

EARSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Extraordinary meeting of Earswick Parish Council, held in Earswick Village Hall on Thursday 23rd July 2015.

Councillors Present: D Jones
P Leveson
S Wiseman
G Offler
G Tate

Parish Clerk: Pat Leveson (acting as Clerk in Joanne Fisher's absence)

Members of the Public Present: F Jones, S Williams, V Williams, A Foots, W Gambold, B Woodward, M Woodward, D Ridley, T Bright, S Bright, T Lowery, D Jones, I Jones, M Johnson, D Johnson, P Sokolow, J Ridley, R Ridley, T Rigu

1. Apologies for absence: J Fisher (Clerk).

2. Declarations of Interest: None.

3. Members of the Public:

Three members of the public expressed their support for the Parish Council's motion and one spoke against. A copy of the resident's objection to the motion can be found in the attached appendix. It was also noted that one other resident had written to the PC objecting to the motion.

4. To consider the motion that the Parish Council (PC) contributes the sum of £2,000 towards the costs of preparing the Neighbourhood Plan, and to procure on the basis of a formal tender the services of a consultancy company to assist the working party in the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan.

As part of their discussions on the motion, Councillors questioned the accuracy of the objections raised by the member of the public as it was the PC view that under the current legislation only the PC could apply to the City Council as the recognised authoritative body for a Neighbourhood Area Application (NAA) in Earswick, and that this had been confirmed by the Council's Head of Planning and Environment whose department is responsible for Neighbourhood Planning. The area application also identifies the boundary of land to be considered in the neighbourhood plan that in this case includes the whole of Earswick parish. City of York Council (CYC) had also confirmed to the PC that waiting for approval of the NAA does not preclude the PC from continuing with the neighbourhood planning process, as is the case in the neighbouring parish of Huntington. The Chair informed Councillors that a Neighbourhood Plan Working Party had been established, as agreed at the AMPC in May 2015, and that it was their recommendation that support in preparing the plan should be sought from an experienced consultancy service. Funding for this and for developing the plan can be obtained from bodies such as Locality and Awards for All. However some contribution from the PC would be expected. As the indicative total cost could be in the region of between £10,000 and £15,000 it was recommended under the motion that procurement of the consultancy services should be carried out using the PC's formal tendering process.

It was resolved that the PC would approve the sum of £2,000 towards the cost of preparing the Neighbourhood Plan, with any remaining cost being funded through grants, and that a formal tendering process should be used to secure the consultancy services.

The meeting ended at 6.35pm

Pre-prepared statement for Earswick
Parish Council's (EPC) meeting on
23/7/2015

I am here this evening to bring
~~to~~ the following information to the
attention of EPC.

The City of York Council (CYC)
have confirmed that following EPC's
application to produce a Neighbourhood
Plan (NP), submitted in June 2015,
the following NP process should be
adhered to:

1. CYC publicise the EPC's application
and will allow a minimum
period of four weeks for
public consultation. CYC's
publication will not commence
before the first or second week
in August.
2. During the consultation period
other bodies can make
alternative applications to
undertake a NP for the
village
3. When the consultation period ends
CYC will evaluate all applications
and decide who and for

(PTC)

what boundary a NP can be produced.

4. Only after notification of the successful application should work on a NP commence.

In light of this information it would not be prudent nor in the public interest to pursue voting any EPC funds or tendering for any consultancy work.

I understand that another resident has already written to EPC explaining the process and the corresponding statutory references. I am therefore even more concerned that EPC (a council who prides itself on following its own rules to the letter!) have chosen to apparently ignore this advice + information and pursue their course of action.

Here is my prepared statement for the minutes.

Jacky Ridley