

STRENSALL with TOWTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
Held on Tuesday 6th May 2014 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall, Strensall

PRESENT

Cllrs Marquis (Chair) Scott, Plant, Ms T Flannery, Mrs C Edwards, Chapman, Tuohey, Baxter, Maher, Benson and Chambers. PCSO M Hannon

1. APOLOGIES

Were received from Ward Cllr Mrs S Wiseman, Ward Cllr P Doughty
Cllrs Mrs T Himlin and K Ogilvy

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

none

3. MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated, Council approved these and authorised the Chairman to sign them as a correct record

Resolution 060514/01

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None present. As PCSO Hannon was in attendance the Police Report was moved forward to enable him to leave

6. POLICE REPORT

The written report had been circulated and noted. The Council were updated on the recent reorganisation and that there no dedicated PCs in any ward in York. PCSO Hannon would continue to be responsible for the Ward. The recent issues in Strensall were discussed. The Chairman thanked Jimmy for his attendance and he then left the meeting

5. ONGOING ISSUES

- (a) VDS – the Chairman updated the meeting on the progress of the document which has been amended and returned to City Council. There were still some maps and photos to be updated. The possibility of a Neighbourhood Plan was discussed. It was agreed that a

representative from Copmanthorpe be asked to visit and advise before any decision was taken. **Resolution 060514/02**

The Clerk was requested to pass to Cllr Benson the information from the Planning Camp

- (b) The Chairman confirmed that the two oak trees in Northfields had been trimmed.

The offending tree at the back of Middlecroft Drive had been felled and the resident confirmed that he will provide a replacement by the end of the year.

The issue of the oak tree to the side of 40 Westpit Lane was ongoing following a site meeting with the CYC footpaths officer. It was understood that a request had been received by City Council to designate a public footpath along the south side of the river bank with exits onto Westpit Lane alongside the railway and between 38 and 40. It was understood that Shepherds were negotiating a sale of their land between Westpit Lane and the river. The Clerk was instructed to write to Shepherds regarding designation of these paths as PROW's.

Resolution 060514/03

- (c) The Clerk reported that Stoneplan had advised on an alternative supplier of recycled benches and was to give a quote for the fixing. She was still awaiting a quote from Darren Baxter.

- (d) Various footpath issues had been discussed with City Council at the site meeting.

(i) A request had been received for a designated footpath along the riverbank at the back of Barley Rise and Ryecroft as this had been used over many years by dog walkers.

(ii) The Brecks footpath on the south side of the river to Cowslip Hill had once been promoted by Hogg Builders as York's newest nature trail. With the addition of a bridge across the river a possible circular route from footpath 17 to the Centenery Way would be possible

- (e) The Chairman reported on the meeting between members of the Parish Council playground committee and Hoggs to discuss the possibility of some land to be used for play areas. There are some pockets of land, unsuitable for building that could be disposed of. A meeting was suggested with members of City Council Property Services, Leisure Services, Footpaths Officer and FIDB to advise was approved
Resolution 060514/04

- (f) the Clerk reported that she had not received any acknowledgement to her request for an update on S 106 and enforcement issues outstanding but would continue to send weekly requests.

- (g) Cllr Plant updated the meeting on the application for funding to clean the War Memorial and the Clerk confirmed that the application had been sent and also an application for a Listed Building Consent to City

Council. The grant, if approved, would fund half the cost, the remainder to be paid by the Parish Council.

- (h) The Clerk reported that the pile of soil at the entrance to the Cemetery was unsightly and, as Abbotts Memorials charge £100 to take each load away, it has now piled up. Mr Barker agreed to remove it but, as it is almost solid clay, really didn't want it. A skip has been hired for Tuesday 6th May when the CPB can assist in removing this and also all other debris from the Cemetery. The cost of this is £110 and it will remove three lots of soil. This expenditure was approved. **Resolution 060514/05.**
- (i) The bus shelters were cleaned on Monday 5th May and the missing tile from the stone shelter at Strensall Park will be replaced as soon as possible.
- (j) The Clerk reported that the contractor had been asked to strim and/or apply weedkiller down each public footpath around Kirklands/Pasture Close/Knapton Close/ Newton Way, Southfield Road/The Village. If there is anywhere else needs doing please let her know.
- (k) Following the resignation of Richard Knight, there is now a vacancy for a Parish Councillor. This has been advertised and the closing date is 6th May. As there has been no request for a by-election an applicant may now be co-opted.

7. PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

Cllr Chapman reported on the issues discussed and recommendations of the Planning Committee with regard to the proposed agenda for the public meeting and Public Enquiry. It was agreed that the same 6-7 people would be asked to speak again but must be aware that cross examination was permitted at Public Enquiries. It was resolved that a letter be sent to the Case Officer at the Planning Inspectorate as matter of urgency requesting a possible extension to the deadline for further submissions and asking for guidance as to "relevant" issues. **Resolution 060514/05**

8. FINANCE REPORT

- (a) Invoices for payment approved:- **Resolution 060514/06**

(i) Clerk salary with overtime as agreed	£.	SO
(ii) Talktalk	£32.61	DD
(iii) Talktalk mobile	£5.66	DD
(iv) Staples	£45.66	DD
(v) Green Vale Gardens (grass cutting & strimming)	989.02	
(vi) ARB Tree Surgeons	400.00	S106
(vii) Village Hall hire fees	196.75	
(viii) Green Vale Gardens cemetery maintenance	120.00	
(ix) Mr J Chapman (lock and fuel)	36.09	

(x) Ebor Skip hire	132.00
(xi) photos and postage for WM grant	8.95
Income:	
Precept	£15,500.00
VAT refund	£468.43
Cemetery	£125.00
Interest	£0.98

Account Balances:

Cemetery Account	£8,002.74
Treasurers Account	£24,307.48
Contingency Account	£8,047.11. + £15,000 (bond)
Premium Account	£8,002.74. + £10,000 (bond)

9. HIGHWAYS

The Highways report was discussed and the Clerk requested to speak to her contact at Tesco regarding the disintegrating state of the area.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

- (a) the letter from a resident on the issue of Lock Cottage footpath had been addressed by City of York Council
- (b) application for funding from Kidz Klub was deferred to the Finance Committee meeting on 27th May
- (c) Letter from Robert Wilkinson Academy was passed to the Chairman
- (d) Letter from Costcutter – the Clerk to respond that this would be an agenda item in June
- (e) Letter from Huntington School regarding a sponsored walk as last year – the Clerk to respond and add to the agenda for June

14. AGENDA ITEMS FOR JUNE

15. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 10th June 2014 at 7.15pm in the Village Hall.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.00pm

Signed..... 10th June 2014

Chairman

APPENDIX 1

Meeting with members of Copmanthorpe Parish Council and others to receive an update on the Neighbourhood Plan procedures.

Tuesday 22nd April 2014.

Present:

Megan Taylor (Cop PC), David Carr (Chair Cop PC), Peter Whitfield (Cop PC), Martin Pickard (Cop Community), Kathy Pickard (Cop Community).

Dennis Little (Strensall VDS), Keith Marquis Strensall PC).

Edie Joans (Nether Pop PC), James Magnam (Clerk to Nether Pop and Upper Pop PC's).

Dennis Barton (Dunnington PC)

David Jobling (Huntington PC)

Karen De Vries (Fulford PC)

David Carr, as Chairman of both Copmanthorpe PC and the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group, explained how their Neighbourhood Plan had piggy backed on to a survey being carried out by Copmanthorpe Methodist Chapel into social issues.

It was decided to apply the Neighbourhood Plan to the whole of the parish. The current size of Copmanthorpe is 1750 dwellings with a population of 4500. There are a number of fast food outlets and a small co-op supermarket. There is a lot of similarity between Strensall and Copmanthorpe.

They have carried out two surveys the first in June 2013 which asked open ended questions which included social and community issues. The response rate was very good 600 out of 1750 but the community were driven by the possible building of a wind farm as a local issue. 80% of the responses stated that there should be no new housing.

The second survey took account of issues from the emerging local plan and asked more pertinent questions based on the local plan response by the parish council e.g. How many new houses should be built in the parish and where? The draft local plan indicated 7 sites with 600 new dwellings but the plan is for 135 over 3 different sites. This survey included a pre-paid postal reply address. A member of the community on the working group has a history of number crunching and was able to produce a professional report of the results of this survey.

The headings under which the Neighbourhood Plan was to be set out were:

- Housing and Employment
- Sustainability
- Natural Environment including the green belt
- Heritage and Village Design
- Village economy including health and education

- Renewable energy

City of York Council approval to proceed was given on 7th January 2014.

Funding has been estimated to be between £10000 and £15000 and a grant from central government for £4000 has been obtained. CoYC has not yet provided any funding assistance. The CGI grant is due to run out in June 2014 and is not known whether it will be available after that date.

Resources to compile the plan consists of a group of 4 parish councillors and 8 members of the community. However this number if all attended every meeting is probably unworkable. The bulk of the work is carried out by 3 or 4 members of the group, compilation is by David Carr and editing by Peter Whitfield. The group is arranged to meet every two weeks. They are at the stage of employing a consultant as required by the procedure and they have selected a Neighbourhood Plan examiner but as yet have not signed a contract.

Consultation is being tailored around two village events – a street fayre and the village carnival this is in addition to the formal consultations which are Local, City of York Council and a Referendum.

A number of policies are to be inserted in the plan such as

- How planning applications are decided once the plan is approved.
- A cap on the number of new dwellings and to direct new development towards the 3 identified sites.
- Numbers of dwellings per hectare would be flexible dependant on house types.
- A limit would be placed on the size of any employment sites and preference given to small units.
- A limit on fast food outlets which appear to be growing based on demand of students from Askham Bryan College.
- A limit on renewable energy of all types.
- Improve recreation facilities.
- Encourage the provision of a railway station to make the village more sustainable.
- Protect the green belt.

Comments from others present of note that development sizes should be based on the “caring capacity of the land”.

Dennis Barton of Dunnington stated that their Neighbourhood Plan was also helped by the threat of up to 2 traveller’s site contained in the draft local plan. And the main desire of the community was to keep the village compact.

David Jopling from Huntington spoke about the apathy of the community towards the commitment to create a Neighbourhood Plan.

When asked of his opinion on whether the decision to go ahead with a Neighbourhood Plan or not David Carr said that he believed that those parishes with a Neighbourhood Plan would be in a better position than those without and the result would probably be that new developments would be DUMPED onto those parishes without a plan.

My own thoughts are that there is no doubt that there will be a lot of work involved and considerable expenditure but the end result is a workable plan created by the community.

The Parish Council members of Copmanthorpe NP group indicated that they would be willing to come to a parish council meeting to discuss their plan and answer questions about their experience so far.

Keith Marquis

APPENDIX 2

Notes of meeting between parish council members and representatives of Hogg the Builder.

Thursday 24th April 2014

In attendance were: Keith Marquis, Tracey Himlin, John Chapman and John Scott for the parish council and James Hogg and Peter Hill for Hogg the Builder.

As the parish council had requested the meeting KM gave a broad outline of the matters to be discussed which were:

- the possible donation of land by Hogg to enhance leisure facilities in Strensall.
- the dedication of footpaths over Hogg owned land to become public rights of way.

TH spoke about the possibility of a second entrance via the Heath to access the open space area at Littlethorpe Close and the need to provide play equipment suitable for disabled children. PH responded that as the ground drops steeply in this area of the Heath and therefore may be unsuitable for this purpose. He agreed to keep the aspiration in mind to investigate post meeting.

KM then spoke about yesterday's walkabout with Joanne Coote – Footpaths Officer at City of York Council and that she had asked that Hogg be approached to dedicate the footpaths to be public rights of way in order to afford protection of established walkways. JC produced a copy of Hogg marketing material which had details of "York's Newest Nature Trail" and contained details of a marked walks established c1994 by Hogg the Builder over The Brecks and alongside the south bank of the River Foss between Sheriff Hutton Road and Cowslip Hill. JC then spoke about the area of land described as "Filter Beds" and the possible use as a BMX type course.

JH responded with comments about the state of the company and that the current instructions from the Hogg Family to Peter Hill were to dispose of land in order to remove any liability for them for this land. He suggested that the parish council may wish to obtain title for the land along the south side of the River Foss in order to protect it from any loss of the walkways in future years. Discussion then took place about other parcels of land owned by Hogg/Hogg Family.

The Heath is dealt with by a separate company and as there are gas monitoring problems as well as maintenance issues and the pc representatives indicated that ownership of the Heath was not an aspiration. The status of the grassed area which has a footpath running through was also discussed and it was felt that shared ownership by residents of Lakeside Gardens could be a better option.

PH agreed to research their records and produce a map indicating the parcels of land which they would be prepared to offer to the parish council. KM replied that once the documents were received then discussions would need to take place with City of York Council before any decisions are taken by the parish council.

KM thanked the Hogg representatives for hosting the meeting.

Keith Marquis

Post meeting PH asked if pressure could be applied to First York to operate their service along Thompson Drive, Heath Ride, Redmayne Square and Park Gate as was expected to occur once highway adoption took place. KM advised PH that this issue was part of the Planning Officer's committee report for the development of the Linden Homes site and that First York had indicated that they were not prepared to extend the service from its current route.

APPENDIX 3

Dear all,

DAMAGE	3
BURGLARY	1
OTHER	1
THEFT	2
VIOLENCE	6

TOTAL	13	16 in 2013 (-18.8%)
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As you can see from the above there has been a reduction in crime across the ward compared to the same period last year. The burglary occurred at an empty home, currently under renovation. Two of the damage jobs occurred at the same time in Strensall when there had been a large party broken up and a group from a local Pub in the streets at which time a fence was damaged and a car in the street was also damaged. Details were taken from a number of persons in the street at the time though unfortunately due to the numbers in the groups it has not been possible to identify the offender at this time. The thefts include a theft of fuel from Strensall Services for which an offender has been identified, arrested and charged.

The new ASB Hub and new Neighbourhood Teams officially started on 01/05/14. I will be attending the Strensall Parish Council Meeting on Tuesday 6th May where I will do my best to explain the new ways of working that have been put in place!

Regards

Jimmy

APPENDIX IV

HIGHWAYS REPORT FOR 6TH MAY 2014 PARISH COUNCIL MEETING (INTERIM)

Items Reported

There are currently 9 outstanding issues with CYC and 1 with the land owner of the alleyway by Tesco which are:

1. One item from the walkout on 4/7/2011 remain outstanding namely worn carriageway markings on Towthorpe Road (YCC 10509386) which is awaiting large patching works for resolution.

2. A query regarding level differences between a utility trench and the alleyway between Tesco and Southfields Road is still awaiting action despite assurances the works would be undertaken. This appears to be getting worse and is probably associated with water pipes.
3. A proposal from the PC's Long Term Planning Committee to reduce congestion in The Village by introducing additional no waiting restrictions was submitted to CYC (YCC 101654037 City Strategy Reference B30530). A site meeting occurred on the 10th October 2012 and a positive response was obtained from CYC to extend yellow lines. This will now require working up into a proposal but, with resources and funding, it is not expected that any works will take place before financial year 2012-2013. It is worth noting that the Parish Council still receives correspondence regarding congestion in this and the adjacent areas.
4. I have reported faded junction markings at Glebe Close/York Road and Parkgate/Brecks Lane. I have also reported the faded level crossing road markings on the Golf Club Side of Strensall Level Crossing. CYC numbers are awaited.
5. Drainage issues by Northfields/The Village (by Number 71) have been reported.
6. The Parish Clerk has written to CYC regarding the alleged damage caused to York Road by construction traffic not following the agreed route, as per the planning constraints, for the Tannery.
7. For items 4 to 6, I have chased CYC up (5/5/2014) for a response as to why no work is taking place or a response given.
8. Potholes have been reported on Parkgate and Barley Rise.
9. I am quite happy that any Parish Councillor who sees highways defects reports them direct (ycc@york.go.uk or 01904 551550) or emails me the details rather than waiting for the Parish Council Meetings. If you do report them directly, the reference number should be taken and passed to me as it helps in chasing up issues.
10. There appear to be long term issues with the CYC computer system that means reference numbers are not being obtained.

Other Issues

1. From an article in the Evening Press (http://m.yorkpress.co.uk/news/11123605.20mph_speed_limits_to_be_extended_across_north_ern_part_of_York/), the next phase of 20mph limits for North York are to be published. Having seen no traffic orders or any street signage for Strensall, I talked to Ward Councillor Doughty who also had not seen anything. He will be coming back with information but it is believed the next roll out is within the Outer Ring Road.