

MINUTES OF BICKERSTAFFE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 8TH JANUARY 2007

Parish Councillors present : -

Hilary Rosbotham (Chairman)
Jo' O'Neill (Vice Chairman)
Gladys Gardiner
Albert Webster
Paula Wilkinson

Also present:-

Paul Andrews (representing Bickerstaffe Football Club), P.C Gary Southam (Rural Beat Manager for Bickerstaffe, Simmonswood and Westhead) and two members of the public.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Kath Fairhurst and Pat Taylor.

2. Declaration of Interest

- (i) No Councillors reported a change to their respective Register of Interests.
- (ii) Cllrs. Hilary Rosbotham and Gladys Gardiner declared an interest in agenda item 10 (ii) in relation to a request for a donation to the Bickerstaffe Pensioners Social Fund.
- (iii) No Councillors declared any prejudicial interests in respect of agenda items and their nature.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 13th November 06 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4. Public Participation

Councillors resolved an adjournment of the meeting for public participation. Matters were raised and noted by the Clerk in relation to an overgrowth of weeds on the pavements around Heyes Croft and litter being left on the Parish Field. In addition P.C. Southam gave a report on police related matters and incidents during November and December 06. Prior to agenda item 5 the Chairman reconvened the meeting.

5. Clerks Progress Report for Information

The Clerk presented his report which had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting for information.

6. Quality Parish Council Status

- (i) Councillors considered the circulated report prepared by Cllr. Philippa Tubb and the Clerk concerning a Parish Council Website. Following an amendment to the reference 'village' being changed to 'parish' and the addition of Mr Merrick Rimmer as a Church Warden it was resolved that the information included in the report should form the basis of the Parish Council Website. The Clerk was requested to progress the development of the website with Cllr. Philippa Tubb including the setting up costs. The Chairman thanked Cllr. Tubb and the Clerk for the preparatory work they had undertaken.
- (ii) It was resolved to establish Parish Council surgeries to be held on 12th February 07, 11th June 07, 13th August 07 and 8th October 07 commencing for one hour at 7.45pm. The surgeries would be held in

the Four Lane Ends Mission. The surgery to be held on 12th February 07 will be facilitated by Cllrs Hilary Rosbotham and Jo'O'Neill. It was also decided not to designate Cllrs. for surgeries beyond February 07 until after the establishment of the new Parish Council in May 07.

- (iii) The Clerk reported on the production and circulation of the annual report together with the associated press coverage.

7. Planning

- (i) The Clerk reported for information the outcome of planning applications following consideration by West Lancs District Council (WLDC) during November 06 and December 06.
- (ii) The Clerk reported on the delegated decisions taken in respect of the following planning applications :-
 - 4 Waterworks Cottages, Simonswood Lane, Bickerstaffe for a two storey side extension and single storey rear extension; no comments submitted to WLDC.
 - School Cottages, 1 Hall Lane, Bickerstaffe for two storey rear extension; comments made to WLDC concerning no consequent damage to the roots of the tree in the school yard which is adjacent to the rear of the building.
 - Amberwood, 1 Sinacre Lane, Bickerstaffe for demolition of a front porch , two storey side extension, single storey and first floor extension to rear: no comments submitted to WLDC.
 - Ferny Knoll Stud, Ferry Knoll Road for the erection of permanent occupation dwelling; no comments submitted to WLDC.

8 Parish Field

- (i) The Clerk reported that a Capital Grant application had been submitted to West Lancs District Council for £1,800 and that J Alker Sportsground Construction Ltd had been informed of the Parish Council's approval to undertake a vertidrain exercise at a cost of £200 + VAT.
- (ii) The Clerk reported that he had requested, following Parish Council approval, Mr I Waite to construct a fence infill against gaps in the hedge alongside the play area, for projecting bolts threads under a seat in the play area to be removed and for a non- slip surface to be applied to a beam on the adventure trail. In addition the Clerk also reported that Mr I Smith had been requested to fix a spring closer to the gate at the entrance to the play area and also to infill the pothole in the parish field car park.
- (iii) It was resolved to approve the usage of the Parish Field Car Park by Ashurst Cycling Club on 1st April 07 from 9.30am – 3.30pm with the proviso that car parking was restricted to the Parish Field Car Park and that stewards would provide the necessary supervision. A fee of £5 was also approved.

9. Bus shelter at the junction of Coal Pit Lane and Rainford Road, Bickerstaffe

The Clerk reported on the current bus services stopping at the bus shelter in question. It was resolved to retain the bus shelter which would continue to provide a facility for the 359 service from St Helens to Ormskirk.

10. Finance

- (i) It was resolved to approve the statement of accounts.
- (ii) With regard to the request from the Bickerstaffe Pensioners Social Fund for a donation Cllrs Hilary Rosbotham and Gladys Gardiner withdrew from

the discussion as they were members of the Management Committee. It was resolved to make a donation of £100 by the other councillors present.

- (iii) Councillors considered the circulated expenditure profile and precept proposal for 2007/2008. It was resolved to approve the income and expenditure profile and precept proposal of £5900 for 2007/2008.

11. War Memorial

It was agreed to defer discussion with regard to the cleaning of the war memorial until further enquires have been made regarding the cleaning options and cost. It was also agreed to carry forward this matter to the agenda for the next meeting.

12. Membership of the Parish Council

Following a discussion concerning the forthcoming Parish Council elections in May 07 it was resolved to request the Clerk to prepare an information statement concerning councillor eligibility for display in the parish notice boards and church magazine.

13. Affordable Housing Review

The questionnaire circulated by West Lancs District was discussed and collectively completed for submission to the Council Secretary and Solicitor.

14. Correspondence for Information

The Clerk made reference to the circulated list of items of correspondence which were available for inspection at the meeting.

15. Councillors reports and items for future agenda

The Chairman invited individual Councillors to comment and the Clerk noted matters in relation to dog fouling, overgrown pavements along Liverpool Road in the vicinity of Baldwins Cottages, litter in the hedgerow in the vicinity of Well Farm, the deteriorating road surface along Lyelake Lane, damaged Chevron signage along Lathom Road and the dumping of black refuse bags on Liverpool Road opposite the junction of Long Lane. It was agreed to have the repair of the damaged seat at Heyes Croft on the agenda for the next meeting.

16. Date of next meeting

The Chairman confirmed that the date of the next meeting would be on Monday 12th March 07 commencing at 7.45pm.