

STRENSALL with TOWTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

The Village Hall, Northfields, Strensall, YO32 5XW
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MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
Held on Tuesday 14th July 2015 at 7.15pm at the Village Hall, Strensall

PRESENT

Cllrs Marquis (Chair) Plant, Chapman, Chambers, Harvey-Walker, Baxter, Hill, Fisher, Mattinson, Ogilvy, Mrs C Edwards and Ms T Flannery

Ward Cllrs Paul Doughty and Helen Douglas with 7 members of the public

1. APOLOGIES

Cllrs Maher and Judy Smith

The Chairman reported that, following surgery, Councillor Tuohey is recovering well at home. The Parish Council wished to record their good wishes for his recovery.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Chambers declared an interest in item 5(h)

3. MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated, Council approved these, endorsed the planning committee minutes for 9th and 23rd June authorising the Chairman to sign them as a correct record. **Resolution 140715/01**

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Three residents spoke on the issues they were experiencing with the new play equipment and how they felt they had lost any privacy in their homes and gardens with children abusing the equipment which was situated far too close to their properties in their view. It was explained that the twister was sited there to prevent unauthorised football games once the cage has been erected. The children will not be able to see into their gardens from the climbing balls once two panels of mesh are placed on site. The clerk confirmed that the equipment provider had been advised that the twister would require relocation and residents had very kindly agreed to provide photographs to confirm that it was possible to sit on the top of the equipment contrary to their assurance that it was not possible. This would be done when the remainder of the equipment is erected. A Councillor made an inappropriate remark to one resident and was reprimanded for his conduct by the Chairman at the end of the meeting.

A question was asked by a resident if the new parish councillors would be prepared to meet the residents on site to discuss the issues. In accordance with standing orders no reply was given. A response would be sent in due course to answer this.

5. ONGOING ISSUES

- (a) **Code of Conduct** – the Clerk had checked the current legislation and confirmed that the Code of Conduct did not require any amendment. The document was therefore approved for a further 12 months **Resolution 140715/02**
- (b) **Procedures** -The Grievance Procedure and Dignity at Work Policy was approved without amendment for a further twelve months **Resolution 140715/03**. Cllr Mattinson was still reviewing the Complaints procedure and would bring this to the August meeting for approval
- (c) **Carnival** - The Clerk reported that the Carnival was a great success despite the weather and nothing major occurrence. One lady had complained about the hot dogs and threatened to involve the authorities regarding her child's sickness. No other incident was reported and it would appear to not have been progressed. The organisation is an ongoing learning curve and various matters require a different approach for next year. The 2016 carnival would only happen if more people came forward to assist in the organisation. Cllrs Mattinson, Harvey-Walker with his Partner, Cllr Chambers and the Clerk all agreed to assist. Other Cllrs were happy to assist with marshalling. Figures were available from the Carnival which appeared to have a healthy £1,000 plus in the bank at the present time.
- (d) **The Firs** - The Clerk reported that she had written to the Solicitors acting for Mr and Mrs Harrison to convey their refusal for a Deed of Easement. A letter from City Council confirming their support of that decision had also been received.
- (e) **Post Office relocation** -A letter of confirmation had been received from the Post Office that the proposed relocation to Costcutter of the Village Post Office is not to progress. The Clerk understood that several residents felt a good location would be the Library and were writing to Ward Cllrs with their views.
- (f) **Telephone Box adoption** -The telephone kiosk recently adopted is being used as a urinal and the smell is disgusting. The Clerk was asked to request a quote from Neil Jackson to secure the door until such time as a decision is made as to its future use. Cllr Fisher agreed to pressure wash the box as it was extremely dirty and smelly.
- (g) **Playground issues** - Cllr Chapman reported that the new play equipment has been installed at Kirklands and is being abused from the outset. Repairs to the artificial grass are being investigated and the "cage" is due at the end of July.
 - (i) the request for hedging and shrubs by residents to protect their fencing was discussed further and it was agreed to await the completion of the installations before a decision is made but a meeting with the residents to

decide what shrubs to plant and location of hedging and screening would be done in September **Resolution 140715/04**

(ii) Following the quarterly inspection, repairs were required and estimated at £200. The playground inspection contracts are due to be renewed and it was recommended that the previous contractor be given a second chance and any repairs would wait until the next inspection is carried out. This was approved **Resolution 140715/05**

(iii) Cllr Chapman reported that, in his view, the wooden equipment was in need of some good quality preservative and volunteers needed for a morning to do the work. Cllrs Hill, Chambers, and the Clerk offered a morning and various brands of preservative discussed. The Clerk was instructed to request advice from Playdale, the providers of the equipment as what was best to use and safe for the children. **Resolution 1407015/06**

The new equipment has been installed at Kirklands Playground and is a great success with the children but the twister is being abused with children sitting on top looking into neighbouring properties which is not acceptable. The contractor has advised that the equipment cannot be modified and the annoyance may stop once the football area is completed. The residents with properties surrounding the equipment all agreed that this abuse would continue and the Clerk was instructed to inform the provider to relocate the twister when the cage is installed. **Resolution 140715/07**

- (h) **Funding** - The request for funding for surfacing under the play tower at Robert Wilkinson Academy had been received with quotes. It was resolved that a grant of £2,000 be given. **Resolution 140715/08**
- (i) **Footpaths** -Cllr Plant reported that his efforts to provide a bi-fold leaflet showing all the definitive rights of way and permissive paths was progressing slowly.

6. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Cllr Marquis suggested that a meeting should be arranged to discuss and progress this – four councillors interested are Keith Marquis, John Chapman, Tony Fisher and Lawrence Mattinson

7 ROAD SAFETY

Cllr Mattinson had prepared a comprehensive presentation and report regarding traffic and road safety issues in the village which had been circulated to Councillors and a response from City Council Road Safety Officer had been received that morning. It was decided that, following other suggestions for inclusion, Cllr Mattinson would update the report and this would be circulated to all Cllrs with the response for detailed discussion at the August meeting. A letter of support had been received from the Police Commissioner. Cllr Mattinson would also prepare a response to City

Council Road Safety Officer and forward to the Clerk. **Resolution 140715/09**

8 POLICE REPORT

The monthly report from our PCSO was discussed and noted.

9 PLANNING

Cllr Chapman reported on the applications received, the planning committee recommendations and the decisions reached by City Council which were resolved to approve **Resolution 140715/10**

10 FINANCE

(a) The Clerk requested approval for 14 hours overtime from April to June mainly from April due to the office move. The Council approved the payment **Resolution 140715/11**

(b) invoices for payment were approved **Resolution 140715/12**

(i)	Clerk's salary+ overtime April-June	£	SO
(ii)	Red Oak Designs	£50.56	
(iii)	Talktalk mobile	£7.50	DD
(iv)	Sleightholme landscapes – DD grass cutting	£192.00	
(v)	Rob Cartmell grass cutting	£728.00	
(vi)	Rob Cartmell cemetery maintenance	£256.00	
(vii)	ICO Date Protection registration	£35.00	
(viii)	River Foss Society membership	£18.00	
(ix)	FAC welding	£78.00	
(x)	SLCC finance course fees	£228.00	
(xi)	RSS playground inspection	£96.00	
(xii)	Browns Nurseries	420.00	
(xiii)	Hopkinsons strimmer service	£38.50	(to Cllr Chapman)
	Cllr Chapman – weedkiller	£19.95	
(xiv)	Mr A K Marquis stationery	£7.49	
(xv)	Mrs S Nunn expenses	£38.10	
(xvi)	Tiles for Village Hall (part of grant agreed)	£266.70	
(xvii)	Duncan Hill expenses	£14.98	
(xviii)	Village Hall (rent of room and office)	£392.50	
(xix)	Campbells of Malton strimmer service	£46.82	
(xx)	St Johns Ambulance	£132.00	
(xxi)	Ludus Leisure Ltd	£17,800.80	(S106 and Lottery)
	– not to be paid until confirmation of relocation		
(xxii)	Robert Wilkinson Primary Academy	£2,000.00	(S 106)

(b) Receipts

(i)	Cemetery	£125.00
(ii)	sale of VDS books	£24.00
(iii)	Interest	£24.54

(c) Account Balances:

Treasurers Account	£28,749.28
Cemetery Account	£8,347.32

Contingency Account
Premium Account

£46,593.76 + 15,000 bond
£18,346.78 + 10,000 bond

10. HIGHWAYS

- (a) The Clerk has reported to Smarter York the area between the Ship Car Park entrance and the footbridge on Sheriff Hutton Road as extremely overgrown and in need of cutting
- (b) The request made by the Clerk over a year ago to CYC to take over the grassed piece of land at the entrance to the cemetery to provide more car parking is still ongoing as no definitive reply received
- (c) The boundary issues at 53 Kirklands is ongoing and awaiting proposals from the resident
- (d) The resident of a property in Hallard Way has been warned that the access onto public open space from a gate in his boundary fence on a regular basis is not acceptable. Other residents in a similar position will be warned accordingly.
- (e) To discuss and approve a letter to Tesco regarding parking issues
- (f) Residents putting household waste in litter bins are to be warned it is an offence to do this. A further resident had been identified as doing this and a letter would be sent to him

11 CORRESPONDENCE

- (a) Cllr Chambers had prepared a letter to Tesco regarding their delivery vehicles. This was approved to send **Resolution 140715/13**
- (b) Letter from The Wilkinson Cobb and Hodgson Trust requesting the nomination of a further Trustee was discussed but the Parish Councillors present were not willing to be nominated. Councillors were requested to suggest members of the public who may be willing to be nominated by the Parish Council. In the meantime the Clerk to respond confirming Cllrs Baxter and Chambers were happy to continue. **Resolution 140715/14**
- (c) Newsletter from the River Foss Society received and distributed
- (d) The YLCA Annual Review had been received and the Chairman took this to read and respond in due course

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.55pm. The next meeting to take place is a planning committee meeting on Tuesday 28th July 2015 at 7.00pm following which a playground committee meeting would be held. Cllrs Harvey-Walker, Flannery and Fisher wished to be included in this committee. The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Tuesday 11th August at 7.15 pm.

Signed.....11th August 2015

Chairman.