

DUNFORD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

HELD ON THURSDAY 12TH FEBRUARY 2009 AT 7.30 P.M.

AT THE PARISH COMMUNITY CENTRE

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

In attendance: One member of the public.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor V. Parkin and Councillor Steve Webber (BMBC)

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 8th January 2009 were accepted as an accurate record

3. MATTERS ARISING

3.1 – *Crowedge Play Area*: The first inspection will be in mid-April, then every eight weeks thereafter, a total of six inspections per annum. The annual inspection is generally carried out in late summer. The Council will receive an invoice around the end of April/beginning of May. The recent deep snowfalls prevented a recent inspection of the playground, although deep tyre tracks could be seen in the area around the basketball pitch.

IT WAS AGREED that Cllr Kaye will take this issue to the crime and safety sub-group, as it was suspected that local youths were to blame; and that Cllr Pestell will speak to Hepworths about the possibility of placing rocks here to prevent further damage.

3.2 – *Newsletter*: An estimate had been received from BMBC printing services as follows: 200 A4 copies (four pages each) price: £51.00 in black and white, £93 in full colour. Copies of a recent full colour newsletter, prepared for another purpose, were distributed for consideration in terms of size and format.

IT WAS AGREED that the Clerk will prepare a community support fund application for funding for two editions of the newsletter, postage and a contribution towards the cost of consultation to inform the Parish Plan. The bid will then be considered at the next meeting of the Area Forum on 25th February 2009.

3.3 – *Joint Strategic Waste Development Plan*: The Clerk will forward information obtained about this to Cllr Parkin. The consultation around this has not been well advertised, which is a cause for concern as the location of the site will have an impact on local communities.

IT WAS AGREED that this issue should be a standing item on the agenda.

3.4 – *Freedom of Information publication scheme*

IT WAS AGREED that this draft statement should be adopted and a copy placed on the notice board at the Community Centre.

3.5 – *Broadband availability*: Further to a recent enquiry from a member of the public, the Clerk pointed out that the Government wants everyone in the UK to have access to a basic broadband service by 2012. The Clerk will monitor this issue and report back when there are firm proposals.

Public transport: Further problems had been experienced with the bus service. The last letter of complaint had now been acknowledged by Stagecoach and SYPTE was not taking an interest in the issue. It was pointed out that Cllr Kyte (BMBC) was of the opinion that public transport should be placed back in public hands. Members had concerns that children were being put at risk because of the problems with the service. When Hazelhead school closed, a promise was made that school transport would be provided and that people should not have to rely on their own transport. It was felt that school transport in rural areas was something which could meet the criteria for funding through EPIP and that community groups in the area could look to developing a joint bid.

IT WAS AGREED that the Council would reaffirm its current policy of re-regulating public transport and putting it back in public hands.

Saltboxes: The Chair advised that saltboxes will not be provided on roads which are gritted. If there is a requirement for saltboxes for next winter, this needs to be stated now. It was also noted that Barnsley MBC's Environment Scrutiny Commission will be looking into the issue of winter road maintenance.

IT WAS AGREED that the Clerk will write to request that saltboxes be placed at Townhead, Victoria, Carlecotes and Crowedge.

4. **Dunford Parish Plan**

It was reiterated that the Parish Plan needs to be reviewed. Many improvements have taken place but also some actions identified in the plan have not happened and there is a need to inform people why. It was suggested that a sub-committee should be formed to review the plan.

IT WAS AGREED that there will be an open-ended question in the next edition of the newsletter which will ask what people think the top three priorities for the parish council should be.

5. **Parish precept 2009/10**

As there is no justification for an increase, the parish precept for the next financial year (2009/10) should remain the same as the previous year at £8,490.00.

IT WAS AGREED that the Clerk will write to Barnsley MBC to inform them of this decision.

6. **Dunford Parish Community Association**

There is a need to complete a health and safety risk assessment. The Chair agreed to forward a model document on to the Chair of the Association. Councillor Cockburn will follow up the food hygiene issue with Nigel Bath, Area Forum Officer. It was agreed at the last meeting that the issue of fundraising would be deferred until future notice, as at the moment nobody has capacity to fundraise. An approach had been made by Hepworth under-13 football club to use the field and community centre for football matches. It was felt that this might impinge on future bookings from others. This issue may be discussed at the next meeting in March. It was pointed out that the DPCA website is out of date and should either be updated or removed. Councillor Cockburn will follow this issue up and report back to the next meeting of the council.

7. Dunford Parish Residents Association

6.1 Funding report: The funding report is not available. There are concerns around accountability for spending as the association does not have a constitution. The DPRA will take on the funding role and this will be discussed at the Annual General Meeting which will take place in April.

IT WAS AGREED that the DPRA will be removed from the agenda.

8. Planning Applications

2009/0095 – Installation of individual Wind Turbine at Martin Nest Farm, Victoria.
No objections were raised.

2009/0005 – Amendment to Hazlehead Wind Farm including alteration to existing internal access formation of new access track. No objections were raised but Councillors were concerned that this is being used as a ‘delaying tactic’.

Member Consultation – proposed disposal of School House, Lee Lane, Millhouse Green. It was agreed that this should be disposed of at auction and the council be informed of further developments.

Member Consultation – proposed disposal of former snow plough shed, Windle Edge, Dunford Bridge. The Parish Council is of the opinion that it would be a mistake to dispose of this property, given the recent bad weather. It is an asset which should be retained and represents a loss for future use.

9. Crime and Safety Sub-Group

The meeting was cancelled. Councillors were aware that three or four vans were broken into at Middlecliffe, despite the fact that crime in Penistone has reduced considerably. The recent ‘no cold calling’ event was very well attended.

10. Finance

Monthly accounts were submitted and approved. Councillor Pestell agreed to check the gauge on the gas meter.

11. Correspondence

The following items of correspondence have been received:

- ‘Bag It Up’ CPRE campaign article
- A request for accommodation in the Dunford Bridge area
- Notification of works on rights of way in the area
- CPRE newsletter
- A certificate of membership for Rural Action Yorkshire
- A request for advice about the hire of community centres

12. Any other business

Councillor Cockburn noted that the road sign at Brookhill, Carlecotes has been knocked down. This will be reported to the Highways department.

Councillor Devons had been approached by a number of residents in Foxholes Grove, Crow Edge, who are concerned about the use of the turning bay outside numbers 23/24 Foxholes for parking.

IT WAS AGREED that a letter will be sent to householders in the area requesting that the bays are used for the purpose for which they are intended, and not for parking.

Concerns Pestell raised concerns about the First Responder Service, which does not cover the parish of Dunford. This type of emergency response, and the use of a defibrillator, is needed in the area, as it was reported that a number of local residents had recently suffered heart attacks.

IT WAS AGREED that a letter will be sent to Yorkshire Ambulance Service and the PCT seeking clarification on what emergency services are provided for the Dunford parish area.

13. Date and time of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 5th March 2009 at 7.30 p.m. at the Parish Community Centre.