**EARSWICK PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the meeting of Earswick Parish Council, held in Earswick Village Hall on Monday 28th October 2024.

**Councillors present:** D Jones

M Lumley-Holmes

P Leveson

BS Wiseman

C Ellis

**Parish Clerk:**  B O’Connor

**Members of public present:** 1

1. **Apologies for absence**

None

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

Cllr Wiseman declared an interest in item 10 as her land forms some of the boundary covered by the Policy for the Maintenance of Trees/Hedges in the Public Open Space.

1. **Minutes of Previous Meetings**

The minutes for the Parish Council (PC) meeting held on the 9th September 2024, were approved as an accurate record by the Councillors and were duly signed.

1. **Members Of The Public Session**

A members of the public session took place.

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 Parish Council (PC) meeting on 9th September 2024:-

* Clerk’s salary for September & October 2024
* E-on Next payments for the Village Hall - £39.15 & £36.74
* Reimburse Clerk for IONOS subscription - £45
* Public Open Space maintenance - £1,788
* For Village Hall cleaning: £165 (September)
* Barclay’s Bank charges £8.50
* Laying of path to Scented Garden - £2,964
* British Gas payments for the Village Hall - £30.73
* Playsafety/ROSPA - £98.40
* Reimburse Cllr Leveson for soap for use in Village Hall - £15.59
* AFS – fire safety inspection - £134
* AFS – fire safety maintenance - £130.74
* Reimburse Cllr Leveson for supplies for use in Village Hall - £39.56
* Reimburse Cllr Lumley Holmes for plants for Scented Garden - £21.12

The following amounts have been received by the PC into the Barclays account since reported at the meeting on 9th September 2024:

* Village Hall Bookings £845
* Interest on the Redwood Bank account £240.68
* Precept - £14,387

1. **Ratification of Payments**

The PC approved the following payments:

1. Domestic Chores – maintenance work in Village Hall - £75
2. Reimburse clerk (key cutting, printer ink & land registry enquiry) - £51.66

1. **Planning Applications**

The Clerk used delegated powers to record views of the Parish Council on the following planning applications:

* 24/02667/FUL 26 Lock House Lane – single storey extensions to rear– no objection;
* 24/01217/FUL The Grange, 388 Strensall Road, Earswick – erection of 1no. two storey dwelling to rear with swimming pool and associated landscaping – objection as it’s within the green belt with no special circumstances.;

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

* N/A

Applications where the CYC have outstanding actions:

* Land Behind Fire Station accessed from Strensall Road, Earswick – awaiting reply from CYC
* HMO at 258 Strensall Road – awaiting reply from CYC

1. **Monthly Equipment Check**

A check was carried out by Cllr Jones and a report circulated prior to the meeting. This was discussed and no action required

1. **Installation Of Wi-Fi Services In The Village Hall**

The matter was discussed. It was agreed to install Wi-Fi services in the village hall with a one-off cost of £150 plus £32.95 per month for 2 years. **Cllr Lumley Holmes** to make the arrangements.

The clerk was asked to see if we can get a grant for some or all of these costs. **Action BOC**

1. **Policy For The Maintenance Of Trees / Hedges In The Public Open Space**

The matter was discussed. It was agreed that it would be useful to add a diagram showing the areas referred to.

The policy was agreed with the amendment that reference to the maintenance of the hedge on Strensall Road should excluded as this is now the responsibility of CYC.

**Cllr Lumley-Holmes** to provide the clerk with an amended version so that it can be published on the web site. **Action BOC**

The clerk was asked to write to CYC requesting details of their maintenance plan for the hedge on Strensall Road so that this could be shared with residents. **Action BOC**

1. **Maintenance / Replacement Of The Fence Around The Playground.**

The matter was discussed. It was agreed we should accept the quote for its replacement at a cost of £3,995 +VAT. The clerk was asked to write to the supplier to confirm this. **Action BOC**

The clerk was asked to write to our Ward Cllrs to see if we can get a grant for some or all of this expenditure. **Action BOC**

1. **Establishing A Maintenance Contract For The Defibrillator**

The matter was discussed. It was agreed that we do not need a maintenance contract at the moment. **Cllr Ellis** agreed to take over the routine checking and ‘The Circuit’ contact.

**Cllr Ellis** agreed to ask Veterinary Practice on Willow Grove whether they would be willing to have a defib housing on one of their walls.

1. **Maintenance Of The Flower Meadow**

The matter was discussed. It was agreed in principle that we should move to a ‘Cut & Mulch’ system rather than current baling system which is not feasible. **Cllrs Lumley Holmes & Wiseman** to discuss with current contractor the arrangements for 2025

1. **Improving The Car Parking Arrangements In Garden Village, Especially Near The Gate To The Field.**

The matter was discussed. **Cllr Lumley Holmes** agreed to get quotes for a dropped kerb for discussion at the next meeting.

1. **Resignations Of Councillors Bell & Offler**

The matter was discussed. The clerk was asked to put up notices advertising the vacancies and to inform CYC. **Action BOC**

1. **Work To Improve Drainage Of Village Hall & Riverside Footpaths**

The matter was discussed. **Cllr Lumley Holmes** to see whether the work could be done by a community payback team.

1. **Maintenance Of Lock House Lane Car Park**

The matter was discussed. **Cllrs Lumley Holmes & Ellis** to assess damage and if appropriate to get a quote for its repair.

1. **Review Of Double Taxation Claim**

The matter was discussed. Earswick Parish Council will endeavour to claim back money we have spent maintaining the hedge on Strensall Road over the past 16 years now that CYC have accepted that the hedge was legally their responsibility. The clerk was asked to collate the data to allow this to happen. **Action BOC**.

1. **Repair Of Village Hall Roof**

The matter was discussed. The repair (£750 + VAT) was authorised using the clerk’s emergency powers and the decision was ratified at this meeting.

1. **Clearing Of Village Hall Gutters**

The matter was discussed. Cllr **Leveson** to ask Domestic Chores to clean the gutters.

1. **Ratification of decisions**

The PC ratified the following decisions:

* + To write again to CYC asking for them to repair light above bus stop outside 344 Strensall Road asking CYC ‘How long does it take to change a light bulb?’ and to copy the chief exec

1. **Items for information**

* Cllr Leveson gave a summary of a YLCA meeting.
* The following are to be added to the agenda of the next meeting
  + Budget / Precept request
  + Village Hall hire fees & Tennis membership fees
  + Asset register
  + Coffee morning dates for 2025

The meeting closed at 8:45 pm.

**B O’Connor**

**Clerk To Earswick Parish Council**