

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 13th January 2020.

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

Parish Clerk: J Fisher

Members of public present: Twelve

1. Apologies for absence

None.

2. Declarations of Interest and Any Other Declarations

Cllrs Wiseman, Leveson and Offler declared an interest in item 12.

3. Minutes of Previous Meetings

The minutes for the Parish Council (PC) meeting held on the 25th November 2019, were approved as accurate records by the Councillors and signed.

4. Ward Councillors' Reports

Ward Cllr Doughty reported:

- City of York Council (CYC) is proposing a 3.99% Council Tax levy (including Social Care). This proposal will be put forward to the Executive Members on 4.2.20.
- No feedback has been received yet on the December Local Plan hearings.

5. Clerk's Report

The following pre-authorized payments (incl VAT where appropriate) have been made since the Parish Council (PC) meeting on 25th November 2019:-

- J Fisher's salary for November and December 2019;
- £72.95 to J Fisher being reimbursement for purchase of pond fence padlocks;
- £5.12 to Yorkshire Water;
- £900 grass cut in August;

Chairman's Signature.....

Date.....

- £84 August grass cut in Centenary Wood;
- £48 River Foss footpath cut in August;
- £84 Footpath weedkill in August;
- £120 August grass cut in Diamond Wood;
- £48 Shilton Garth grass cut in August;
- £780 grass cut in September;
- £84 September grass cut in Centenary Wood;
- £48 River Foss footpath cut in September;
- £96 Diamond Wood grass cut in September;
- £48 Shilton Garth grass cut in September;
- £732 pond area clearance;
- £690 flower meadow cut;
- £36 for Parishonline;
- £25 to J Fisher for ink;
- £876 for grass cut, River Foss footpath cut and Shilton Garth grass cut in October;
- £20 to RBS for CHAPS transfer.

Yorkshire Water has been replaced by Business Stream. The PC authorised future water payments to Business Stream in line with the budget amount approved 18.3.19. The PC ratified a payment of £7.57 to Business Stream.

A cheque for £120 was prepared by the PC for mole removal yet it appears only £20 was withdrawn from the RBS account. The Clerk is chasing this up with RBS.

Action: JF

£85,000 was transferred from the RBS current account into a Lloyds Treasury account for 3 years with a fixed interest rate at 1.4% pa.

The following amounts have been received by the PC since reported at the meeting on the 25th November 2019:

- £31.55 and £30.54 RBS interest;
- £0.45 interest on the RBS tennis a/c.

6. 2020-2021 Precept Notice

The Chairman and the Clerk signed the 2020-2021 Precept notice requesting £21,952 precept for Earswick.

Action: JF

7. Planning Applications

City of York Council (CYC) has approved 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));

8. Monthly Equipment Check

The PC is hoping to replace the playground matting in Spring 2020, and will be obtaining a quote shortly.

9. Parish Council's Laptop Support

The PC authorised £143 to J Fisher for purchase of annual laptop support from PC Knowhow.

Action: JF

10. 75th Anniversary of VE Day

The PC agreed to explore the options with regard to holding VE celebrations in Earswick on 8th or 10th May 2020.

Action: PL

11. Shilton Garth Close

Although the PC has been maintaining the grass verge in Shilton Garth Close for a number of years, it does not have title to this land. Indeed, no-one currently holds the title. The owner of the land adjacent to this verge wishes to secure legal access rights across this verge. The PC decided it was not in its interest to pursue a claim to this land and suggested the owner of the adjacent land could apply to the Land Registry to have it registered in their name. The Clerk was asked to inform said owner.

Action: JF

12. A1237 Development

As at December 2019, CYC wished to purchase a half of Diamond Wood to make changes to the Earswick roundabout on the A1237. (ie three lanes in, two lanes out, and an underpass). CYC now wish to purchase all of Diamond Wood. The PC does not currently agree with this proposal as it would restrict access to the Flower Meadow for both itself and the Foss Internal Drainage Board (FIDB). The PC agreed further discussion was necessary between Earswick Parish Council, CYC, the District Valuer, FIDB, Ward Cllrs and Julian Sturdy MP – to get an up to date position on what is proposed, options, timing, effect on travel north to south across the A1237, noise, pollution, drainage, etc. The Clerk will contact the PC's representative to arrange this meeting.

Action: JF

(Affected property owners seeking any compensation will need to take the matter up directly with CYC.)

13. Employing a Tree Surgeon and Removing Trees in Centenary Wood

The PC approved up to £300 plus VAT to Branching Out Tree and Garden Services Ltd, to remove three trees butting against the fences of residents.

Action: GO

14. NALC Legal Topic Note 22, Template for Grievance and Disciplinary Handling

The PC agreed to adopt NALC Legal Topic Note 22.

Action JF

15. Road Surfaces in Shilton Garth and The Village

Ward Cllrs Fisher and Doughty agreed to approach CYC to request repairs to potholes, and remove moss, along The Village and Shilton Garth Close. The Clerk contacted CYC in November, requesting repairs to the potholes in The Village. The Clerk will follow this up too. **Action: JF/Ward Cllrs**

16. Earswick Chase/Strensall Rd Roundabouts

The PC discussed the on-going problems with the Earswick mini-roundabouts. There was a significant crash in December to which the police were called.

The Clerk was asked to contact CYC to obtain an update on the trial of the new Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) in Strensall. In particular, the PC was wondering if any findings may have altered the criteria for a VAS. Also, the PC was wondering if the speed data gathered during the 40mph speed trial along Strensall Rd may support their case for VA signs at the Earswick mini-roundabouts. **Action: JF**

17. Questions for Corporate Director of Economy and Place, CYC

The PC agreed to ask questions on the following matters:

- Recycling process;
- Lessons learned after the recent road closure in The Village, and a road closure in Strensall (for Election voting);
- Update on the Local Plan;
- Involvement of all PCs affected by the A1237 road improvements.

Action: SW

18. Items for Information

- Scented Garden members were meeting on the 14th January to discuss planting arrangements. The PC suggested they also discuss the agenda for their AGM which should be held by the end of January, in line with their constitution.
- Cllr Wiseman reported the FIDB has submitted plans to 'hold' River Foss water upstream (behind Walbutts Farm), to alleviate flood risks.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm

Joanne Fisher (Parish Clerk)