

MINUTES of the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

held on Monday 7 September 2015 at 7.30 p.m. at Scholes Methodist Hall

PRESENT :	Councillor	Claire Hassell (Chair)	
	Councillors	Amanda Munro	Karen Dales
		David Leeming	Matt Baker
		Geoff Yapp	Neil Beaumont
		Glyn Davies	Tom Crosfill

In attendance: Eight Scholes residents, one Aberford resident, PCSO Chris Barrett (part), Ron Miller (Wetherby News) and the clerk

1 APOLOGIES: Cllrs Matthew Willey, Paul Remmer and Stella Walsh and Ward Councillor Matthew Robinson

2 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST: None

3 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was **resolved** that the minutes of the **Parish Council Meeting (3/2015)** held on 6 July 2015 (370-374) having been circulated, be approved and signed, proposed Cllr. Leeming, seconded Cllr. Beaumont, all were in favour.

4 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising

5 CRIME REPORT

PCSO Chris Barrett reported that there were four reported crimes in July and two in August. Three of these were attempted break-ins into out-buildings (a shed, a workshop and a bicycle shed). Three bicycles were stolen from the shed but the suspects failed to gain access to the bicycle shed. The other crimes included an attempted break-in (the suspect/s fled after being disturbed) and a theft from a vehicle. The other crime was a theft carried out by a bogus trader (who has since been arrested).

Chris responded to a media scare-story suggesting police now only attend half of all reported break-ins. This is the West Midlands force *only*. They attend all reported break-ins but in subsequently sending out scene-of-crime teams, exercise discretion in doing so due to the cost involved. If the aggrieved is vulnerable or has previously reported a break-in, this team attends regardless.

Reports of bin liners of rubbish being left down Rakehill Road were received. Chris will pass this information on to Bev Kirk, Leeds City Council

6 FINANCE

6.1 It was **resolved** that the **cash book summary and budget monitor for July/August** be approved showing payments of £3,295.32 (cheques totaling £3,253.01 and a direct debit of £42.31).

6.2 It was **resolved** that nine cheques for September amounting to £2,500.41 be approved (plus direct debit amounts).

7 CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk presented the list of **correspondence** (2460-2477) received since the last meeting details of which had been previously circulated. There have been four communications from the Yorkshire Local Councils Association (2468, 2470, 2471 and

2477), two from LCC (2463 & 2465) and three from Rural Action Yorkshire (2472, 2473 & 2476). The other items were;

- 2461 Details of a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) workshop on 21st July
- 2464 Augustus Press Limited – prices for printing leaflets
- 2465 LCC circular about opportunities to learn to play a musical instrument
- 2466 Outer North East communication – the grass cutting schedule
- 2467 Resident of Maypole Mews regarding a missed bin collection
- 2469 Letter from Tree Officer regarding works to protected trees
- 2473 Rural Action Yorkshire – funding available for using Community Buildings as a hub for older or vulnerable peoples’ needs
- 2474 Consultation document from LCC regarding the proposed A64 Passive Safety Scheme Phase 2
- 2475 Free Community Tree Packs offer from the Woodland Trust
- 2477 YLCA – details of Understanding the Planning System Training Events

The clerk will forward a copy of 2473 to Saint Phillips’ Church (see Open Forum) and a copy of 2465 to Cllr. Yapp. A brief report of those who attended the workshop (2461) was given and the missed bin collection (2467) was commented on.

8 OTHER ITEMS

8.1 Report of meeting Scholes Sports – leases, locking the gate, dog control order. – Since the last Parish council meeting there has been a meeting between members of Scholes Sports Association and representatives of the Parish Council. One of the items discussed was the locking of the gate on the Belle Vue Avenue entrance. There are contrasting opinions about this – see the open forum notes, it seems that an open access policy to encourage children similarly encourages dog-walkers. Litter was also an issue, a suggestion was made that the Parish Council would pay for bins if the sports clubs agreed to maintain them, the clerk will write to them to suggest this. It was suggested that the clerk write to both schools in the parish to organise a competition to design a “no dog-fouling” poster which may be more effective than buying something off the shelf. There was a suggestion of CCTV (on a similar basis to those Cllr. Robinson had suggested to combat fly-tipping)

In considering the needs of children, it was suggested that there isn’t enough for the youth of the village, the SLF questionnaire for example showed an aversion to doing anything on this land for this age bracket. It was suggested that a youth council be set up, Cllr. Munro will take the lead on this using her social media contacts to recruit members. The MUGA pitch idea is still being considered with a sales representative coming on Wednesday to measure up and provide no obligation quotes.

8.2 NDP – report of the last Steering Group meetings– Since the last Parish Council meeting the NDP Steering Group has met twice and is due to meet again this week. Cllr. Walsh is working on the Consultation Statement and another member of the group (Jacque Ward) on the Basic Conditions Statement. A grant was successfully applied for from the Community Rights Programme. Our consultant has now completed revisions to the NDP and an appointment is arranged with Ian Mackay at Leeds Planning Department to check our work is sound prior to submission.

8.3 Facebook, website & social media reports – There were about 500 visits to our Facebook page in July and about 700 in August. There were 258 likes. Information about the festival attracting a lot of visits. The website is quiet, Cllr. Baker has spent a lot of time looking to improve its layout and content.

8.4 Scholes Lodge Farm - report of the SLF committee and outline plan – The SLF committee has had two meetings since the last Parish Council meeting and presented a proposal to the meeting. A large map was produced showing locations of

two interpretation display boards, three benches, a boardwalk, an area of shorter grass for ball games, a wild flower meadow and a path round the field. Also under consideration are additional trees and an owl box. The plan will go to residents, probably as a newsletter article for comment and feedback. The clerk will write to LCC regarding s.106 money being held to seek approval for capital expenditure. The next steps will be to get the grass topped and to deal with the hedge furthest from Leeds Road. Options for wildflower meadow seed were considered (Cllr. Yapp has a catalogue). The SLF committee are to bring their full proposals with detailed costs to the next meeting for formal approval.

8.5 Adoption of Rules for the Recording of Meetings – The Openness Of Local Government Regulations Act 2014 legally obliges us to allow the recording of Parish Council meetings. The National Association of Local Councils has produced a template for management of this recording which has been circulated for consideration. In addition, a document regarding the rules and expectations of the public during the formal council meeting will be laminated and made available to residents who attend. It was **resolved** to formally adopt the guidelines and the rules and expectations document. Proposed by Cllr. Munro and seconded by Cllr. Baker. All were in favour.

8.6 Barwick - in – Elmet Bus shelter – cleaning and painting – Barwick in Bloom want to scrape the moss off the surround at the top of the bus shelter and then paint it a subdued colour. It was **resolved** that the Parish Council approve this course of action. Proposed Cllr. Beaumont, Seconded Cllr. Leeming, all were in favour. Comments regarding health and safety were duly noted

8.7 Christmas Lights for December 2015 – it was agreed to request three extra strings of lights for Scholes to go in the trees that are currently used. It was also decided to enquire about having lights on small Christmas trees outside the two public houses in Scholes

8.8 Removal of the seat in Jack Heaps field to a new location – since the last Parish Council meeting, the seat on Jack Heaps field has been vandalised with the wooden cross pieces being broken leaving only the metal end pieces. Cllr. Yapp can source new wood for around £100. It was suggested that the repaired seat could go at the bus stop at the corner of Gascoigne View/Long Lane subject to Highways approval (or along the path behind Parlington Meadow if approval was not forthcoming). The fixings would be £30-£50, a total cost of up to £150. It was **resolved** to get the seat repaired and fitted as above, proposed Cllr. Leeming, seconded Cllr. Dales

8.9 Options for electronic data storage/back up – since the last Parish Council meeting, the parish laptop has had to be repaired and it was felt that the need for a backup for data storage was therefore essential. Cllr. Baker advised against cloud storage as it is less secure than a direct attached hard drive. It was **resolved** that a two tera-byte external hard drive be bought at a cost of about £60, proposed by Cllr. Baker and seconded by Cllr. Yapp

8.10 Clerk – contract of employment, hours worked, staffing committee – a review of the clerk's terms of employment will be considered, Cllr. Hassell will discuss this with Cllrs. Baker, Walsh and Yapp and report to the next Parish Council meeting

9 PLANNING

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

- 15/03946/FU/NE Scholes Elmet Primary School - Single storey pre-fabricated building for use as classrooms. This appears to have been erected so quickly that the Parish hardly had time to submit its view
- 15/03957/FU/NE 24A Main Street, Barwick - in - Elmet - Change of use from office to a dog grooming salon. **No objection** (but the application has since been withdrawn)
- 15/04422/LA/NE Whinmoor Grange - Horticultural Glasshouse - **No objection**
- 15/04337/FU/NE 21 Welfare Avenue - Two storey side extension; single storey rear extension; porch to front; detached garage to side - **No objection** (a revised plan has since submitted and the PC has sent a letter)
- 15/04141/FU/NE 24 Parlington Meadow - Single storey rear and front extensions - **No objection**
- 15/03865/FU/NE Chahal Grange Farm York Road - Retrospective change of use for paddock to scaffold yard – **considerable objections**

An application for major work (including demolition of a dwelling) at the Brain Injury Rehabilitation Trust was received too late to be legally considered at the meeting, councillors were asked to feed comments to the chair of the planning committee within seven days.

9.2 Planning committee – having taken on additional responsibility in the Parish Council Cllr. Baker has suggested that his place on the Planning Committee be taken by another Scholes Ward councilor. This prompted a suggestion that we look at our process for dealing with planning applications. This will be an agenda item next month

9.3 Woodland Weddings – since the last Parish Council meeting, there has been a meeting in the parish with ward councilors Castle and Robinson followed by a meeting in Leeds Civic Hall with representatives of Highways, Public Rights of Way, Licensing and Enforcement. A number of Parish Councillors attended. Woodland Weddings is a business venture using a wood down Bog Lane as a venue for wedding receptions. The meetings concluded that there was little which could be done within current legislation and that it would be better to wait until the first such event (which was 14th August) and monitor whether the event caused disturbance or inconvenience to those living nearby and whether adequate health and safety measures were implemented. The only known feedback from residents was that they heard the sound of some guests as they left the venue (including a few who lingered on the Coronation Tree island) and that Bog Lane was churned up. Some councilors attended the open day on the 15th.

9.4 Pruning of the upper branches of a tree on 34 Main Street, Scholes – No objection

10 REFERRALS & RISK ASSESSMENTS

Damage to parapet L167 Ass Bridge (a bridge inspector has visited the site)
 Vehicle Activated Sign Scholes Lane obscured by growth (reported – LCC trying to establish the identity of the land owner)
 Broken grate cover on Long Lane

11. To notify the clerk of matters for inclusion on the agenda of the next meeting
 Various items were raised during the course of the meeting as agenda items for next month

12 DATES of FUTURE MEETINGS

Monday 5 October: Meeting & Forum at Barwick - in – Elmet Methodist Schoolroom at 7 p.m.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.25 p.m.

Signed

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

A representative of Scholes cricket club expressed concern about dog-fouling on the football and cricket pitches. He was especially concerned that the gate on the Belle Vue Avenue entrance is left unlocked and suggested that this has resulted in a four or fivefold increase in the number of people exercising their dogs and felt that the situation is more manageable when the gate is locked (one dog owner even threw a bag of dog waste onto the bowling green). Locking the gate doesn't stop determined individuals who smash their way through the hedge. Dog fouling is a problem elsewhere in the parish, e.g. Scholes Main Street. There was a suggestion that dog walkers should be challenged and publically named. The Parish Council is investigating ways to declare the sports fields as dog exclusion zones. There was a feeling that the Parish Council had missed an opportunity to revise the leases when football hadn't paid their rent. There was also a suggestion that there should be a village meeting and that responsible dog owners suggest solutions. Signs have been put up and smashed within a couple of days.

The use of the field as a recreational space for children was discussed as a locked gate is not very welcoming. There was also concern about litter left by children and there was a recent incident of a man on a motor-scooter riding on the field (the police will be notified about this). Cricket club stressed that they have never stopped children playing and provide drinks, buns and cakes for them. Recently, someone built a fire and used six fence posts as fuel. One resident reported six bags of rubbish being left down Rakehill Road and lamented that the police no longer attend Community Care coffee mornings which gave residents opportunity to raise such issues (this is due to police funding cuts).

A representative of Saint Phillips' Church spoke about the proposal to convert a part of the building into a community space. The church building is under-used and this project will provide a space for mums and toddlers, the elderly, school children after school hours etc. The purpose is to increase the well-being of people in Scholes. Their architect has estimated a cost of £150-160K. The congregation have raised/pledged £60K. This project will complement the vision of fifty years ago when the church was first built. The church are looking for support from the Parish Council, they would be delighted to receive a grant but if this was not possible would welcome a formal statement in the minutes which the church can quote in making applications for funding elsewhere. The project is split into phases and they are currently looking to fund phase two (which will cost £123K). Councillors suggested sources of funding (well-being fund and the Landfill Community Fund who require the applicant to raise 11% of the total themselves). Formal consideration of this issue will go on the next Parish Council agenda.

It was noted that the school swimming pool is due to close.