

SCOTTER PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held on 18th January 2010

PRESENT: Councillor C. Day (Chairman), Councillors N. Altoft, M. Armstrong, B. Billam, J. Bullivent, D. Capes, J. Fillingham, S. Rayner and A. Sheardown, Ward Councillor W. Parry, M. Brown (Clerk).

With no members of the public present, the meeting commenced at 7.31pm.

177 2009/10 : To receive and approve apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Brown who is attending an annual reunion meeting.

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

The Council noted that an apology had also been received from Ward Councillor Underwood-Frost.

178 2009/10 : To receive declarations of interest

Councillor Bullivent declared an interest in relation to agenda items 6 and 17 (minute references 182 and 193 2009/10) as an employee of the Digital Inclusion Unit of North Lincolnshire Council and also in relation to agenda item 4 as owner of one of the homes flooded during June 2007. He stated his intention to refrain from voting on those matters. No other declarations were made at this time.

179 2009/10 : To approve the notes of the Council Meeting held on 14th December 2009 as the Minutes of that meeting

RESOLVED : To approve the notes of the Council Meeting held on 14th December 2009 as the Minutes of that meeting. These were signed by the Chairman.

180 2009/10 : To consider a response received from the Environment Agency to various matters raised by the Council in relation to flooding issues

The Council considered the letter received from the Environment Agency in response to three separate letters sent by the Council raising matters of concern in respect of future flood resilience in the centre of Scotter village. In general, the Council felt that the detailed response satisfied the majority of issues raised, subject always to promised works being carried out to the timescales identified, and the Council will keep a watching brief on progress. However, considering the limited nature of the proposed channel clearance work, and with the exception of Councillor Bullivent who abstained, it

RESOLVED : To write to the Environment Agency to ask it to explain why channel clearance work is being restricted to the stretch between the Messingham Road (A159) bridge and the weir.

181 2009/10 : To consider a report received from NALC's legal advisor regarding responsibility for flooding from a main river

The Council considered the report, which states that the likelihood of successfully applying the legal precedent created by the Bybrook Barn Garden Centre case to a road bridge is extremely low and that the Council is not in a position to take any legal action (even if that were not the situation) as it had no property damaged by the flood waters. The Council

RESOLVED : To send a copy of the report to the parishioner that had raised the issue.

182 2009/10 : To approve the renewal of the Council's website domain name for a period of 10 years and the annual fee for its e-mail account at a total cost of £130.57 plus VAT

The Council considered the quotation received from the Digital Inclusion Unit of North Lincolnshire Council for the service and noted the discounted rate that would apply for the domain name if it were to commit for a longer period. With the exception of Councillor Bullivent who abstained, it

Initialed Chairman

RESOLVED : To approve the renewal of the website domain name for a period of 10 years and the annual fee for the management of the e-mail account, at a total cost of £130.57 plus VAT.

183 2009/10 : To consider a request from a parishioner in respect of the speed of traffic on the A159 and the need to update the village map

The Council considered the parishioner's requests. In relation to traffic calming measures, the Council noted that the request was for traffic calming on the A159 in the locality of the planned pedestrian crossing, which should be installed in the next quarter. The crossing will have a positive effect on traffic speeds on the A159 but the Council is not yet in a position to know the magnitude of that effect. It would wish to review the situation after the crossing has been in-situ for a sensible period of time. The Council also considered the current village map, which is available on the website but not, at the current time, on the notice-board. The map was prepared in 2005 and does not show all of the new roads. Councillor Rayner, who prepared the initial map, kindly offered to update it but asked the Council to be patient as he is heavily committed at work at the current time. In the interim, the Clerk was asked to annotate the existing map by hand to show the positioning of the new roads and to place a copy of it on the Council's notice-board. At the conclusion of the discussion, it was

RESOLVED : To respond to the parishioner to explain the actions that the Council will take.

184 2009/10 : To consider what comments the Council would wish to make on Lincolnshire Fire & Rescue's consultation on its Action Plan 2010/11

The Council considered the information provided by Lincolnshire Fire & Rescue on its proposed service priorities for 2010/11 and the specific actions that it would wish to take in respect of revising its attendance policy to automatic fire alarm calls, trialling alternative crewing arrangements at stations where fire-fighter availability is low and setting an appropriate attendance standard to road traffic collisions. Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : To respond to the consultation to agree with the proposals made.

In making this response, the Clerk is to comment that (not for the first time) a very short period of time had been made available for replies to this consultation, which makes it difficult (due to the schedule of meetings) for the town/parish council sector to respond effectively.

185 2009/10 : To consider a request from Lincolnshire Police Authority in relation to its appointment of an independent member

The Council noted the information provided by Lincolnshire Police Authority regarding its wish to appoint a new Independent Member, the deadline for applications being 1st February 2010. Councillors will pass this information on to any party that they think may be interested in applying. The Clerk has placed the poster advertising the position on the Council's notice-board.

186 2009/10 : To receive a report from the Cemetery & Allotments Working Group on its recent safety inspection of the cemetery

During the period Councillor Capes, 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. He commented that the cemetery's grounds are in very good order considering the time of year, with no evidence of further grave slumps. The recently erected memorials in the new cemetery area are a credit to the design of this sector and set the tone.

187 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. However (and despite regular collections of empty bottles and cans from the main through-paths by Councillor Sheardown), there is increasing evidence of the consumption of alcohol in the field, with many empty cans and bottles visible in areas off the beaten track. In consequence, the Clerk has instructed the Village Person to attend Parson's

Initialed Chairman

Field for a major litter collection exercise. The Village Person has been warned to wear protective equipment at all times, as some of the bottles have been smashed.

188 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.

189 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 Clerk reported that the Village Person has now installed the ground markers to show the run of the cable up the central pathway between the allotments. Members of the Cemetery & Allotments Working Group will inspect the positioning of the markers to confirm that they have been correctly located.

5 2009/10 : Litter picking scheme

Members of the Cemetery & Allotments Working Group confirmed that they would be available for a group meeting on Monday 1st February 2010 at 7.30pm if required to meet with Mr Selby of WLDC to discuss how the employment of a litter picker could be progressed.

85a 2009/10 : Advertisement hoarding on roadside verge

The Clerk informed the Council that (since her initial report had been written) the advertisement has been removed from the mobile hoarding, although the latter is still in position. It is not clear at this stage as to whether this is as a result of action taken by North Lincolnshire Council or purely coincidence. The Clerk will monitor the situation.

93 2009/10 : Consultation on future housing priorities within the district.

As stated in her report, the Clerk chased Mr Lockett for a response to the Council's complaint about the apparent loss to the affordable housing stock of the designated affordable homes on the Waggoners Close development. On receipt of the chase, Mr Lockett asked a colleague to respond to the council with urgency and this did occur promptly. However the response was not in respect of the complaint that had actually been raised but on other matters previously raised with WLDC by the Council. As a response on this specific matter has been outstanding for some three months, the Clerk has reverted asking for an urgent response to the actual complaint made and enclosing a copy of the original letter.

112 2009/10 : Part-time community development worker in Scotter

Further to her written report, the Clerk informed the Council that she had received confirmation that, despite the current weather, the County Council youth team had planned to attend Scotter on Friday 15th January 2010. Not only was the Council not informed of the time allocated by the youth team to Scotter but neither were the Grace Church team nor Councillor Underwood-Frost (whose initial complaints about the lack of detached youth workers probably resulted in this allocation). The purpose of this piece of work is still not known. Helen Freeston had raised with LCC the issue that the timing of its visits was not conducive to engaging young people, as the poor weather was keeping them at home/away. However, the answer given was that "hands are tied". Councillors voiced their concern that continuing with the work at a time when the weather would severely limit the numbers of young people on the streets smacked of "box ticking" and was not an effective use of a limited resource.

The Chairman commented on his exchange of correspondence with Helen on the topic of her discussion with Lincolnshire Police. He remains concerned that there appears to be little on-the-ground input from the Community Beat Manager, with the burden remaining with the PCSO's.

Initialled Chairman

This has to be seen against the background that the whole exercise was set off by Lincolnshire Police in the first instance.

The Chairman and the Clerk will attend the next meeting of the Cross-Border Working Group and await a revised date. A meeting of the Intergenerational Group has been called for 29th January 2010 and Councillor Sheardown has kindly agreed to join this grouping in place of the Chairman. Councillor Bullivent will also be in attendance.

132 2009/10 : Public footpath between Lindholme and Scotter Post Office

The Council noted that, as no response has been received from the land owner to the Council's letter seeking permission for a third party to install a public footpath on their land, it is not possible to take matters any further at this stage. In consequence, it was

RESOLVED : To write to the parishioner that had requested the footpath to explain that it is not possible to organise this at the current time as the land is privately owned.

168 2009/10 : Annual Parish, Town and District Council Assembly.

Following a proposal made by the Chairman, it was

RESOLVED : To propose that the status of, and progress towards the conclusion of, the Local Development Framework be included as a topic for discussion at the annual assembly.

189a 2009/10 : RoSPA playground inspection, 2010

The Council noted that RoSPA had placed the Council onto an automated ordering system for its annual inspection, such that a formal order will no longer be required. In consequence, it

RESOLVED : To approve the automatic order for an annual inspection at a cost of £63 for up to five pieces of play equipment, with additional pieces chargeable at £3 each, all plus VAT.

189b 2009/10 : Office heating

Councillor Fillingham, as representative of Scotter Village Hall Association, will investigate the problem with the radiator in the office. The system may need to be balanced and there may be an issue with the radiator's thermostat. He also commented that, due to the size of the room, the single radiator should ideally be replaced with a double radiator and it may be possible to find the funds to do this. In the interim period, the Council

RESOLVED : That the Clerk should procure a suitable electrical heater.

190 2009/10 : To receive new correspondence not already included above

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

191a 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 meeting of 14th December 2009 and

RESOLVED : To concur with the actions taken by the Planning Committee and to adopt the minutes of the Committee meeting held on 14th December 2009.

191b 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 :

124968 51 High Street, Scotter – a planning application for the construction of a new dwelling.
Granted.

124971 Wheatley House, Laughton – a planning application to erect a two-storey extension and to provide a new entrance to the north side of the property.

Granted.

125015 Land adjacent to 4 Lindholme, Scotter – a planning application for alterations and extension to an existing garage to provide a new dwelling.

Refused.

125051 21 High Street, Scotter – a planning application for proposed loft conversion, dormer and replacement conservatory.

Granted.

125152 44 High Street, Scotter – a planning application to convert three first-floor flats to one flat, including new windows.

Granted.

192 2009/10 : To note income received during December 2009 and to approve the December 2009 cash book and its reconciliation to the bank statements

The Council noted the following income received during December 2009.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>PAYER</u>	<u>DETAILS</u>	<u>RECEIPTS</u>
04.12.09	Co-operative Bank	Interest - current account	4.94
08.12.09	Cliff Bradley & Sons	Interment of A. Cottingham in BE73	50.00
08.12.09	F. E. Farrer	Interment of D. I. St. John-Cox in BC37	50.00
08.12.09	Leake's Masonry	Erection of memorials on graves Y1 & Y2	160.00
08.12.09	Barningham Memorials	Erection of a memorial on grave BE45	80.00
08.12.09	YEDL	Rental/wayleave	1.50
		TOTAL RECEIPTS	346.44

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

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

193 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 Bullivent who abstained, :

RESOLVED : 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	Tiscali	Broadband, Dec./phone calls, Nov. '09.	22.91	3.44	26.35
402040	H.M. Customs & Revenue	PAYE & NI, Month 9	311.24	-	311.24
402041	Mrs M. Brown	Wages	537.54	-	
		Mileage	4.80	-	
		Postage	4.50	-	546.84
402042	Mr. J. Lyon	Wages	433.68	-	433.68
402043	North Lincolnshire Council	Domain name rent(10yrs), e-mail mgt (1yr)	130.57	22.85	153.42
			1,445.24	26.29	1,471.53

194 2009/10 : To take any points from members, identify items for the next agenda and to note urgent items of interest.

194a Councillor Sheardown reported that Scotter Primary School has now placed a link from its website to the Council's website.

194b Councillor Capes reported that the "leading to" Ash Grove, Wakerley Road, etc. sign has fallen off the Rooklands road sign from Sands Lane. This could cause an issue for the emergency services.

Initialled Chairman

The Clerk stated that she had reported the sign some months ago and had been informed that it would be attended to but will chase the District Council on the matter. She will take that opportunity to also report the collapsed Bellbutts View sign. Councillor Sheardown asked that she further report that the litter bin at the junction of Gainsborough Road with the Astley Crescent snicket needs attention as the post is leaning at an alarming angle.

194c Councillor Armstrong reported that the signs warning of the bend in the road at the junction of Scotterthorpe Road with Susworth Road are in a state of collapse. The Clerk will ask the County Council to have them reinstated.

194d The Clerk reminded Councillors of the e-mail forwarded to them, offering the opportunity to attend an important workshop at the District Council offices on the topic of spaces for gypsies and travellers, and asked for nominations. With no Councillors available, the Clerk will attend one of the sessions planned for Wednesday 27th January 2009 on behalf of the Council.

194e The Clerk reported on a conversation held with Ward Councillor Underwood-Frost earlier that evening. WLDC spent time, effort and monies during December 2009 to remove blockages and to improve the flow of water in the Dar Beck. Now that the blockages have been removed, the time has come for the riparian owners to properly assume their responsibilities. To this end, Councillor Underwood-Frost has organised an informal meeting in the White Swan on Thursday 21st January 2010 to bring the residents up to date on what has happened, to remind them of their duties and to provide information on setting up a residents' association to manage the situation ongoing, if that is what they would wish to do. A letter of invitation has been delivered to each affected property. Councillor Underwood-Frost would greatly appreciate the attendance of a representative of the Parish Council at the meeting. The Chairman asked the Clerk to contact Councillor Brown to assess his availability to attend, in his capacity as both Vice-Chairman and as a resident of Dar Beck Road. In the event that he is unavailable, the Chairman will attend.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.12pm.

Clerk:

Chairman:

Date:

Initialed Chairman