

DUNFORD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

HELD ON THURSDAY 5TH MARCH 2009 AT 7.30 P.M.

AT THE PARISH COMMUNITY CENTRE

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

In attendance: Councillor Steve Webber (BMBC) and one member of the public.

1. APOLOGIES

No apologies were received.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 12th February 2009 were accepted as an accurate record subject to minor amendment.

3. MATTERS ARISING

3.1 Crowedge Play Area: Councillor Devons expressed concern that issues are raised but not addressed and that the Parish Council may be liable. The bark chippings have now gone completely hard and this needs urgent attention. Councillor Devons was also concerned that she may not be qualified to report back on problems relating to the playground.

IT WAS AGREED that the Chair will prepare a revised risk assessment form to identify high/medium/low risk issues and what action should be taken. Councillor Pestell agreed to look at the play area and report back, obtaining an estimate for works to be done if necessary. It was also agreed that funding should be identified within the budget for ongoing maintenance and repair of the playground. Councillor Webber also agreed to find out about the £1.1 million of funding for playgrounds across the Borough.

3.2 Newsletter – Community Support Fund Application: All outstanding funds were allocated prior to the Area Forum meeting in February. The Area Forum Officer advised the Clerk to submit an application for consideration at the next meeting.

3.3 First Responder Service: The Clerk is awaiting a response from Yorkshire Ambulance Service. Councillor Webber is attending a meeting on 9th March about this and will feed back information at the next meeting.

Public transport: The Managing Director of Stagecoach has offered further reassurances that the current situation is unacceptable. The Chair has passed correspondence on to Councillor Kyte (BMBC) and the matter has been raised in the Council Chamber. Buses are still not turning up when due. Problems are to be expected in a rural area but reliability in the parish area is currently only 81%, which is the worst in Barnsley.

Dunford Parish Residents Association: A discussion took place about the funding report for the Residents Association. It was agreed that there is a need to establish what the funding was spent on as the Parish Council may be accountable.

IT WAS AGREED that Councillor Mitchell will examine DPRA bank statements and supporting paperwork to find out how much the grant was for and what it was spent on and feed back this information to the next meeting.

4. Dunford Parish Community Association

A meeting took place on 3rd March 2009. An electrical certificate is required for insurance purposes as a matter of urgency and an electrician is due on Friday morning. Councillor Cockburn expressed concern about the electrics following refurbishment of the ceiling and there are a number of bookings coming up. Councillor Pestell advised that what was required was a 'Certificate and Report on Condition' and not an estimate of cost.

Risk assessment forms have been filled in and any comments will be brought to the next meeting.

Councillor Cockburn stated that two new DPCA members are attending a Health and Safety course in respect of catering.

The Gala will be discussed at the next meeting. Councillor Drewry advised that 'Grass Roots Grants' are available to fund community events and that the Dearne Community Partnership was recently awarded £2,000. Outreach workers are available to help with submitting a bid.

A DPCA member has agreed to look at the website and will report on progress at the next meeting.

5. Joint Strategic Waste Development Plan

Councillor Parkin had considered the documentation provided about this and expressed concern about the composting issue, which could be a potential problem. There are three potential sites in the Dearne for the waste plant, which will serve three Local Authorities with nobody having overall control. There will be a similar situation in Stocksbridge and Penistone.

6. Planning Applications

No planning applications have been received.

7. Crime and Safety Sub-Group

The group has not met recently. Councillor Kaye reported that dog fouling signs are to be placed around Whinscar Reservoir as this is becoming a problem and was of the opinion that dog waste bins should be provided. It was reported that motorbikes have been seen on the reservoir embankment on Sunday lunchtimes and the only way to eradicate this behavior is to continue to report it.

8. Finance

There are still a number of bank statements missing. The Clerk agreed to order duplicates in order to reconcile the accounts for the financial year end. Monthly accounts were submitted and approved.

9. Correspondence

The following items of correspondence were distributed to Councillors:

- Friends of the Earth are holding an event at St Andrews Church, Penistone, at 7.30 p.m. on the 10th March 2009. Councillor Kaye is to attend.
- Age Concern is carrying out a community mapping exercise to find out what community groups etc., are active in the area. Councillor Pestell agreed to complete the questionnaire.

- A copy of Kirklees' Land Development Strategy
- Peak District LDF – Core Strategy Consultation
- Peak Park Parishes Forum – Newsletter and membership invitation
- CPRE Newsletter

10. Any other business

Councillor Mitchell queried why the new street lights at Hazlehead crossroads stop outside the Cragrats building and do not continue to Hazlehead bridge as it was felt that this would lead to improved safety.

Councillor Mitchell raised concerns about the car park at Flouch. The property used to have three entrances (two on Whams Road) but the owner has sealed up the first entrance and as a result motorists are using the second entrance and cutting across the roundabout, which is dangerous. There has been one accident and several 'near misses'. It would be much safer to open up the first entrance (from Hazlehead) and block the second one off instead.

Councillor Mitchell had noticed muckspreading debris on Lee Lane from the neighbouring farm. Mud had also been noted on the road from Carlecotes to Dunford Bridge and it was agreed that this was dangerous and there was a need to establish whether it was the responsibility of farmers or the Highways department to make sure that roads were clear of debris.

IT WAS AGREED that the Clerk will contact highways about all the above issues.

11. Date and time of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 2nd April 2009 at 7.30 p.m. At the Parish Community Centre. This will be followed at 8.30 p.m. by the Annual Assembly.