

EARSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

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

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

Parish Clerk: J Fisher

Members of the Public Present: J Gambold, D Thompson, K Pace, F Martin, T Riga, J Ridley, B Gambold, I Yeowart, S Yeowart, I Jones, F Jones, B A Woodward, P Young, D Ridley, R Ridley

1. Apologies for Absence

Ward Cllrs Doughty and Douglas.

2. Declarations of Interest

None.

3. Minutes of Previous Meetings

Minutes for the Parish Council (PC) Meeting held on the 14th September 2015 were approved as accurate records by the Councillors and signed.

4. Members of the Public

None

5. Ward Councillor's Report

Though no Ward Cllrs were present, it was reported that there is a Ward Cllrs' Meeting at Strensall Village Hall on 15th October at 7pm.

6. Clerk's Report

- a) The ongoing action tracker was reviewed and the following points were made:-
- i. The Clerk had emailed Planning Enforcement to ask that the land adjacent to 121, Strensall Rd be tidied up but no reply had been received yet. No reply has been received either from the head of City of York Council (CYC), Chris Steward, regarding outstanding issues at 113-121 Strensall Rd. The Clerk will continue to pursue. **Action: JF**
 - ii. Mr Whittaker has purchased the materials to repair the VH car park fence which he hopes to complete this week. **Action: JF**
 - iii. Brian Williams of CYC rang that day and said he would try and arrange for moss removal from Earswick pavements this month.
 - iv. The Parish Council (PC) has met with the Village Hall Committee (VHC) regarding replacement of the VH windows and doors. The VHC feel only

the windows need attention now and suggested we obtain a further quote from JG Windows Ltd. The PC will meet with them this Friday.

Action: GO

- v. The Clerk had received a cheque for £198.49 from the VHC for their share of insurance costs (£54.49) and VHC rent (£144). They had also issued a revised bill to the PC for hall hire for 2014-15, amended to £334.35 (previously approved £294.35). Item to be included on next agenda.
Action: JF
- vi. Andy Hill has quoted £600+ VAT to trim the undergrowth between the mown path on Diamond Wood and hedge. The PC is going to discuss what is required with Mr Hill. This item to be included on next agenda.
Action: GO/ JF
- vii. The Clerk had contacted Zurich insurance to make a claim for the damaged Information Board. They had requested photographic evidence and two quotes. The Clerk was asked to explain to Zurich that we have a quote from the original designers of the Board.
Action: JF
- viii. Paul Fox from CYC had emailed the Clerk to say that the Transport Section will contact the PC for discussions on proposed York Outer Ring Road improvements when they are in a position to do so. They are still at the preliminary stage of determining ownership and land surveys.
- ix. The PC website is due to be updated with a new section and items uploaded once the PC passes photographs, etc, to Andy Jones of Wasp Design.
Action: DJ
- x. The contractor who removed the old notice board and had been asked for a revised invoice has not responded yet. The PC agreed to remove this item from the action tracker until they hear from the contractor.
- xi. Two contractors have been contacted to discuss the options for removing/reducing an ash tree with dangerous branches backing onto the flower meadow. One quote had been received to date and the PC is awaiting the second. Both contractors recommended complete removal of the tree because of Ash rot fungus.
Action: GO
- xii. The PC has spoken to residents regarding vegetation overhanging paths in Shilton Garth, Rowley Ct and Stablers Walk. They will also speak to residents in Northlands.
Action: SW
- xiii. The PC agreed the Clerk will update the Standing Orders for new public contracts regulations at the same time as agreed amendments discussed at items 8 below.
Action: JF
- xiv. The Dogs on Leads sign has been replaced at Centenary Wood.
- xv. The VHC has agreed to reimburse the PC if it orders a Village Hall sign to go over the VH door. The Clerk will check if this is permissible with the Yorkshire Local Council Association (YLCA) and place on the agenda for the next meeting.
Action: JF
- xvi. YLCA training on planning had been given to Cllr Leveson, and booked for Cllr Offler.
- xvii. The Clerk hadn't written to the owners of 139 Strensall Rd as parking on the grass outside their property has apparently stopped. The PC agreed no further action.
- xviii. The PC met with Huntcatchkill to discuss rabbit removal but it was decided to wait until the New Year when burrows will be more visible.

Other information/correspondence issues raised by the Clerk:

The Clerk noted that an email had been received (and not yet answered) from a resident questioning the amount of detail in the September Minutes regarding the PC's decision to withdraw its support for the Earswick Action Group, and asking for confirmation that the PC is following its Standing Orders.

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

- J Fisher's salary for September;
- £780 to A Hill for grass cutting in July;
- £72 to A Hill for pond strimming in July;
- £72 to A Hill for cutting Centenary Wood in July;
- £72 to A Hill for cutting Centenary Wood in June;
- £72 to A Hill for cutting Centenary Wood in May;
- £120 to A Hill for cutting Diamond Wood in July;
- £48 to A Hill for cutting the river footpath;
- £780 to A Hill for grass cutting in August;
- £84 to A Hill for weedkilling footpaths;
- £120 to A Hill for cutting Diamond Wood in August;
- £48 to A Hill for river footpath cut in August;
- £60 to A Hill for strimming undergrowth;
- £5.59 to Yorkshire Water;
- £28 to J Fisher for Epson ink;
- £16.99 to J Fisher for stationery;
- £7.56 to J Fisher for stamps;
- £65.96 to G Offler for reimbursement of sickle mower hire & fuel;
- £74.99 to J Fisher to reimbursement of Norton Security;
- £112.50 to Huntcatchkill for mole removal (qtr 4);
- £115 to YLCA for Cllr Offler's training;
- £115 to YLCA for Cllr Leveson's training;
- £240 to PKF Littlejohn for audit fees.

The following amounts have been received by the PC:

- £6.95 Scented Garden insurance contribution;
- £0.70 RBS tennis account interest;
- £14.49 RBS current account interest;
- £7,125 precept.

The following payments were authorised:

- £30 to R Warriner Lawn Services for treatment of Scented Garden Lawn

- £780 to A Hill for grass cutting in September
- £48 to A Hill for river footpath cut in September
- £72 to A Hill for strimming around pond in September
- £72 to A Hill for grass cutting in Centenary Wood in September
- £120 to A Hill for grass cutting Diamond Wood in September
- £9.49 to J Fisher for black ink
- £10 to J Fisher for yellow and cyan ink
- £22.80 to J Fisher for multi pack of ink
- £8.92 to J Fisher for postage

The Clerk will ask Huntcatchkill for a quote for the next year for mole removal.

Action: JF

7. Planning Applications

Three members of the PC had no objections on applications:

- 15/01695/FUL 240 Strensall Road YO32 9SW (Two storey side and single storey rear extensions)
- 15/02227/FUL 141 Strensall Road YO32 9SJ (Single storey rear extension and erection of boundary wall with railings to side).

The other two members of the PC will forward any comments to the Clerk asap after the meeting.

Action: DJ/GO

8. Monthly Equipment Check

The pond fence and posts still need repair but this has been deferred until after the new metal fencing has been erected (see item 10 below) when there should be redundant wooden fencing from the Lock House Lane car park. The damaged Lock House Lane (LHL) car park rail will be repaired at the same time.

9. Amendments to the Standing Orders

The PC agreed to increase the expenditure limit that the Proper Officer can incur in an emergency, without prior authorisation of the PC, to £500 per transaction.

The Clerk will amend Standing Order 3b xvii accordingly.

Action: JF

The PC had experienced difficulties in obtaining formal tenders from contractors. Consequently, the PC agreed to reinstate the limit (as in 2014) requiring formal tender for the procurement of any goods or services to a value in excess of £10,000. The Clerk will amend Standing Order 30b.

Action: JF

NB The PC had consulted its internal auditor regarding both proposed amendments and there were no objections.

10. Security Fencing and Gates

At the last meeting it was agreed the PC would seek quotes to install a double gate and fencing at the VH entrance, fencing at the front of 13 Lock House Lane, and fencing with a gate for the Lock House Lane car park – all to restrict unwanted access to public open space.

The PC had approached five companies of which only two had submitted quotes.

The PC authorised £6,094.80 (incl VAT) to Richard Bell. Work was expected to commence in around 7 weeks time. **Action: DJ**

11. Replacement Car Parking Post at Village Hall

There had been a delay with delivery of the replacement parking post. The PC agreed to instruct LJD Construction, who installed the original posts at the Village Hall car park, to remove the broken post and install the new one at a cost of £100+VAT. **Action: JF**

12. Fertilising/weed killing the Scented Garden Lawn

The PC ratified a payment of £30 to Rob Warriner Lawn Services for fertilising and weed killing the Scented Garden lawn, which is the PC's responsibility.

13. Items for Information

A PC Cllr had met with the Foss Internal Drainage Board (FIDB). The FIDB need to thin the trees down near the flower meadow and river access field to allow access for their equipment. They agreed to put in a culvert where there is a spring, running it into a drain which runs behind Stablers Walk and Shilton Garth. The PC will request formal agreement with the FIDB for this work. **Action:SW**

A PC Cllr attended a CYC Working Together meeting where the phasing out of Section 106 payments was discussed. Earswick PC has none outstanding. CYC is very keen on prevention/intervention of Social Care and was very impressed at Earswick's Coffee Mornings. CYC may provide ward funding for exercise classes, Nordic walking, etc.

A PC Cllr also attended a Yorkshire Local Council Association meeting on digital transparency. Grants may be available for projection equipment. Contact details will be passed to the Clerk. **Action: PL**

A PC Cllr attended the Huntington Burial Board meeting. The Committee requested a copy of the constitution in case the incumbent Chairman stands down. The Board reported income had exceeded expenditure.

The PC representative to the Village Hall Committee (VHC) reported that the VHC were happy to proceed with a 'Village Hall' notice to go over the VH door. Also, they are happy to proceed with replacement windows. The Clerk was asked to contact the Highways Authority to see if it would be possible to erect a sign on Earswick Chase directing visitors to the Village Hall. **Action: JF**

Mr Gambold, Chief Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator and Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Party gave the following updates:

Neighbourhood Watch (NW)

The Police had successfully demonstrated and then used their new equipment to mark over 200 of residents' valuable possessions. Mr Gambold thanked all the NW Co-ordinators
NW Co-ordinators are required for Northlands and the southern half of Strensall Rd.

Neighbourhood Plan Working Party (NPWP)

A questionnaire was issued to all Earswick households. 224 questionnaires (66%) were returned and passed (unopened) to an independent collator. The wishes and vision of residents will be collated and used to consult with CYC. A further questionnaire and a referendum for residents will follow. The aim of the NP is to influence any future development in Earswick.

Mr Gambold requested that Neighbourhood Watch and Neighbourhood Plan be items included on future agendas. **Action: JF**

14. Two Parish Councillor Vacancies

Adverts for two casual vacancies had been placed on the noticeboards with the closing date of 9th October 2015. There were no applicants. The Clerk had contacted Joanne Lowe at CYC who confirmed the PC can co-opt if they find a willing and suitable person. The PC can advertise in Newsletters or at PC meetings.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm.

Joanne Fisher
(Parish Clerk)

Signed.....

Date.....