

STRENSALL with TOWTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Rainbow Centre, Robert Wilkinson School  
West End, Strensall  
York YO32 5UH

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MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL  
Held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2015 at 7.15pm at the Village Hall, Strensall

PRESENT

Cllrs Marquis (Chair) Plant, Tuohey, Scott, Chapman, Chambers, Hill, Ogilvy, Maher and Mrs C Edwards  
Ward Cllr P Doughty and 4 members of the public

1. APOLOGIES

Received from Cllrs Baxter and Ms T Flannery – Ward Cllr Mrs S Wiseman

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 100315/01**

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A member of the public requested that a risk assessment be undertaken at the Pasture Close play area and the results published. This matter is to be discussed under item 5 (c) and no response required

5. ONGOING ISSUES

(a) Parish Councillor Vacancies: Two requests had been received from Mr Geoffrey Harvey-Walker and Mrs Judy Smith. Both were present, welcomed and signed the Acceptance of Office. **Resolution 100315/02**

(b) The Chairman reported that, following agreement at the January Council meeting, the contract for the clerk to reflect the salary increase and her choice to opt out of the workplace pension scheme required updating. This was approved unanimously. The Clerk also requested approval for the payment of 13 hours overtime for the three months January-March. This was agreed **Resolution 100315/03**

(b) Playgrounds:

(i) Kirklands/Pasture Close – Cllr Scott reported that, following the receipt of the RoSPA Risk Assessment the Playground Committee had met to discuss this and consider recommendations. The main issue highlighted by RoSPA was a possible risk to pedestrians approaching from Knapton Close. It was recommended that a sign advising caution that ball games may be in progress to warn pedestrians approaching the kick about area from Knapton Close. Also signage advising the children of the maximum age limit and to use the equipment with consideration for residents. A curfew of 8pm or dusk whichever is sooner was also recommended. The Clerk had requested quotes from two firms for the signs. The signs were requested by two residents, who had been advised of the limited success at neighbouring parishes but they felt strongly that this would be an advantage. The Parish Council accepts the ROSPA risk report as the basis upon which it has fulfilled its legal duty to conduct a suitable and sufficient risk assessment by adopting the findings of the report and making judgements about what control measures need to be implemented. The report findings and expenditure for signage were approved with a cost limit of £500. A copy of the ROSPA Risk Assessment can be obtained by following the link [RoSPA Risk Assessment](#) . A hard copy can be viewed by arrangement with the Parish Clerk. **Resolution 100315/04**

The Committee also recommended that fencing along the front be higher and the Clerk had requested an estimate for this work.

The Clerk, mindful of the budget constraints, had applied for funding for both equipment and safety fencing to improve the safety of both the children and residents and their properties. As this totals £24,000 it was beyond the means of the Parish Council but if these grants were obtained, it may solve a great many of the issues highlighted by the residents.

(ii) The damaged sign at Northfields was recommended to be replaced and this was agreed **Resolution 100315/05**

(iii) Cllr Chapman reported that he had sourced locally some play bark which would be delivered free of charge. The recommendation for the purchase of 4 cu metres delivered to site and spread by the Community Payback volunteers was approved **Resolution 100315/06**

(iv) The quarterly inspections had not been on time or accurate and there had been problems encountered with the new firm similar to those with the previous one. Cllr Chapman reported that a site meeting between himself and the Inspector had been productive and it was hoped that the problems would now be rectified at the next inspection. His suggestion to monitor the situation until the end of the contract was approved **Resolution 100315/07**

- (d) Office Relocation: The Clerk reported that her attempts to retain TalkTalk as the telephone and broadband supplier had failed following several hours going round in circles. She therefore wished to instruct BT to provide the service and it would be a little more expensive as it is a business line and Talktalk had only charged for a domestic service. The expenditure to date had been listed and the Clerk requested approval for an increase to £2,000 to meet current and future requirements. This was approved **Resolution 100315/08**
- (e) Village Carnival: The Clerk asked for volunteers for marshalling and asked for the loan of the hi-vis vests. Cllrs Marquis, Chapman, Chambers, Scott were happy to be marshalls once again and the vests would be loaned as before **Resolution 101315/09**
- (f) Annual Parish Meeting This was scheduled for 7<sup>th</sup> April at 7.00pm. Posters would be put up as soon as possible.
- (g) Cemetery - Cllr Chapman reported that a replacement tree for the one felled in the open space at the back of Middlecroft Drive had been purchased. The resident had requested the Clerk purchase the tree on his behalf which she did –a common walnut tree. It was not sensible to replace the tree in the same location or anywhere close, as this would result in a similar complaint from the resident in a few years' time. Cllr Chapman and the Clerk had looked at possible locations for the tree and it was recommended that it be sited in the Cemetery further along from the commemorative trees. This suggestion was approved unanimously. The Clerk requested approval for the expenditure to provide a large planter with steep sides to prevent access by rabbits. This is to be located in the Memorial Garden to the side of the wooden bench. Expenditure to £50 was approved **Resolution 100315/10**
- (h) The Chairman reported that the former chairman had moved to Haxby and the Clerk was circulating a card for signature. Peter Jesse had sent his best wishes to the Council.
- (i) Cllr Chambers reported on the recent meeting of SCYSA which he attended as the Parish Council representative. Cllr Flannery was unable to attend. It is hoped to update the signage so that the ground

## 6. POLICE REPORT

<b>DAMAGE</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>BURGLARY</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>OTHER</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>THEFT</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>VIOLENCE</b>	<b>5</b>

**TOTAL            15            15 crimes during same period last year**

As you can see there have been 15 crimes reported during February, the same number as were recorded during the same period last year.

The damage relates to a farm in Stockton on the Forest where horses have been put in a field without permission and damage caused to the fencing.

The theft occurred after a house party in Strensall when one person's phone had been taken by another guest at the party.

Of note there were four burglaries across the ward this month. One occurred at the Costcutter Store in Strensall. One male has been arrested for this offence and another is currently being sought in connection with this offence.

Tools were taken from a garage in Strensall during the daytime and two males have been arrested for this offence.

Another garage in Strensall was attacked and a power washer taken, enquiries are still ongoing.

The final burglary occurred in Earswick. Another garage was targeted and an off road motorcycle and a chainsaw taken. Enquiries are also ongoing at this time.

There have been two calls for service to Pasture Close relating to the play area, although there have been no offences and no requirement for action to be taken by Officers.

The information was noted by the Parish Council.

Councillor Chapman showed the Council some small bags which it is believed held cannabis and this would be passed to the Police along with information on the location of this find.

## 7. PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

Cllr Chapman reported on the three planning applications discussed, the two decisions received and the recommendations made. The recommendations were approved. **Resolution 100315/11**

## 8 FINANCE REPORT

### (a) Invoices for payment approved:- **Resolution 100315/12**

(i) Clerk's salary	£	SO
(ii) Talktalk telephone and broadband	£34.24.	DD
(iii) Talktalk mobile	£7.50	DD
(iv) D Carrington electrical work	£155.28	
(v) Homebase – doorbell for the Village Hall	£21.96	
(vi) K Marquis – office furniture	£136.96	
(vii) SLCC membership renewal	£131.00	
(viii) 1-2-3 Domain Name renewal	£71.86	DD
(ix) HMRC tax and NI	£352.11	
(x) Post office ltd – redirection of mail	£120.00	
(xi) Desktop locking kit for PC	£11.09	
(xii) B & Q office equipment	£9.96	
(xiii) Notice Board	151.96	
(xiv) City Council lease	10.00	
(xv) British Telecom	110.00	

### (b) Receipts

Interest	£1.45
Allotment rents	£180.00

### (c) Account Balances:

Treasurers	20,216.83
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Cemetery	8,624.50
Premium	18,325.25 + bond
Contingency	8,097.18 + bond

- (d) Cllrs Marquis and Chambers had done the three month check and could only find one minor thing to criticise. The Expenditure against Budget and S106 payments received and outstanding documents are annexed to the Minutes

## 9. HIGHWAYS

The Highways report, prepared by Cllr Tuohey, had been circulated and was discussed by the Council.

## 10. CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence received:-

- (a) Request for funding for Kidz Klub – this was deferred for discussion by the Finance Committee as limited funding had been allocated for 2015/2016.
- (b) Letters from two residents regarding issues at Kirklands playground  
The Parish Council felt that this issue had been discussed under item 5 (b)
- (c) Letter from Robert Wilkinson School regarding termination of lease  
*The Clerk was requested to confirm that the notice board would remain in situ*
- (d) An e-mailed request from a resident was read out regarding the possibility of obtaining a Modification Order to a permissive footpath. The resident was in attendance and asked if the Parish Council would support such an application. This was agreed by majority vote and the resident requested support with an article in the Outreach. The Chairman confirmed that any resident was able to place an article in the Outreach Publication but agreed that the Clerk could be the point of reference. The Clerk was instructed to approve the article and forward to Outreach for the residents.

## 11. AGENDA ITEMS FOR APRIL

- (i) War Memorials

## 12. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2015 at 7.15pm in the Village Hall.

The clerk assisted with the completion of the nomination papers following the end of the meeting.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.20pm

Signed..... 14th April 2015

Chairman.