

MINUTES of the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

held on Monday 1 December 2014 at 7.20 p.m. at Scholes Methodist Hall

PRESENT :	Councillor	Claire Hassell (Chairman)	
	Councillors	David Leeming	Matt Baker
		Darren Dodd	Neil Beaumont
		Elaine Jeffers	Paul Remmer
		Geoff Yapp	Stella Walsh
		Julian Kelly	Tom Crosfill

In attendance: Five Scholes residents, Ward Cllr. Matthew Robinson and the Clerk

The chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced our new councillor Darren Dodd and gave us an update regarding Cllr. Ben Hogan

1 APOLOGIES: Cllr. Ben Hogan, Ron Miller (Wetherby News)

2 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST: None

3 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was **resolved** that the minutes of the **Parish Council Meeting (6/2014)** held on 3 November 2014 (329-334) having been circulated, be approved and signed, subject to item two being changed from PERSONAL interest to PECUNIARY interest proposed by Cllr. Jeffers and seconded by Cllr. Leeming

4 MATTERS ARISING

4.1 Vacancy in Barwick - in – Elmet ward – interviews took place as reported last month, of the three candidates seen, Darren Dodd was selected and co-opted to fill the vacancy representing the Barwick - in – Elmet ward

4.2 Bottle Bank update – the bottle bank has now been taken away

5 CRIME REPORT

There was no crime report on the night as the officer due to attend was called to an emergency. A report was e-mailed first thing the following morning showing three crimes including a bicycle stolen from a shed on The Boyle on the 1st and a set of golf clubs stolen from the back of a hatchback car on Chapel Lane on the 24th. The other crime was typical of those reported in October, i.e. forced entry into property using a gripping device to snap the euro profile lock and gain access while the residents were sleeping. Car keys were removed and used to steal the vehicle – this was on the 7th from Morwick Grove

It was **resolved** to make a contribution to the sponsorship of the community police vehicle for farm watch – see correspondence item 2313. This payment to be made under section 137 of the 1972 Local Government Act. Proposed Cllr. Yapp, seconded Cllr. Baker, all were in favour

6 FINANCE

6.1 It was **resolved** that the **cash book summary and budget monitor for November** be approved showing payments of £2,429.86 a copy of which is attached to these minutes. The **bank reconciliation** statement will be circulated once the bank statement is received – a draft reconciliation having been circulated in the meantime

6.2 It was **resolved** that eleven cheques and direct debit payments for December amounting to £2,056.90 be approved

6.3 It was **resolved** to also pay £100 cash for the services of the bugler on Remembrance Day. This payment to be made under section 137 of the 1972 Local Government Act

6.4 Budget for 2014/2015; having considered our likely income and expenditure, it was **resolved** to keep the precept the same for next financial year. Proposed Cllr. Yapp, seconded Cllr. Leeming. All were in favour

6.5 Invoice received for May 2014 Election costs – there was concern that some residents had not received voting papers having registered for a postal vote. It was also felt that the invoice was higher than the estimated figure we were given and that Leeds City Council's invoice may be incorrectly charging us for our share of postal voting in the Barwick - in – Elmet ward. Ward Cllr. Robinson will arrange for Sue Wolfe of LCC Electoral Services to meet PC representatives face to face on 8th December for clarification

7 CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk presented the list of **correspondence** (2296-2318) received since the last meeting details of which had been previously circulated. There have been two communications from the Yorkshire Local Councils Association (2302 and 2312), five from the Outer North East Support Team (2299, 2300, 2308, 2310 and 2318) and several from LCC (2309, 2314 plus those itemised below). The other items were;

- 2296 Copy of Braham Park estate strategy
- 2297 Transfer of private sewage pumping stations to Yorkshire Water ownership
- 2298 Autumn Newsletter from the Charity Commission
- 2301 Scholes Women's Institute asking the PC to support nomination of some of its members for the Keep Britain Tidy Diamond Jubilee Awards (the PC has agreed to support this)
- 2303 Letter from the Royal British Legion and Fields in Trust about their Centenary Fields programme
- 2304 Notification from LCC of road closure – i.e. Chapel Lane
- 2305 LCC Tree Officer advising of proposals to do work to trees which have a TPO in force
- 2306 Planning enforcement response regarding 20 Milton Drive
- 2307 Marketing e-mail – when registered users shop on-line a donation goes to their chosen charity
- 2310 Outer North East Communication - site allocations meeting
- 2311 Complaint from a resident about a neighbour's cockerel crowing (Cllr. Hassell has dealt with this)
- 2313 Invoice for sponsorship of the Community Police Vehicle
- 2315 Query from a resident about the lack of signs down Potterton Lane advising of its unsuitability for heavy goods vehicles
- 2316 LCC Core Strategy Adoption statement and final report
- 2317 From Planning Enforcement - Spreadsheet of key planning enforcement cases in the Harewood Ward, three in our Parish

Item 2310 was an invitation to a meeting with Cllr. John Proctor to discuss the site allocations for the Outer North East – four councilors will attend as representatives of the Parish

Items 2306 and 2317 relate to key planning enforcement cases two of which are of particular cause for concern, i.e. the use of 20 Milton Drive as an ambulance station and 42 Gascoigne Road being used for storage of motor vehicles. Cllr. Yapp is monitoring the former (and other councilors have sent their comments directly to the LCC planning enforcement officer). The clerk will chase up the latter as there doesn't seem to be any progress from one month to the next on this

8 OTHER ITEMS

8.1 Highways issues and on-site meeting with Nick Borrás– Nick from LCC Traffic Management has offered several alternative dates for an on-site meeting with him, it was decided to go for Thursday 11th December in the afternoon, local residents are invited. The double bend on Long Lane near the chicken farm was added to the list of concerns we want to present to him. It was also suggested that we pay the police for extra shifts to use speed enforcement measures (and it was suggested that our part-sponsorship of the community police vehicle should release police resources towards these things). A meeting between some councilors and Ward Cllr. Robinson in Leeds Civic Hall has been arranged for the 8th December to discuss highways and drainage issues, Cllr. Robinson will ask someone senior in LCC Traffic Management to be present

8.2 MUGA pitch at Scholes – Cllr. Kelly has arranged a meeting with Tony Stringwell, a board member of Sports Leeds. This is arranged for lunchtime Friday 5th December to discuss funding opportunities

8.3 Application by North Leeds FC to use Scholes Football pitch – Cllr. Kelly has replied to Damian Armitage in response to his enquiry about availability of the Sports Field – there has been no reply

8.4 NDP report – David Gluck, the consultant employed by the Steering Group, spoke to the meeting. Draft documents have been circulated for comment and feedback, i.e. a summary of the NDP and the questionnaire, blocks of colour are to be added to the latter. It was suggested that the ending of the summary was too abrupt. A revision of the summary has been completed. David elaborated on community assets, these are not necessarily the same thing as PC assets, for example the doctor's surgery – he suggested that we name them and be as specific as possible. An asset can include views/sight lines which we wish to preserve. There is a list of local green spaces in the summary. Some documents quoted as references will be imported into the plan, e.g. the Leeds City Council Street Design Guide. It is planned to go to press next week so any comments need to be made to David within a couple of days of the PC meeting. Going forward, the Steering Group meets on 10th December and 7th January and there will be Public Meetings in each village on 10th and 17th January. Help is needed for both public meetings and delivery of the summary and questionnaire

There followed discussion about the Housing Needs Survey. The purpose of this survey was explained, it tries to understand why people want to move into our villages and why they move out. Transport links for those in employment are vital but any new development needs to be sustainable. A question was asked whether this was based on the proven pop-group model, Cllr. Hassell will find out. It was **resolved** that we go ahead with this survey, proposed Cllr. Yapp, seconded Cllr. Baker, all were in favour. The first paragraph needs to make references, David will deal with this

8.5 Facebook, Website, Social media – There were 550 visits last month. There are 196 users

8.6 SLF working group report: A questionnaire about the use of the field is being delivered to every house in Barwick - in – Elmet and Scholes. The comments made at last month's Open Forum have been taken into account in the content of the questionnaire. There is a deadline of 15th December by which they should be returned and some have been returned already. It was noted that the water containers, the metal barriers and the ruts are still in the field

8.7 Risk assessments and Asset Register – four more risk assessments have been done. The comments made by the internal auditor about putting on the register things which we value but which are not actually PC assets were noted. Cllr. Remmer will compare the current asset register with one produced by the previous clerk and ensure that additions to the register are genuine PC assets

8.8 Management plan for all the sites that the PC looks after – Cllr. Beaumont has nearly completed a draft which he will then pass to Cllr. Remmer for review by the next PC meeting

8.9 Adult Education Courses –courses – since the newsletter one resident has expressed interest in this while another is willing to run courses but feels that attendees will be put off by room hire charges on top of course fees. It was felt that this is the wrong time of year, most courses start in September and we should therefore reconsider this at the end of spring. It was also noted that self-help future education is available for free at on-line at sites such as FutureLearn.Com

8.10 Upgrade to superfast broadband – the original site for the new telecommunications cabinet was deemed unsuitable by BT Openreach and considerable effort was made to accommodate their request for an alternative site which involved the removal of a large planter. Although they implied urgency at the time, nothing happened for several months, the telecommunications cabinet has now been installed on the site they originally deemed unsuitable. It will be repainted dark green. Cllr. Robinson will report back regarding superfast broadband for Scholes

9 PLANNING

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

14/06520/FU/NE 34 Elmet Road - Two storey rear and side storey front extensions, detached garage to rear, new vehicle crossing and hard standing to front – **no objections subject to planners satisfaction on a number of points**

There were questions about the progress of previous applications at 2 Morwick Grove, 23 Elmete Avenue and 9 Fieldhead Drive all of which have been considered by the PC as reported in previous minutes

10 REFERRALS & RISK ASSESSMENTS

Cllr. Crosfil and Cllr. Yapp have carried out inspections of the children's playgrounds in Scholes and Barwick - in - Elmet respectively, Cllr. Crosfil has removed some cans. There are a lot of leaves at this time of year, the library steps in particular are affected by this. The bins at the library and at the bus stop on Leeds Road are no longer there, the clerk will pursue the latter and has already raised the former with LCC

11 DATES of FUTURE MEETINGS

Monday 5 January Meeting & Forum at Barwick - in - Elmet Methodist Schoolroom at 7 **p.m.**

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.53 p.m.

Signed

Chairman
5 January 2015

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

The chairman reviewed the comments made at the previous Open Forum and commented on action taken since

1. The bottle banks have now been removed
2. The error on Facebook has been corrected and the property wanting the wind turbines is now correctly named, the planning application for the wind turbines is still awaited and until it is, there is little the PC can do
3. 23 Elmete Avenue has had a visit by LCC Plans Panel
4. The SLF questionnaire has been amended in consideration of comments made
5. The Highways concerns near the Coronation Tree have been referred to Nick Borrás of LCC Traffic Management

Residents then raised further issues as follows;

Concern was expressed that the agenda did not appear on the Facebook page until the evening of the meeting and did not appear on the website. It was accepted that this was not best practice and that the PC needed to give this greater priority

There was also information given about the process for registering a new footpath as a public right of way. This related to a notice put up by Persimmon Homes some months ago and subsequent appeal in the newsletter for witnesses. A footpath can be registered as a public right of way even if it doesn't connect two points, there is already such a path in Barwick - in - Elmet which goes into the middle of a field and then stops and similar examples at Boston Spa. Also there isn't necessarily a need to prove that the path has been used for a minimum of twenty years to get it registered. Under Common Law evidence of footpath use of less than twenty years is admissible but such evidence has to be more robust than would ordinarily be accepted. The clerk has had responses to the newsletter article from two residents, one of whom was ringing on behalf of the scouts. It was felt that Morwick Hall might help support the application as they use one of the paths as a back exit. There was a query regarding the East Leeds Orbital Road but the feeling was that if the path becomes official, then the road builders will have to respect the status of the path and build a footbridge or a tunnel. It was suggested that further appeals for witnesses need to be made, for example a notice placed in the Best One shop

It was confirmed that the kissing gate has now been fitted in Scholes Lodge Farm field

The open forum closed at 7:20 p.m.