113-121 Strensall Rd. **Action: JF**

- v. 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**
 - vi. The Clerk had written again to Ms Carr, who owns the culvert in Centenary Wood, to remind her it is in need of attention. Mr Whittaker informed the Clerk that Ms Carr has instructed him to deal with the culvert blockage.
 - vii. 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 for 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 and signed. Because of the new trees in Centenary Wood, the original two part cuts to the entrance, and the five full cuts, have been removed from the contract schedule. The amended schedule has been circulated to Cllrs.
 - viii. Cllr Wiseman reported that the proposed Scrutiny Committee/Audit and Governance review on Section 106 monies had been dropped as it could not be included in CYC business schedule. The Clerk was asked to check the paperwork on Whisker Lane to see if the PC is due any Section 106 money. **Action:JF**
 - ix. The Clerk has applied to open a Nationwide one year fixed rate business saver a/c, at 1.4%, to re-invest the £85,000 section 106 monies currently held in the RBS. The PC agreed to sign the application form and the CHAPS transfer form for the RBS. **Action: JF**
 - x. Mr Hill has repaired the fence in Lock House Lane car park.
 - xi. The Clerk has ordered a new Village Hall notice board from Greenbarnes and its delivery is expected w/c 23/3/15. The Zurich insurance claim of £1,037.18 (£100 excess to pay) was successful. **Action: JF**
The Clerk was asked to write 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 once erected. **Action:JF**
 - xii. The Clerk had emailed the Huntington PC Clerk to ask if she would notify Earswick PC of any developments regarding Earswick roundabout.
 - xiii. Mr Norman has stood down as the Principal Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator and is succeeded by Mr Gambold.
 - xiv. 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 been no reply.
 - xv. The tennis application forms have been amended to show the new fees - £25 for residents and £50 for non-residents.
 - xvi. Cllr Offler is in the process of supplying Burial Board prices to add to Earswick PC's website. **Action: DJ/GO**
 - xvii. Mr Harland has cut the riverside hedge.
- b. Other information/correspondence issues raised by the Clerk:
- The Clerk had submitted a VAT claim for £2,520.12.

- The relevant paperwork had been submitted to Locality and a grant of £1,912 received.
- In February the PC website was reportedly running out of disk space (only 3 days left) so the Clerk had got agreement to buy additional disk space from the majority of Cllrs via email and used her emergency powers to authorise payment of £27.50 to Rural Creative (Mike Harding's Co.) This payment was ratified at the meeting.

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

- £30 to York Sign Company Ltd;
- £28.49 to J Fisher for ink
- £75 to A Jones for Analytics (website software)
- £624 to A Hill for Area 9 hedges and shrubs
- £7.29 to Yorkshire Water
- £27.50 to Rural Creative
- £112.5 to Huntcatchkill PCS Ltd (Qtr 2 mole removal)
- £96 to M Harland (riverside hedge)

The following payments were authorised:

- £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.

The Clerk was asked to reduce the 'committed spend' figure on the monthly expenditure report down to £100. **Action:JF**

7. Planning Applications

The PC objected to application 15/00401/FUL Nova Scotia, North Lane YO32 9SU (two storey and single storey front extensions). It felt approval of this application would result in inappropriate development of greenbelt land. This property, with a lengthy planning history, has already been extended to its maximum size and this proposed development would extend the property outside the acceptable footprint of the original buildings. **Action:JF**

The PC had no objection to application 15/00431/FUL The Gables 344 Strensall Road YO32 9SW (first floor rear extension).

The City of York Council had approved applications:

- 14/02745/FUL The Birches 2 Laurel Close, YO32 9FW (single storey rear extension & first floor balcony)
- 15/00117/FUL 26 Earswick Chase YO32 9FY (single storey rear extension).

8. Monthly Equipment Check

Mr Hill has agreed to look at the fence around the pond mid April (no charge). It was reported that some metal strips were coming off the fence to the side of the Village Hall. The Clerk is to ask Mr Whittaker if he would take a look.

Action: JF

9. Local Plan, Neighbourhood Plan & Emergency Plan

Local Plan:

Earswick Action Group representation had been made to the Local Plan Working Group. A formal complaint had been made to the Chief Planning Officer because responses to Freedom of Information requests were poor and legal advice was rejected out of hand.

Pledges to the Earswick Action Group were to be collected

Neighbourhood Plan (NP):

Further action will be agreed following the workshop on 30th March, 7.30pm at the Village Hall.

Emergency Plan:

This is a contingency plan in the event of a major catastrophe, which could form part of the NP. The PC agreed to defer action on this matter until after the election.

10. Weed and Moss Treatment in the Scented Garden

Approval was given to one treatment in April and one treatment in July/August, by Rob Warriner, at a total cost of £60.

11. Litter Picking

Following the CYC 'Big Spring Clean' campaign, the PC had agreed to arrange a litter pick on 28th March at 2.15pm, meeting at the Village Hall. Notices had been posted. CYC had been asked for tabbards, bags and grabbers.

12. Removal of Wooden Posts from Sports Field

Mr Steve Balding and Mr John Pace had removed the posts from the sports field free of charge - for which the PC recorded its thanks. The PC agreed to reimburse Mr Balding £11.75 for a replacement saw chain used in the process.

Action: JF

13. Waste deposited on PC Land

It was reported that significant cuttings from conifer trees in the garden of 11 Shilton Garth had been deposited over the fence into Diamond Wood. The Clerk was asked to write to the owners to request removal of the cuttings.

Action: JF

14. A Boards for the Village Hall

The PC decided not to purchase A boards as they could be a health hazard for those who are partially sighted.

15. Moss Removal from Earswick Pavements

The Clerk was asked to write to the Highways Dept (copy to Footpaths Office) to ask them to clear the footpaths of moss as they were slippery and, therefore, a health and safety issue. **Action:JF**

16. The Bus Shelter opposite The Village

The Clerk had circulated the latest version of the proposed lease of the bus shelter from Mr and Mrs Beaumont. Their solicitors had asked for a note of Mr and Mrs Beaumonts interest to be included on the PC's insurance policy. Zurich has agreed to include a note but they said it would be the PC's responsibility to let Mr and Mrs Beaumonts know if it changes insurance provider. The PC agreed to the latest draft of the lease and the proposed £100 annual lease fee. The Clerk to write to Mr and Mrs Beaumonts' solicitors to inform them of Zurich's comments and to prepare the final lease if satisfied. **Action: JF**

The Clerk is to write to Mr and Mrs Beaumont to thank them once final lease received. **Action:JF**

17. Village Hall Windows and Doors

The PC is responsible for maintaining the Village Hall (VH) structure. In particular the doors need attention. The PC agreed to obtain an itemised quote from Orion for replacement doors and windows. **Action:KP**

18. Dog Bins

It was reported that the FIDB had complained that the dog bin near the River Foss restricted movement of their excavator. The Clerk was asked to write to CYC to ask if it would relocate this dog bin to Diamond Wood or, if not, next to the existing one at the end of The Village. **Action:JF**

19. Meetings of the Parish Council

The PC agreed to hold the Annual Parish Meeting and a brief PC meeting on 20th April 2015. They also agreed the provisional date of 13th May for the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council. **Action:JF**

20. 2015/16 regular/committed expenditure

The PC approved the regular/committed expenditure for 2015/16 as given at appendix A. The Payee for Village Hall Boiler maintenance was amended from British Gas to Reynolds Plumbing.

21. Clerk's hours of employment in April & May

The PC approved an extra five hours employment during each of April and May for production of the annual accounts.

22. Items for Information

Scented Garden plant sale to be announced.
Clerk to remind Andy Hill to cut the hawthorn hedge.

Action: JF

The Clerk was asked to arrange a meeting to check through and gather nomination forms for the forthcoming parish council elections.

Action:JF

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Joanne Fisher
(Parish Clerk)

Signed.....

Date.....

EARSWICK PARISH COUNCIL - PRE-AUTHORISED PAYMENTS 2015/16

Description	Payee	Total authorised up to & incl VAT £
Maintenance Contract:		
Grass cutting, strimming & weedkilling	A. Hill	7,680 *
Whitelining football pitch	A. Hill	180
Cutting hedges & shrubs	A. Hill	1,092
River side hedge cutting	M Harland	100
Clerk's salary	J Fisher	4,500
Village Hall Boiler Heating Maintenance	British Gas <i>Revised - 1/330</i>	50
Quarterly Fire Equipt Maint	Advance Fire Services	177
Water Rates	Yorkshire Water	34
Mole treatment	Huntcatchkill PCS Ltd	500
YLCA membership	YLCA	285
SLCC membership	SLCC	110
River Foss Society membership	River Foss Society	25
Audit Fee	Littlejohn LLP	265
Data Protection Licence	Information Commissioner	41
ROSPA	Playsafety Ltd	164
Website Domain name	Rural Creative	25
Website word press hosting	Rural Creative	110

Agreed at the Parish Council meeting on 16th March 2015

Chairman..... *P. Jones*

Date..... *16-3-15*

Councillor..... *P. Wilson*