

DUNFORD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

HELD ON THURSDAY 7TH AUGUST 2008 AT 7.30 P.M.

AT THE PARISH COMMUNITY CENTRE

Present: Councillors M. Drewry (Chair), B. Cockburn, L. Devons, A. Kaye, V. Parkin and A. Pestell

In attendance: Mr A. Kaye, Mr and Mrs D. Rothery and three members of the public.

1. APOLOGIES

No apologies were received.

2. INTRODUCTION OF NEW CLERK

The Chair introduced the new Clerk to the Council, Elizabeth Barnard, who takes up her post as of today. Elizabeth presently works full time for Barnsley MBC as a Democratic Services Officer and is looking forward to also working for the Parish Council.

3. COUNCILLOR JANETTE WHITEHEAD – A REMEMBRANCE

A minute's silence was held to mark the recent passing of Councillor Janette Whitehead. All the Parish Councillors expressed sadness at her loss but also had fond memories of Janette and spoke movingly about her life, her work as a Parish Councillor, and her friendship. She will be missed by all.

Councillor Pestell also expressed sadness at the recent death of Darrell Marshall.

4. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 3rd July 2008 were agreed as a correct record.

5. MATTERS ARISING

5.1 Freedom of Information Act (2000)

IT WAS AGREED that requests for information under the above Act will now be sent to the new Clerk to the Council, and details amended accordingly.

5.2 Combined Members Meeting

To note for next meeting. Councillor Pestell was of the opinion that Corus was now having doubts about the wind farm above Stocksbridge following a recent power failure.

IT WAS AGREED that this will now be a standard item on every DPC agenda.

5.3 Dunford Parish Community Association Agreement

This agreement has now been amended, with the alterations highlighted in red.

IT WAS AGREED that the amended agreement should now be signed by Councillor Drewry.

6. YOUTH CLUB MATTERS

It was reported that no progress had been made in arranging the meeting of interested parties. It was felt that representation from children and outside agencies (including Barnsley MBC Youth Service) is necessary. The recent disco was a very good event and more should be organised in the future. The possibility of arranging trips out should also be explored. The DJ commented on the good behaviour of the children and it was felt that the children attending were a credit to themselves.

IT WAS AGREED that Councillor Pestell will arrange the meeting to progress this issue. Lauren Simmons and Helen Reckless should be invited from the Youth Service and Councillor Drewry also wishes to attend.

7. DUNFORD PARISH RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

A meeting was held on 30th July 2008.

Community Centre: Lyndsey gave Doreen an application form for monies which extended the remit to the whole of the building. It was felt that this should be accepted and that the peppercorn rent should be paid to Hepworth just in case.

Playground: A quote of £17,000 had been received for the fence, gates, etc., with the top metre in netting as opposed to wire mesh. Funding for this is available.

Machinery: The application for funding for a tractor is to continue. Although the grass is presently only cut once or twice a year it was felt that this would be useful. If the application is successful this will be reassessed.

Lock-up: Lyndsey is to liaise with Councillor Drewry, who has registered an interest and has been informed that DPC is number 9 on the list of interested parties. There will be a cost to transport the lock-up if successful.

Two items have been removed from the DPRA agenda: Roadworks and the public toilets in Dunford Bridge as the YWA toilets at the top are now locked up.

The Bank has made a mistake and has changed details of all bank accounts held (not just DPRA), including DPC.

IT WAS AGREED that the Clerk will write to the Bank to transfer the correct details over.

The Constitution will be ready in two weeks' time and will be ratified at the next meeting.

Councillor Pestell is to investigate the matter of weeds around the bus shelter. If it is the bus shelter on the Trans Pennine Trail, this is the responsibility of Barnsley MBC.

8. DUNFORD PARISH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

The recent Gala, which was opened by the Mayor and Mayoress of Barnsley, was a great success. The recent dance however was disappointing and demonstrated poor community engagement. Thirty-two people attended, but only seven were residents. A profit of £100 was made but this was

disappointing given the amount of advertising undertaken and effort put in to organising the event. £1,000 was taken in total for both the gala and dance. Photographs will be available on the internet shortly. All those who attended and organised the events were thanked but it was emphasised that more people are needed to help organise events. The next meeting is to be held on 23rd September.

A clear out has been arranged for the bank holiday weekend (Friday 22nd to Tuesday 26th August) and a skip has been ordered to dispose of the rubbish.

9. APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE FORMAL UPDATE

Councillor Drewry gave an update on the recent Clerk appointment. Twenty five application packs were sent out, seven applications received and three applicants shortlisted for interview on 9th July. The appointment of the successful candidate was confirmed in writing on 10th July with a 7th August start date. The contract of employment has yet to be agreed by Council and the Clerk.

IT WAS AGREED That the Appointments Committee will consider the draft contract and bring it back to the next meeting.

10. BT PAYPHONES

Councillor Pestell has not yet received a response from BT and there is confusion as to whether the telephone numbers are Barnsley numbers or not.

11. THE MIDDLECLIFFE RABBITS

Councillor Devons reported that there is no further news on this issue. Only one rabbit was seen wandering recently and the RSPCA had also visited. It would appear that the containment issue had been resolved.

12. OLD PEOPLE'S BUNGALOWS

A local resident was not given the opportunity to apply for one of the old people's bungalows as this had already been let. Councillor Pestell has contacted Berneslai Homes about this but has not yet received a response. If there has been a deviation from the lettings policy this is a cause for concern.

13. WOODHEAD/NATIONAL GRID

Nothing to report. A copy of an e-mail was distributed. Construction work has been put back to 2009 due to planning issues around the new control building. A consultation event will be taking place this year and a discussion ensued about the Tintwistle bypass which has come up again.

14. GRITTING REPORT

Councillor Drewry has received a response from the Leader of the Council in respect of the gritting of Don View, reiterating the Cabinet decision of 7th May not to grit. Councillor Drewry will respond but felt that no progress will be made due to limited resources and the fact that principal routes are covered.

15. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

None received.

Councillor Cockburn reported that she intended writing a letter in support of a previous application from the flying club to construct a car park, which had been refused. The land is owned by Cllr Cockburn's family and concern was expressed that DPC had not been contacted again about this application.

IT WAS AGREED that Councillor Pestell will make enquiries as to why DPC have not received copies of this new planning application.

16. ACCOUNTS APPROVAL

Accounts submitted were approved.

17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Councillor Pestell is to make further enquiries about the date and venue for the Yorkshire Local Councils Joint Annual Meeting, which it was thought may be held in Scarborough. Councillors Pestell and Cockburn will attend if convenient.

Copies of the Penistone Area Forum Agenda for the meeting held on 23rd July and the minutes of the Penistone West Sub Crime Safety Group meeting held on 19th June 2008 were distributed for information.

The Cooperative Bank newsletter for Community Directplus account holders was passed to the Clerk for information.

A letter had been received from Barnsley MBC Planning and Transportation Service in respect of on-going consultation into the Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham Joint Strategic Waste Development Plan. The consultation document and timetable updates are available to view on Barnsley MBC's website at: www.barnsley.gov.uk/wastedpd . It was felt that as the plan may have an impact on the local area, the Parish Council should receive a paper copy of the document for consideration as not everybody has internet access or can visit Barnsley Central Library to view the document.

IT WAS AGREED that the Clerk will make enquiries about obtaining a paper copy for the next meeting.

The Peak Park Parishes Forum Annual General Meeting is to take place on Saturday 13th September 2008 at Chapel-en-le-Frith High School, commencing at 9.30 a.m.

IT WAS AGREED that Councillors Pestell and Drewry will attend. Clerk to make arrangements.

A letter had been received from Streetscape in respect of resurfacing the sports ground. This has been passed to Lyndsey.

It was reported that tyres which had been dumped at Hazlehead had been removed promptly by Barnsley MBC. Several manhole covers have also been stolen and have been replaced with others with a lower steel content.

A number of complaints had been received about the No. 20 bus service as the route had been altered and this has had a big impact on local residents.

IT WAS AGREED that the Clerk will ask Stagecoach why residents were not consulted about the alteration.

It was reported that three local post offices are to be closed at Sheffield Road, Springvale, Silkstone Common and Thurlstone as part of the Post Office's on-going national closure programme. Although this decision does not directly impact on this community as the nearest post office is at Millhouse it was felt that closure of post offices should be objected to as it represents a loss of local life and the breaking up of communities.

IT WAS AGREED that the Clerk will draft a letter to form part of the consultation which needs to reach the Post Office by 22nd September. This will be brought to the next meeting.

An estimate has been received from Neighbourhood Services for maintaining the grass areas around the play area at Crow Edge. The cost is £254.93 plus VAT for the year to March 2009 but with an initial cut to bring the grass to a maintainable standard at an additional cost of £112.00 plus VAT. This does not include the plot currently maintained by Lightmain. There is a need to establish when the Lightmain contract expires and to decide if this plot should also be maintained by Barnsley MBC.

IT WAS AGREED that the Barnsley MBC estimate is acceptable and the Clerk should progress immediately as the play area is currently very overgrown.

18. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 11th September 2008 at 7.30 p.m. at The Parish Community Centre, Victoria. Please note the change of date.