

## **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 Friday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2018.

**Councillors present:** D Jones  
P Leveson  
S Wiseman  
A Bell

**Parish Clerk:** J Fisher

**Members of the Public Present: G Offler, I Jones, J McTurk**

**1. Apologies for absence**

B O'Connor.

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

None.

**3. Minutes of Previous Meetings**

The minutes for the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council and the Parish Council meeting, both held on the 21<sup>st</sup> May 2018, were approved as accurate records by the Councillors and signed.

**4. Ward Councillors' Reports**

None.

**5. Clerk's Report**

The following pre-authorized payments (incl VAT where appropriate) have been made since the Parish Council (PC) meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2018:-

- J Fisher's salary for May;
- £1,032.16 to Zurich Municipal for insurance;
- £120 to Huntcatchkill PCS Ltd for mole removal;
- £100 to Mr and Mrs Beaumont for bus shelter lease;
- £50 to J Fisher telephone reimbursement;
- £5.68 to J Fisher for stationery;
- £43.25 to J Fisher for ink and paper;
- £8.78 to J Fisher for postage;
- £5.24 to Yorkshire Water;
- £94.03 to Zurich Municipal for insurance of additional fixed assets;
- £32 to R Warriner for Scented Garden lawn treatment;
- £25 to J Fisher for minute book and ink;

Chairman's Signature.....

Date.....

- £2,508 to A Hill for grass cutting to Areas 1, 8 and 3 in April and May; Football Pitch marking in April; River Footpath weedkill in April and May; Strimming the pond area in May; Centenary Wood cut in May.

The following amounts have been received by the PC since reported at the meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> May 2018:

- £6.90 interest on the Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) savings account;
- £675 tennis subscriptions.

The PC authorised the following payments to J Fisher:

- £34 to J Fisher for ink;
- £10.15 to J Fisher for postage;

#### **6. Signing of Declaration of Office for Vice Chairman to Earswick Parish Council**

Cllr Wiseman signed the Declaration of Office for Vice Chairman to Earswick Parish Council following her election to the post at the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2018.

#### **7. Planning Applications**

Regarding planning application 18/00988/FUL The Gables 344 Strensall Rd, YO32 9SW (Erection of double garage (revised scheme)), the Clerk had used her delegated powers to inform City of York Council (CYC) of the Parish Council's comments on the revised scheme as follows:

- The previous plans incorporated an attractive building in keeping with the surrounding properties and built of similar materials.
- This submission is of concrete blocks which is not in keeping with the rural, village setting and the buildings surrounding it.
- The Parish Council is concerned that the proposed garage has an industrial or warehouse look and feel strongly that the proposed concrete corrugated roof is unacceptable.

City of York Council has approved the following planning applications:

- 18-00731/FUL Fossbank Kennels, Strensall Rd, York YO32 9SJ (Erection of four detached dwellings and associated works following demolition of existing buildings (resubmission));
- 18/00684/FUL 49 Earswick Chase, YO32 9FZ (Single storey rear extension).

#### **8. Monthly Equipment Check**

The Chairman had circulated details of the monthly check to the PC prior to the meeting. No action required at present.

**9. Tennis Courts**

The PC agreed to investigate the cost of acquiring wire to thread through the top of the tennis court fence and consider if Parish Council members can install it. **Action: PL**

**10. Ratification of additional insurance cover and costs**

The PC ratified a payment of £94.03 to Zurich Municipal, being an extra insurance charge to cover the Village Hall acoustic panels, new noticeboards and sports field equipment.

**11. Ratification and Reimbursement of Norton Security Costs**

The PC ratified a payment of £32.49 to Norton Security for annual security cover for the PC laptop, and agreed to reimburse J Fisher for this payment.

**12. General Data Protection Register (GDPR)**

The PC agreed to ask Andrew Jones (website administrator) and Lazenbybrown (website domain and host) what options there are with regard to email addresses and the need to meet GDPR requirements.

**Action: JF**

The PC agreed to inform Yorkshire Local Council Associations (YLCA) that it is interested in using YLCA as its Data Protection Officer. **Action: JF**

**13. Huntington Burial Authority**

The PC discussed the issues surrounding its involvement with the Burial Authority (BA).

The PC agreed to contact the Clerk to the BA and inform her Earswick PC is unable to support the proposed contract for the BA Gardener as it is not clear whether he is an employee of the BA (and therefore requires a contract of employment with job description, etc) or a contractor to the BA in which case a work schedule and indemnity insurance certificate are required.

**Action: PL**

Whilst the PC accepts that steps have been taken to address some of their administrative concerns, the major issues of representation, financial accountability and updating of the Constitution in line with YLCA recommendations are still outstanding.

Recent attempts by representatives of the three constituent Parish Councils to resolve these issues have proved unsuccessful.

As a result Earswick Parish Council no longer feels that it can discharge its Burial Authority duties on behalf of its residents in a correct and legal manner.

Earswick Parish Council resolved that if there is no way forward then it would propose to relinquish its share of the joint Burial Authority, to include assets, monies and debts, and withdraw completely from any involvement with the Burial Authority, on the proviso that the residents of Earswick are given twelve months from the date of withdrawal (to be agreed) to pre-purchase plots at the current rate for residents.

The PC asked the Clerk to issue a letter covering these points to the Chairs of the Burial Authority, Huntington and New Earswick PCs. **Action: JF**

If the PC does withdraw from the BA then it will inform its residents.

As the situation currently stands, Earswick PC's Internal Auditor recommends withdrawal from the BA because of a potential adverse financial impact on the Parish in the future.

**14. Removal and Management of Invasive Weeds in the Flower Meadow**

The PC agreed to meet a botanist at the flower meadow to identify unwanted invasive weeds for possible treatment with weedkill. **Action: SW**

**15. Street Light over Bus Stop beside 344 Strensall Rd**

City of York Council (CYC) has reinstalled an old, unsuitable light at the bus stop which does not shine on people waiting at the bus stop. It is not the light requested by Ward Cllr Doughty. The PC agreed to write to CYC requesting installation of the light identified by Ward Cllr Doughty or move the bus stop to where there is sufficient lighting. Cllr Wiseman will draft a letter.

**Action:SW/JF**

**16. Verge Side Grass Cutting along Strensall Rd**

The PC agreed to write to CYC to inform them that the grass verges on Strensall Rd (Willow Grove to Fosslands Estate; Bus shelter near Pips Fold to the Towthorpe Crossing; bus stop outside Garden Village) have not been cut.

**Action: JF**

The PC agreed to write to owners of The Grange, Strensall Rd, to ask them to cut their hedge on the junction of Towthorpe Moor Lane and Strensall Rd on a regular basis, to assist visibility for motorists.

**Action: JF**

**17. Request for residents to cut back vegetation from their properties overhanging footpaths**

The PC agreed to identify houses in Earswick where their garden vegetation extends over the footpaths/property line and ask them to cut it back.

**Action: All**

The PC will ask A Hill to trim the hawthorn hedge on Strensall Rd from the ditch to The Village.

**Action: JF**

**18. Grassed Area at junction of Shilton Garth Close and The Village**

CYC has stopped cutting the grassed area at the junction of Shilton Garth and The Village because it now believes it is the property of Earswick PC. The PC authorised £35 plus VAT to A Hill for an initial cut to this area, then £20 plus VAT per cut, two cuts per month thereafter, from July to October 2018.

**Action: JF**

The PC agreed to write to CYC and ask them how regularly they plan to cut the grass at Stablers Walk and Rowley Court.

**Action: JF**

**19. Holly Tree at junction of Shilton Garth Close and The Village**

The PC authorised £50+VAT to A Hill to prune the lower branches of the holly tree and remove the cuttings.

**Action: JF**

**20. Removal of tree stumps from Persimmon Homes Ltd land in Garden Village**

The PC agreed to write to Persimmons Homes Ltd and ask them to have the tree stumps on their land in Garden Village ground down as they are currently a health and safety risk.

**Action: JF**

**21. Cancelling cheques 001378 and 001392 and issuing replacement cheques to J Fisher**

The PC agreed to cancel cheques 001378 (for £29.99) and 001392 (for £20.80 which were made payable to Mrs J Fisher during 2017-18 and have been mislaid, and issue new cheques for the same amounts to Mrs Fisher.

**Action: JF**

**22. Items for Information**

- There is a wine tasting event in the Village Hall on the 12<sup>th</sup> October;
- Chris Pilkington is leaving the YLCA;
- The new Police Commander has recommended all PCSOs should attend PC meetings;
- £150 donations from the Earswick Coffee Morning Group were received by the charity Smile Train who change the lives of children in developing countries living with untreated clefts;
- There is a Scented Garden Plant sale on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> July. The Clerk was asked to place a notice on the website. **Action: JF**

The meeting closed at 9.10pm

Joanne Fisher  
(Parish Clerk)

Chairman's Signature.....

Date.....