

MINUTES of the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

held on Monday 3 November 2014 at 7.45 p.m. at Barwick Methodist Schoolroom

PRESENT :	Councillor	Ben Hogan (Chairman)	
	Councillors	Claire Hassell	Matt Baker
		David Leeming	Paul Remmer
		Elaine Jeffers	Stella Walsh
		Geoff Yapp	Tom Crosfill

In attendance: One Barwick resident, nine Scholes residents, Ward Cllr. Matthew Robinson, PCSO Geoff Nottingham (part), Ron Miller (Wetherby News) and the Clerk

1 APOLOGIES: Cllr. Neil Beaumont, Cllr. Julian Kelly

2 DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST: None

3 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was **resolved** that the minutes of the **Parish Council Meeting (5/2014)** held on 6 October 2014 (323-328) having been circulated, be approved and signed, proposed by Cllr. Yapp and seconded by Cllr. Leeming

4 MATTERS ARISING

4.1 Workers Education Association (WEA) adult education courses – a couple of people have stated their preferences for courses they would like to see offered – more expressions of interest are needed to make a course viable.

4.2 Upgrade to superfast broadband – Members of the PC have had a meeting with the Demand Stimulation Manager of Superfast West Yorkshire. Superfast broadband is being rolled out and some streets have it already. Leaflets have been distributed with some newsletters. Scholes is commercially viable for upgrade by BT Openreach, the upgrade in Barwick - in – Elmet is being financially supported by Superfast West Yorkshire.

4.3 Vacancy in Barwick - in – Elmet ward – interviews are taking place on 6th November, three candidates have sent in their CVs and two have so far confirmed availability for their interview.

5 CRIME REPORT

There were twelve reported crimes in October

- Three incidents on 2nd October on Chapel Lane – a garage & shed were broken into, a car was also broken into (nothing taken) and an attempted break in was made to a garage causing damage – in the last case the police were alerted thanks to an alert neighbour and the suspect fled leaving behind various tools.
- There were three attempted burglaries (on different days) on properties on Leeds Road, Scholes – in all three cases mole grips or similar equipment were used to snap the Euro profile lock. Two of these were done late morning/lunchtime, in one case the suspects appear to have been disturbed and fled empty handed (being caught on CCTV). In the other case, the residents were asleep and the suspects removed the car keys hung up in the kitchen and stole the vehicle.

- Mole grips (or similar) were again used unsuccessfully against a property on Leeds Road, Barwick - in – Elmet which was unoccupied at the time. The suspects then used bodily force to knock out the lower panel of the door and property was stolen.
- It was Mole grips (or similar) which were again used to snap a Euro profile lock in an attempted burglary on Main Street, Scholes. The occupants were asleep. The suspects were unable to gain access and no property was taken.
- CCTV caught a suspect attempting to gain access to a property on Flats Lane which was unoccupied at the time. The suspect was unsuccessful and made off in the direction of The Mount.
- A shed on Belle Vue Avenue was broken into via a window – no damage was done and nothing was taken.
- A vehicle parked on Main Street, Barwick - in – Elmet was damaged following a scuffle between the suspects.
- A speeding motorist on Scholes Lane was stopped by officers in an unmarked police car, the suspect smelt of intoxicants and was detained following a struggle during which the petrol cap of the police car was damaged.

There have been three arrests but the suspects are still at liberty pending trial.

There were three anti-social behavior calls in October, these being egg throwing on Halloween Night, two vehicles racing down Potterton Lane and a noise disturbance from a party.

PCSO Nottingham has looked at locks down Leeds Road and suggested that 90% have the old-style European profile locks and has done a leaflet drop to make the occupants aware. Mole grips can snap a lock in fifteen seconds unless the lock is of TS007 three-star standard – these are recommended by the police, two web-sites were recommended, Secure by Design or the Master Locksmiths Federation.

There are two Neighbourhood Watch schemes running, a national scheme and a police led scheme, PCSO Barrett is dealing with this.

PCSO Nottingham addressed the issue of unregistered scrap metal dealers and advised that Beverley from Trading Standards accompanies the police on patrols once a week and vehicles collecting scrap are stopped and the occupants checked for permits – this is being stepped up to two or three times a week in the coming weeks.

Door to door cold callers are also being stopped and checked, three such salesmen were stopped in Scholes last week.

6 FINANCE

6.1 It was **resolved** that the **cash book summary, bank reconciliation and budget monitor for October** be approved showing payments of £2,382.04 a copy of which is attached to these minutes (noting that the invoices for postage were for the July and October newsletters, not as originally shown).

6.2 It was **resolved** that eleven payments for November amounting to £2,383.63 be approved.

Cllr. Robinson's office have been in touch to confirm a grant to cover the cost of the kissing gate. An insurance claim is being pursued for a replacement Vehicle Activated Sign (see Open Forum).

7 CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk presented the list of **correspondence** (2286-2295) received since the last meeting details of which had been previously circulated. There have been three communications from the Yorkshire Local Councils Association (2288, 2290 and 2294) and one from the Outer North East Support Team (2287). The other items were;

- 2286 LCC Tree Officer - Works to Protected Trees; Springfield, Taylor Lane
- 2289 Query from a resident wanting to know when the sheep are going as they are now eating her fruit bushes
- 2291 Invitation to the Northern Gas Networks (NGN) workshops and lunch in November
- 2292 Resident concerned about unregistered scrap metal collectors
- 2293 Complaint from a resident about the 64 bus not turning up
- 2295 Communication from HS2 regarding the recommendations set out in a report

8 OTHER ITEMS

8.1 MUGA pitch at Scholes – a meeting with Tony Stringwell, a board member of Sports Leeds was arranged to precede the Scholes Playing Fields Committee meeting. Tony was due to advise those represented regarding funding opportunities – however he failed to turn up and sent belated apologies.

8.2 NDP report – the Steering Group met last month and looked at a draft version of the NDP. They next meet on Wednesday 5th November and will look to produce an abridged version of the NDP to go out to residents along with a questionnaire (a template from Thorne is being used). This will ask people's opinions on the first draft and will be followed by a full draft for consultation.

8.3 Facebook, Website, Social media – There were 190 likes this month, three up on last month.

8.4 SLF meeting report: A kissing gate has now been fitted. The sheep have all been removed from the field. The water butts and two metal barriers remain – the clerk will ask the farmer about these.

8.5 Risk assessments and Asset Register– Cllr. Remmer has circulated another four sets of risk assessments for approval covering the Barwick bus shelter, hanging baskets, the goal posts and benches. It was noted that LCC maintain the fixings for the hanging baskets in Barwick - in – Elmet and Scholes in Bloom do the same for Scholes. Barwick - in – Elmet Village Hall needs to be registered as a community asset. Risk Assessments covering other PC assets will follow.

8.6 Complaints procedure – Cllr. Yapp has circulated this for comment and feedback. It was **resolved** that this document be adopted by the PC, proposed by Cllr. Hassell and seconded by Cllr. Jeffers, all were in favour.

8.7 Outer North East Parish and Town Council Forum report – Cllr. Hassell and the clerk attended this event. There was a presentation from Rashad Basharat from Trading Standards regarding doorstep crime and cold calling zones and a question and answer session with Darren from LCC regarding grass cutting. Darren advised that there is a map available online showing what is to be cut and when it is due. Queries/complaints about grass cutting can be reported on tel: 393 7400. There was also a report from John Woolmer – Cllr. Hassell has a copy of his report if anyone wants to see it. A reminder was given that the climbing tower used as one of the attractions on Maypole Raising day is available free of charge.

9 PLANNING

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

- 14/05989/FU/NE 23 Elmete Avenue - Two new semi-detached dwellings – **considerable objections**
14/05378/FU/NE Park House Farm, York Road - Replacement dwelling – **considerable objections**
14/06109/FU/NE 10 Main Street, Barwick - in - Elmet - Disabled ramped and stepped access – **considerable objections**
14/06110/FU/NE 9 Fieldhead Drive, Two storey, single storey side/rear extension – **no objections**

10 REFERRALS & RISK ASSESSMENTS

A number of councillors have expressed an interest in going on a playground inspection course – a date is still awaited. It was reported that there was broken glass at the playground a Barwick - in – Elmet.

Highways will be asked to come out and see the situation on the approaches to the Coronation Tree junction, Cllr. Walsh is happy to meet with them. A previously reported issue regarding Scholes Main Street at the turning into the farm is still unresolved.

11 DATES of FUTURE MEETINGS

Mon. 1 Dec. Parish Council Meeting & Forum at Scholes Methodist Hall at 7 p.m.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.42 p.m.

Signed

Chairman
1 December 2014

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

The chairman reviewed the comments made at the previous Open Forum and then received comments from residents.

Although not present at the Open Forum, the landlord of the Gascoigne Arms Public House had rung earlier to ask when the bottle banks in the car park are to be removed, he felt that this is costing him £300 a week in lost revenue, LCC will be contacted and asked to remove them

One resident expressed concern about the proposed 130 foot vertical axis wind turbine which she was very much opposed to. She was concerned that the Parish Council's Facebook page gave the address of the applicant as Whinmoor Nook Farm which is incorrect, the actual applicant for this is Woodhouse Farm. She also spoke about a leaflet which has been put out by the applicant about this and stated that it contained a number of errors, for example a reference to Stockheld Lane. The councillor who maintains our Facebook page is currently unavailable but will be contacted about this and the necessary changes made.

A resident having previously expressed concern at the Open Forum about lack of children's facilities in Scholes, further expressed her disappointment that the Scholes Lodge Farm (SLF) working group are proposing to distribute a second questionnaire to the entire parish, which limits the choice of questions. The second questionnaire reflects the results from the first questionnaire which was circulated specifically to residents of Leeds Road and Main Street (i.e. those properties most directly affected by any decisions taken regarding the use of the SLF). It was clear from this initial questionnaire that this

group of residents only supported the use of SLF by children aged 3 to 7 years. Therefore it had been suggested that the choice of older age groups would be omitted from the second questionnaire. There was some strong objection to this approach. One resident, who had completed the initial questionnaire and lived near the field, felt that the questionnaire was appropriate, and they had not objected to SLF being used by older children. Councillors who are also members of the working group responded that they felt that lessons had been learnt, in particular regarding the format of the questionnaire and that the views outlined would be considered in further development. It was explained that most organisations when conducting research test via a pilot questionnaire before consulting a wider audience and this was the approach taken by the working group. The questionnaire also gave people the opportunity to add their own comments regarding the future use of SLF and all comments are considered. Residents were reminded that they are welcome to join the group and have their say.

Three residents expressed concerns regarding traffic control (or lack of) where they live (close to the Coronation Tree). One couple had witnessed many accidents in the twenty-five years they have lived there and one of them has personally been involved in three accidents – none his fault – in one case he had to be cut from his vehicle it took five months for him to recover his health. On many occasions they have helped police directing traffic when the road is closed. They suggested a larger traffic island but sadly it seems that nothing will be done until there is a fatality. The PC confirmed that an insurance claim is being processed following an accident in June which destroyed the vehicle activated speed sign. Cllr. Robinson advised that nearly every parish in his ward has a similar stretch of road and that a highways assessment would be needed. PSCO Nottingham reported that the traffic police can make recommendations to highways and said that he would report these concerns to his sergeant. The PC will raise these concerns with highways.

One resident asked when Scholes telecommunications cabinets would be upgraded to allow residents access to superfast broadband. The chairman reported the meeting with the Demand Stimulation Manager of Superfast West Yorkshire (see Matters Arising). Scholes has been subject to challenges in relation to the fibre cabling, a possible solution has been found, these cabinets are unlikely to be ready before January 2015.

Another resident asked if there was any news about the outline planning application for development behind Morwick Grove and in particular whether the developer having been turned down was now seeking to build on the site with an alternative access road. The chairman advised that there have been no new applications from the builder since their last application was declined.

One resident asked if there were plans for a defibrillator in Barwick - in – Elmet. The chairman advised that Scholes had been selected as one of a hundred villages to receive one based on criteria to access the likely need. There is no reason why Barwick - in – Elmet residents should not petition for one but there are no current plans for the scheme to be rolled out further. The chairman repeated his appeal for people to come forward for training in the use of the one at Scholes.

Another resident raised concerns about a neighbour who has submitted a planning application to build two new semi-detached dwellings behind Lynnfield Gardens. Planning permission has already been given for two detached dwellings in spite of previous objections. The PC has written to LCC to object to this new application due to traffic movement and the overbearing effect on adjacent properties. The resident felt that the plans appear to be incorrect (the PC objection refers to this and suggests that planners visit the site before making a decision). The resident also felt that there were factual inaccuracies regarding the presence of bats. The chairman reminded the meeting that the PC is a statutory consultee but can only make recommendations, LCC Planning can still make decisions contrary to PC advice.

The open forum closed at 7:45 p.m.