

STRENSALL with TOWTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL Held on Tuesday 8th April 2014 at 7.15pm at the Village Hall, Strensall

PRESENT

Cllrs Marquis (Chair) Mrs C Edwards. Mrs T Himlin, Chambers, Chapman, Baxter, Maher, Plant and Ogilvy,
Ward Cllr P Doughty, Andrew Flecknor of City of York Council Electoral Services and 4 members of the public

1. APOLOGIES

Were received from Ward Cllr Mrs S Wiseman, Cllrs J Scott, D Benson, D Tuohey , Ms T Flannery and R Knight

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated. These were approved and the Chairman authorised to sign them as a correct record. The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting on 25th March were also endorsed. **Resolution 080414/01**

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were only issues detailed in the agenda that members of the public wished to comment on

Mr Andrew Flecknor of City of York Council Electoral Services gave the meeting an update on the overdue Parish Review. This will commence once the Local Government Boundary Review is completed and the findings published – possibly July 2014. He intends to ensure that Strensall with Towthorpe will be back in cycle by the 2015 elections. Mr Flecknor was asked for clarification on the status of holiday cottages and he would look into this on receipt of a detailed e-mail and respond. **Clerk to e-mail concerns – Resolution 080414/02**

5. ONGOING ISSUES

- (a) VDS – the Chairman updated the Council on the work Ward Cllr Doughty had done to try to speed up the City Council response. The possibility of a Neighbourhood Plan was discussed following the Clerk’s attendance on a three day workshop. The amount of work required and commitment needed is immense and would require several dedicated people to take it forward – hopefully some members of the parish would be prepared to assist the Parish Council. Funding is also an issue. The Chairman reported that he is to attend a meeting organised by Copmanthorpe Parish Council on 24th April and would report any information gained from that.
- (b) Playground Issues – The Chairman together with Cllrs Chapman and Mrs Himlin were to meet with representatives from Hogg The Builders on 24th April to see if any of their land could be available for leisure use. The Clerk was requested to invite Cllr Scott if he was able to attend. Following the article in the Outreach on play issues no suggestions had been received from residents.

Only one quote for playbark had been received and the Council felt that other quotes should be sought. **The Clerk to seek further quotes**
Resolution 080414/03

- (c) Summer tubs and hanging baskets were discussed and it was agreed that funding to £650 be spent on the provision of these **Resolution 080414/04**
- (d) (i) There had been a complaint from a resident in Northfields regarding the oak tree at the rear of their property and a possible danger to children playing in the garden.
- (ii) There had also been a request from a resident in Westpit Lane for some pruning of a large oak tree partially within their boundary and this also raised a question of ownership. It was agreed that the Clerk request the advice of the Tree Surgeon on both issues and the issue of ownership would be progressed. Also the Tree has a TPO and any work would require planning permission. The Clerk was requested to arrange a site meeting with a representative from City of York Council **Resolution 080414/05**
- (iii) The ongoing situation with the resident of Middlecroft Drive was discussed following his rejection of the offer made by the Parish Council in March and the further advice of the Tree Surgeon. It was agreed that the Clerk should write with a further offer to the resident to remove the tree from its present location and plant an agreed replacement further back from the boundary at his expense. This course of action was felt to be the only one that would satisfy the resident. **Resolution 080414/06**

- (e) The Chairman appraised the Council of the issues raised in the White Rose Update and the Annual Return for 2013-14 which would now require to take account of the Council Tax Support Grant.
- (f) The template Finance Regulations issued by NALC had been checked and amended by the Clerk and himself. The Chairman proposed to issue the amended document to the Finance Committee for discussion and recommendation at a May meeting so that it could be approved by the Council in June. This proposal was unanimously agreed
Resolution 080414/07
- (g) The proposed bench in York Road was discussed and the suggestion of a recycled material approved. The Clerk reported that approval had been given by CYC and she was awaiting approval from FIDB. One quote had been received for fixing and providing a concrete base and she had requested two more. The resident concerned had offered a donation of £100 plus the cost of a plaque towards the total cost of £450.00. A donation of £150 had been received towards open space which could also be used towards the cost of the bench. It was suggested that sites could be suggested for more benches in the village but was considered inappropriate in the current financial year.
- (h) a complaint had been received from a resident of Pasture Close regarding bad behaviour and bullying from older boys who should not be using the football play area. The exclusion of over 14 year olds was almost impossible to police but a suggestion that signs on the fencing advising older children that the use of the site was not permitted and requesting they use either Northfields Open Space area or become members of SCYSA to use the facilities at Durlston Drive. This was unanimously agreed as worth a try and the Chairman agreed that he and Cllr Chapman would produce a sign, laminate it and back it onto wood to fix to the railings. **Resolution 080414/08**
- (i) The Councillors were reminded that the Annual Parish Meeting was scheduled for Tuesday 29th April at 7.00pm and encouraged as many as possible to attend as residents.
- (j) The War Memorial – Cllr Plant confirmed he had taken over this responsibility on his return from holiday as was to meet CYC Conservation Officer that week. The Clerk had obtained two estimates for cleaning the Memorial and he is to apply for a grant before the end of April once confirmation had been received from CYC. Cllr Plant to report to the next meeting with an update.

6. POLICE REPORT

The police report was noted. (Appendix I)

7. PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

Cllr Chapman reported on the four applications discussed and

recommendations together with two decisions and one appeal notice. These were all approved. **Resolution 080414/09**

The Chairman updated Councillors on correspondence received from Julian Sturdy MP on the impending Brecks development.

8. FINANCE

The following invoices were approved for payment:- **Resolution 080414/10**

(i) Clerk's salary		
(ii) Talktalk	30.54	DD
(iii) Talktalk mobile	5.00	DD
(iv) Staples	45.66	DD
(v) Green Vale Gardens (cutting & strimming)	392.92	
(vi) Park Lane Services – replacement swing	1350.00	
(vii) Park Lane Services – repairs	228.00	
(viii) HMLR registration of lease	40.00	
(ix) YLCA membership renewal	764.00	
(x) Mr D E Baxter maintenance of Northfields	50.00	
(xi) 1-2-3 reg renewal fee	71.66	
(xii) Cllr K Marquis Stat Dec fee for lease	5.00	
(xiii) Green Vale Gardens – Cemetery	120.00	
(xiv) City of York Council Cemetery bin	16.77	

Income:

Interest:	£
Insurance claim for basket swing	1280.00
Cemetery	£45.00
Donation	£150.00

Account Balances:

Cemetery Account	£8014.51
Treasurers Account	£12,455.74
Contingency Account	£8,046.69. + £15,000 (bond)
Premium Account	£18,283.95. + £10,000 (bond)

- (b) The Clerk requested agreement to her overtime of 11 hours for the last quarter of the year (Jan – March). Payment of this was unanimously agreed to be paid with her May salary **Resolution 080414/11**

9. HIGHWAYS

Cllr Tuohey was not able to attend the meeting but sent the following report:-

There are currently 8 outstanding issues with CYC and 1 with the land owner of the alleyway by Tesco which are:

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.

- 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.
- 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.
- Potholes have been reported on Glebe Close (including by the level crossing and bus lay-by). CYC numbers are awaited but will not be provided due to a CYC systems failure. In addition, whilst reviewing the above potholes, 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.
- Drainage issues by Northfields/The Village (by Number 71) have been reported.
- 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.
- 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.
- There appear to be long term issues with the CYC computer system that means reference numbers are not being obtained.

Other Issues

From an article in the Evening Press

(http://m.yorkpress.co.uk/news/11123605.20mph_speed_limits_to_be_extended_across_northern_part_of_York/), the next phase of 20mph limits for North York are to be published. I could not get details before submitting this report of which streets in the Parish are proposed. The Traffic Orders are supposedly being published on Monday.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

- (a) CPRE Newsletter – noted
- (b) River Foss Society Newsletter – distributed to Cllrs.
- (c) Letter from Natural England on Kidney Pond on Strensall Common. Cllr Chapman outlined the issues and recommended reply which was approved for the Clerk to send **Resolution 080414/12**

11. NEXT MEETING

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.55pm

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 6th May 2014 with the Annual General Meeting at 7.15pm followed by the monthly meeting at approximately 7.40pm

SignedChairman

6th May 2014

APPENDIX I

Damage 1
Burglary 1
Theft 2
Stolen vehicle 1
Violence 9

TOTAL 14 Previous Year 22 crimes reported (-36%)

As you can see there have been 14 crimes reported across the ward this month. There are no particular patterns to the offences this month. The damage related to a property that had some of its wall damaged overnight. The burglary was when tools were stolen from a garage in the village. One theft was a cycle that was stolen from outside a home in the village although the cycle has since been recovered and returned to its owner. The vehicle that was stolen was a motorcycle that was taken from a driveway overnight early in the month.

March brings us to the end of the year and so I have attached the crime figures for the year as a whole. These are very pleasing as despite there being only a very small reduction compared to last year there are quite significant reductions in burglary and damage which have always been local priorities.

Damage 31 (-14%)
Burglary 27 (-25%)
Drugs 8 (-33%)
Other 22 no change
Theft 31 no change
Vehicle offences 15 (+15%)
Violence 87 (+16%)

TOTAL 221 224 previous year to date