

SCOTTER PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held on 18th March 2013

PRESENT: Councillor C. Day (Chairman), Councillors M. Armstrong, B. Billam, J. Bullivent, D. Capes, J. Fillingham, S. Rayner and A. Sheardown. Mrs M. Brown (Acting Clerk).

In attendance : 1 member of the public (part time).

As the member of the public did not wish to make a formal statement to the Council (other than to explain which agenda item he was interested in), the meeting commenced at 7.33pm.

185 2012/13 : To receive and approve apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Baker and Hinman who are unwell.

RESOLVED : To accept and approve the apologies from Councillors Baker and Hinman.

The Council also noted that an apology had been received from Ward Councillor Parry who is attending a family funeral.

186 2012/13 : To receive declarations of interest in accordance with the Localism Act 2011

Councillor Sheardown declared an interest in agenda item 18 (minute 202 2012/13) in relation to the payment to the Village Hall due to his position as a member of the Association. Councillor Day declared an interest in relation to agenda item 11 (minute 195 2012/13) in relation to the request received from Scotter War Memorial Playing Fields due to his position as member of the Committee. Both stated that they would refrain from voting on the relevant matter.

Having heard from the member of the public which agenda item he was interested in, the Chairman then moved that this item be brought forward. It was

RESOLVED : To deal with Agenda Item 6 as the next item of business.

187 2012/13 : To consider a draft response to WLDC on the Council's conditions for the takeover of the public open space and play area at The Rookery

The Council considered the paper that had been provided in support of this item, which detailed the conditions that the Council would require to be prior met to enable it to take over the ownership of and responsibility for the public open space and play area. Councillor Capes commented that it was a pity that the blackthorn tree would need to be felled but accepted that it was an inappropriate species in a children's play area. Councillor Sheardown queried what the position would be if the current land owner did not wish to accede to the Council's conditions, with the Chairman responding that he would simply retain his current ownership and responsibilities. Following this discussion, it was

RESOLVED : To submit a letter to WLDC in line with the paper presented.

The member of the public left the meeting room at this point.

188 2012/13 : To approve the notes of the Council Meeting held on 18th February 2013 as the Minutes of that meeting

The Council considered the notes presented and

RESOLVED : To approve the notes of the Council Meeting held on 18th February 2013, as circulated, as the Minutes of that meeting. These were signed by the Chairman.

189 2012/13 : To receive a report from the Chairman on his recent inspection of Parson's Field

The Chairman commented that there was nothing to report of a safety concern.

190 2012/13 : To agree which Councillors will be responsible for safety inspections of the cemetery and the playgrounds for the next month

Councillor Day stated his willingness to continue with cemetery inspections. Councillor Capes kindly offered to carry out the inspections of the playgrounds during the period April to June inclusive. Councillor Sheardown will provide him with the necessary report forms.

Initialled Chairman

191 2012/13 : To consider what action to take in relation to correspondence received regarding the lack of adoption of Elizabeth Close

The Council considered the copies of correspondence received between a resident of Elizabeth Close and both Ward Councillor Parry and the Chief Executive of WLDC regarding the continued non-adoption of this road. The lack of street lighting currently is a major safety concern for the residents. The Chairman commented that this issue has had broader consequences in that it has also prevented the adoption of the roads within the Chartdale development (Cordeaux Close, Edgar Close and Johnson Drive) and led to significant difficulties for vehicles getting up the hill in icy or snowy conditions due to the lack of any salt/grit bins. With the Council in full support of its residents in both areas, it was

RESOLVED : To write to Mr S. Wiles, LCC Highways, and to the CEO of WLDC to push for the earliest adoption of all of the roads in this area and the provision of the services that this would entail.

The Clerk is also meeting with Mr Paul Drury, an LCC officer responsible for Community Engagement, to discuss this matter on 26th March 2013.

192 2012/13 : To consider representation at the Localism in Lincolnshire debate

Following some discussion and considering the ongoing concerns regarding site allocations under the proposed Local Plan, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council be represented by the Chairman and Councillors Bullivent, Rayner and Sheardown.

The Clerk will register the Councillors' attendance and obtain the necessary tickets.

193 2012/13 : To consider a request for the Council to become involved with The Big Lunch

The Council considered the e-mail received in relation to this item, which is a movement to bring communities together over an annual lunch. With one strand of the current parish plan being the development of community events, it was agreed that the Clerk should pass the e-mail on to the Chair of Scotter Forward for consideration in future years.

194 2012/13 : To consider comments made in Central Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee's February 2013 Newsletter in relation to the production of the site allocations document

The Council considered the comments made in the newsletter which, against the Committee's own published policy statements, seem to concentrate on "supply-push" rather than "demand-pull" for housing allocations in rural areas. Considering the detailed comments that the Council has made to the Central Lincolnshire team at each consultation stage that real need must be the driving force for development in rural areas, it is very concerned that no feedback of any kind has been received and that its views are being ignored. The Council then considered a response to this article drafted by the Clerk and

RESOLVED: To write to the CLJSP Committee in line with the drafted response and to copy this letter to Edward Leigh, MP, the CEOs of LCC and WLDC, the Ward Councillors and LALC to seek their assistance in ensuring the Council's views are heard.

The Clerk is to raise the matter at her meeting with Mr Drury. The Chairman also asked the Clerk to make this an agenda item at the Annual Parish Meeting.

195 2012/13 : To consider a request from Scotter War Memorial Playing Fields Association for funding to erect a rabbit fence around the existing field

Councillor Day explained that the next stage of the parish plan in relation to the playing fields is the reconditioning of the football pitches and bids for funding of this work are currently being submitted. However, prior to the reconditioning taking place, it is vital that the rabbit fence is replaced as the current fence is no longer fit for purpose and there is little point in spending the money on reconditioning if the rabbits have ready access to the site. A quotation has been sought from the provider of the fencing at the new field, who was extremely competitive at that

time. The indicative price is £2495 but it is not yet known whether this is inclusive of VAT. There will also need to be some changes to the specification to enable pedestrians to pass through the fencing (provision having already been made for a large gate for emergency services purposes). Hence, the full cost is not currently known. The Clerk confirmed to the Council that a sum of c. £3.5k remains unallocated in its Community Projects budget for 2012/13. In consequence, and in the absence of Councillor Day who abstained, it was

RESOLVED : To meet the actual costs of a replacement rabbit fence around the old playing fields up to a maximum of £3500, such monies to be provided on receipt of invoices in substantiation.

196 2012/13 : To consider representation at a workshop to outline the process of producing a community emergency flood plan

The Council considered the request received from LALC that it be represented at the workshop. As the Acting Clerk is unable to attend on the date in question and it is not yet known whether the workshop will be held on the afternoon or evening of 4th April 2013, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council's representative will be Councillor Bullivent if the event is held in the evening and Councillor Capes if it is during the afternoon.

The Clerk will inform LALC accordingly.

197 2012/13 : To approve the renewal of the six month licence for the grazing of Constable land

The Council noted that the current licence, renewable six-monthly, expires on 28th March 2013 and

RESOLVED : To renew the licence for a further period of six months on the terms and at the rental agreed for this period.

The Chairman signed two copies of the new licence, which the Clerk will forward to the licence holder for signature of both copies and the return of one copy for the Council's records.

198 2012/13: To receive a report from the Clerk

The Council noted the report, with specific comment made regarding the following items :

101 2009/10 : Registration of land ownership

The Clerk reported that she had heard from the legal advisor, who will drop off the land registration paperwork for filing in the Council's safe before the end of the month. The legal advisor confirmed that, in relation to the Southcliffe Road verge, he needs to produce an updating evidence statement and then the application for registration will be made. Once that is completed, he will concentrate on Riverside which is more complex.

90a 2012/13 : Scotterthorpe & cemetery allotment vacancies

The Clerk reported that she had received a complaint regarding the state of a Scotterthorpe allotment which, according to reports, has not been attended by the tenant in over a year. It was

RESOLVED : To write to the tenant to stress that he must abide by the conditions of his let if he wishes to remain an allotment holder.

The Clerk has a potential tenant for this allotment should he wish to give it up. The Chairman commented that some other allotments at Scotterthorpe are not in good order but these are located in the area that was badly affected by waterlogging due to the blocked drainage ditch and so it would not be appropriate to approach the tenants at the current time. Now that the ditch has been cleared, this land should eventually improve. In terms of managing the allotments at Scotterthorpe ongoing, he reminded the members of the Cemetery & Allotments Committee that this was an outstanding item for its consideration and suggested that a meeting be organised in the near future.

98 2012/13 : Payment of the Acting Clerk

The Council noted that the acting Clerk had submitted a request for 60 worked hours for the month of February and it was

Initialled Chairman

RESOLVED : To approve 60 paid hours for the acting Clerk for February 2013.

141d 2012/13 : Printer problem

With the new printer having been ordered, the existing printer will soon be surplus to requirements but can still print, even though the print quality is variable. It was agreed that the Clerk will let Councillor Bullivent have the existing printer once the new machine is in situ. He will liaise with the Chair of Scotter Forward to find a suitable local charity that can use it.

156 2012/13 : Localisation of Council Tax support and its impact on Precept calculations

The Clerk reported that she had now received a letter from Edward Leigh MP enclosing a response that he has received on this matter from the Local Government Minister, Brandon Lewis. In this response, Mr Lewis states "The Government laid regulations that allowed for new local council tax support schemes to be reflected in the calculation of the council tax base for all authorities. It is the Government's view that all tiers of local government should share the impacts of the implementation of local council tax support in the same manner that all tiers benefit from the other technical reforms, such as the empty homes premium, that can increase the council tax base." He goes on to state that "It is the Government's clear expectation that billing authorities will work with parish and town councils to pass down funding so that their precepts can be reduced to reflect reductions in their council tax base. Precisely how much funding should be passed down on an annual basis will depend on a number of factors including the design of the scheme and the number of claimants in the local precepting authority area, both of which could change from year to year". This suggests that the Council is in WLDC's hands when it comes to the actual change, year on year, seen by its parishioners for the cost of its services irrespective of what the Council has actually requested. The Clerk informed the Council that she is still awaiting a formal written response from WLDC on this matter but that it was becoming clear that the Council would need to know what the tax base would be and the amount of funding that would be passed down by WLDC **before** it could calculate its Precept demand.

179a 2012/13 : Volunteer library scheme

The Council noted that visitor numbers generally have slightly reduced at the library, harming its long-term viability. It was agreed that this should be an agenda item at the Annual Parish Meeting.

198a 2012/13 : Anti-social behaviour

In the absence of Councillors Baker and Hinman, it was not possible to obtain an update in relation to the future of the Friday Night project.

199 2012/13 : To receive new correspondence

Other items of correspondence (not already considered above and received prior to the March 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 be an agenda item at a future meeting.

200a 2012/13 : 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 February 2013 and

RESOLVED : To concur with the actions taken by the Planning Committee and to adopt the minutes of the Committee meeting held on 18th February 2013.

200b 2012/13 : To note the receipt of results from the planning authorities

The Council noted that no results had been received from the Planning Authority during the period.

Initialed Chairman

201 2012/13 : To note income received during February 2013 and to approve the cash book as at the end of February 2013 and its reconciliation to the bank statements.

The Council noted the following income received during February 2013.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>PAYER</u>	<u>DETAILS</u>	<u>RECEIPTS</u>
05.02.13	Co-operative Bank	Interest - current account	2.66
13.02.13	Cliff Bradley & Sons	Interment of N. Faunthorpe in grave BA62	250.00
27.02.13	HM Revenue & Customs	VAT repayment	14,650.44
TOTAL RECEIPTS			14,903.10

It then examined the cashbook as at end of February 2013 and its reconciliation to the bank statements and

RESOLVED : That the cashbook at the end of February 2013 should be signed by the Chairman and Clerk as a true record.

202 2012/13 : To approve payments to be made.

With the exception of Councillor Sheardown who abstained, it was

RESOLVED : That the following payments are 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	Multidata	Broadband & line rental, March 2013	33.43	6.69	
		Call charges, January 2013	1.54	0.31	
		Excess bandwidth usage, January 2013	2.55	0.51	45.03
402451	H.M. Revenue & Customs	PAYE & NI, Month 11	155.30	0.00	155.30
402452	Mrs N. Altoft	Holiday pay for 2012/13	752.45	-	752.45
402453	J Lyon	Wages	477.62	-	
		Mileage	19.35		
		Materials to paint/stain benches	37.04	7.41	541.42
402454	Mrs M. Brown	Postage	59.09	-	
		Paint, etc. to decorate tennis hut	38.04	7.61	
		New printer & spare toner cartridge	274.58	54.91	
		Key deposit returned for allot. 5	2.00	-	436.23
402455	LALC	Annual subscription + LCR magazine	394.00	75.70	469.70
402456	Aon UK Limited	Additional premium for new mower	31.50	-	31.50
402457	Green Stripe Garden Mch'y	New ride-on mower	10,650.00	2,130.00	
		Allowance for old mower	- 4,200.00	- 840.00	
		Spare blades,oil filter &new fire extinguisher	184.46	36.89	7,961.35
402458	Anglian Water	Rates, Cemetery Allots - 16/8/12-12/2/13	31.11	-	31.11
402459	War Memorial Playing Fields	EL & PL Insurance, 01/03/13 - 28/02/14	757.14	-	757.14
402460	SVHA	Donation towards car park renovation	2,000.00	-	2,000.00
402461	Scotter Bowls Club	Donation towards new pump & hedge trimmer	929.06	-	929.06
			12,630.26	1,480.03	14,110.29

203 2012/13 : To take any points from members, identify items for the next agenda and to note urgent items of interest.

203a Councillor Bullivent raised the matter of the introduction of superfast Broadband to the area. He is aware that two of the three telecommunications cabinets in the village have already been upgraded for this development, these being the cabinets on the corner of Gravel Pit Road and Messingham Road and on High Street, outside of the Co-operative. However nothing, as yet, appears to have been done in relation to the cabinet at the corner of Sands Lane and Gainsborough Road. Councillor Bullivent stated his concern that, unless this was also upgraded, one-third of Scotter residents would not be able to receive superfast Broadband. It was agreed

Initialed Chairman

that Councillor Bullivent will prepare a draft letter for the Clerk to send to the relevant authority to seek clarification regarding its intentions in respect of this cabinet.

203b Councillor Armstrong reported that work on the Butterwick Road footpath had still not been carried out. The Chairman commented that weather conditions were unsuitable for such work currently. Councillor Armstrong will monitor the situation and contact LCC again should the work not be done during the Spring.

203c Councillor Billam reported that the street light numbered 2 on Westcliffe Road is still unlit. The Clerk had reported this to LCC in late February 2013 and will chase them for a date when the work will be carried out.

203d Councillor Capes reported that man hole covers on Gainsborough Road, particularly at the Sands Lane junction, have sunk by c. 1" . This level of recess is already affecting the ride quality, as the bump is noticeable, and may be an indicator of worse to come. The Clerk will report this to LCC Highways.

204e The Chairman reported that the official opening of the Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) will take place on Saturday 23rd March 2013 at noon. All Councillors are cordially invited to attend and refreshments will be served.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.23pm.

Clerk:

Chairman:

Date: