

SCOTTER PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held on 15th February 2010

PRESENT: Councillor C. Day (Chairman), Councillors N. Altoft, M. Armstrong, B. Billam, M. Brown, J. Bullivent, J. Fillingham, S. Rayner and A. Sheardown, 3 members of the public (part only), M. Brown (Clerk).

The three members of the public addressed the Council during the public open forum in relation to agenda item 8 (WLDC's consultation on the best locations for additional gypsy and traveller sites). Following a discussion that had been held with WLDC's Mr J. Ware, some clarification was provided on both the content and timescale of the consultation. An issue in respect of policing levels was also raised. The Chairman thanked them for their contribution, with the meeting then commencing at 7.45pm.

195 2009/10 : To receive and approve apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Capes who is attending a family celebration.

RESOLVED : To accept and approve the apology from Councillor Capes.

196 2009/10 : To receive declarations of interest

Councillor Day declared an interest in relation to agenda items 5 and 6 (minute references 200 and 201 2009/10) as a member of the Playing Fields Committee. Councillor Fillingham declared an interest in relation to agenda item 19 (minute reference 213 2009/10) as a member of Scotter Village Hall Association. The Councillors stated their intention to refrain from voting on those respective matters. No other declarations were made at this time.

197 2009/10 : To approve the notes of the Council Meeting held on 18th January 2010 as the Minutes of that meeting

RESOLVED : To approve the notes of the Council Meeting held on 18th January 2010 as the Minutes of that meeting. These were signed by the Chairman.

In light of the interest shown by the members of the public present in agenda item 8 and following a proposal by the Chairman, it was further :

RESOLVED : To alter the order of business to take agenda item 8 as the next item.

198 2009/10 : To consider a response to WLDC's consultation on the best locations for additional gypsy and traveller sites.

The Council considered the paper provided with WLDC's consultation document and a further briefing note circulated by the Clerk (following her attendance at the recent workshop on the topic held at the Guildhall) against the background of the comments made to the Council during the public open forum. At the conclusion of its deliberations it was

RESOLVED : To object to the proposal on the following bases :

- It ignores the Council's previous consultation response that Scotter should be excluded from any type of future development in the forthcoming LDF due to the excessive and unsupported development that it has been subject to in the last decade.
- Extensions to current authorised sites, such as Summergangs Lane, give ready access to schools, the hospital and the range of social and other services that may be required, with a team already in place that understands the needs and requirements. The Council's contention is that the additional pitches should be provided by extending existing sites and not by creating new ones.
- The "general locations" identified give a potential provision of far more pitches than are required. Hence, there is absolutely no need for pitches to be located near to any of the primary rural settlements.
- The proposals are discriminatory to the settled community as current development policy would preclude housing development within much of these areas.

Initialled Chairman

- Draft site assessment criterion number 3 (relating to service capacity and infrastructure) is contrary to both the government guidance contained in ODPM Circular 1/06 and WLDC's current development plan.
- The wording of several of the criteria is such that site assessments would be very subjective, rather than being made on an objective basis.
- Lack of police resource in the Gainsborough Rural North area would suggest that further developments in this area should be avoided.

In addition to these points, the Clerk is to complain about the very short period of time given to respond to this consultation. Whilst the letter was dated 1st February 2010, it was not received until 9th February 2010. With a return date of 26th February 2010, this only allowed 17 days to comment.

At the conclusion of its deliberations on this item, the original agenda order was resumed.

199 2009/10 : To receive a report and recommendations from the Cemetery & Allotments Working Group

The Council considered the paper prior circulated in relation to this item and, at the conclusion of its deliberations,

RESOLVED :

- To retain its existing see-saw at the Scotton Road playground and to employ the services of the OEM to install the compression unit already purchased and to supply and install two new seats at a cost of £320.10 plus VAT.
- In conjunction with WLDC, to re-advertise the position of part-time parish litter picker, with a closing date of 9th April 2010 for applications.
- To approve the revised cemetery policy as drafted (with a clarifying amendment to be made on page 5) for implementation from 1st April 2010.

200 2009/10 : To consider a request from the Playing Fields Committee for the release of £4200 of ear-marked funds as a donation towards the project work.

The Council considered the letter from the Playing Fields Committee which requested the release of £4.2k of funds previously set aside by the Council towards the playing fields project work. Councillor Day (in his capacity as Chair of that committee) explained that such funds will shortly be needed to help pay for drainage work to the new field and the clearing out of the carrot-washer drain, the construction of new steps from the village hall car park to the playing fields and the supply and installation of new public seating, with any left-over monies going towards the installation of the base to the new tennis courts (the latter project having to be done on a piece-meal basis as external funding is captured). The Council discussed the request and, with the exception of Councillor Day who abstained,

RESOLVED : To release to the Playing Fields Committee £4.2k of funds set aside for that purpose, as a donation towards the playing fields project.

The Clerk will prepare a cheque in this amount for signature at the March Council meeting. The letter that will accompany the cheque will remind the Playing Fields Committee that, due to the size of the donation, it will need to submit to the Council, in due course, proper details of exactly how the money was spent.

201 2009/10 : To consider the adoption of the ongoing running costs of the multi-use games area

Councillor Day, in his capacity as Chair of the Playing Fields Committee, explained that a funding bid had been submitted to the County Council's Youth Opportunities Fund for money to install a multi-use games area (MUGA) where the existing tennis courts are located. The funding bids are assessed by a panel of young people. Whilst the panel was generally supportive of this bid, it raised a number of questions which would need to be answered appropriately for the bid to be approved. One of these related to how the ongoing costs of the facility would be funded. The Committee has

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spoken with Bottesford Town Council, which runs a MUGA. Much of the cost that it has faced since the MUGA was installed has been related to initial inadequate specification of materials and drainage – mistakes that Scotter can learn from. In terms of true ongoing maintenance costs, they have expended c. £1k over 8 years in line marking and have had to make the occasional purchase of replacement hoops, a minor spend. In addition, it is proposed that the Scotter MUGA will be lit (the Bottesford one is not) so that there would be an ongoing charge for electricity usage, replacement bulbs, etc. and the insurance costs would also increase. However, at least some of these maintenance costs will be recovered from the clubs/organisations that wish to use the MUGA on a regular basis, so that any shortfall is not anticipated to be large. Having considered this information, and with the exception of Councillor Day who abstained, it was

RESOLVED : To submit a letter of support to the Playing Fields Committee to state that the Council will provide financial support towards the ongoing maintenance of a MUGA.

Councillor Day further commented that the issue of the provision of a youth shelter had been high on the agenda since the publication of the report into the youth issues. There may be funding available to incorporate such a facility as part of the MUGA development.

202 2009/10 : To approve an application to WLDC for a wireless internet connection at Scotter Village Hall.

The Council noted with interest WLDC's offer to wi-fi the village hall free of charge. Councillor Fillingham, representing the Village Hall Association, attended the initial meeting with WLDC on the matter and was able to confirm, at that meeting, that the Association would have no objection to this development. Not only will it make the village hall a more attractive proposition to potential hirers, it will also reduce the Council's telecommunications costs by c. £0.3k pa. In light of this, the Council

RESOLVED : To formally request that WLDC install wi-fi in Scotter Village Hall.

203 2009/10 : To consider representation at the Gainsborough & Surrounding Areas Area Forum

The Council considered the letter received from WLDC in relation to the above. No Councillor is able to attend on the date in question, so the Parish Council will not be represented on this occasion. A copy of the poster advertising the event has been placed on the notice board.

204 2009/10 : To approve grants of exclusive right to burial in grave spaces Y3 and Y4

The Council considered the requests received and

RESOLVED : To approve the grants of exclusive right to burials in grave spaces Y3 and Y4.

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman signed the grants accordingly.

205 2009/10 : To receive a report from the Cemetery & Allotments Working Group on its recent safety inspection of the cemetery

During the period Councillor Brown, 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 the notice board has been erected and will be able to be used in the near future, once it has properly set into its foundations.

206 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 and had found nothing of a specific safety concern. There is some evidence of field users accessing a private garden bordering the field through a gap in the hedge. Whilst no complaint has been received from the property's owner, the situation will be monitored.

207 2009/10 : To agree which Councillor will be responsible for playground safety inspections for the next month

Councillor Sheardown kindly offered to carry on with the inspections for the forthcoming month and this was welcomed by the Council.

Initialed Chairman

208 2009/10 : To agree the date and format of the 2010 Annual Parish Meeting

It was agreed that the meeting will be held on Wednesday 14th April 2010 at 7.30pm in the large committee room of Scotter Village Hall. Letters of invitation are to be issued to the parish organisations/clubs, to Lincolnshire Police and to the Ward Councillors in early March 2010, with such letters inviting the submission of topics of interest for the agenda. The Clerk is also to invite the Community Development Officer to attend the meeting and to make a brief presentation on community development progress and issues. Councillor Brown kindly offered to book the room for the event.

209 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

Members of the Cemetery & Allotments Working Group have not yet had the opportunity to inspect the cable marker posts to ensure that they have been correctly located. This will be done prior to the March Council meeting.

112 2009/10 : Community Development Work (Youth Issue)

Councillor Sheardown commented on the first meeting of the Intergenerational Group to be facilitated by the new Community Development Officer. This was held on 29th January 2010 and the Council was represented by Councillors Bullivent and Sheardown. No young people were actually present at the meeting. Despite a positive start, the meeting's progress was limited due to issues raised regarding the ownership of actions proposed in the initial report that were already contained in the Parish Plan. One of the key things agreed at the meeting was that communications need to improve so that progress can be made and ideas shared between meetings – this is particularly key as the officer's appointment is only for one year. Subsequently, the Community Development Officer requested group members to join a Google group to facilitate this and the initial response has been very disappointing. On a more positive note, Councillor Sheardown is progressing the development of a village website that can be used by all clubs and groups to showcase their activities and events. He is liaising with a local college that will use this as a project for its students, such that it will be designed free of charge and will be completed by the end of June 2010.

The Chairman referred the Council to the Clerk's report on the discussion held at the Cross-Border Working Group on North Lincolnshire's 3B's project and the fact that there may be an opportunity for other Councils to purchase a share of the service from June 2011. He pointed out that, for the sum of £10kpa (at current cost levels), the project team would visit Scotter on one mid-week evening per fortnight and on one Friday evening every six weeks for three hours on each occasion. Whilst all of the reports suggest that the service is popular with and valued by the young people who use it, effectively this is a service that costs c. £100 per delivered hour – a very high price to pay. Considering the sums of money already invested by the Council in relation to the youth issue, the Council agreed that it would keep a watching brief on the 3B's project and may consider whether to be involved at a future date if the service costs can be reduced and/or external funding be available.

194e 2009/10 : Informal meeting on the Dar Beck

Councillor Brown updated the Council on the recent meetings that have taken place in respect to the riparian responsibilities that various Scotter residents have in relation to the Dar Beck. Further to the informal meeting held by Councillor Underwood-Frost on 21st January 2010, there have been two further meetings of residents, the second one being helpfully attended by Mr Adams of WLDC, who was able to answer many of the residents' queries. It would appear that the most suitable solution is the installation of a grid to prevent the pipe being blocked. Mr Adams has put together a proposal in relation to this (which has been sent to DEFRA for comment) and has informed the residents that some funds may be available from WLDC towards the cost.

Initialed Chairman

One of the issues that the residents are grappling with is the clearance of such a grid of debris. Whilst the existing residents are happy to take this in turns, access is required over the property of one of them to allow this. The right of access and the requirement on the other owners to take their turn in clearing the grid may require alteration to property deeds, a potentially unpopular solution. The residents are also unsure of the benefit that would arise from the formation of a residents' association to manage the responsibility. On both matters, some legal advice may be needed.

210 2009/10 : To receive new correspondence not already included above

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

211a 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 meeting of 18th January 2010 and 1st February 2010 and

RESOLVED : To concur with the actions taken by the Planning Committee and to adopt the minutes of the Committee meetings held on 18th January 2010 and 1st February 2010.

211b 2009/10 : To note the receipt of results from the planning authority

The Council noted the following result received from the Planning Authority during the period :

125064 29 Kirton Road, Scotter – a planning application for an extension to the rear of the property and bay windows to the front.

Granted.

125284 Plot 6 off The Rookery, Scotter – a planning application for alterations to provide additional rooms in the roof space.

Refused

212 2009/10 : To note income received during January 2010 and to approve the January 2010 cash book and its reconciliation to the bank statements

The Council noted the following income received during January 2010.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>PAYER</u>	<u>DETAILS</u>	<u>RECEIPTS</u>
05.01.10	Co-operative Bank	Interest - current account	4.83
06.01.10	H. M. Revenue & Customs	VAT repayment	148.66
TOTAL RECEIPTS			153.49

It then examined the cashbook as at end of January 2010 and its reconciliation to the bank statements and

RESOLVED : That the cashbook at the end of January 2010 should be signed by the Chairman and Clerk as a true record.

213 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 Councillor 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	BT	Line rental, Q4 2009/10	46.46	8.13	54.59
Direct Debit	Tiscali	Broadband, Jan./phone calls, Dec.	24.09	4.22	28.31
402044	H.M. Customs & Revenue	PAYE & NI, Month 10	278.79	-	278.79

Initialed Chairman

402045	Mrs M. Brown	Wages	537.54	-	
		Mileage	10.40	-	
		Car Parking	1.00		
		Stationery	6.24	1.09	556.27
402046	Mr. J. Lyon	Wages	338.00	-	
		Mileage	8.80	-	346.80
402047	Green Stripe Garden Mch'y	Annual service of ride-on mower	287.37	43.11	
		Spare blades, oil filter, oil & gloves	153.55	23.03	507.06
402048	Pestx Ltd	Pest control service, 3 months to 01/05/10	85.00	14.88	99.88
402049	SVHA	Office rental & meeting room hire, Q3 09/10	212.00	-	212.00
			1,989.24	94.46	2,083.70

214 2009/10 : To take any points from members, identify items for the next agenda and to note urgent items of interest.

214a Councillor Fillingham reported that the inspection cover on streetlamp no. 49 on Messingham Road is missing, such that the wiring is exposed. As this is a safety issue, the Clerk will report this to LCC for urgent action.

214b Councillor Bullivent raised the issue of an e-mail he had received from a Messingham Road resident complaining about the regular overflow of the manhole cover in the Prospect Court car park. Councillors Sheardown and Rayner both stated that it had been their intention to raise the same issue. The Chairman reported that, following a discussion with the Clerk on the matter, he had managed to find the initial plans of this sewer, which is in private ownership. However, he informed the Council that, on a previous occasion when problems had arisen in this area, there had been a collapse in the main sewer that the private sewer joins into. In consequence, it is not possible at this stage to identify exactly where the responsibility rests. However, as the manhole is on the private sewer, the Clerk reported the matter to WLDC's Environmental team on 10th February 2010, which will investigate the problem and ensure that the responsible party takes remedial action. As the Clerk also received the e-mail from the resident, she has responded to him accordingly.

214c Councillor Brown reported that he had received a complaint from a resident of Dar Beck Road that water is coming into his garden from the hammerhead on Barlings Close. This suggests that the road drain is blocked and overflowing. The Clerk is to report this to LCC for action.

214d The Clerk reported that a letter had been received from Churches Together asking for the Council's permission to use Riverside for its annual Songs of Praise service and picnic on Sunday 18th July 2010. The letter further requests that, should the weather conditions dictate, the Council approve the erection of a marquee on the land (to be erected and removed on the day itself). All necessary insurances will be in place. The Council

RESOLVED : To grant permission for Churches Together to hold a service and to erect a marquee (if necessary) on Riverside on Sunday 18th July 2010, subject to the provision of indemnification in the form required by the Council.

215 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.

On the basis that the next item of business contains information relating to a legal matter and that the following item of business contains information that is confidential to a Council's employee, 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 two items of business.

216 2009/10 : To consider a proposal from the legal advisor in relation to the Southcliffe Road verge

The Council considered the paper provided in support of this item and, with the exception of Councillor Day who abstained,

RESOLVED : To write to the landowner to explain the Council’s legal position now that the owner of the land is known and to point out his responsibilities in relation to it.

217 2009/10 : To consider a letter from the Clerk

The Council considered the letter from the Clerk and, with reluctance,

RESOLVED : To accept the Clerk’s resignation, with the date of termination agreed.

It also agreed a plan for replacing the Clerk at the appropriate time, including the methods of advertisement of the vacancy and the pay range and working hours to be included within it. The Clerk was asked to ensure that the current job description is up-to-date and to prepare a person specification for the position, both documents to be made available to potential applicants.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.03pm.

Clerk:

Chairman:

Date: