

**SCOTTER PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2010**

**PRESENT:** Councillor C. Day (Chairman), Councillors M. Armstrong, C. Baker, B. Billam, M. Brown, J. Bullivent, D. Capes, J. Fillingham, S. Rayner and A. Sheardown, M. Brown (Clerk). Present until the conclusion of agenda item 3 : ACC K. Smy, CI M. Housley, Sgt S. Dooley, CBM I. Shaw and PCSO W. Thomas of Lincolnshire Police, Ward Councillor L. Rollings, 2 representatives of Blyton Parish Council, 1 representative of Laughton Parish Council and 1 representative of Corringham Parish Council.

With no members of the public present, the meeting commenced at 7.32pm. The Chairman welcomed the Assistant Chief Constable and his team and also the representatives of other Parish Councils in the Gainsborough Rural North beat, all of whom were invited to speak during the third agenda item.

**139 2010/11 : To receive and approve apologies for absence**

No apologies were received, with all Councillors present.

**140 2010/11 : To receive declarations of interest**

Councillor Day declared a prejudicial interest in relation to those elements of agenda item 5 that may result in work being carried out by his company in its capacity as emergency & minor works contractor to the Council and in relation to agenda item 23 where an applicant is related to him (minute refs. 143 and 161 2010/11 respectively) and stated his intention to leave the room for the duration of the discussion and voting on the matters. Councillor Brown will take the Chair for these items. No other declarations were made at this time.

**141 2010/11 : To raise the issue of the reduced policing of the Gainsborough Rural North beat with the Assistant Chief Constable of Lincolnshire Police**

The Chairman invited the ACC to explain the substantial reduction in the policing of the Gainsborough Rural North beat (which is currently at half of the level of one year ago) against the background of the increasing population of the area. The ACC first explained the reasons that had led to his attendance at the meeting – the raft of correspondence from the Council to the CC throughout his period in post (14 months) on this matter and the communications confusion that had arisen over the issue by LALC of a letter from the police which had been sent only to members of the e-group. In light of these, he felt that a personal approach was the correct way in which to resolve the issue. He pointed out, however, that future issues that the Council wished to raise regarding local policing would be better addressed locally.

He went on to state that a request from the Council for a CBM for the beat is not unreasonable and he is not opposed to trying to meet it, but that the Council needs to appreciate that he has a limited pool of officers and staff with which to try to satisfy all needs. He already has a dilemma in terms of officer numbers and this is likely to become far harder, as Lincolnshire Police have to save c. £20m over the next 4 years. It is inevitable, given the scarce resource, that it will be directed to where it is most needed and where the priorities are. The Gainsborough Rural North area has lower levels of crime than other areas within West Division, irrespective of the perceptions of local residents, which resulted in the reorganisation made.

The Chairman responded that, whilst he fully understood that resources were scarce, there was still a responsibility on the police to ensure that they were allocated equitably. He queried why beats in the West Division such as Market Rasen had manning (in 1 CBM and 3 PCSOs) at six times the level of the Gainsborough Rural North beat and with a population that was far smaller. He also queried whether the reduction in the area had, indeed, been “planned” or whether it was fortuitous that the previous CBM for Gainsborough Rural North had to retire on health grounds at a time when they were looking to reduce overall numbers. The response was again that resources are located where there are most needed, leading to several comments from members of the Councils represented that the police

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approach was one of reaction, instead of taking a proactive approach that might deter criminal and anti-social activity. The Clerk also raised the matter of the significant sum paid for policing services by the residents of Gainsborough Rural North, with Scotter Parish alone contributing c. £240k to the pot, and the fact that residents feel strongly that they are not getting value for this money. The ACC responded that the latter is a fact of life when considering any public service and went on to explain some of the services, nationally and regionally, that the police supply out of those funds (e.g. CEOP). However, considering that a proportion of the sum paid must go towards neighbourhood policing and taking into account the very inequitable share of neighbourhood policing resources that the residents of Gainsborough Rural North have been allocated, the representative of Corringham Parish Council stated that, if the local level of resource is not to be increased, then local residents should pay less. The ACC responded that the system does not work that way.

Specific queries regarding local burglaries were raised with the ACC by Ward Councillor Rollings (in relation to Pilham) and by the representative of Laughton Parish Council.

Following some further debate and as the discussion was becoming repetitive, the Chairman drew the discussion to a conclusion at 8.33pm. He thanked the ACC and his team for attending but stated that he did not believe that they had satisfactorily explained why they regarded it as appropriate to reduce local neighbourhood policing by 50% (particularly against the background of the far higher level of resources allocated to other local beats with smaller populations) and stressed his disappointment with the police response. The ACC was sorry to hear the Chairman's view and offered to continue the debate at a future time.

At this point, the police team, Ward Councillor Rollings and the representatives of the other parish councils left the meeting room.

**142 2010/11 : To approve the notes of the Council Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2010**  
**RESOLVED : To approve the notes of the Council Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2010, as circulated, as the Minutes of that meeting.** These were signed by the Chairman.

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

**143 2010/11 : To consider a report and recommendations from the Cemetery & Allotments Working Group**

The Council considered the report that had been prior circulated and

**RESOLVED :**

- In light of the presence of water voles, to adopt the system proposed by the Environment Agency for the mowing of the river bank on Riverside, with 2011/12 being Year 2 of the four-year mowing cycle.
- In light of the RoSPA report, to instruct the emergency and minor works contractor to remove an appropriate amount of soil from under the turf to prevent the grounding of the gate at the Elizabeth Close play ground.
- In light of the RoSPA report, to instruct the play ground inspector to monitor closely the security of the fixings on the springers and the wear to the shackles and chains of the senior swings, all at the Scotton Road play ground.
- To instruct RoSPA to carry out formal risk assessments of its three play grounds during 2011, at the approximate cost of £20 plus VAT per site, such assessments to coincide with its annual safety inspections.
- To purchase six replacement trees (rowans or whitebeams) for the public open spaces on The Granary/Granary Fold, together with stakes, ties and protection, at the approximate cost of £150 plus VAT, and to instruct the emergency and minor works contractor to effect the removal of the dead trees. If the Tree Warden is unable to carry out the planting of the replacement trees, to further instruct the emergency and minor works contractor to do so.

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- To formally adopt the procedure, as presented, for the annual safety inspection of memorials in Scotter cemetery, with the 2011 inspection to take place on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2011.
- To facilitate the administration of the inspection process, to instruct the Clerk to carry out an additional, one-off, task in the creation and population of a cemetery database, at an approximate cost of £370.
- To instruct the Village Person to touch up paint chips on the fence surrounding the public open space on The Granary and to oil the wooden furniture and play equipment in The Granary and Granary Fold public open spaces during Spring 2011.
- In light of complaints received, to amend the agreements for the rental of allotments (with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2011 at Scotterthorpe and from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2011 at the cemetery) to prohibit the bringing of dogs onto the allotments.
- With no residents on the waiting list at either set of allotments and with allotments known to be coming available during 2011, to advertise the existence of the allotments and means of applying for them in the next edition of the Eau Valley Advertiser.
- To earmark a sum of £100 plus VAT for the purchase of a Christmas tree and other necessary decorations for the 2010 festive season.

Councillor Day returned to the meeting room at this point and resumed his duties as Chairman. Councillor Brown commented that the report further included two items where action was required by himself and Councillor Day. He has since had the opportunity to carry these out. In relation to the comments made by RoSPA about the gates at The Granary, he is unable to comprehend their concerns as there are no potential entrapment issues throughout the full range of movement of the gates. Councillor Day stated that he had also examined the gates and had come to the same conclusion. To this end, it was agreed that no further action is required at this time but that the gates should be monitored, as part of the weekly inspection process, in cases such issues should arise in future. Councillor Brown went on to state that he had also checked the security of the fixings of the hand and foot holds on the climbing wall and all is in good order.

**144 2010/11 : To consider and approve the Council's response to the Central Lincolnshire Core Strategy Issues and Options consultation**

The Council considered the draft response to the consultation prepared by the Chairman and the Clerk with the support of Councillor Rayner (in his capacity as Chairman of the Planning Committee) and

**RESOLVED : To submit the response, as drafted.**

**145 2010/11 ; To approve the submission of a claim to LCC in the amount of £2139.84 for recompense of verge cutting costs during the 2010/11 season.**

The Council considered the e-mail received from LCC in relation to the above, against the background of the work carried out by the Village Person during the current season, and :

**RESOLVED : To submit a claim to LCC of £2139.84 in relation to verge cutting costs during 2010/11.**

**146 2010/11 : To consider representation at WLDC's Council Tax Focus Group meeting**

The Council considered the request received from WLDC in relation to the above. As the local session has been planned for the afternoon of Monday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2010, this immediately precludes all Councillors in full-time employment. Unfortunately, none of the other Councillors are free to attend on that date. The Clerk is to respond to WLDC accordingly and to point out that the sessions in some of the other areas are being held during the evening which makes it far easier for local Councillors to attend.

**147 2010/11 : To consider a response to LCC's request for information on the history of surface water flooding in the parish**

The Council considered the request received from LCC. As the information requested is specifically to exclude flooding from watercourses or localised surface flooding that is as a result of a blocked gully or drain, the Council has no knowledge of any general surface water flooding problems within its Parish. In consequence, no response is required.

**148 2010/11 : To approve an application for trade credit with Grafton Merchanting GB**

The Clerk explained that the completion of the application is required as Jackson Building Centres (a long-established supplier to the Council) has joined this larger grouping. Completing the form will retain the Council's credit position in respect of dealings with the company. To this end, it was **RESOLVED : To approve an application for trade credit with Grafton Merchanting GB.** The form was duly signed by the Chairman and Vice Chairman.

**149 2010/11 : To receive a report on the safety inspection of Parson's Field**

Councillor Day reported that he had inspected the field on several occasions during the month and had found nothing of a safety concern.

**150 2010/11 : To agree which Councillors will be responsible for safety inspections of the cemetery and the playgrounds for the next month**

Councillor Brown stated his willingness to continue with the cemetery inspections and Councillor Sheardown will also continue with the playground inspections.

**151 2010/11 : To receive a report from the Clerk**

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

**51 2010/11 : Waggoners Close development issues**

The Clerk reported that WLDC has now appointed its project team to look into this matter. It visited Scotter on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2010 and walked the village, including Waggoners Close. It has identified some pockets of land that may have potential as a public open space and will update the Council further following its next project group meeting in mid November.

**62 2010/11 : Litter bin on The Green**

The Clerk reported that she had now received the map and information on underground services from the National Grid. The latter is concerned that it does have services in the locale and has a strict process that must be followed prior to any work being carried out. The Clerk will liaise with the installation contractor in relation to this.

**99 2010/11 : Planning application 126246 – Lincolnshire Co-operative**

The Clerk reported that a letter had been received that day inviting the Council to briefly speak, if it so wished, at WLDC's Planning Committee meeting on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2010 in support of the comments it had submitted in relation to the proposal for a Lincolnshire Co-operative Store on High Street. Unfortunately, no-one is available to attend the meeting. However, Councillor Rayner pointed out that the Council's submission (which is included in the pack of papers circulated to members of WLDC's Planning Committee) is detailed, comprehensive and fully representative of the views expressed locally, so there would have been little or nothing to be gained by speaking.

**105 2010/11 : Flooding Issues**

The Council considered how it would wish to be represented at the flooding meeting (to be held on the evening of Monday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2010 at the Eau Community Centre) and what role it would wish to play in its facilitation. It was agreed that it will be represented by Councillor Bullivent, as Flood Warden, with the Chairman also hoping to attend. As the meeting has been called by the Environment Agency and Lincolnshire County Council's Highways department to answer issues raised by affected residents and the

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Council, it was further agreed that the Council should remain as a meeting attendee rather than as a facilitator.

**124 2010/11 : Friday Night Drop-In Centre**

The Chairman explained that he had some disappointing news to report in relation to the above. At a previous Council meeting, it had been agreed that the Council would utilise the community pot remaining at the end of the project period (30<sup>th</sup> November 2010) to fund the employment of the part-time youth worker to end March 2011, by which time the result of the bid to the Big Lottery Fund for ongoing funding for a period of 3 years would be known. As the current employer of the youth worker, Community Lincs was asked by the Council (back in July 2010) if it would be prepared to be the employment vehicle for the worker during this four-month period, it not being possible for the Council to employ the worker directly at this time. Community Lincs finally responded at the end of the first week of November to refuse that request, such that the worker's contract will terminate on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2010 when the community development project terminates. Obviously this is extremely short notice and, whilst the youth worker has made it clear that she will continue to support the Friday Night Drop-In Centre on a voluntary basis, this is a far-from-ideal situation ongoing. In an attempt to find a solution to the issue, the Chairman is meeting with Helen Freeston during week ending 19<sup>th</sup> November 2010 and will report further at the next meeting.

The Chairman also pointed out that effort will be required from the Council (in terms of an individual Councillor or small working group) to manage the four-month interim period, if a short-term solution can be found, and the three-year project, if the bid to the Big Lottery Fund is successful. The Chairman has already been heavily involved in the latter.

**152 2010/11 : To receive new correspondence not already included above**

Other items of correspondence (not already considered above and received prior to the November 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.

**153a 2010/11 : 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 4<sup>th</sup> October 2010 and  
**RESOLVED : To concur with the actions taken by the Planning Committee and to adopt the minutes of the Committee meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2010.**

**153b 2010/11 : To note the receipt of results from the planning authorities**

The Council noted the following result received from the Planning Authority during the period :  
**126269 Rivendale, 17 The Rookery, Scotter** – a planning application to erect a conservatory and add a bedroom into the loft space with 2 No. dormer windows to front elevation and 1 No. window to side elevation.

**Granted**

**154 2010/11 : To note income received during October 2010 and to approve the October 2010 cash book and its reconciliation to the bank statements**

The Council noted the following income received during October 2010.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>PAYER</u>	<u>DETAILS</u>	<u>RECEIPTS</u>
05.10.10	Co-operative Bank	Interest - current account	1.71
05.10.10	Co-operative Bank	Interest - deposit account (6 months)	0.96
06.10.10	H.M. Revenue & Customs	VAT repayment	382.29
11.10.10	Mrs K. J. Day	6 months rental of Constable land	200.00
11.10.10	YEDL	Wayleave/rental	5.00

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15.10.10	WLDC	Repayment of Broadband rental for September & October 2010	46.42
19.10.10	R.J. & S.E. Marris	6 months rental of Goosemoor land	275.00
22.10.10	Co-operative Bank	Interest at maturity of 6 month investment bond	77.92
28.10.10	J. Barnard	Erection of memorial on grave AA69	80.00
28.10.10	Barningham Memorials	Erection of memorial on grave Y3	80.00
28.10.10	Barningham Memorials	Additional memorial inscription on grave BC37	25.00
28.10.10	Barningham Memorials	Additional memorial inscription on grave BC9	25.00
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>			<b>1199.30</b>

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

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

**155 2010/11 : To approve payments to be made**

The Council examined the accounts to be paid for supplies and services received since the last meeting and :

**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 Royal British Legion 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	Talk Talk	Phone calls, September 2010	14.48	2.53	17.01
	Direct Debit	BT	Line rental, Q3 2010/11	45.72	8.00	53.72
	Direct Debit	Multidata	Broadband rental, November 2010	19.75	3.46	23.21
402135	H.M. Customs & Revenue	PAYE & NI, Month 7	421.47	-	421.47	
402136	Mrs M. Brown	Wages	634.63	-		
		Mileage	5.60	-		
		Postage	38.48	-		
		Stationery	1.15	0.20	680.06	
402137	Mr. J. Lyon	Wages	551.50	-		
		Mileage	19.60	-		
		Refuse sacks	7.84	1.37	580.31	
402138	WLDC	Litter picking service - October 2010	136.44	23.88	160.32	
402139	Spencer's Garage	Fuel	159.16	27.85	187.01	
402140	Mitie Landscapes Ltd	Grounds maintenance, Oct. 2010	148.75	26.03	174.78	
402141	Green Stripe Garden Mch'y	Replacement filter	24.83	4.35		
		Replacement drive belt	41.03	7.18	77.39	
402142	Hodson & Kauss	Supply and install playground gate	699.00	122.33	821.33	
402143	S.V.H.A.	Office rental & room hire, Q2 2010/11	211.25	-	211.25	
402144	Scotter Junior F.C.	Donation towards grass cutting, Q2 2010/11	668.59	-	668.59	
402145	CPRE	Annual subscription	29.00	-	29.00	
402146	John Hoult & Co.	Legal fees to date re. Southcliffe Road verge	300.00	52.50	352.50	
402147	Pestx Ltd	Pest control service, 3 months from 01/11/10	85.00	14.88	99.88	
402148	Royal British Legion	Donation (poppy wreath)	75.00	-	75.00	
			<b>4,338.27</b>	<b>294.56</b>	<b>4,632.83</b>	

**Initialed ..... Chairman**

**156 2010/11 : To take any points from members, identify items for the next agenda and to note urgent items of interest.**

**156a** Councillor Armstrong reported that the footpath on Butterwick Road adjacent to the riverbank has now excessively narrowed, making it difficult to walk along it with a push chair or pram. The Clerk will report this to LCC Highways.

**156b** Councillor Bullivent raised the issue of the enormity of the new dwelling being erected on North Moor Road. The Clerk reported that she had received several complaints about it. Following some discussion, it was

**RESOLVED : To write to the Chairman of WLDC's Planning Committee to ask members of the Committee to inspect the site and to explain why (in light of that visit and the Council's previous objections to the plan) it was approved and how it complies with the requirements of policy RES1 (Housing Layout and Design) of the West Lindsey Local Plan First Review.**

**156c** Councillor Capes reported that the Gravel Pit Road street sign, positioned on the corner of Gravel Pit Road and Messingham Road, has disintegrated. The Clerk will report this to WLDC.

**156d** The Clerk reported that the garage alarm is not functioning properly and needs to be replaced with a more robust alternative. She will investigate options at the earliest opportunity for the Council's future approval. She has also received an e-mail from LALC that attaches a survey from LCC regarding its relationships with the town and parish sector. LALC is encouraging all local councils to respond fully, to give LCC the opportunity to improve and strengthen relationships with this tier of local government. However, the deadline for responses is short. It was agreed that the Clerk and Chairman should complete the survey on behalf of the Council. Finally, the Clerk requested the Council to consider bringing forward the date of the December Council meeting for a number of reasons. Having considered the matter, the Council

**RESOLVED : That the December Council meeting be held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2010.**

**157 2010/11 : To consider 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**

**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 for the following items of business on the basis that the first relates to a legal matter and the remainder to confidential personal information.**

**158 2010/11 : To receive a progress report related to the Southcliffe Road verge**

The Council considered the paper provided in support of this item and

**RESOLVED : To approve the legal advisor's proposed course of action.**

Councillor Capes commented that, to the best of his recollection, the Council has carried out grass cutting and tree maintenance on the verge for some 30 years and Councillor Fillingham concurred with this view. The Clerk will inform the legal advisor accordingly. She will also speak with Mrs Altoft in relation to property deeds.

**159 2010/11 : To agree a rate of pay for the Village Person with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2010**

The Council considered the paper in support of this item and

**RESOLVED : To apply a rate of pay to the Village Person equivalent to that of a Grade 3 (Lead) Worker under The Agricultural Wages Order 2010 with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2010.**

**160 2010/11 : To note the position in respect of the Clerk’s pay rate from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010**

The Council noted that the national position is that the employers have made no offer of an increase for 2010/11 in relation to local government pay and this situation will not change. As the Council follows the national agreement for local government services in applying rates of pay to its Clerk, this will equally apply to its Clerk.

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

**161 2010/11 : To approve the appointment of a new Clerk**

The Council discussed, in some detail, the paper provided in support of this item. At the conclusion of its deliberations and with six Councillors in favour, two Councillors abstaining and one Councillor against the proposal, it was

**RESOLVED : To make an offer of employment for the post of Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer to the Council (in line with the Council’s policy in relation to probationary period, starting pay rate and requirement for references) to Mrs N. Altoft.**

The date of commencement can be agreed once Mrs Altoft has confirmed her intention to accept the offer and references have been obtained.

The Chairman then returned to the meeting room and declared the meeting closed at 9.37pm.

Clerk: .....

Chairman: .....

Date: .....