

MINUTES of the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

held on Monday 6 July 2015 at 7.30 p.m. at Barwick - in - Elmet Methodist Schoolroom

PRESENT :

Councillor	Claire Hassell (Chair)	
Councillors	David Leeming	Neil Beaumont
	Glyn Davies	Paul Remmer
	Karen Dales	Stella Walsh
	Matthew Willey	Tom Crosfill

In attendance: One Scholes resident, one Barwick - in - Elmet resident, PCSO Chris Barrett (part), Ron Miller (Wetherby News) and the clerk

1 APOLOGIES: Cllrs. Amanda Munro, Matt Baker and Geoff Yapp.

2 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST: None

3 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was **resolved** that the minutes of the **Parish Council Meeting (2/2015)** held on 1 June 2015 (365-368) having been circulated, be approved and signed, proposed Cllr. Beaumont, seconded Cllr. Willey, all were in favour.

4 MATTERS ARISING

Scholes Developments – The Secretary of State has called in the appeal – i.e. he has directed that he shall determine the appeal instead of an inspector. This follows a previous communication saying that the appeal for the development in Scholes was to be co-joined with another Barratt David Wilson Homes appeal.

Cllr. Hassell has been to a site allocations meeting where their proposals will be going to the executive board in nine days' time. There is one site in the parish, i.e. fifteen houses behind Manor House.

5 CRIME REPORT

There were four burglaries/attempted burglaries in June. Three bicycles were stolen from the garage of a property on Fieldhead Drive on the 6th, a garage on Rakehill Road (Scholes) was broken into on the 15th and the following day a garage on Station Road was also broken into – there was nothing taken in either incident. There was an attempt to force open a garage door on Oaklea Road on the 22nd but the suspects fled after the noise woke the occupants. As well as these four crimes, there was a theft of a sundial ornament from the garden of a property on Church Farm View on the 26th.

It was reported that two burglars who live near the parish are now locked up.

The PSCO again urged people to lock their doors, in a recent spot check in a nearby parish, 30% of cars were found to have been left with their doors unlocked.

The PSCO was asked if information about crimes could be put on community Facebook pages (e.g. Village News) – he was happy with this.

The PSCO also confirmed that those doing door to door sales work who are bused down from the North-East are genuine (though admittedly are former convicts on a rehabilitation programme).

6 FINANCE

6.1 It was **resolved** that the **cash book summary and budget monitor for June** be approved showing payments of £4,239.52 (cheques totaling £4,239.98 and a direct debit of £41.96).

6.2 It was **resolved** that nine cheques for July amounting to £3,253.01 be approved.

6.3 Listing election costs as a separate item on the budget monitor – this topic was broken into two separate issues, i.e. whether to agree to this in principle and if so, how much to budget for. It was **resolved** that in principle, the PC should budget for having election costs listed as a separate item in the budget. Proposed Cllr. Hassell, seconded Cllr. Remmer. All were in favour. It was decided to wait for the invoice to come through for the last election before setting the amount.

6.4 Budget Surplus – there has been much discussion at recent meetings about the amount currently being held by the PC. However, it was felt that it should be kept for capital projects, it was felt that our situation might change and as such, we should retain what we have for clearly identified projects.

7 CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk presented the list of **correspondence** (2438-2459) received since the last meeting details of which had been previously circulated. There have been seven communications from the Yorkshire Local Councils Association (2439, 2440, 2445, 2450, 2452, 2453 and 2459) and one from LCC (2455). The other items were;

- 2438 Rural Action Yorkshire e-bulletin
- 2441 Company Solutions (UK) Limited – Fund raising training courses in Leeds
- 2442 Telephone call from a resident wanting financial help to level to garden for a shed for a mobility scooter
- 2443 Concern from a resident about the bridge at the junction of The Avenue and The Approach
- 2444 Contact list for Leeds Outer-North East area
- 2446 RoSPA half day training course in playground inspection – 18th September
- 2447 E-mail from Councillor Robinson regarding dog fouling issues on Rakehill Road
- 2448 Campaign to Protect Rural England Spring Newsletter
- 2449 Invitation to CPRE’s free community energy workshop
- 2551 LCC - “Unloneliness” Conference and afternoon tea with the Lord Mayor
- 2554 Relocation of Austhorpe Road surgery and the impact on patients from Scholes
- 2556 Information from a resident about LCC Site Allocations and the papers being considered by the Development Plans Panel
- 2457 Rural Action Yorkshire e-bulletin
- 2458 Company Solutions (UK) Limited – Fund raising training course in Leeds on 22nd September

The quality of the bus service was discussed (2554) and the effect of dog fouling on the scout group (2447). The clerk has exchanged e-mails with a senior engineer, LCC Bridges Section regarding item 2443.

8 OTHER ITEMS

8.1 Review of completed risk assessments. – Since the inspection of assets in Barwick - in – Elmet ward on 12th May a similar inspection of asset in Scholes has now been completed. Several issues were identified, the most urgent ones being the old goalposts, the gas box on the scout hut and the flagstones at the sports pavilion being a trip hazard as they are not flush with the tarmac. Other issues included the down pipe on the scout hut depositing rainwater directly onto the ground, a broken “No Dogs” sign, a kissing gate issue (which was repaired) and weed growth at the back of the tennis

courts. Cllr. Remmer will e-mail the full list (and has taken photographs). Scholes Sports Association will be contacted about the goalposts and scouts about the gas box. The numbered bench tags have now arrived and been fitted and the benches inspected. Weed growth is preventing the bench at the bottom of Potterton Lane being used fully.

8.2 Report and Recommendations from the playground inspection training 2nd June – Three councilors attended training at Barwick - in – Elmet cricket pavilion. The training course included an on-site inspection of the playground on Welfare Avenue and a number of risks were identified. The clerk will e-mail Leeds City Council to highlight these. Certificates of course completion are awaited.

8.3 Neighbourhood Development Plan – The Steering Group met on the Wednesday following the last PC meeting. A draft plan from consultant David Gluck is still awaited. Meanwhile the Housing Needs Survey has been completed and circulated to all councillors. It was **resolved** to adopt the survey, proposed Cllr. Hassell, seconded Cllr. Beaumont, there was one abstention and everyone else was in favour. The next meeting of the Steering Group is this Wednesday. An opportunity was recently taken to update residents about the NDP at Scholes Gala.

8.4 Facebook, website & social media reports – There were 147 likes this month and 552 visits to our Facebook page. There have been a couple of discussion points. A resident wanting to advertise the fact that there is a weekly cycling club which meets every Thursday evening and a question about superfast broadband. Cllr. Beaumont has e-mailed Muz Mumtaz (Superfast West Yorkshire) about the latter issue. It was commented that the new telecommunications cabinets fitted in Scholes are of the old analogue type and as such they may experience a delay in the roll out of superfast broadband.

8.5 Scholes Sports – Unpaid Rent – Cllr. Baker and Cllr. Hassell attended the last meeting of the Scholes Sports Association. An e-mail from Martin Horbury (junior football) explaining the current situation has been circulated to all councillors. Martin has met separately with Julian Kelly and Kevin Lawson who were previous committee members of the association. After due consideration, it was **resolved** to write off all the overdue ground rent and water rates owed for 2014/15 and earlier, proposed Cllr. Dales, seconded Cllr. Remmer, all were in favour. Meanwhile the clerk will scan and circulate copies of the football and tennis club leases. It was further noted that due to an error by the clerk, none of the Scholes Sports Clubs were charged for water for 2014/15, it was felt inappropriate to demand this retrospectively. Cllr. Hassell is currently getting quotes for water meters so that each Sports Association can be charged for their actual water usage (currently the cost of the total usage is divided equally between all parties regardless of actual usage).

8.6 Scholes Lodge Farm, update on the moles, dock and topping, report of the SLF committee – the committee met on 17th June (the local farmer was also in attendance) and the minutes of that meeting have been circulated. Cllr. Crosfill was appointed as chair. The chemical weed killer used to spray the dock is not “Round Up” (which would kill the grass). Following the meeting Cllr. Remmer confirmed that the wet areas are not caused by broken pipes. Two local people are supplying quotes for spraying the dock and three quotes are being sought for further mole control. It was noted that certain locally unique species of flower were present in the field. The next meeting is 21st July which will try to produce a timescales for this project. The following week there was an onsite meeting with environmental expert Kara Jackson. She strongly recommended that once the field is cut, the grass cuttings are taken away to prevent the nutrients going back into the soil (boosting grass growth at the expense of wild flowers). She suggested not cutting the field until early autumn.

Since the last PC meeting, the clerk has written to the farmer whose sheep were in the field last year and he has since removed fencing and other items. Two bales of wire are still there.

There may be need for further expense which cannot wait for approval the September PC meeting, especially relating to pest and weed control, the group were reassured that their remit allows such expenditure to be incurred without waiting for formal approval.

8.7 Attendance at Training Events – Cllr. Hassell reminded everyone that where training opportunities exist, the PC will fully support everyone who wishes to go. However, once enrolled on a course, councillors should make every effort to attend in order to make best use of public money and the available spaces on the course.

8.8 The Recording Of Council/Parish Meetings – a YLCA communication, circulated as item 2439, included a template for the rules regarding recording of meetings. It was suggested that the rules for recording be displayed on the agenda (in much the same vein as declarations of pecuniary interest) or that they could be publically displayed at each of the PC meeting venues and on the notice boards and on the webpage. The clerk will recirculate this template for consideration at the September meeting.

8.9 Report on the Outer North-East Forum – this was attended by the chair and the clerk and Cllr. Hassell has circulated a summary of the meeting. The Police Inspector with responsibility for our ward reported a 20% reduction in crime compared to the same period last year, this is not our experience in our parish and Cllr. Hassell had questioned him about this, he suggested that our crime figures were higher than others due to us being the parish in the ward closest to Seacroft. He reported that spending cuts mean that next year he will be targeted to keep crime figures no higher than at current but will have less resource to do so. There was also a presentation about Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) with opportunity to attend further workshops on this in the near future and also an update on the roll out of bins fitted with sensors.

8.10 Report on the YLCA Leeds Branch AGM – this was attended by the chair and a report circulated. The main discussion items were LCC allotments, new Pensions Regulations and the revised Local Councils Awards Scheme which will replace Quality Councils.

8.11 Report on the Community Committee Workshop – this was attended by councillors Baker and Walsh with representatives from four wards; Garforth/Swillington, Temple Newsam, Crossgates/Whinmoor and Kippax/Methley. A report has been circulated to councillors. The format of the meeting was a presentation (on parks & gardens and litter clean up), group discussion and reporting back. There was general agreement that dog fouling and litter were the issues most frequently raised.

8.12 Charges to the fun fair for using Jack Heaps field – it was decided that as the charge to the fun fair was increased by £50 in 2013, a further increase next year was not appropriate.

8.13 LCC quote for Christmas Lights for December 2015 – the quote from LCC was accepted on the understanding that we would like an option for further lights in Scholes (to be considered at the next PC meeting). Cllr. Remmer will e-mail Ben.

8.14 Removal of the seat in Jack Heaps field to a new location – this was deferred to the September meeting as Cllr. Yapp has particular interest in this as Barwick in Bloom are the ones who end up clearing up the litter left by users of the seat.

8.15 Coordination of the delivery of the PC newsletter in Scholes Ward – former councillor Ben Hogan previously had responsibility for this. Cllr. Walsh is willing to take over this responsibility and is now available to do so as Cllr. Remmer has volunteered to take over Cllr. Walsh's delivery responsibilities.

9 PLANNING

The Parish Council considered the following planning applications forwarded by Leeds City Council Development Department;

- 15/02679/FU/NE 21 Welfare Avenue - Two storey and single storey side/rear extensions and porch to front - **no objection subject to planners satisfaction with a number of specified matters**
- 15/02973/FU/NE The Old Rectory - Single storey side/rear extension - **no objection**
- 15/03034/FU/NE 9 Fieldhead Drive - Two storey and single storey rear extension - **no objection**
- 15/02619/OT/NE Rear of Leycroft, Elmwood Lane – Outline application for a detached bungalow - **no objection**

Concern was expressed about Woodland Weddings. This is a business which will use the woods down Bog Lane as a venue for weddings and wedding receptions. There were concerns about vehicular access and parking. Cllr. Remmer has e-mailed the local ward councillor about this. It was agreed that a land registry search be done to establish the land owner following a suggestion that he might not be aware of what is happening here.

A communication has been received from LCC informing the PC that notification of smaller planning applications (i.e. householder and changes of use) will no longer come through the post, instead electronic notification is being tried starting from 1st July.

10 REFERRALS & RISK ASSESSMENTS

Following the recent resurfacing of the Barwick - in – Elmet to Garforth road, it seems that the gullies have not been properly cleaned of the resulting gravel.

11 DATES of FUTURE MEETINGS

Monday 7 September: Meeting & Forum at Scholes Methodist Hall at **7 p.m.**

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.50 p.m.

Signed

Chairman, 7 September 2015

The **OPEN FORUM** was held at 7 p.m.

The chair reminded everyone of the issues of concern raised by residents at the Open Forum of the last Parish Council meeting before opening the meeting for new issues to be raised

One resident who attended the January PC meeting to express concerns about speeding traffic on Aberford Road reported that since then, there had been no change in driver behaviour and was also concerned that the police were often seen in Aberford on traffic calming duties but had not seen an equivalent level of concern in Barwick - in – Elmet. The clerk will contact the police about this.

The same resident then spoke on behalf of Barwick - in – Elmet cricket club regarding three issues;

1. He expressed disappointment that the football club (whose pitch overlaps the cricket club outfield) have started pre-season training. He felt that an agreement between the two clubs that they would share the grounds at six months each was being ignored and felt that footballers had run across the wicket at times to retrieve footballs. Cllr. Hassell was already aware of this issue having been contacted the previous Saturday by a member of the cricket club. She had gone straight to the sports fields and spoken to half a dozen members of the club about it. Their language was colourful and they felt that the PC was biased towards cricket pointing to the previous award or grants as evidence. Cllr. Hassell pointed out that the football club have never applied for funding and had they done so, their application would be treated with due consideration. The football club had a grievance of their own regarding the cricket club groundsman who had burnt the grass across the football pitch in marking out the cricket club boundary. Football assured Cllr. Hassell that they were only using the pitch for training and not for a fixture. Cllr. Hassell suggested that the two clubs learn to live with one another.
2. The resident also reported that in spite of many previous requests, football club have not emptied the septic tank outside their pavilion. The clerk will pursue this.
3. Thirdly, he asked for an update regarding the gate at the top of the Verirty Strip. This is one of a number of issues Cllr. Hassell wants to speak to Nick Borrás about. Nick is the Senior Engineer for Highways Traffic Management East but has only just returned to work having been on sick leave for several weeks. Cllr. Hassell confirmed that meanwhile, there is nothing to stop cricket club using that entrance to the field. Cricket Club reported that occasionally allotment holders making deliveries block the entrance to the cricket club car park.

A representative of Scholes First Scout Group requested PC support for having a new entrance closer to the football field. Scouts were hoping for help with funding, it was suggested that an approach be made to the ward councillor for funding from his allocation of MICE money (used to fund the Scholes Lodge Farm kissing gate last year). The gate would require removal of part of the hedge. There is known to be a ditch on Rakehill Road and there was a query whether it extended as far up as the scouts field. It was felt therefore that it would be best for a couple of councillors to meet him on-site to discuss this, Cllr. Dales and Cllr. Walsh arranged to meet him the following evening.

There was a further comment from this resident that the bins are not getting emptied and suggested that bigger bins may help.