

SCOTTER PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held on 14th December 2009

PRESENT: Councillor C. Day (Chairman), Councillors N. Altoft, M. Armstrong, B. Billam, J. Bullivent, M. Brown, J. Fillingham and A. Sheardown, 1 member of the public, M. Brown (Clerk).

With the member of the public not wishing to address the Council during the open forum, the meeting commenced at 7.33pm.

162 2009/10 : To receive and approve apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Rayner who has a work commitment and Councillor Capes who is away.

RESOLVED : To accept and approve the apologies from Councillors Rayner and Capes.

163 2009/10 : To receive declarations of interest

Councillor Day declared an interest in relation to agenda item 14 (minute reference 175 2009/10) due to a payment being made to his company and stated his intention to abstain from voting on the matter. Councillor Fillingham declared an interest in relation to the same agenda item, due to his membership of Scotter Village Hall Association, and also stated his intention to refrain from voting. No other declarations were made at this time.

164 2009/10 : To approve the notes of the Council Meeting held on 16th November 2009 and of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 7th December 2009 as the Minutes of those meetings and (in relation to the latter) to approve the signature of the Precept demand.

RESOLVED : To approve the notes of the Council Meeting held on 16th November 2009 and of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 7th December 2009 (as circulated) as the Minutes of those meetings and to approve the signature of the 2010/11 Precept demand in the amount of £47,500. At the end of the meeting, the minutes were signed by the Chairman, with the Chairman, two Councillors and the Clerk signing the Precept demand as required by WLDC.

165 2009/10 : To receive a report and recommendations from the Cemetery & Allotments Working Group

The Council considered the report and recommendations prior circulated and

RESOLVED : To approve the following recommendations :

- In early March 2010, to upload onto the website the revised fee structure for Scotter Cemetery for 2010/11 and to issue a revised cemetery policy document to funeral directors and memorial masons.
- To fertilise the hedging around the new cemetery area and to replace hedge plants that have failed.
- To approve the work done by the Village Person in installing a pathway from the roundabout into the new cemetery area, where a natural gap in the hedging had occurred.
- To maximise the use of the new cemetery area for burial purposes by limiting choice of grave to the next available space in the row currently in use or the first available space on the adjacent rows.
- When issuing new agreements for the tenancy of both sets of allotments when the current agreements terminate (or when issuing agreements to new tenants), to align the agreements to allow for maintenance-related cost increases to be implemented without the need to terminate the agreements, but with the agreement for the tenancy of allotments at Scotterthorpe to recognise the role of the Allotment Manager in this process.

166 2009/10 : To resolve whether, in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and press should be temporarily excluded from the meeting for the next item of business

Initialed Chairman

On the basis that the next item of business contains information that is confidential to LCC, it was :
RESOLVED : That, in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and press should be temporarily excluded from the meeting for the next item of business.

With the member of the public excluded:

167 2009/10 : To consider a request from a parishioner in respect of the replacement of the A159 bridge against the background of the information received from the County Council and Edward Leigh MP

The Council considered the paper prior circulated in respect of this item, which contained copies of correspondence received from Edward Leigh MP, LCC, the Environment Agency and the parishioner. The paper also contained information received verbally from LCC which it has asked to be kept out of the public domain at the current time. At the conclusion of its deliberations, the Council :

RESOLVED : To take the following actions :

- To write to the Environment Agency to raise the issue of the potential impact of the (non-highways) bridge downstream of the A159 should upstream flow rates be increased at any future time and to ask for its proposals to deal with the matter. A copy of this letter is to be submitted to LCC Highways.
- In response to the Environment Agency's letter to Edward Leigh, MP, to query the number of properties in Scotter that it plans to provide with resilience protection and to ask it to provide address details of the 16 properties it has included, so that any properties it has missed can be identified and included in the resilience scheme.
- To contact LALC to obtain an initial overview of the applicability of legal precedent, created by the ruling on the Bybrook Barn case, in relation to a road bridge.

The Clerk is to write to the parishioner who raised the issue to state the Council's planned course of action in relation to his request, enclosing copies of the correspondence received.

With the member of the public invited to return :

168 2009/10 : To agree representation at the annual Parish, Town and District Council Assembly.

The Chairman explained that the fourth such meeting will be held on Monday 12th April 2010 at 7pm in the Guildhall. It was agreed that the Council will be represented by Councillors Altoft, Bullivent, Day and Sheardown. Councillors Capes and Rayner will also be given the opportunity to attend, should they so wish. In terms of suggested topics for discussion, the Chairman will give this some thought, for proposals to be brought to the January Council meeting. The Clerk suggested that, following WLDC's response to the Council's submission on the SHLAA, there may be merit in suggesting that the development and direction of the Core Strategy be a topic for discussion.

169 2009/10 : To receive a report from the Cemetery & Allotments Working Group on its recent safety inspection of the cemetery

During the period Councillor 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. The Clerk reported that, as a result of the heavy rains, a grave had collapsed. The Village Person has now filled in the slump with top soil and reinstated the turf.

170 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 on a regular basis during the period. On the most recent visit he had found two broken bottles which he had removed. As he had found a similar issue with broken glass on a recent inspection of the playing fields, he will report this to the PCSOs for action. Councillor Sheardown reported that he had also inspected Parson's Field and, with support, had collected and removed a large number of empty alcohol bottles, with the Clerk stating that the Village Person had also removed an unusually large number of empty alcohol bottles

Initialled Chairman

from the play ground following the recent weekend. This apparent increase in alcohol consumption will also be reported to the PCSOs.

171 2009/10 : To receive a report from the Clerk

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

160 2008/09 : Installation by YEDL of underground cable at Scotter Cemetery

The Council noted that, despite repeated chasing, YEDL have not installed marker posts showing the run of the underground cable in the cemetery nor supplied a detailed drawing showing its routing. As its path is still visible (the ground having not yet fully settled), it was

RESOLVED : To install two marker posts to show the lie of the cable.

The Village Person is to be asked to carry out this task. Should he be in need of marker posts, the Chairman will provide them.

5 2009/10 : Litter picking scheme

Considering the difficulties that have arisen in obtaining an applicant for the job that is acceptable to both the Council and WLDC (the latter being the lead employer), it was

RESOLVED : To invite Mr Selby of WLDC to the next meeting of the Cemetery & Allotments Working Group with a view to developing a sensible plan to fill the position at the earliest opportunity.

The discussion with Mr Selby is to include the issue of transportation, considering the size and spread of the village.

134 2009/10 : Bus services, Scotter

The Council noted, with disappointment, the responses received from LCC's Accessibility Unit and from the Commercial Director of Stagecoach East Midlands, both of which confirm that the removal of Scotter from the (old) 353 service route and that the lack of any service to the outskirts of the village must remain in place for viability reasons. However, both parties also stress that the new Call Connect demand-responsive bus service may provide at least a partial answer to the issues raised. The Council agreed that the Clerk should respond to the parishioner who had raised the issue, enclosing copies of the correspondence received from LCC and Stagecoach and providing details of the Call Connect service.

172 2009/10 : To receive new correspondence not already included above

Items of correspondence (not already considered above and received prior to the December 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.

173a 2009/10 : To receive the Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting published since the last Council meeting and adopt the recommendations contained therein

The Council considered the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings of 16th November 2009 and 7th December 2009 and

RESOLVED : To concur with the actions taken by the Planning Committee and to adopt the minutes of the Committee meetings held on 16th November 2009 and 7th December 2009.

173b 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 :
124804 45 Gainsborough Road, Scotter – a planning application for the demolition of an existing dwelling and construction of a new house.

Granted.

124948 30 High Street, Scotter – a planning application to erect a single storey extension and associated alterations.

Granted.

Initialed Chairman

174 2009/10 : To note income received during November 2009 and to approve the November 2009 cash book and its reconciliation to the bank statements

The Council noted the following income received during November 2009.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>PAYER</u>	<u>DETAILS</u>	<u>RECEIPTS</u>
05.11.09	Co-operative Bank	Interest - current account	2.77
06.11.09	LCC	Contribution to 2009/10 verge cutting costs	2102.82
17.11.09	Mr J. Smith	Purchase of exclusive rights to burial in BF72 & BF73	100.00
		TOTAL RECEIPTS	<u>2205.59</u>

It then examined the cashbook as at end of November 2009 and its reconciliation to the bank statements and

RESOLVED : That the cashbook at the end of November 2009 should be signed by the Chairman and Clerk as a true record.

175 2009/10 : To approve payments to be made

The Council examined the accounts to be paid for supplies and services received since the last meeting and, with the exception of Councillors Day and Fillingham who abstained, :

RESOLVED : That the following payments should be 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, Nov/phone calls, Oct. '09.	25.73	3.86	29.59
402032	H.M. Customs & Revenue	PAYE & NI, Month 8	389.64	-	389.64
402033	Mrs M. Brown	Wages (including back pay)	618.38	-	
		Mileage	5.60	-	
		Postage	9.38	-	
		Stationery	5.16	0.77	
		Battery for garage alarm key fob	8.70	1.30	649.29
402034	Mr. J. Lyon	Wages	498.02	-	
		Bin liners	7.83	1.17	507.02
402035	Chris P. Day Limited	Cemetery bunker clearance	108.00	16.20	124.20
402036	The Society of Local Council Clerks	Annual subscription	118.00	-	118.00
402037	SVHA	Donation	4000.00	-	4000.00
402038	Grace Church	Donation towards youth work	250.00	-	250.00
402039	SJFC	Grasscutting costs, October 2009	165.67	-	165.67
			<u>6,210.11</u>	<u>23.30</u>	<u>6,233.41</u>

176 2009/10 : To take any points from members, identify items for the next agenda and to note urgent items of interest.

176a Councillor Sheardown reported that, on taking over the responsibility for playground inspections from Councillor Capes, the latter had informed him of two potential safety issues, the first being a trip hazard close at the edge of the safety surface for the junior swings and the second being the growth of grass on the safety surface for the multiplay unit. The Clerk responded that she had received Councillor Capes' report of his findings. In relation to the second item, the Clerk had already noticed the growth on the surface. Had this been grass, it would not have been an issue. However, it is moss and could become slippery. In consequence, she had used her emergency powers and instructed the contractor to spray the moss with a suitable weed killer for use in a children's play area. In terms of the potential trip hazard, the Chairman and Clerk had inspected it today and the Clerk will arrange for the Village Person to top it up with soil this week.

176b Councillor Bullivent reported that three sleepers are present in the Dar Beck on the downstream side of the culvert, increasing the likelihood of blockages occurring in the beck's flow. The Chairman commented that these were part of a retaining wall of a garden to a bungalow that had

Initialed Chairman

been washed away in the floods of June, 2007, but that they had obviously shifted from their previous position. However, Councillor Brown reported that (in consequence of further recent flooding of the beck due to various obstructions), Councillor Underwood-Frost had organised the removal of the sleepers on Sunday 13th December 2009.

176c The Chairman provided Councillors with a summary of the most recent quarterly Neighbourhood Panel meeting. In general terms, Lincolnshire Police believe that they are getting on top of the issues in Scotter. Other than two incidents of thefts from cars, there has been nothing major to report. The drop-in centre at the Eau Community Centre, currently run monthly by Grace Church, has seen a significant rise in its usage, with the major benefit that the PCSOs are getting to know an increasing number of the young people in a non-confrontational setting. With attendance on the increase, Grace Church is currently planning to run the drop-in centre on a fortnightly basis and may even be able to move to weekly sessions. On the only negative note, the Chairman was disappointed to hear from Lincolnshire Police that there had been no support from the WLDC Anti-Social Behaviour Unit during the quarter. Despite assurances from the police that intervention from the unit had not been warranted, the Chairman remains concerned that certain actions by young people in the village were of a frequency that would normally have resulted in the intervention of the unit and that the issue is simply that its resources are being deployed in the larger communities to the detriment of Scotter. He will monitor the situation ongoing.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.08pm.

Clerk:

Chairman:

Date: