

## HESSAY PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT 7.00PM IN THE CHAPEL SCHOOLROOM, HESSAY, ON WEDNESDAY 14 MARCH 2012

**Present:** Councillors Mark Barratt (Chairman), Helen Candy, Andrew Hardcastle, Roger Hildreth and Penny Taylor. Also present were City Councillor Chris Steward, five members of the public and the Clerk, James Mackman.

Prior to the meeting Roger Hildreth presented a slide show of Hessay in the 1980s. Beginning with a number of slides of the village taken from a crop-spraying helicopter he concluded with a number of slides of buildings.

#### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None.

#### **12.018 – TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

None.

#### **12.019 - TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

All Councillors being present there were no apologies.

#### **12.020 - TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 11 JANUARY 2012**

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 January 2012, having been circulated and read were accepted and signed as a true record

#### **12.021 - TO RECEIVE THE CITY OF YORK COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

City Councillor Chris Steward report in particular

- Council tax is to rise by 2.5% in 2012-13
- In future there will be one formal and two informal Ward Committee meetings a year
- The City Council has reduced funding for the Rural West Ward Committee from £30,000 to £6,000 for 2012-13.
- Parish Councils will no longer be allowed to apply for Ward funding
- Non-elected representatives are to consider how the City Council's funds for Parished areas are to be spent
- The A59 Park & Ride scheme is going ahead
- The Beckfield Lane recycling depot is to close from 16 April 2012
- There will be no double taxation relief for Parish Councils in future years

#### **12.022 – TO MAKE DECISIONS ON PARISH COUNCIL LAND**

*(a) Registration of Parish Land - To receive an update and make appropriate decisions*

Councillor Hardcastle reported no progress on this project.

*(b) General maintenance of the pond area*

It was reported that the area is looking better than it has for many years.

(c) *Willow Garth*

i. *Tree removal and the provision of a replacement tree*

The cost of the removal of the willow tree was confirmed. It was agreed that the tree should be replaced with an oak tree which will be planted at the appropriate planting time. The tree will be known as the Queen Elizabeth the Second Diamond Jubilee Oak Tree.

ii. *To discuss Yorventure's response to the use of BTCV improving the area for wildlife*

The Councillors considered the report from BTCV, in particular the part that says "This area offers opportunities for wetland re-creation. The suggestion would be to start by clearing fallen timber and then excavate the wetter areas to create shallow pools or scrapes. These pools may not hold water all year round but could still provide a valuable habitat for a variety of pond life. Ideally, silt would be dug out over two years to allow existing species to adapt to the change. Digging out would be best accomplished in early autumn when the ground is drier. In addition, the recent tree planting at this end of the site would benefit from some management in the form of removing redundant tree guards / stakes and selective coppicing to thin out the saplings in favour of the better plants. If the work is spread over two years, the estimated costs for BTCV would be £900 excluding VAT in the first year and around £350 excluding VAT (subject to review depending on how the site progresses) in year two. The estimate is based on the disposal of arisings on site (either by creating habitat piles or burning of brash). If required, the arisings could be taken off site but there would be additional costs for disposal."

It was noted that Yorventure will fund a project for a year. It was agreed that the Parish Council should apply for £900 funding from Yorventure for the work for the first year. **(Action Clerk)**

iii. *Provision of a kick about area*

It was agreed to defer making a decision on this subject.

iv. *Hawthorn planting*

The hawthorns have been planted along the fence in Willow Garth and in front of the allotments. Spiral tubes and canes were used. Thanks were given to Stuart Cariss for helping Councillors Barratt and Hildreth in planting the hawthorn.

(d) *The City Council's Treemendous programme*

The City Council's Treemendous programme was noted but it was agreed that no action would be taken.

(e) *Allotments*

It was reported that the allotment area is looking tidy. There is space for another allotment on the site should one be required.

(f) *Purchase of snowdrops*

It was agreed that some of the existing clusters of snowdrops would be split so that snowdrops could be planted in other areas. It was agreed that the balance of the City Council's grant for bulbs would split between the purchase of snowdrops and English bluebells. **(Action Councillor Barratt)**

(g) *Other areas*

No report.

**12.023 - TO NOTE LOCAL AUTHORITY PLANNING DECISIONS**

It was noted that the Local Planning Authority had approved the following application:

Ref: 11/03102/FUL – Single-storey side extension (resubmission) at Rose Cottage, Shirbutt Lane by Mr Gary Kaye.

The Clerk reported that the YLCA had written to say that the City Council is proposing to stop the practice of sending out planning applications on paper starting this summer. The YLCA was advising Parish Councils to write to the City Council to ask that paper plans should be sent. It was agreed that the City Council should be so asked. **(Action Clerk)**

**12.024 - TO DISCUSS CONTINUING IMPROVEMENTS TO COMMUNICATION INCLUDING REVIEWING PROGRESS ON THE PROPOSED WEBSITE**

Councillor Candy reported that there had been no response for the request for photographs for the Parish Council's website. Neither had any comments been received.

An article appearing in the 28 February edition of The Yorkshire Post saying that Hessay is the geographical centre of Yorkshire was put on the website as was the reference to the City Council's page about the proposed A59 Park & Ride site.

Councillor Candy said that she thought that there was a large section of the community who were not aware of the Parish Council website and for whom no email address was known. It was agreed that the website should be advertised in the Parish Magazine. **(Action Councillor Candy)**

**12.025 - TO AGREE THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT CONTENT FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL'S WEBSITE**

It was agreed to adopt the Freedom of Information Scheme produced by the Clerk. This will be put on the Parish Council's website. **(Action Councillor Candy)**

**12.026 - TO AGREE AND ADOPT THE PARISH COUNCIL'S COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE**

It was agreed to adopt the Complaint's Procedure produced by the Clerk. This will be put on the Parish Council's website. **(Action Councillor Candy)**

**12.027 - TO DISCUSS THE FUTURE USE OF THE PARISH COUNCIL'S CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS**

Councillor Candy agreed to determine the location of the lights and to store them on behalf of the Parish Council. **(Action Councillor Candy)**

**12.028 - TO DISCUSS JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS WITHIN THE VILLAGE**

A number of ideas to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee were put forward including having older people's memories recorded for inclusion on the Parish Council's website, a possible Big Lunch on Sunday 3 June, identifying and photographing trees planted to commemorate previous Jubilees and have these put on the website. The Councillors agreed to help in publicising celebratory events which would be organised for the village as a whole.

**12.029 - TO DISCUSS BROADBAND NORTH YORKSHIRE & BROADBAND PROVISION WITHIN THE VILLAGE**

The provision of broadband in Hessay is poor. It was agreed that NYnet be asked if it would be possible to have a fibre optic cable installed into the village. **(Action Clerk)**

**12.030 - TO DISCUSS ROAD AND PATH SWEEPING, POTHOLE, BROKEN SIGNS AND THE STATE OF THE FOOTPATH IN NEW ROAD**

- (a) The condition of the road surface along Main Street was raised as some residents are able to feel vibrations when large vehicles pass their houses. One resident had written to City of York Council about this. Councillor Steward was asked for assistance in having Main Street surveyed / repaired.
- (b) It was reported that the gutters in the village were swept by a mechanical road sweeper last week. Apparently there are only two road sweepers for the whole of York. The road sweeper is to be used for roads within the 30mph limit so most of Shirbutt Lane now qualifies. The road sweeper’s driver cleared most of the vegetation from the gutters and said he would report to his supervisor that the remaining vegetation needs to be cleared by hand.
- (c) The fingerpost identifying the public footpath along Cat Lane is missing. **(Action Clerk)**

**12.031 – TO DISCUSS THE SUBJECT OF THE A59/NEW ROAD JUNCTION**

It was reported that the remaining road “SLOW” signs have yet to be painted.

**12.032 - TO RECEIVE A REPORT ON VILLAGE POLICING**

Note of the following incident in Hessay had been received from Nigel Colley PCSO 5642, Rural West Safer Neighbourhood Policing Team.

27 Feb	Theft	Fence post stolen	York Road
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PCSO Colley reported that crime in the Ward remains down against last year at 29% down.

**12.033 - FINANCE**

*(a) Financial Report*

The Clerk presented a detailed report showing the actual income and expenditure for the year for the period to 14 March 2012. The report reflected the receipts and payments (net of VAT) below.

The bank balances at 14 March were:

Current Account	£348.00
Business Money Manager Account	£8,597.84

*(b) To agree accounts for payment*

129	Stuart Cariss	Cutting the pond area grass 2011-12	£200.00
130	Helen Candy	Website expenses	£78.37
131	James Mackman	Clerk’s salary net – February & March	£260.04
132	Post Office Ltd	Income tax – February & March	£65.00
133	James Mackman	Expenses	£5.74
134	Upper Poppleton PC	Stationery contribution 2011-12	£20.00
135	Everglades Nurseries	Hawthorn hedging, rabbit guards & canes	£110.00

*(c) To receive a report on income received*

HSBC	Bank interest	£0.98
City of York Council	Double taxation relief – pond area	£143.29

(d) *To agree the School Room rent for the year*

After discussion it was agreed to donate the sum of £100.00 for the use of the Schoolroom.

(e) *To receive the Internal Auditor's report*

The Clerk read a portion of the internal auditor's report which mentioned a number of inaccuracies in the Minute Book which had been corrected. The auditor then stated that "I can confirm that in all significant respects the objectives have been achieved throughout the financial year to a standard adequate to meet the needs of the Council. I can report that the standard of the Parish Council's records are such that I have no comments, adverse or constructive to make on this year's audit" The Councillors accepted the report and expressed their thanks to Mrs Cariss, the internal auditor.

(f) *To re-appoint the internal auditor*

It was agreed to re-appoint Mrs Cariss as the internal auditor. **(Action Clerk)**

#### **12.034 - CLERK'S REPORT:**

(a) *Progress on the repairs to the pavement outside No. 6 Main Street (Min. 12.014a) – (Nov 09)*

There was no progress to report on this subject.

(b) *Progress on the repairing of potholes in New Road (Min. 12.011b – (Jul 11)*

There was no progress to report on this subject.

#### **12.035 - TO NOTE CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED BY THE CLERK**

*The Clerk referred to the following items of correspondence*

- (a) Ainsty (2008) Internal Drainage Board - Notice of laying rate. This was put on the notice board
- (b) CYC - Tell Me More poster. This was put on the notice board

*It was agreed that the correspondence received since the January meeting, as listed below, be circulated to the Councillors*

- (a) Clerk & Councils Direct - March 2012, Issue 80
- (b) CPRE/NALC - A Guide to Neighbourhood Planning booklet
- (c) CYC - Core Strategy Framework submission - memory stick
- (d) HBC - Parish Precept 2012/13 banding
- (e) Rural Action Yorkshire - Country Air Winter - 2012, Issue 122
- (f) YLCA - White Rose Update - January 2012, Issue 1/12

#### **12.036 - TO CONSIDER MINOR MATTERS AND ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**

*Minor Matters*

None.

*Items for the next agenda*

The future of the BT phone box in Main Street, the fact that Hessay is the geographical centre of Yorkshire, marking Jubilee trees

**12.037 - TO AGREE THE DATE OF NEXT MEETING AS WEDNESDAY 9 MAY 2012 AT 8.00PM**

It was agreed to hold the next meeting on 9 May 2012 at 8.00pm. It will be preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting which will start at 7.00pm,

There being no more business the meeting was formally closed at 9.55pm.

Chairman.....

Date.....

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