

**DUNFORD PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

**HELD ON THURSDAY 6TH NOVEMBER 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: One member of the public.

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Steve Webber (Barnsley M. B. C. Councillor).

**2. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> October were accepted as an accurate record

**3. MATTERS ARISING**

3.1 *Land at Middlecliffe* - it was reported that although the land did not meet the guide price of £25,000 at the auction it was in fact sold after the auction.

3.2 *Crowedge Play Area* - it was reported that at the last inspection, which took place on 1<sup>st</sup> November, the tarmac surface is breaking up where graffiti was previously removed and that this could be a trip hazard. The wood chips are now very hard as they have become mixed with mud and grass. The wood edgings which were to hold the chippings in are now a trip hazard. There are a number of molehills. It was noted that the grass has been cut. The boulder has now been removed.

The Clerk had contacted Jo Birch at Barnsley MBC who stated that an inspection is now due. Barnsley MBC can provide this inspection on a bi-monthly basis (6 per annum), at a cost of £264.36 inc VAT. An external Annual Engineers Inspection can also be provided at a cost of £44.06 inc VAT.

**IT WAS AGREED** that the Clerk will confirm with Jo Birch that the Council wishes to proceed with both the two monthly inspections and the annual external engineer inspection.

**4. COUNCILLOR ELECTION**

As the Election was uncontested, it was reported that Kath Mitchell of Pennine Cottage, Hazlehead, Crowedge, Sheffield, S36 4HJ will be elected as a Parish Councillor.

**IT WAS AGREED** that the Clerk will write to Ms Mitchell with an invitation to sign a Declaration of Acceptance of Office at the December meeting of the Council, in accordance with statutory timescales.

## **5. DUNFORD PARISH PLAN**

It was reported that there is a need to revise the Parish Plan which was produced in 2004 and to find out if local priorities have changed since then and incorporate this information in a new plan. There is the possibility of applying for funding from the Area Forum to carry out the consultation.

**IT WAS AGREED** that the Clerk will try to find out what the cost of the consultation to produce a new plan will be.

## **6. CLERK – CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT**

The Clerk's draft contract has now been revised and clarified and Councillors had been provided with a copy to consider prior to the meeting. Professional legal advice had also been taken and incorporated within the contract. Five Councillors voted in favour of accepting the contract. One Councillor abstained.

The Clerk explained that she was keen to undertake formal training in order to ensure she was carrying out her duties correctly and would be looking into this in the New Year if acceptable to the Council. Councillor Cockburn advised that Frank Johnston, Clerk to Cawthorne Parish Council, would be a good contact about this and he also runs Clerk training courses.

**IT WAS AGREED** that the revised contract should be accepted and that the Clerk would be supported in applying for formal training as this is stated within the contract. The contract was duly signed by the Chair and the Clerk.

## **7. DUNFORD PARISH RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION**

The group has not met. Difficulties are being experienced in securing funding for the fencing due to the Council's statutory body status, which prohibits access to certain types of funding. The residents at No. 24 Foxholes have asked if the fencing can be extended due to problems with children climbing on their fencing and hedges. It was reported that this was the intention. At the last meeting Councillor Drewry asked that Councillor Pestell compile a report documenting the work Lindsey had completed to date, as her post was part funded by the DPRA and Hepworths and there should be an audit trail.

**IT WAS AGREED** that as no report has yet been produced that the funding report should remain as an agenda item.

## **8. DUNFORD PARISH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**

The last meeting was cancelled. The proposed children's party for under 9's was also cancelled due to the small number of young children who would be able to come along. Councillors said that the presentation at the recent Area Forum meeting was very positive but were disappointed that no action had followed on from this. It was acknowledged that there are difficulties for the public to get to the Community Centre as there is no footpath and it is difficult to walk to but nonetheless that the DPCA needs to develop and move forward with the full support of the whole committee.

## **9. YOUTH CLUB MATTERS**

The Disco is scheduled to go ahead on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2008 at 8.00 p.m. The new Assistant Youth Leader has already got a CRB check. Membership of the club is increasing and it was reported that the pool table is very well used. This is free for club members to use, but is also a means of income generation when used by others. Hot chocolate is available at a cost of 20 pence. The club has purchased four new music cd's and some others were donated by Councillor Devons.

## **10. WOODHEAD/NATIONAL GRID**

A consultation event, organised by National Grid, took place in the Woodhead Tunnel on 4<sup>th</sup> October and was attended by Councillors Drewry and Parkin. The event was not well attended by the local community, with only six people in total attending. It was felt that the changes to the control building reflected issues which had been brought up through the consultation and that the design was now much better. A copy of a letter from PLACE which was sent to National Grid confirmed this view.

**IT WAS AGREED** that a letter should be sent to National Grid thanking them for the consultation opportunity and for incorporating local views into the revised design of the control building.

## **11. COMBINED MEMBERS MEETING**

Nothing to report other than the prospective Member of Parliament for Hillsborough has objected to the proposed development at the Sheepphouse site.

**IT WAS AGREED** that this item will no longer be a standing agenda item.

## **12. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

NP/B/0908/0849 – Extension of living accommodation into barn at Flouch Farm – No objections were raised.

2008/1521 – erection of building to provide weather protection for site employees, Wavin UK, Hazelhead, Crow Edge – No objections were raised.

## **13. FINANCE**

The Chair and Clerk had visited the local branch of the Co-operative Bank to resolve recent difficulties following the appointment of the new Clerk. A new bank mandate was issued to remove unauthorised signatories and was signed by all Councillors. This will be sent to the Co-operative Bank with a covering letter and other documentation, including minutes from this meeting, in accordance with their advice.

Accounts from the last meeting were approved. The Clerk hopes to be able to provide a fully reconciled statement of accounts at the next meeting once the Bank has actioned the new mandate.

#### **14. CORRESPONDENCE**

Councillor Drewry reported that the East Peak Local Innovation Group had recently obtained £2.4 million of funding from DEFRA and Yorkshire Forward. The next meeting is scheduled to take place on 11<sup>th</sup> November at 6.30 p.m. and Councillor Drewry will be attending.

A copy of the new Barnsley MBC Parish and Town Council Charter was distributed. This will be photocopied for all Councillors.

An invitation had been received from Barnsley M. B. C. Planning and Transportation to visit their offices on 25<sup>th</sup> November to see how the planning process works. Interested Councillors were asked to let the Clerk know if they wanted to attend.

A letter had been received from Darren Rothery raising a number of concerns. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to Darren outlining how the Council wished to address and resolve these where it was appropriate to do so.

#### **15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Newsletter – It was felt that the Council should endeavour to produce a newsletter twice a year with the possibility of grant funding from the Area Forum to cover the cost of production. It was also felt that local businesses may wish to help with costs in exchange for advertising space.

**IT WAS AGREED** that the Clerk will obtain an estimate of cost for producing a newsletter.

Councillor Parkin enquired about the proposed Joint Strategic Waste Development Plan and asked if more information was available. The Clerk will make enquiries about this.

Councillor Kaye requested that the Crime and Safety Sub-group be a standing agenda item. This was agreed.

#### **16. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2008 at 7.30 p.m. At the Parish Community Centre.