**EARSWICK PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the meeting of Earswick Parish Council, held in Earswick Village Hall on Monday 11th December 2023.

**Councillors present:** D Jones

G Offler

P Leveson

M Lumley-Holmes

BS Wiseman

A Bell

**Parish Clerk:**  B O’Connor

**Members of public present:** 0

1. **Apologies for absence**

Ward Cllrs Healey & Fisher

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

None.

1. **Minutes of Previous Meetings**

The minutes for the Parish Council (PC) meeting held on 4th September 2023, were approved as an accurate record by the Councillors and duly signed.

1. **Member Of The Public Section**

N/A

1. **Virgin Media Boxes In The Village**

The matter was discussed. The clerk was asked to write to Virgin Media requesting that they replace the grey boxes already installed with green ones, and, if they can’t, to please provide an explanation that can be passed on to residents. **Action BOC**

1. **Ward Councillors’ Reports**

N/A as no Ward Cllr at the meeting.

1. **Clerk’s Finance Report & Authorisation Of Expenditure**

The following pre-authorised payments (incl VAT where appropriate) have been made from the Barclays bank account since the PC meeting on 4th September 2023:-

* Clerk’s salary for September, October & November 2023 (£636.50 x 3)
* British Gas payments for the Village Hall - £8.78, £17.49 and & £38.60
* E-on Next payments for the Village Hall - £81.11, £79.21 & £127.40;
* Public Open Space maintenance - £1,764, £684 & £1,746
* Extra work in Centenary Wood - £144
* For Village Hall cleaning: £200 (Sept), £256.60(Oct) & £220 (Nov)
* Barclay’s Bank charges £8.50 x 3
* Scottish Water £61.55 & £9.34
* Mole Control - £120
* ROSPA inspection - £180
* AFS – fire safety inspection £123.42
* Maintenance of Scented Garden (SG) - £160
* Boiler Service £96
* Reimburse Cllr Offler - £25.20 for plants
* Painting - Village Hall - £180
* Removal Of Logs/Branches Near Lock House Lane -£450

The following amounts have been received by the PC into the Barclays account since reported at the meeting on 4th September 2023:

* £3.016 in Village Hall Bookings
* Final part of Precept - £14,224.50
* VAT Refund - £3,218.78
* Interest on the Redwood Bank account £248.71, + £240.68 x 2

1. **Ratification of Payments**

The PC approved the following payments:

1. Repair/replace tap in Scented Garden - £118.38;
2. **Planning Applications**

The Clerk used delegated powers to record no objections from the Parish Council on the following planning applications:

* 23/01988/FUL - The Grange Foss Bank Farm Strensall Road, Erection of outbuilding to provide covered parking with installation of EV charging point – no objection.
* 23/01904/TPO, 2 Shilton Garth Close - Crown lifting and dead wood removal on 1 no. Oak tree protected by Tree Preservation Order 247 – no objection

The following planning applications were approved by City of York Council:

* 23/01603/TPO 124 Strensall Road – felling of dead tree (TPO)– approved
* 23/01530/CPD, 25 Stablers Walk Earswick York YO32 9UZ, Certificate of lawfulness for proposed development of a single storey rear extension – approved as permitted development.

Developments at the following sites were discussed:

* 112 Strensall Road – Earswick PC will monitor the situation – we are awaiting the outcome of the City Of York Council’s (CYC’s) application for a warrant to enter the premises.
* 258 Strensall Road – Earswick PC await a revised planning application. The clerk was asked to write to CYC as there are signs of multiple occupancy. **Action BOC**

1. **Monthly Equipment Check**

A check was carried out by Cllr Offler and a report circulated prior to the meeting. This was discussed. Cllr Lumley-Holmes reported that the trees mentioned in the report are not a danger to residents and no further action is required at this stage.

1. **Double Taxation**

The matter was discussed. The clerk was asked to clarify with CYC as to whether double taxation applies to assets owned by the PC so that we can complete the form accordingly. Once agreement reached within the PC, the clerk to submit the forms. **Action BOC**

1. **Playground Signs**

The matter was discussed and it was agreed that the signs should be replaced up at a cost of up to of £64 +VAT. **Action Cllr Offler**

1. **Street Lighting Near Bus Stop (heading North) On Strensall Road**

The matter was discussed. The clerk was asked to write to CYC asking for a site meeting to explore options to improve lighting near the bus stop. **Action BOC**

1. **Seat At Bus Stop (Opposite The Village Street)**

The matter was discussed. The bus shelter is not owned by the PC, and the owners won’t allow seating to be installed in the bus shelter.

1. **Memorial In Scented Garden**

The matter was discussed. It was agreed that 4 Rosa Irene roses should be purchased at a cost of £80 and planted in memory of Mrs Irene Jones. **Action Cllr Lumley-Holmes**

1. **Extra Work In Public Open Space**

The matter was discussed and it was agreed that £400 + VAT be authorised to pay Andy Hill for two day’s work in clearing / cutting back shrubs, bushes & trees in the Public Open Space. The clerk was asked to inform Andy Hill of this. **Action BOC**

1. **Hedge Alongside Strensall Road (Beside High Garth)**

The matter was discussed. The clerk was asked to write to CYC requesting a site visit to discuss the removal of the hedge and the possibility of widening the footpath once the hedge removed. The PC is open to paying CYC to remove the hedge but would like CYC to pay for the widening of the pavement. **Action BOC**

The clerk was also asked to draft a note to be sent to nearby residents to inform them of the plan to remove the hedge. **Action BOC**

1. **Contract For Cutting The Flower Meadow**

The matter was discussed. Cllrs Offler & Lumley-Holmes to meet the contractor on site to discuss/supervise. **Action Cllrs Offler & Lumley-Holmes**

1. **City Of York’s Local Transport Strategy**

The matter was discussed. Cllr Wiseman will try to find time to accept the invitation to attend a session in the new year. **Action Cllr Wiseman**

1. **Keeping Clerk’s Salary In Line With NALC Recommendations**

The matter was discussed and it was agreed that we should keep the clerk’s salary in line with NALC recommendations, and back-date the increase to 1st April 2023. The extra cost is £600 p.a. **Action BOC**

1. **Ratification of decisions**

The PC ratified the following decisions:

* + To endorse Jonathan Dent’s nomination to the Foss Internal Drainage Board

1. **Items for information**

* A letter from Gary Frost was forwarded to James Stephenson/Johnny Cordingley – the PC’s agents in the sale of parts of Diamond Wood.
* Cllrs Wiseman & Lumley-Holmes met a resident who wanted access to the field / Diamond Wood so that he could more easily remove some trees. Access was refused as there are ownership disputes with neighbours. Once these disputes are resolved, the decision will be reviewed.
* Cllr Lumley Holmes gave a brief repost on a Foss Internal Drainage Board meeting that he attended.
* Cllr Leveson gave a brief report on the recent YLCA meeting that she attended – the major topic seemed to be the 20mph speed limit.

The meeting closed at 8:32 pm.

**B O’Connor**

**Clerk To Earswick Parish Council**