

**MINUTES of the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

held on Monday 2 November 2015 at 7:30 p.m. at Scholes Methodist Hall

<b>PRESENT :</b>	Councillor	Claire Hassell (Chair)	
	Councillors	Amanda Munro	Matt Baker
		David Leeming	Matthew Willey
		Geoff Yapp	Neil Beaumont
		Glyn Davies	Paul Remmer
		Karen Dales	Stella Walsh

**In attendance:** Two Barwick - in - Elmet residents, at least nineteen Scholes residents, PCSO Stephen Wales (part) and the Clerk.

**1 APOLOGIES:** Cllr. Tom Crosfill and Ron Miller (Wetherby News).

**2 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST:** None.

**3 THE RIGHT TO RECORD, FILM AND TO BROADCAST COUNCIL MEETINGS:** the meeting was made aware of this and the protocol to be followed.

**4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

It was **resolved** that the minutes of the **Parish Council Meeting (5/2015)** held on 5 October 2015 (381-384) having been circulated, be approved and signed, proposed Cllr. Beaumont, seconded Cllr. Leeming, all were in favour.

**5 CRIME REPORT**

The PCSO reported that there were three reported crimes in October, the theft of a mobile telephone in one of the public houses, a burglary on Meadow View where car keys were taken and used to steal the vehicle and damage to crops on Leeds Road (this crime is not related to the one in September where sheep had been attacked).

There had also been a report of fishing wire tied between two posts running across Barwick - in – Elmet Main Street but police had been unable to confirm this incident.

**6 FINANCE**

**6.1** It was **resolved** that the **cash book summary and budget monitor for October** be approved showing payments of £2,451.07 (cheques totaling £2,399.63 and a direct debit of £51.44).

**6.2** It was **resolved** that thirteen cheques for November amounting to £3,045.66 be approved (plus one debit amount).

**6.3** Under section 137 of the 1972 Local Government Act, it was **resolved** to pay the bugler and purchase wreathes for the Remembrance Day parade - proposed Cllr. Beaumont, seconded Cllr. Remmer, all were in favour.

**6.4** The **Interim Internal Auditor's report** has been circulated and the comments about taking financial decisions under Matter Arising has been duly noted.

**7 CORRESPONDENCE**

In response to concerns raised at last month's Open Forum, a letter has been sent to Scholes (Elmet) Primary School outlining the concerns of local residents about traffic volumes and inconsiderate parking on the streets near the school.

The Clerk presented the list of **correspondence** (2498-2527) received since the last meeting details of which had been previously circulated. There have been three communications from the Yorkshire Local Councils Association (2498, 2525 and 2528) and five from LCC (2511, 2512, 2516, 2527 & 2529). The other items were;

- 2499 Appeal for help from Yorkshire Haven – a breast cancer support service and venue.
- 2500 Notification from our insurers of an increase in the rate of Insurance Premium Tax.
- 2501 Query from a Barwick - in – Elmet resident about Superfast broadband availability.
- 2502 E-mail from a resident thanking us for getting the grass cut on Scholes Lodge Farm.
- 2503 Resident reaction to the October 2015 newsletter article regarding dog fouling.
- 2504 Request from Grayshott Parish Council in Hampshire to use our Social Media Policy as a template for theirs.
- 2505 Rural Action Yorkshire newsletter.
- 2506 Leeds Outer North-East has a Facebook page and is looking for good news, local information or projects which parishes want to promote.
- 2507 Letter from a responsible dog owner suggesting reasons why dog fouling has got worse and suggesting possible solutions.
- 2508 Response from a resident to the newsletter article about dog fouling and commenting on the other newsletter content – wanting more “Meet your new councillor” content.
- 2509 Response from a resident to the newsletter article about dog fouling.
- 2510 Telephone call from someone who lived in Barwick - in – Elmet in the late sixties wanting confirmation that the Vulcan bomber really did fly over the village.
- 2511 Letter from LCC Tree Officer – works to trees at The Rectory.
- 2513 Leeds Beckett University – a panel of experts with opportunity for questions discussing the political processes involved in meeting housing growth.
- 2514 A resident who is a network engineer for a broadband supplier encouraging Scholes residents to register an interest for superfast broadband.
- 2515 Update from Ward Councillor Ann Castle regarding the East Leeds Extension.
- 2517 Response to the newsletter article about the proposals for Scholes Lodge Farm and in particular disabled access to the north side of the field.
- 2518 E-mail from a resident regarding the date for the Scholes Developments appeal to be heard by the Planning Inspectorate.
- 2519 Copy of a letter from Leeds University regarding their decision to withdraw its proposal to develop the land at Headley Hall.
- 2520 Outer North East – a follow up e-mail to the Site allocations meeting of 15th October with guidelines for making comments.
- 2521 Suggestion of a farewell buffet in Scholes for Ward Councillor Ann Castle who is not seeking re-election.
- 2522 Copy of a letter to a resident from West Yorkshire Combined Authority regarding the Single Transport Plan (i.e. an integrated transport network).
- 2523 Response from a resident to the newsletter article about dog fouling suggesting that fly-tipping and litter should be considered as a feature in the next newsletter.
- 2524 Response from a resident to the newsletter article about dog fouling with particular reference to the need for a flat grassed area for old and infirm dogs in their senior years
- 2526 HS2 October newsletter.
- 2527 LCC wanting to know what day we would like our Christmas Lights to be switched on.

The clerk will resend 2521 as not all councillors had received it. The clerk has replied to 2527 suggesting a date of 27<sup>th</sup> November.

Both schools have been written to regarding dog-fouling (see item 8.1, September minutes). It was **resolved** to accept an offer by Barwick in Bloom to donate the prizes, proposed Cllr. Walsh, seconded Cllr. Baker, all were in favour. It is hoped that a similar offer will be made to the children of Scholes school. Suggested areas for dog exclusion orders were suggested to Cllr. Robinson.

## 8 OTHER ITEMS

**8.1 Facebook, website & social media reports.** – There are 303 followers and there were 4500 views last month. John Fergusson of Cranberry Marketing has been approached about re-designing our web page.

**8.2 Neighbourhood Development Plan** - the Steering Group meet on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2015. It was **resolved** to approve the sending of the latest version (v.4) to Leeds for European Union screening, proposed Cllr. Walsh, seconded Cllr. Leeming, all were in favour. A six week consultation will follow. The steering group meets again on 12<sup>th</sup> November.

**8.3 Scholes Lodge Farm (SLF)** – The SLF committee had an on-site meeting last week with Ian Sanderson, West Yorkshire Archaeology Advisory Service (WYAAS) who gave expert advice regarding the best place to plant additional trees which respects the archaeological history of the site. A report of that meeting with associated 1970s photographs and a map showing the proposed site of the trees has been circulated. The WYAAS office has much material which can be copied for use on Interpretation display boards, Barwick Historical Society may also have information. It was noted that SLF is the best preserved Site of Special Scientific Interest in Leeds. There was discussion about where best to buy daffodil bulbs etc. from and the group were encouraged to use the clerk's delegated authority to make purchases without seeking PC approval up to a maximum of £500. Cllr. Remmer reported that he is in the process of getting a quote for the boardwalk and for grass-cutting. A local contractor will be approached about cutting the hedge.

**8.4 Request by Watson's Amusements to open Thursday to Monday inclusive in 2016.** It was **resolved** to agree to Watson's Amusements request to amend the dates for the fair to use Jack Heaps Field, proposed Cllr. Yapp, seconded Cllr. Baker, all were in favour.

**8.5 Youth Council** – this group has had its first meeting (Scholes Sports Association offered their pavilion as a meeting place). Cllr. Munro has taken the lead on this and her contacts are all girls, Cllr. Willey knows some teenage boys and will encourage them to become involved. The Keep-Fit instructor in Scholes is happy to be involved in the project. Public transport was identified as an issue which frustrates this age group. Child protection (DBS) was considered, there was a belief that anyone working with children and young people can't use their DBS when working for a different organisation, clarification was provided.

**8.6 Children using purpose built domestic type BMX ramps on Jack Heaps Field** – our insurance company have confirmed that we are covered against liability claims regarding this matter but recommended that we ask the children not to leave the ramps on the field overnight. The PC approved Cllr. Yapp or the clerk asking the children to co-operate in this respect and to also ask them to move the play area elsewhere in the field as the noise made is causing some distress to those in the adjoining properties on Schoolgate.

**8.7 Proposal to support a monthly free parish magazine as an alternative to our Newsletter** – the creation of two separate Anglican Church parishes next year has led to All Saints' Church making proposals for a parish magazine delivered free of charge to every home paid for by advertising. They have approached the PC to see if the new magazine could carry PC news and replace the quarterly newsletter with the PC contributing towards printing costs. Cllr. Hassell and the clerk had attended a preliminary meeting with representatives of All Saints' and are due to attend a follow up meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> November. The PC gave a cautious welcome to the idea with concerns about

resource for magazine delivery and unease that there was no input from Scholes residents into the project. There was a feeling that we continue with the PC newsletter while submitting material to the parish magazine with a contribution towards costs.

**8.8 Recommendations of the employment subgroup regarding the clerk's terms and conditions** – the staffing committee has met and produced a draft contract of employment which can be used for anyone seeking the position of clerk in future. The current clerk has now received a copy and will be given opportunity to comment before signing. A suitable pension scheme is still being considered. It was stressed that the appraisal outcomes document was a draft. An annual appraisal is recommended.

**8.9 Defibrillator for Barwick - in – Elmet** – A group of ladies organised a ceilidh to raise funds for a defibrillator but this was cancelled due to lack of support as there was a misconception in the village that the PC had paid for the one in Scholes. Cllr. Willey has researched alternatives and discovered a source of funding for up to five defibrillators per applicant. The PC fully supports him making an application to this fund.

**8.10 Meetings/training courses attended.** Last month, councilors representing the parish attended the following events;

- Leeds Older People Forum, Leeds City Museum 1<sup>st</sup> October – Cllr. Walsh.
- Meeting with Leeds City Council Planning, 7<sup>th</sup> October Rossington Street – Cllrs. Dales, Munro and Remmer.
- Planning Training run by LCC, Civic Hall, 8<sup>th</sup> October - Cllrs. Dales and Munro and ward councillors.
- Outer North-East meeting, Collingham, 8<sup>th</sup> October- Cllr. Hassell and the clerk.
- Understanding the Planning System Training run by YLCA, Wakefield, 10<sup>th</sup> October 2015 – Cllrs. Davies and Remmer.
- YLCA Leeds Branch Meeting, Horsforth, 13<sup>th</sup> October - Cllr. Hassell.
- Site allocations at Wetherby 15<sup>th</sup> October – Cllrs. Baker, Beaumont, Dales, Hassell, Munro, Remmer, Walsh and Yapp.
- Rural Action Yorkshire AGM, East Keswick, 24<sup>th</sup> October - Cllr. Walsh.

Those attending these events have circulated written reports and the contents duly noted. Councillors were encouraged to attend the LCC Planning Training event when it comes around again in 2016.

**8.11 To consider to Parish Council's response to the LCC Site allocations consultation and to report on the consultation events held in the parish on 24<sup>th</sup> October and at Wetherby on the 15<sup>th</sup>** – disappointment was expressed regarding the event at Wetherby as there was nothing new to report, there was no plan B and those attending were encouraged to keep pushing for the Headley Hall Site. If Headley Hall is not developed then there is pressure on other sites to make up the 1500-2000 shortfall. The event at Saint Philip's was very well attended from start to finish (and beyond), about 110 residents came. It was agreed that Cllr. Yapp would make a formal response on behalf of the PC commenting on the soundness of the Leeds plan. There was discussion about the Kiddal Hall site and an observation that 649 properties on the Bramley Fields site are within our parish boundary. The Scholes sites are being discussed this Thursday by LCC Plans Panel, several councillors plan to attend.

**8.12 Playing Fields committee meetings** – meetings were held last month in each village but there is a need for further meetings with football club (Barwick - in – Elmet) and Tennis Club (Scholes). The former failed to send any representation (or apologies) to the meeting and have failed to address previously raised issues and there is a suggestion of sub-letting. There are issues with Tennis Club which were not able to be addressed at the full Playing Fields committee meetings

**8.13 Hedge cutting at the allotments** – two quotes have been obtained, it was **resolved** to accept the lower one, proposed Cllr. Baker, seconded Cllr. Yapp, all were in favour. This hedge needs cutting annually.

## **9 PLANNING**

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

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| 15/05639/FU/NE | Land Adjacent To Holmcroft York Road Scholes - Change of use of former stone yard to form scaffold distribution and storage facility, detached storage, office and welfare buildings - <b>No objection subject to Highways concerns being satisfactorily addressed</b>   |
| 15/05840/FU/NE | 42 Gascoigne Road - Car-port and canopy to side and rear   |
| 15/05832/FU    | 42 Gascoigne Road - Boundary fence and gate to front/side – there was a concern that LCC Planning may be unaware that the resident of this property is being pursued by Planning Enforcement and that the owner may believe that these planning applications will allow him to retain the vehicles causing concern. Cllr. Robinson was made aware and reassured the meeting that these applications would not stop Planning Enforcement action against this resident |

**10 REFERRALS & RISK ASSESSMENTS** – there was concern that many gullies in the parish are blocked with straw etc. Cllr. Remmer will pursue this and the clerk will contact John Woolmer/Jessica Hodgson of LCC. Pictures may be taken as evidence to encourage action to be taken.

**11. To notify the clerk of matters for inclusion on the agenda of the next meeting –**  
Defibrillator and Scholes Lodge Farm

## **12 DATES of FUTURE MEETINGS**

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

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.22 p.m.

Signed

Chairman, 7 December 2015

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

Cllr. Hassell reminded everyone of the matters which were discussed at the last Open Forum after which the following matters were discussed;

**Youth Amenities.** A headcount suggested about twenty-seven residents attended the Open Forum (twenty-one of whom signed in)

Most of these came as a show of support for those who expressed the issue they were concerned about, i.e. provision of amenities in Scholes for older children and young adults.

Some of those present had filled in questionnaires put out by the PC a number of years ago and had their expectations raised that the PC was looking to put in place amenities for this particular age group. There was frustration that nothing has happened since leading to a feeling that there was no point in responding to the questionnaire in the first place. Comparisons were done with other local villages where facilities are far better. Many of those present have used the PC Facebook page to express their interest, in particular in response to an article in the last PC Newsletter. It was stressed that the young people concerned are well behaved people and fears of anti-social behaviour are unfounded. There was a suggestion that any CIL money coming into the parish could address this issue.

Councillors shared the views of these residents and were also frustrated. Funding is not the main obstacle to doing anything, in fact the PC has allowed funds to build up in order to facilitate youth provision but so far a suitable location has not been found. For various reasons, Scholes Lodge Farm is unsuitable and there are legal reasons why the PC can't use land leased to various sports clubs without their consent. Another possible location is the land adjacent to the current children's play area but this land is currently part of Scholes (Elmet) school grounds and as such requires the willingness of the school before anything could be done. In spite of these difficulties, the PC has taken some action to benefit the youth of the village, in particular the purchase of goalposts. Also Cllr. Munro is setting up a Youth Council to parallel the PC. Those representing archery and cricket commented that their respective clubs were enthusiastic about getting youth people to participate.

The specific example of the children's playground on land currently leased by the Scouts was raised, the clerk will check the lease (which was revised in 2004) to see where the boundary line ends.

Cllr. Robinson advised that he would take this issue up within LCC to get support and funding.

**Flooding Concerns.** One resident complained about flooding which has become an issue as a result of a new property built adjacent to her home. This has been reported to Planning Enforcement but the apparent lack of further communication from them is adding to the frustration. Cllr. Robinson addressed these concerns explaining that the case officer has a heavy workload, he will see if this can be pursued with a bit more urgency.

There was also an appeal from one person to all Scholes residents to ring Yorkshire Water Authority (YWA) every time there is flooding on Main Street. Repeated contacts will bring pressure on YWA to respond, anyone contacting YWA should request a reference number