

## 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 17<sup>th</sup> June 2019.

**Councillors present:** D Jones  
A Bell  
G Offler  
B O'Connor  
P Leveson  
BS Wiseman

**Parish Clerk:** J Fisher

**Members of public present:** Six

**1. Apologies for absence**

None.

**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 (PC) meeting held on the 13th May 2019 were approved as accurate records by the Councillors and signed.

**4. Ward Councillors' Reports**

Ward Cllr Fisher had approached City of York Council (CYC) to see if Earswick could apply for additional street lighting in The Village and Strensall Rd. CYC had informed him it has no funding for additional lighting and suggested Earswick PC apply for ward funding.

Cllr Fisher also reported a request by a resident for an extension to the No Cold Calling Zone in Earswick.

Ward Cllr Doughty reported that the consultation period for the Local Plan was open now.

**5. Clerk's Report**

The following pre-authorised payments (incl VAT where appropriate) have been made since the Parish Council (PC) meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2019:-

- J Fisher's salary for May 2019 and arrears of salary for April 2019;
- £50 to J Fisher for telephone reimbursement;
- £72 to replace leaking valves;

- £12 to D Jones reimbursement for Village Hall light bulbs;
- £187 to D Jones reimbursement for the Hallmaster booking system;
- £31.15 to P Leveson for Village Hall cleaning sundries;
- £119.54 to BS Wiseman for Village Hall baby changing table and toilet rolls;
- £750 for flailing and hedge cutting in the flower meadow;
- £12.97 to J Fisher for stationery and stamps;
- £900 for grass cutting in April;
- £48 for River footpath cutting in April;
- £48 for Shilton Garth Grass cut in April;
- £84 for weedkilling in April;
- £360 for Scented Garden hedge cutting;
- £108 for repositioning the metal bench;
- £3,000 to CYC refund of Neighbourhood Plan grant;
- £120 for mole removal;
- £2,790 for new Village Hall footpath;
- £40.20 for quarterly fire inspection;
- £14.64 to J Fisher for second class stamps.

The following amounts have been received by the PC since reported at the meeting on the 13th May 2019:

- £9,146.50 precept;
- £29.57 interest on the Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) savings account
- £200 tennis subscriptions.

£532 income was received, during May, by the PC on behalf of Earswick Village Hall Fund.

The Clerk was asked to calculate the amount owed to the Parish Council from the Village Hall Fund Account, and the amount owed from the Parish Council to the Village Hall Fund Account. **Action: JF**

As the Neighbourhood Plan work has been completed, the Clerk was asked to remove any references from future finance reports. **Action: JF**

## **6. Authorised Signatories and Digital Banking**

The PC discussed segregation of duties but decided to make the Clerk an authorised signatory with a view to digital banking. **Action: JF**

The Clerk was asked to contact the Strensall PC Clerk to see what processes and checks Strensall PC has in place to facilitate digital banking.

**Action: JF**

## **7. Planning Applications**

The Clerk reported CYC approval of the following planning application:

- 19/00459/FUL 13 The Village YO32 9SL (Single storey rear extension);

**8. Monthly Equipment Check**

The PC reported no changes from last month. However, a number of fires had been lit by youths in the woods near Lock House Lane. The fire brigade had been called (it was noted that the fire brigade has a key, and the code to the key box, to allow access to the Sports Field).

PCSO Andy Smith joined the PC meeting and discussed the problems of youths drinking and lighting fires in the woods near Lock House Lane. The PC asked if the police could make their presence known more regularly in that area – particularly in the summer months.

**9. Pruning or Removal of Tree Damaging Fence of 56 Earswick Chase**

The PC will obtain a quote and authorised up to £150 to do this work.

**Action: JF**

**10. Flower Meadow**

Following the earlier flailing of vegetation at the edge of the flower meadow, there is a branch in a dangerous condition. There are also a number of trees looking unsightly.

The PC approved a quote for £300 to reduce some trees to ground level, move the cuttings and tidy other trees. The PC agreed to inform residents of any work in this area to be carried out. None of this work will be carried out until the Flower Meadow perimeter is cut. Cllr Offler will liaise with the contractor as regards timing of work.

**Action: GO**

The Clerk was asked to contact D&J Stead to confirm the Flower Meadow perimeter will be cut at the end of July.

**Action: JF**

**11. Earswick Planters**

The PC authorised £15.16 to J Pace as reimbursement for purchase of flowers for the planters.

**12. Scented Garden**

Quotes had been received on removing all the plants from the overgrown flower beds and reducing the beds sizes, and these ranged from approximately £4k to £6k plus VAT.

It was agreed the grassed areas also needed attention. The PC discussed lifting the turf and replacing with a membrane and gravel or bark, and decided to obtain quotes for this work.

**Action: BOC**

The PC agreed to defer any decisions to a future PC meeting. Any work will not take place until the Autumn. The PC asked the Ward Cllrs to 'flag up' a request for ward funding towards the costs of redoing the flower beds, etc.

**13. Extending the Neighbourhood Watch Cold Calling Controlled Zone (CCCZ)**

A request to extend the Cold Calling Controlled Zone has been made, and a CYC quote of £1,644.90 for 102 houses has been received. The PC felt this

cost would outweigh any benefit. Also, they believed approximately 90% of Earswick was already in a CCCZ and that the CYC information about which properties were not in a CCCZ may be incorrect. The Clerk was asked to check PC records and ask CYC to check their records. **Action: JF**

**14. Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS)**

A tree branch is impeding the VAS as one heads from the A1237 towards Strensall. The Clerk was asked to contact Andy Hill to ask him to quote for trimming this branch and the action at item 9 above. **Action: JF**

Cllrs Leveson and Jones had met with Ben Potter, CYC Engineer, to discuss traffic issues along Strensall Rd and he had agreed to arrange for the cleaning of the VAS as one heads from Strensall to the A1237.

**15. River Foss Society**

The PC authorised £28 to the River Foss Society for annual membership.

**16. Reduction in possible car collisions at Earswick mini-roundabouts**

Further to item 14 above, Ben Potter CYC Engineer has advised that speed concern forms should be submitted to North Yorkshire police. **Action: JF**  
Data gathered through this process will then be considered and relevant measures offered. The data will also be compared to existing data which CYC hold for further north of the Earswick Chase roundabout, as they evaluate the success of the experimental 40mph limit between Towthorpe crossroads and Earswick. A decision is due to be made in Nov/Dec 2019 on whether the limit is made permanent.

The PC had asked for a VAS indicating a roundabout but Mr Potter said the site doesn't currently meet the criteria for a warning sign VAS. However, CYC is currently organising a trial of a new type of VAS which may result in a review of VAS policy. So, whilst it cannot recommend anything at present it may be able to offer this in the future.

**17. Wood Treatment of Childrens Playground Bench**

The PC agreed to ask Martin Whittaker if he would clean and wood treat the playground bench as he had two previous benches, and authorised up to £60 to do this work. **Action: JF**

**18. Rats around Pond**

No action required at present.

**19. Norton Security for PC Laptop**

The PC authorised payment of £32.49 to J Fisher as reimbursement for purchase of Norton Security for the PC laptop.

**20. Items for Information**

The new Standards Committee is up and running as from 17<sup>th</sup> June, and Cllr Wiseman is Vice Chair for Parish Representatives.

The Clerk was asked to contact the Monitoring Officer to ascertain the position of Earswick PC's complaint.

The Clerk was asked to include the green ribbon scheme for dog walkers on the next agenda. **Action: JF**

The meeting closed at 9.22pm

Joanne Fisher (Parish Clerk)

Chairman's Signature.....

Date.....