

STRENSALL with TOWTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

The Village Hall, Northfields  
Strensall, York YO32 5XW

Tel: 491569

E-mail: clerk-strensallpc@btconnect.com

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL  
Held on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2016 at 7.15pm at the Village Hall,  
Strensall

PRESENT

Cllrs Marquis (Chair) Bolton, Fisher, Maher, Chambers, Chapman, Plant, Hill, Mattinson and Jakobsen  
Ward Cllr Paul Doughty and 30 members of the public

1. APOLOGIES

Received from Cllrs Mrs J Smith, Ogilvy, Harvey-Walker and Baxter

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllrs Chambers declared a personal interest in item 5(d) and Cllr Jakobsen declared a personal interest in item 5(e). They did therefore not take part in any discussion or decision on these items

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 9<sup>th</sup> August 2016 had been circulated and were approved without amendment and the Council endorsed the approved Planning Committee minutes of the 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> August  
**Resolution 130916/01**

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The high number of residents attending the meeting was because they had heard that a resident was taking legal action against the Parish Council to have the football area closed down. All the residents who spoke were overwhelmingly in favour of its retention, indeed one lady said they had moved to Kirklands specifically because of the play area. Those who spoke were concerned that the Parish Council should encourage the use of Open Space areas to provide activities where physical exercise can be undertaken to counter possible future health problems of young children. Several other residents of Pasture Close and Knapton Close had expressed their support for the retention of the playgrounds. The Chairman thanked them for their

attendance and their views would be noted. There were no adverse comments received from other members of the public on this subject

## 5. ONGOING ISSUES

- (a) **Footpath brochure** – Cllr Plant passed round the final agreed front picture and he confirmed that this would now be sent for a print run and should be available for sale very soon. The Chairman thanked Cllr Plant for all his hard work in compiling and producing a very professional brochure.

The Clerk reported that she had received an e-mail from the Footpaths Officer at City of York Council who confirmed that damaged finger posts for public rights of way were to be replaced within this financial year.

- (b) **Neighbourhood Plan** – The Chairman updated the Council on the ~~slow~~ progress of this.

**Local Plan (2016)** The Chairman reported on the preparation of Parish Council responses ~~was ongoing~~

- (c) **Playground Issues** –

Northfields Junior – the Clerk had spoken to the playground provider who was very unhappy that the outstanding issues had not been dealt with. He had visited the site that afternoon and would speak to the Clerk on Wednesday. The Chairman wished to record the thanks of the Parish Council to Cllr Chapman who had done fencing repairs and other work at the playground.

Kirklands – there is to be a multi-agency meeting on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September at West Offices to discuss the issues – Cllrs Fisher, Chambers, Mrs Judy Smith and the Clerk would attend and see if a solution can be found. The Clerk showed councillors an e-mail from a property owner in Knapton Close. This issue would be discussed in detail at the end of the main meeting in closed session.

- (d) **Replacement Fencing – Northfields** the Chairman and Cllr Chapman met with a lady from Park Lane Services to discuss the replacement fencing and cutting back of the hedge with minimum damage. They both recommended the Council instruct this firm to do the work in accordance with their quotation of £6390 (exc VAT). This was approved **Resolution 130916/02**

There had been two quotes for the replacement footpath but the one chosen was Stoneplan and the Clerk instructed to check the depth of replacement asphalt and if it was 50 mm or more to put this work in hand **Resolution 130916/03**

- (e) **Fencing at Kirklands/Knapton Close** – which separates the Open Space area from the garage block to the rear of 81-89 York Road – the Clerk reported that she had asked Stoneplan and Westfield Fencing to quote for this work but had received no information to date. This matter

to be discussed further at the next meeting. In the meantime the owners of the properties had been identified to enable the Clerk to write to them once ~~an~~ estimates had been received

- (f) **Cemetery** – the recommendations of the Cemetery Committee were agreed and the contractor to be advised of the requirement for turfing of the memorial plot. Any turf over could be used to replace that dug out by relatives to put plants in front of the headstones which is not permitted. **Resolution 130916/04**

The Clerk reported that she had received a request from the family of a little girl aged 6 who they would wish to be buried at Strensall Cemetery but in an adult grave which will eventually be between her parents and brother. This was discussed and the Council were anxious not to set a precedent for this ~~although each individual case is decided on its own merit~~. Due to the exceptional circumstances, they approved the request ~~together with the reduced expenditure~~ and extended their sympathy to the family. **Resolution 130916/05**

- (g) **Training** - The clerk reported that there was a training day in Darley on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October from 10am to 4pm at a cost of £25.00. This was approved **Resolution 130916/06**

- (h) **Police Report** the Chairman was disappointed by the lack of information sent by the Police and it was agreed that a letter to Inspector Pointon and the Police and Crime Commissioner was in order. Cllr Marquis would prepare this as agreed by Councillors. **Resolution 130916/07**

- (i) **Highways Issues**

Cllr Fisher reported on his attendance at the meeting at City Council.

The double yellow lines from the war memorial to 69 The Village were due for review and the Parish Council would wish to extend them round the corner into Northfields. There have been issues of vehicles blocking the footpath and parking too close to the junction.

The reinstatement on York Road planned to take place in late 2015 has not been completed even though the two houses at Helmsdale are now completed. Potholes on Whin Close, Pasture Close and Moor Lane are reaching dangerous depths and are in urgent need of repair.

- (j) **Winter Flowers** –permission is sought to purchase winter flowers for the tubs and stone troughs. It was agreed to purchase the required plants for this and as many bulbs as necessary to put at each side of the bench in Flaxton Road, the bench on York Road and the one at the corner of Southfields Road and York Road. Cllr Hill agreed to purchase and plant bulbs with anyone else who wished to volunteer. **Resolution 130916/08**

## 7. PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

Cllr Chapman reported on the two applications received together with two decisions and the recommendations of the planning committee were approved. **Resolution 130916/09**

## 8. FINANCE REPORT

### (a) Invoices for payment approved:- **Resolution 130916/10**

(i)	Clerk's salary	£	SO
(ii)	Talktalk mobile	£7.50	DD
(iii)	R Cartmell grass cutting	£758.00	
(iv)	R Cartmell cemetery maintenance	£475.00	
(v)	Park Lane Services inspection fee	£72.00	
(vi)	River Foss Society (2 yrs)	£50.00	
(vii)	Staples	£93.04	DD
(viii)	Mr B O'Hare – wasp nest removal	£40.00	
(ix)	Jupiter Play re-siting twister	£3,678.00	
(x)	Commercial signs	£432.00	
(xi)	Currys-PC World (replacement printer)	£44.91	
(xii)	HMRC tax and NI	£379.79	
(xiii)	Mr J Chapman	£5.54	
(xiv)	Stoneplan	£46.44	
(xv)	SLCC	25.00	

(b) Receipts £.

Interest	7.27
Grant from Yorventure	20,150.00

### (c) Account Balances:

Treasurers Account	£42,386.36
Cemetery Account	£7,573.81
Contingency Account	£38,956.26 + £15,000 Bond
Premium Account	£18,390.18+ £10,000 bond

- (d) to receive half yearly report from the internal auditor:  
there were no matters giving rise to concern merely a few calculations that needed alteration. A new audit plan was enclosed

## 8. CORRESPONDENCE

- (a) Countryside voice – Cllr Hill
- (b) letter and cheque from Yorventure – noted
- (c) Estimates for pathway upgrade – dealt with under item 5(d)
- (d) letter from staples – card no longer able to pay for goods.
- (e) HSBC changes to credit interest
- (f) e-mails regarding Kirklands – to be discussed
- (g) Letter from Hethertons Solicitors - to be dicussed

## 9. AGENDA ITEMS FOR OCTOBER:

Annual payment to St Marys and Outreach

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October at 7.15pm

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.55pm

Signed..... 11<sup>th</sup> October 2016

Chairman

APPENDIX 1

STRENSALL WITH TOWTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

CEMETERY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS BY THE COUNCIL AT  
THE MEETING ON 13<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2016

1. the committee felt that, despite the best efforts of the Clerk, the memorial garden was not a success due to the large population of rabbits eating the plants as soon as they became established. The recommendation that this area be turfed was approved
2. There were still a small minority of people who visited graves who refused to adhere to the rules and left varied and inappropriate items on and around the headstones. All relatives were aware of and had agreed to abide by the rules of the cemetery and the Clerk had been verbally abused on more than one occasion when she had requested removal. Cllr Mrs Smith felt very strongly that this practice should be stopped and had volunteered to write and sign the letters so that she would deal with any abuse and also the removal of items is necessary. This course of action was approved
3. The Clerk had received a request from the parents of a little girl who had lost her fight against cancer the day before her sixth birthday. Her wish was to be buried in Strensall cemetery as she attended Robert Wilkinson school. They did not want her to rest alone in the children's section and hoped to be able to purchase four plots so that Isobel would rest with her parents and brother in the fullness of time. Unfortunately at three times the residents rate the cost was prohibitive and the Clerk asked if an exception could be made on this occasion due to the special circumstances.

The Council agreed unanimously that, although they were adamant that this would not set a precedent, in view of the special mitigating circumstances in this

request, they would approve the reduction in cost and also permit the burial in an adult grave of their choice.