

## 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 22nd May 2017.

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

**Parish Clerk:** J Fisher

**Members of the Public Present: J McTurk, I Jones, P Doughty, H Douglas**

**1. Apologies for absence**

None.

**2. Declarations of Interest and Any Other Declarations**

None.

**3. Minutes of Previous Meetings**

Minutes for the Extraordinary Parish Council (PC) meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2017 were approved as accurate records by the Councillors and signed.

**4. Ward Councillors' Reports**

- Ward Cllrs Douglas and Doughty reported there will be a new Lord Mayor on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May.
- The PC has submitted a ward grant application for acoustic panels for the Village Hall. No decision will be taken by the Ward Cllrs until after the General Election.

**5. Clerk's Report**

The following pre-authorised payments (incl VAT where appropriate) have been made since the Parish Council (PC) meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2017:-

- J Fisher's salary for March and April;
- £11.52 to J Fisher for postage;
- £4.34 to Yorkshire Water;
- £22.38 to J Fisher for ink;
- £295.75 to Earswick Village Hall Fund for hire of the Village Hall;
- £2,100 to Yourlocale Ltd for Consultancy services;
- £4.18 to G Offler for coffee and sugar;
- £40.20 to Advance Fire Services;
- £44.70 to Advance Fire Services;

- £40.20 to Advance Fire Services;
- £48 to Advance Fire Services for call out charges;
- £300 to A Hill for cutting the Scented Garden hedge;
- £240 to A Hill for tree pruning;
- £19 to J Fisher for paper and ink;
- £292 to Yorkshire Local Council Association (membership);
- £730 to M Wilson for repainting play equipment;
- £126 to Inc Dot Com Ltd for Newsletter printing;
- £34.99 to Yardmaster International for Scented Garden shed roof parts;
- £2,220 to R Bell for Lock House Lane fence and gates;
- £1,001.78 to Zurich Municipal for annual insurance premium;
- £13.20 to J Fisher for postage;
- £140 to P Leveson for tennis nets;
- £100 to M Wilson for repainting tennis posts and benches.

The following amounts have been received by the PC since 27<sup>th</sup> March 2017:

- £3,774.69 VAT;
- £215.12 Double Taxation;
- £144 rent from Village Hall Committee\*\*;
- £1.03 interest on the RBS tennis account;
- 0.36 interest on the RBS savings account;
- £7,837.50 precept from City of York Council.

\*\* The Clerk and Chairman had looked through their records and confirmed that the Village Hall Committee had a lease agreement which stated £144 rent for the Village Hall was due annually to Earswick Parish Council. The Chairman confirmed the Village Hall Committee had been set up as a charity over which the PC had no control.

The following amounts were authorised:

- £36.55 to J Fisher for ink;
- £11.00 to J Fisher for black ink;
- £13.20 to J Fisher for postage (tennis);
- £19 to J Fisher for stationery;
- £3.49 to J Fisher for stationery.

## **6. Annual Governance Statement 2016-17**

The PC approved the Annual Governance Statement 2016-17 which was signed by the Chairman.

## **7. Accounting Statements 2016-17**

The PC approved the accounting statements for 2016 – 17 and these were signed by the Chairman and Responsible Finance Officer. The Internal

Auditor, Jim McTurk, had approved the annual accounts for which he was formally thanked by the PC.

**Action: JF**

## **8. Planning Applications**

The Parish Council considered the following applications and recorded no objections on planning grounds:

- 17/00793/FUL 114 Strensall Rd YO32 9SJ [Amendment to planning permission 16/02084/FUL] (Raising the ridge height of the existing dwelling, building up the side walls and alterations to roof to create enlarged first floor, rear dormer and balcony to rear and porch to front. Extension to rear of existing garage with pitched roof over, to reduce size of rear balcony, increase the size of the rear dormer, increase size of front window and increase height of part of roof over front access);
- 17/00902/FUL 1 Ilford Close YO32 9LP (Replacement roof to rear conservatory and new first floor rear balcony);
- 17/00948/FUL 1 The Garden Village YO32 9TP (Two storey side and single storey rear extensions);

**Action: JF**

The City of York Council approved the following planning application:

- 16/02738/FUL 1 The Garden Village YO32 9TP (Alterations and extensions to existing detached garage to create rooms in roof with greenhouse extension to rear elevation and erection of boundary walls to side and rear);

The City of York Council deferred planning application:

- 16/02886/FUL Hall Farm Strensall Rd YO32 9SW (Change of use of agricultural buildings to livery stables and caravan touring pitches including refreshment and toilet block).

## **9. Monthly Equipment Check**

The Chairman had circulated details of the monthly check to the PC.

Equipment in the play area has been repainted. The tennis courts have been pressure cleaned in readiness for resurfacing. The tennis benches and posts have been repainted. The post holding the life buoy on the east side of the pond will be cemented in spring. New gates and fence had been installed at the Lock House Lane car park. Graffiti on the back of the ball wall needs further cleaning if it remains in situ.

Agenda item 16 was discussed with item 9. The PC considered the poor condition of the ball wall, sloping seat and hanging bars on the playing fields. The PC agreed to obtain quotes on having this equipment removed with a view to replacing them with other equipment in the future. **Action: SW**

## **10. Reimbursement of Telephone Charges 2016-17**

The PC approved £50 to J Fisher.

## **11. Ratification of payment to Zurich Municipal**

The PC ratified £13.78 to Zurich Municipal being an increase in Insurance Premium Tax from 10% to 12%, and additional to the £988 authorised to Zurich in March 2017.

**12. Good Councillor Guides**

The PC authorised £33.57 to Yorkshire Local Council Assn for 8 copies of the new Good Councillor Guides.

**Action: JF**

**13. Building Society/Bank Deposits**

The PC agreed to transfer £65,000 into Cambridge and Counties Bank in a 3 year bond at 1.4%, and £10,000 into Lloyds Bank for 5 years at approximately 1.4% (+/-0.5%), upon maturity of a £75,000 deposit which is currently in Nationwide Building Society until 5<sup>th</sup> June 2017. (The PC agreed to the £20 CHAPS fee payable on transfer of funds from the RBS to Lloyds Bank.)

**Action: JF**

**14. Inspection of Earswick Trees**

The PC agreed Cllrs Offler, Wiseman and Leveson will survey all the trees on the public open space and if there are any trees of concern the PC will consider employing a tree surgeon.

**Action: GO/SW/PL**

**15. Use of Community Payback Team to Fill Large Holes in Open Space**

The Community Payback Team are due to visit on the evening of 1<sup>st</sup> June. The PC agreed they should trim Diamond Wood during this visit and not fill holes.

**Action: GO**

The PC agreed a working party of volunteers was required to cut away the plastic tubes surrounding each of the young trees in Diamond Wood. This matter will be included on the next agenda.

**Action: JF**

**16. Sports Field Play Equipment**

Discussed under item 9 above.

**17. Tennis Court Income**

A three year maintenance agreement to maintain the tennis courts had been agreed at a meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> April 2017. The PC agreed to include photos of the tennis courts before and after resurfacing to encourage more interest and income.

**Action: PL**

The PC decided against organised clubs as residents can currently turn up and play without having to wait too long.

**18. Laying Paving Flags Next to Bench on Football Pitch**

A large hole has formed under the bench on the playing field so the PC authorised £25 plus VAT to Mr A Hill to lay paving slabs to cover this hole.

**Action: JF**

**19. Promoting Neighbourhood Watch in the Newsletter**

Cllr O'Connor felt that we would get more active participation in the Neighbourhood Watch scheme if more residents were aware of its benefits. He felt that the situation may be improved if these benefits were made clearer in the next Parish Council Newsletter. The PC agreed Cllr O'Connor should

draft an article and agree it with Mr Bill Gambold before publication.

**Action:BOC**

**20. Reimbursement for Lock House Lane Disclaimer Sign**

The PC approved £64.20 to Mrs J Fisher who had purchased the sign from York Sign Company (because they no longer accept cheque payments), on behalf of Earswick Parish Council, as approved at the Parish Council meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2017.

The PC agreed to look into the possibility of timed locks for the Lock House Lane (LHL) gates with a view to reconsidering the opening times of the LHL car park.

**Action: DJ**

**21. Items for Information**

The Burial Board property had been burgled and a ride-on mower stolen, so a new lawn mower had been purchased.

Burial plots are available at a reduced rate currently - if bought in advance.

It was reported that Huntington Cemetery is a joint asset owned by Huntington, Earswick and New Earswick Parish Councils since around 1988. Earswick PC was not aware of this. The Burial Board has accountants looking into this and the possible division of this as an asset.

The PC thanked Cllr Wiseman for repairing the Scented Garden shed roof.

The Foss Internal Drainage Board have agreed to remove giant hogweed in the Diamond Wood area.

In connection with the Neighbourhood Plan, a City of York Council ecologist has recently inspected the three areas identified in the plan as sites of possible ecological and biodiversity value - the Flower Meadow, Pond and Centenary Wood. At this stage of their development only the Flower Meadow may be considered as a Site of Local Interest. The other two areas will be protected in the plan as Green Spaces

**Action: DJ**

The ecologist thought Diamond Wood was a good wood, developing for the future. She was concerned about proposals to remove part of Diamond Wood to develop the Earswick roundabout area and would look to see if there were any alternatives. She was also concerned about other mature trees along the ring road. She suggested the PC ask the Woodland Trust to identify any areas in Diamond Wood that may need tree thinning.

The meeting closed at 8.48pm

Joanne Fisher (Parish Clerk)

**Signed:** ..... **Date:** .....