

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 25th November 2019.

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

Parish Clerk: J Fisher

Members of public present: Fourteen

1. Apologies for absence

Ward Cllr Doughty.

2. Declarations of Interest and Any Other Declarations

None

3. Minutes of Previous Meetings

The minutes for the Parish Council (PC) meeting held on the 14th October 2019, were approved as accurate records by the Councillors and signed.

4. Ward Councillors' Reports

Ward Cllr Fisher reported:

- Both Ward Cllrs Doughty and Fisher had emailed the Chief Executive to City of York Council (CYC) to express their concerns over the closure of The Village on 8.11.19, and in particular that no risk assessment had been carried out. CYC agreed Ward Cllrs and Parish Councils should be informed in advance of such action in the future.
- The 18 month trial of the 40mph speed restriction on Strensall Rd has been completed and has been put forward for approval by CYC.
- Dualling of the Monks Cross roundabout has been postponed because of the discovery of great crested newts. This means the dualling of the roundabout at Clifton Moor will be next, although the scheduling of all the dualling (including the Earswick roundabout due next year) is now uncertain.
- Cllr Fisher has submitted a bid to have a cycle track from Strensall to the A1237.

5. Clerk's Report

The following pre-authorised payments (incl VAT where appropriate) have been made since the Parish Council (PC) meeting on 14th October 2019:-

- J Fisher's salary for October 2019;
- £143.47 for Newsletter printing;
- £240 for the external audit fees;
- £164.40 for the RoSPA check on play equipment;
- £23.92 for plants to fill planters;
- £19.75 for life buoy rope;
- £2,614.18 to the Earswick Scented Garden Project.

The following amounts have been received by the PC since reported at the meeting on the 14th October 2019:

- £28.56 RBS interest;
- £30 tennis subscription.

The PC authorised £25 to J Fisher for ink, and £20 to RBS Bank for a CHAPS bank transfer.

6. Approval of 2020-21 Budget and Precept

The PC approved the draft 2020-21 budget and agreed to increase the 2020-21 annual precept to £21,952. **Action: JF**

7. Planning Applications

The PC had looked at the arboreal report from CYC and decided it had no objection to the following planning application:

- 19/02390/TPO 5 High Garth YO32 9FR (works to reduce the height and spread of an ash tree subject to a Tree Protection Order (TPO));

City of York Council has approved the following planning applications:

- 19/01464/FUL 356 Strensall Rd YO32 9SW (Part conversion of existing detached garage/store to form 1no. holiday let);
- 19/01756/FUL 1 Fir Tree Close, YO32 9XT (Single storey rear extension and erection of detached timber gazebo to rear (part retrospective)).

8. Monthly Equipment Check

The Village Hall sole trustee charity will consider replacing the matting in the children's play area. In conjunction with the PC, an application for ward funding may be submitted to add to the children's play equipment.

9. River Foss Society Offer to Plant 420 Tree Whips

The PC discussed the offer and decided not to accept planting in the Flower Meadow as the PC had recently removed vegetation from the meadow to encourage growth of wild meadow flowers.

10. Future Plans for the Scented Garden

A report was presented to the PC by a representative of the Scented Garden Committee. Please see annex A.

The PC expressed its gratitude for the hard work of the Scented Garden Committee. The Clerk was asked by the PC to write to the Scented Garden Committee to raise the points given at annex B. **Action: JF**

11. Renewal of Parish Online

The PC approved £36 to Geosphere Ltd for renewal of Parish Online.

Action: JF

12. Internal Audit Report

Cllrs O'Connor and Leveson carried out an internal audit of the PC's 'cash' book, invoices and minutes. Please see annex C.

13. Items for Information

- A proposal to extend the double yellow lines near the entrance to The Village, supported by the PC, went to the CYC Executive who objected to any extension.
- The Standards Board wishes to bring PC standards in line with CYC standards.
- £115 was donated to St Leonard's hospice by attendees of recent coffee mornings.
- A waste bin for Garden Village is on order by CYC.

The meeting closed at 8.23pm

Joanne Fisher (Parish Clerk)

Annex A

The Scented Garden committee would like to thank the Parish Council for the support they have received in dealing with recent problems and for the funding provided.

The majority of this work has now been completed reducing the area requiring attention as agreed in the conditions.

At a recent garden committee meeting it was ascertained that 24 individuals have offered their services to assist in the upkeep of the garden.

The volunteers will return the border at the front and rear of the gardens to a good standard using plants which have been thoroughly cleared of weeds to prevent any recurrence of previous weed problems and the ground will be covered by weed control before planting. No other planting will take place as agreed with Parish Council. The lawns are recovering and advice is being sought as to any treatment that is required.

The Scented garden committee would like to continue having total responsibility for maintaining the garden without any paid assistance for the next two years. To be reviewed by the Parish council at the conclusion.

Fund raising will continue with two plant sales per years plus any other funding assistance that can be obtained.

Scented Garden Committee

November 2019

Chairman's Signature.....

Date.....

Annex B

Scented Garden Constitution and other points discussed at the November PC meeting, and previous meetings.

At the Scented Garden Committee (SGC) meeting on the 8th May, it was agreed 6 of the 8 beds surrounding the central bed with the obelisks would be reduced by 50% (these beds will remain empty and the membrane not cut until Spring 2020). Furthermore, the remaining 2 beds at the front of the garden were to be retained in size. This was reaffirmed by the SGC when agreeing to the 'Other Considerations' and 'Appendix 1: Outline Plan for the Continuing Viability of the Earswick Scented Garden', both given at Annex A to the August 2019 Parish Council Minutes.

At the November PC meeting, the PC was informed by the SGC that weeding and removal of plants from front and back border beds is to be undertaken by 24 Scented Garden membership volunteers. In line with the SGC Constitution, the PC asked the SGC to elect a Secretary who must produce a complete list of the membership volunteers, with contact details. Also as per the SGC Constitution, the PC would ask the SGC Secretary to call an Annual General Meeting of its members as soon as possible (with 14 days notice), where nominations for Executive Committee positions should be decided from those present. The PC representative to the SGC should be notified when this meeting will take place. Minutes from this meeting should be produced and copied to the PC.

Also at the November PC meeting, it was noted that the SGC would like to be the sole maintainers of the Scented Garden for two years, with no further financial input from the PC as the SGC will raise funds from plant sales, etc.

Chairman's Signature.....

Date.....

Earswick Parish Council's Internal Audit

Councillor O'Connor and Councillor Leveson met with the Parish Clerk on the 16 October 2019 to carry out an internal audit of Earswick Parish Council's accounts.

BUC *SIX* *VC*
~~Eight~~ payments were chosen at random covering a variety of amounts and payees.

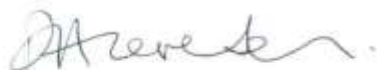
Checks consisted of reference to the original approval in the Minutes, the invoice and the cheque stub.

In all cases we are satisfied that the correct financial procedures have been followed.

Councillor O'Connor



Councillor Leveson



16 October 2019