

EARSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

A public participation session took place with Parish Councillors immediately prior to the following Parish Council meeting.

Minutes of the meeting of Earswick Parish Council, held in Earswick Village Hall on Monday 8th February 2016.

Councillors present: D Jones
S Wiseman
P Leveson
G Offler
G Tate
B O'Connor

Parish Clerk: J Fisher

Members of the Public Present: M Wilkinson, P Ferguson, C Ferguson, H Curry, A Royle, S Royle, F Jones, J McTurk, I Jones, W Gambold, J Gambold, Cllr P Doughty, M Leach, V Glee, D Ridley, I Yeowart, I Robinson, Cllr H Douglas

1. Apologies for absence

None

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Wiseman declared personal non-prejudicial interests to agenda item 6, planning applications 15/02843/FUL Fossbank Kennels and 15/02950/FUL Land between 121 and 125 Strensall Rd, having voted as member of an East Area planning committee for previous applications on the same properties, when a Ward Councillor.

Cllrs Wiseman, Leveson and Offler declared personal interests in agenda item 14 as all live in cul-de-sacs.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes for the Parish Council (PC) meeting on the 11th January 2016 were approved as accurate records by the Councillors and signed.

4. Ward Councillors Report

Ward Cllr Doughty reported:

City of York Council (CYC) Administration has set Council Tax at 1% of general income tax. This will be considered by full Council late March.

A further 2% Council Tax will be raised for health/adult social care (which should generate £1.5 million).

5. Clerk's Report

The following pre-authorised payments (incl VAT where appropriate) have been made since the last Parish Council meeting:-

- J Fisher's salary for January;
- £600 to City of York Council for ditch clearance;
- £2,040 to Yourlocale Ltd for Neighbourhood Plan;
- £2.40 to M Whittaker for car park fence;
- £430 to Zurich Municipal for refund of overpayment;
- £15 to J Fisher for ink pack;
- £2 to J Fisher for diary;
- £119 to Tiswood for Village Hall sign;
- £1,294.80 to R Bell for LHL fence;
- £2,160 to R Bell for LHL Car Park fence;
- £112.50 to Huntcatchkill PCS Ltd for mole removal;
- £2,780 to J G Trade Windows Ltd for new VH windows.

The following amounts have been received by the PC:

- £850 interest on maturity of the Lloyds Deposit account;
- £18.18 interest on the RBS account.

£85,000 has been transferred from the Lloyds deposit account into the RBS current account upon maturity of the deposit account.

The following payments were authorised:

£7.56 to J Fisher for stamps;
£15 to J Fisher for ink.

6. Planning Applications

The Parish Council objected to planning application 15/02922/FUL, 20 Stablers Walk, YO32 9UZ (Increase height of roof space to create a first floor with rooms in roof space) for the following reasons:

- i. The property is one of a row of three bedroom bungalows. The proposed height increase is over 1m along the length and width of the property. This will dominate, and is out of character with, the street scene.
- ii. The revised plans are inaccurate. The property is incorrectly identified on the location plan, and the existing conservatory is not shown on the property plan. This does not give the Parish Council much faith in the accuracy of the whole application.
- iii. A six bedroom property would be overbearing in such a small space. Furthermore, this bungalow is situated on a bend. A vehicle belonging to

the family already parks on this bend, creating poor visibility for passing traffic. With the proposed six bedrooms it is likely that the property will have two or more vehicles which will exacerbate this current problem.

- iv. Bungalows are in high demand, with an ageing population, and expanding this property in such a way is tantamount to removing it from the 'bungalow pool'.

The PC had no objections to planning application 16/00141/FUL, 7 Whitelands YO32 9FX (Single storey side extension to connect the garage to house, single storey rear extension and porch to front).

The PC objected to planning application 15/02950/FUL Land between 121 and 125 Strensall Rd (Erection of two storey dwelling with attached garage) for the following reasons:

- i. This land was originally included in a planning application for the land at 121 Strensall Rd. The Parish Council understood that more than one house was originally planned for 121 Strensall Rd but that this was rejected because of access issues onto Strensall Rd – particularly as it is so close to the A1237.
- ii. One of the conditions of the development at 121 Strensall Rd was that the original gateway to the adjacent cottages (also owned by this applicant) was closed off. Despite 121 Strensall Rd having been completed for a number of years, this access point has still not been closed off.
- iii. Earswick Parish Council is concerned that yet another driveway so close to the A1237 could be dangerous. They have no objection to the house – but they do have grave concerns about the proposed driveway. Earswick Parish Council would like the application referred to the Highways Dept for a report please – a copy of which Earswick Parish Council wish to see.

Mr Royle presented a report (given at appendix A) to the meeting on planning application 15/02843/FUL, Fossbank Boarding Kennels YO32 9SJ (demolition of existing kennel, stables, quarantine and cattery buildings, erection of 4no. detached dwellings with garages, and provision of new access road from existing driveway).

The PC expressed its sympathy for the difficulty faced by the applicants and agreed to support the application as it was the development of a brown field site within the greenbelt (a precedent set with the development of Garden Village).

Action: JF

7. Monthly Equipment Check

- Cllr Tate had made temporary repairs to the pond fence.
- The holes in the Sports Field had been filled in.

- The security fences had been installed at Lock House Lane and the Lock House Lane car park. Work had commenced on the Village Hall (VH) security gate.

8. Nomination of Cllr Wiseman as Parish Representative on CYC's Joint Standards Committee

The PC agreed to nominate Cllr Wiseman for the above-mentioned position.

Action: SW/JF

9. Reimbursement of ink costs to Cllr Offler

The PC approved £16.99 to Cllr Offler as reimbursement of ink costs associated with printing signs and notices.

Action: JF

10. Replacement of Pond Fencing

Notification of £2,250 ward funding towards replacing the pond fence had been received by the Clerk. A condition of this funding was that the PC would match this amount.

Two estimates to replace the pond fence had been circulated to the PC prior to the meeting. The PC agreed to employ the company with the lowest quote, Linear Fencing, to replace the pond fence at a cost of £4,500 incl VAT.

Action: GO/JF

11. The Queen's 90th Birthday

The PC discussed the proposal of an event to mark the Queen's birthday on 12th June 2016. The PC agreed to ask for volunteers to help organise this event in the next newsletter.

Action: PL

12. Maintenance and Repair to River Footpath and Bridges

The PC agreed to arrange a site meeting with the Rights of Way Office, CYC, and the Foss Internal Drainage Board (FIDB).

Action: SW

13. Extending the double yellow lines at Strensall Rd end of The Village

The PC had received an email from CYC asking if it was in favour of extending these yellow lines. The PC agreed to try and arrange a meeting with the Highways Dept from CYC, and affected residents, to discuss options.

Action: JF

14. Parking Restrictions in Cul-de-sac Hammerheads

The PC discussed the problems created by residents who persistently park in the turning areas of cul-de-sacs. The PC agreed to try and arrange a meeting with the Highways Dept from CYC to discuss options on parking restrictions.

Action: JF

15. Sign directing visitors to the Village Hall

CYC had emailed to say they felt a new sign would cost in the region of £100 depending on where the sign was positioned. Cllr Offler had consulted with the VH Committee who felt they wanted the sign below the Earswick Chase sign. The Clerk was asked to obtain a firm quote from CYC.

Action: JF

16. Tennis Court Membership

The PC agreed to keep the tennis membership fees as £25 for residents and £50 for non-residents (up to 10 applicants). The rules remain unchanged.

17. Rabbit Removal

This item was postponed until the next meeting.

Action: JF

18. Authorisation of Web Hosting Costs

The PC authorised £120 to Rural Creation for Web Hosting Account renewal. (NB £110 had been approved in March so a further £10 was required now).

Action: JF

19. 'Knowhow' cover for PC laptop

The PC authorised £109 to Knowhow for 12 months cover of the PC laptop.

Action: JF

20. Authorisation of Costs to upload photo and details of Cllr O'Connor onto PC Website

The PC authorised £25 to A Jones of Wasp Design to upload Cllr O'Connor's details onto the PC website. Cllr O'Connor to provide a photo for upload. The PC was asked to let the Clerk know of any further updates which might be required.

Action: JF/BO

21. Matured deposit account funds

Deposit account rates for Lloyds, RBS and Barclays had been circulated to the PC prior to the meeting. The PC agreed to invest £75,000 in a 3 year bond with Lloyds Bank (rate 1.34% as at 5.2.16 (rate changes daily)).

Another £10,000 is to be placed in a RBS bond for 1 year. The PC noted that it currently had over £50k in RBS current accounts and wished to keep within the £75k FCS protection guarantee. The PC authorised £20 for the RBS CHAPS transfer to Lloyds Bank.

Action: JF

22. Appointment of Internal Auditor

The PC agreed to the appointment of J McTurk as Internal Auditor of the 2015-16 accounts. The PC wished to record its grateful thanks to Mr McTurk for again offering his services in this role.

23. Items for Information

Mr Bill Gambold, Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Party (NPWP), and Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator, presented a report to the meeting (see appendix B).

Cllrs Leveson and Cllr Wiseman had attended a recent Yorkshire and Local Council Assn (YLCA) meeting and revealed the following information:

- PCs could apply for a £3k grant for Neighbourhood Plans – in addition to any other funding secured elsewhere. The PC agreed to obtain further details on this matter from YLCA. **Action: PL**
- There was going to be no further reduction in Double Taxation.
- YLCA fees had increased.
- There was to be a workshop on automatic enrolment for pensions for PC employees.
- YLCA meeting reports had been distributed to PCs.

Cllr Offler reported:

- The Payback team had filled in a big hole on the Sports Field. They had also removed debris and logs deposited by the river during the floods.
- Thirty-two people had enjoyed a luncheon organised by the Coffee Morning Group.

The meeting closed at 9pm

Joanne Fisher
(Parish Clerk)

Signed: **Date:**

Appendix A

Mr S Royle's Presentation to PC Meeting 8/2/16:

We find ourselves in a very difficult position regarding our recently submitted planning application, to York City Council. This is our predicament, the truth and not the speculation and assumptions being handed around the entire parish of Earswick, via this leaflet. (Stop the Sprawl leaflet hand delivered around Earswick.)

Foss Bank Kennels, our home and family business, has been trading for over 20 years, long before Fosslands and Garden Village were even developed.

9 years ago a complaint of barking dogs was made from someone on Fosslands.

As a result, 5 years ago Foss Bank Kennels were served with a Noise Abatement Order by the council which, if breached, could render us liable to a £20,000 fine and a criminal record. We have made considerable changes at the kennels, reduced the number of dogs we take in, relinquished our council contract for stray dogs, changed our opening times dramatically, all at considerable cost to ourselves. We have even consulted with a sound proofing company who advised us that to sound proof 2 large paddocks would cost a disproportionate amount of money, but more importantly they said, they could not guarantee it would work!

The noise abatement order remains in force.

Every day, 365 days a year, every time a dog barks, we are in fear, yes in fear of potential prosecution, because that is what this order states. If there is anyone in this room who does not believe that, come and spend just a day in our lives and witness for yourselves.

We have tried everything, but are left with only one option, remove the noise completely by closing the kennels and re locating away from residential properties.

In order to do this we have applied to have 4 **(YES ONLY FOUR)** properties built.

In the middle of a green belt field?

NO, on the **EXISTING FOOTPRINT** where substantial, brick buildings **ALREADY** stand

Why 4?

4 properties will hopefully generate enough capital to enable us to re locate our home and our business.

Now it would appear that some residents have set up an action group and are encouraging people to **OBJECT** to our application. Their reasoning for this is that the development is not sustainable, will generate more traffic and the infrastructure would not cope with the additional housing. They will also argue that nothing has changed since the **ONE** application we made in 2009.

Our circumstances **HAVE** substantially changed. The noise abatement order issued in 2011 has changed our lives and the way we are forced to run our business.

Imagine the current traffic generated by the kennels, grooming parlour and cattery on a daily basis. If this application is successful, the traffic will be considerably **REDUCED**. The objection about sustainability again does not bear weight. **IT IS AN APPLICATION FOR 4 DWELLINGS!!**

4 houses adjacent and in keeping with the existing 150 houses, built on **GREEN BELT LAND**, in Fosslands and Garden Village right next door to us.

In addition to all that, in approving this application, the resident(s) on Fosslands will have no barking dogs, York City Council will achieve their objective in eliminating the noise nuisance completely and our business will be able to re locate.

I would respectfully ask that the Parish Council supports this **very** modest application.

**Neighbourhood Plan Working Party Report to:
Earswick Parish Council Meeting – 8th February 2016**

After the successful survey and public meeting in 2015 the Neighbourhood Plan Working Party is preparing a leaflet to all households in the village giving details of the survey and the public meeting for those who did not attend together with details of the way ahead.

Members of the Working Party met with officers of CYC in January and will now await further information on the Council's plans before issuing a final survey sometime in March.

The results of that survey will be used to develop the Earswick Neighbourhood Plan which will then be examined by an Independent Examiner and the Council before a final version of the Plan will be submitted to a referendum of all Earswick Residents who are on the electoral roll.

Bill Gambold

8 Feb 16

**Earswick Neighbourhood Watch Scheme Report to:
Earswick Parish Council Meeting on 8th February 2016**

There have been no reported incidents in the Village during January.

Most of the Village is now covered by Coordinators but I still need volunteers to act as Coordinators for part of Lock House Lane and for the even numbered houses on Strensall Road from the Northern Ring Road to Willow Grove.

Bill Gambold

8 Feb 16