

**SCOTTER PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held on 10<sup>th</sup> August 2009**

**PRESENT:** Councillor C. Day (Chairman), Councillors M. Armstrong, M. Brown, D. Capes, J. Fillingham, and S. Rayner, M. Brown (Clerk).

With no members of the public present, the meeting commenced at 7.32pm. However, the Chairman explained that he expected the attendance of PCSO Thomas at some point during the meeting.

**RESOLVED :** To suspend Standing Orders on PCSO Thomas' arrival to allow him to speak.

**68 2009/10 : To receive and approve apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Councillors Altoft and Bullivent who are on holiday and from Councillors Billam and Sheardown who have another commitment.

**RESOLVED :** To accept and approve the apologies from Councillors Altoft, Billam, Bullivent and Sheardown.

**69 2009/10 : To receive declarations of interest**

Councillor Fillingham declared a personal interest in relation to agenda item 16 (minute ref. 83 2009/10) due to his membership of Scotter Village Hall Association and stated his intention to abstain from voting on the matter. Councillor Day declared a prejudicial interest in relation to item 39 2009/10 of agenda item 11, the Clerk's Report (minute ref. 78 2009/10), due to his involvement in the contracting company in question and stated his intention to leave the meeting room during the discussion/vote on the matter.

**70 2009/10 : To approve the notes of the Council Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2009 as the Minutes of that meeting.**

**RESOLVED :** To approve the notes of the Council Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2009 (as circulated) as the Minutes. These were signed by the Chairman.

**71 2009/10 ; To agree a course of action in relation to the take-over of the public open space at The Old Granary**

The Council considered the recent exchange of correspondence between Beal Homes and the Clerk on the negative findings raised by RoSPA when it conducted a post-installation inspection of the play ground on the main public open space. Whilst it was pleased to note that several of the findings have been rectified it was concerned that the issue of an undersized safer surface had not been attended to, Beal Homes' arguing that RoSPA has stated verbally that this is not a serious problem and (in isolation) would only be rated as "low risk". The Council also discussed the fact that several of the planted trees have died and also that the fencing is showing signs of surface-finish deterioration, particularly next to the location of brick storage during the construction phase. Whilst the Council was not concerned about the trees, it :

**RESOLVED :** To ask Beal Homes to produce written confirmation from RoSPA on the matter of the safer surface and to take remedial action in relation to the paint finish to the fencing.

When both matters have been satisfactorily resolved, the Council will consider the formal take-over of the site.

**72 2009/10 : To consider whether the Council should respond to East Midlands Regional Assembly's consultation on the Regional Plan Partial Review**

The Council considered the letter received against the background of its previous review of the proposed Regional Plan and the impact of the latter on the Local Development Framework and

**RESOLVED :** To make no comment on this particular consultation.

At this point (7.48pm), PCSO Thomas entered the meeting room and Standing Orders were suspended. PCSO Thomas brought the Council up to date with the progress of the Green Street Project, with local youngsters working with the police during the summer holiday period to pick up litter, paint fences and carry out a car wash (the proceeds of c. £100 to go to a charity of the young people's choice). The Council commended both Lincolnshire Police and the young people for this tremendous community effort. PCSO Thomas also confirmed that he was continuing to monitor activity at the playground and is seeking those youths who have been misusing the senior swings. With the Council having nothing to report to PCSO Thomas, he left at 7.55pm and Standing Orders were re-instated.

**73 2009/10 : To consider the Council's response to the invitation to take part in the Trees for Lincolnshire Communities Scheme, 2009**

The Council considered the invitation to take part in the 2009 scheme and welcomed the amendment to the scheme to expand the potential qualifying sites (to include public open spaces, cemeteries, playing fields, etc.) and the number of plants on offer. Councillor Capes confirmed that there are a number of sites where additional hedging plants would be beneficial.

**RESOLVED : That Councillor Capes will liaise with the Tree Warden to develop a scheme for submission.**

As Councillor Capes is unable to attend the next Council meeting and with a deadline of 30<sup>th</sup> September 2009 for submission of schemes, he will ensure the Clerk has the necessary paperwork in good time.

**74 2009/10 : To consider a request from a parishioner for the Council to support the preclusion of parking at the bus stop on High Street**

The Council considered the request made, with several Councillors commenting that they had also witnessed the recent trend for cars to park at the bus stop on High Street. At busy times, this has led to buses having to stop on the double yellow lines at the entrance to High Street, effectively precluding other vehicles from turning into this road and forcing them to back up onto the A159. Considering the blind bend just before the Ivy Lodge Hotel, this is a potential road safety issue. Councillor Rayner also commented that any action taken to preclude parking at this point is likely to result in parking occurring at the bus stop on the opposite side of the road, such that the preferred solution should apply to both bus stops. It was also pointed out that, perhaps, one of the reasons that people park on the bus stop is because they do not realise that it is one, the signage being so poor. Following further discussion, it was :

**RESOLVED : To ask LCC to implement Bus Stop Clearways and appropriate signage at both bus stops on High Street.**

**75 2009/10 : To consider a request from a parishioner for improved safety for pedestrians and drivers at the junction of Sands Lane and Gainsborough Road**

The Council considered the request made by the parishioner. Whilst the Council is fully aware that it is perfectly possible to cross the A159 via proper footpaths (on the village centre side of Sands Lane) and in a safe manner to access the snicket from Gainsborough Road to Astley Crescent, it recognised there are many who are opting for the less safe but more direct route when exiting Sands Lane, where no public footpath exists and the verge is sufficiently overgrown that the pedestrians are taking to the road at a blind spot for turning motorists. This is a very unsafe practice. As it is likely that some pedestrians will always take the shorter route irrespective of the potential danger to them and with the exception of Councillor Capes who abstained, the Council :

**RESOLVED : To ask LCC Highways for its suggestions to improve pedestrian safety at this point, with proposals for the overgrown verge to be cut back and an additional piece of footpath installed to be made.**

**76 2009/10 : To receive a report from the Cemetery & Allotments Working Group on its recent safety inspection of the cemetery**

During the period Councillors Brown and Day, on behalf of the Cemetery & Allotments Working Group, had inspected the cemetery and confirmed that there were no matters of a safety concern to report on this occasion. Councillor Day reported that YEDL has commenced work to remove the overhead wires and to connect the underground cables. This has resulted in two large and deep holes in the cemetery, which have been properly marked and barriers erected.

**77 2009/10 : To receive a report on the safety inspection of Parson's Field**

Councillor Day reported that he had inspected Parson's Field for safety during the period and had found nothing of concern. The Tree Warden has removed the low branches overhanging the footpaths and, with thanks to the youngsters working on the Green Street Project, some 20 bags of litter were collected on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> August 2009.

**78 2009/10 : To receive a report from the Clerk**

The Council noted the report, with comments made in relation to the following :

**75a 2004/05 & 47 2007/08: Public open space adoption and maintenance**

The Clerk reported that WLDC has now kindly carried out a special litter pick of the verges alongside the snicket from Gainsborough Road to Astley Crescent, even though the footpath has not yet been adopted. It will monitor the area and carry out further works as required. The Council welcomed this news. It then considered the query raised by the Planning Officer in his recent response to queries raised about the public open spaces in Scotter and

**RESOLVED : To respond that the Council is prepared in principle to take over another area of public open space but that this will depend on the design and physical state of the space and the commercial terms offered for its maintenance.**

**175 2008/09 : Tenant selection policies**

The Council considered the response made by Community Lincs that confirmed that the tenant selection policies used by the provider of social housing are in line with the guidelines issued by the District Council. As no further complaints have been received regarding the behaviour of an isolated group of tenants, the Council agreed that the matter need not be taken any further.

**34 2009/10 : Report produced by Community Lincs on youth issues**

The Clerk reported that she and Councillor Sheardown had attended the latest meeting of the Cross-Border Working Group. The meeting had been generally positive, with several actions underway to investigate possible measures to alleviate the problems. She will report more fully after the next meeting of the Group. The one negative note is that the Lincolnshire Youth Services' representative stated that the expected detached youth workers have not yet been appointed and that there is now an embargo on appointments. Furthermore, they are for Gainsborough and could only have been allocated to Scotter for a very limited period. In light of this, it was :

**RESOLVED : To write to the WLDC representatives to ask for their assistance in pursuing the matter of dedicated detached youth workers for Scotter.**

At this point, Councillor Day left the meeting room, with Councillor Brown temporarily taking the Chair.

**39 2009/10 : Unsafe litter bin**

The Council considered the action taken by the Clerk to ensure the safe installation of the litter bin at the playground and

**RESOLVED : To approve an expenditure of £25.00 plus VAT on the hire of a device to check for underground services.**

Councillor Day then returned to the meeting room and resumed his duties as Chairman.

**Initialed ..... Chairman**

**47 2009/10 : Potential amendments to cemetery policy**

A meeting of the Cemetery & Allotments Working Group was arranged for Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2009 at 7pm to discuss the impact on the cemetery policy of the new area of cemetery and of the Ministry of Justice's recent guidance note on memorial safety. Councillor Rayner asked the Clerk to re-circulate to members of the Group the web link to the guidance note.

**58 2009/10 : Untidy allotments**

The Council was happy to note the significant improvement made in relation to allotment no. 17. Having also noted that the holder of allotment 11 has decided to give it up rather than tackle it, it :  
**RESOLVED : To approve the immediate letting of cemetery allotment 11 to the next parishioner on the waiting list.** An appropriate letting agreement was signed by the Chairman and Vice Chairman.

**62b 2009/10 : East Ferry Road, Susworth**

Councillor Armstrong confirmed that the revised signage has now been installed. However, considering its location, it remains to be seen whether it will resolve the issue.

**67c 2009/10 : Footpath, Gainsborough Road**

Councillor Capes stated his surprise that the previous report to LCC had excluded the portion of Gainsborough Road from Southcliffe Road to the forest, as this is also in a poor state. He further stated that the footpath to Scotterthorpe is so overgrown as to be virtually impassable, having received no attention for at least three years. The Clerk will report both of these matters to LCC.

**78a Report on actions to reduce flood risk**

The Clerk stated that since she had written the report on this item, she had been informed by a Lindholme resident that the Environment Agency representative had very recently been in touch with several residents stating that the agency intends to ask the Council to arrange a meeting of affected residents in the very near future to discuss the outcomes of its review. The Council was of the strong opinion that such a meeting should not take place until the Council and the affected residents had been given a proper opportunity to consider the report. In consequence, it was :

**RESOLVED : To write again to the Environment Agency requiring the formal issue of the report prior to any public meeting being organised.**

**79 2009/10 : To receive new correspondence not already included above**

Items of correspondence (not already considered above and received prior to the August Meeting) were placed on circulation to Councillors at the meeting. If the need arises to take action in relation to any of this correspondence, it will become an agenda item for consideration at a future meeting.

**80a 2009/10 : To receive the Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings published since the last Council meeting and adopt the recommendations contained therein**

The Council considered the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings of 15<sup>th</sup> June 2009, 6<sup>th</sup> July 2009 and 27<sup>th</sup> July 2009 and

**RESOLVED : To concur with the actions taken by the Planning Committee and to adopt the minutes of the Committee meetings held on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2009, 6<sup>th</sup> July 2009 and 27<sup>th</sup> July 2009.**

**80b 2009/10 : To note the receipt of results from the planning authority**

The Council noted the following results received from the Planning Authority during the period :  
**124212 The Bluebells, Church Lane, Scotter** – a planning application to provide a sunroom extension to the rear of the building.

**Granted**

**Initialed ..... Chairman**

**124383 2 Gravel Pit Road, Scotter** – an outline planning application to erect one bungalow with some matters reserved.

**Refused**

**81 2009/10 : To note income received during June 2009 and to approve the June 2009 cash book and its reconciliation to the bank statements**

The Council noted the following income received during June 2009.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>PAYER</u>	<u>DETAILS</u>	<u>RECEIPTS</u>
05.06.09	Co-op Bank	Interest - current account	4.04
08.06.09	Barningham Memorials	Memorial to C. Pickup, grave no. BB56	80.00
08.06.09	YEDL	Rental/wayleaves	1.50
19.06.09	HM Revenue & Customs	VAT repayment	202.34
26.06.09	Cliff Bradley & Sons	Interment of P.M. Fowles in grave BE45	50.00
26.06.09	YEDL	Rental/wayleaves	12.98
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>			<b>350.86</b>

It then examined the cashbook as at end of June 2009 and its reconciliation to the bank statements and **RESOLVED : That the cashbook at the end of June 2009 should be signed by the Chairman and Clerk as a true record.**

**82 2009/10 : To formally approve the payments made during July 2009, to note the income received during that month and to approve the cash book as at the end of July 2009 and its reconciliation to the bank statements**

The Council considered the payments made during July 2009 (as approved at that time by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman) and it was :

**RESOLVED : That the following payments should be formally approved.**

<u>CHEQUE NO.</u>	<u>TO WHOM PAID</u>	<u>PARTICULARS OF PAYMENT</u>	<u>NET VALUE</u>	<u>VAT</u>	<u>TOTAL PAYMENTS</u>
Direct Debit	Tiscali	Broadband/phone calls, May '09.	19.58	2.94	22.52
401986	H.M. Customs & Revenue	PAYE & NI, Month 3	433.48	-	433.48
401987	Mrs M. Brown	Wages	531.22	-	
		Mileage	19.60	-	
		Car Park fees	3.60		
		Postage	9.38	-	
		Stationery	4.47	0.67	568.94
401988	Mr. J. Lyon	Wages	740.69	-	
		Mileage	34.40	-	
		Bin sacks	6.09	0.91	782.09
401989	Spencer's Garage	Fuel	73.30	10.99	84.29
401990	Green Stripe Garden Mch'y	Repairs to strimmer	10.99	1.65	12.64
401991	Green Grass Contracting	Flail mowing/river bank strimming, May'09	177.00	26.55	203.55
401992	Hemswell Contracting Ltd	Installation of memorial footings	3720.00	558.00	4278.00
401993	Allianz Insurance PLC	Insurance premium for ride-on mower	155.47	-	155.47
			<b>5,939.27</b>	<b>601.71</b>	<b>6,540.98</b>

The Council noted the following income received during July 2009:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>PAYER</u>	<u>DETAILS</u>	<u>RECEIPTS</u>
03.07.09	Co-op Bank	Interest - current account	2.53
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>			<b>2.53</b>

It then examined the cashbook as at end of July 2009 and its reconciliation to the bank statements and **RESOLVED : That the cashbook at the end of July 2009 should be signed by the Chairman and Clerk as a true record.**

**Initialed ..... Chairman**

**83 2009/10 : To approve payments to be made**

The Council examined the accounts to be paid for supplies and services received since the July payments were made and, with the exception of Councillor Fillingham who abstained :

**RESOLVED : That, in accordance with its powers under section 137 of the Local Government Act, 1972, the Council will incur expenditure on a donation to the Lincoln & Lindsey Blind Society which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interests of the inhabitants of the Parish and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure. Also, that the following payments should be approved.**

<u>CHEQUE</u>			<u>NET</u>		<u>TOTAL</u>
<u>NO.</u>	<u>TO WHOM PAID</u>	<u>PARTICULARS OF PAYMENT</u>	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>VAT</u>	<u>PAYMENTS</u>
Direct Debit	BT	Line rental, Q2 2009/10	44.61	6.69	51.30
Direct Debit	Tiscali	Broadband/phone calls, June '09.	31.85	4.78	36.63
401994	H.M. Customs & Revenue	PAYE & NI, Month 4	422.07	-	422.07
401995	Mrs M. Brown	Wages	531.22	-	
		Mileage	1.60	-	532.82
401996	Mr. J. Lyon	Wages	713.45	-	713.45
401997	Green Grass Contracting	Flail mowing/river bank strimming, July'09	177.00	26.55	203.55
401998	Clement Keys	Fee for external audit of 08/09 Return	285.00	42.75	327.75
401999	Scotter Junior Football Club	Grass cutting of pitch, April & May '09	156.86	-	
		Bank strimming, rough grass cutting	159.57	-	316.43
402000	Lincoln&Lindsey Blind Society	Donation	50.00	-	50.00
402001	Spencer's Garage	Fuel	144.15	21.62	165.77
402002	Pestx	Pest control for 3 mnths from 01/08/09	85.00	12.75	97.75
402003	SVHA	Office hire/room rental, Q1 2009/10	247.25	-	247.25
			<b>3,049.63</b>	<b>115.14</b>	<b>3,164.77</b>

**84 2009/10 : To receive a verbal report from the Parish Plan Committee**

In the absence of the two Councillors who represent the Council on the Parish Plan Committee, it was agreed to carry over this item to the next meeting.

**85 2009/10 : To take any points from members, identify items for the next agenda and to note urgent items of interest.**

**85a** Councillor Rayner raised the matter of the mobile advertisement hoarding situated on North Moor Road but beyond the county boundary. Proliferation of such signage is to the detriment of the rural setting and a distraction to drivers. It was :

**RESOLVED : To write to Messingham Parish Council to request its support in asking North Lincolnshire Council to clamp down on such advertisements.**

**85b** The Clerk reported that she had received a letter that morning from WLDC which requires a quick response (prior to the next Council meeting). It contains the District Council's proposals for the phased removal of the "per capita" subsidy, which it wishes to commence in 2010/11 with a reduction of £1 per elector. As this would occur at the same time as the loss of the cemetery subsidy, the combined effect would result in an unacceptable increase to the 2010/11 Precept of 21%. In consequence, it was

**RESOLVED : To request a delay in the implementation of the scheme until 2011/12.**

**85c** The Clerk further reported that a letter had been received from LCC Highways, confirming the location of the pedestrian crossing on the A159 and asking for the Council's comments. As the proposed location is in line with the Council's previous understanding following discussions with Mr Wiles, it was :

**RESOLVED : To respond that the Council is satisfied with the proposed location.**

**Initialled ..... Chairman**

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.24pm.

Clerk: .....

Chairman: .....

Date: .....