

NETHER WYRESDALE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes for the PC meeting of 25th Oct 2012, 7.30PM @ Scorton Primary School

Present: Cllrs Babbs, Collinson, Anderton, Atkinson, Gorst and Cottle (for part of the meeting), the clerk, Joanne Golton (Village hall) and three members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence:

Wyre Councillor and Lancashire County Councillor Val Wilson due to illness

2. Declarations of Interest:

None

3. Minutes from last meeting:

Signed as a correct record.

4. Village Hall:

Bikes & Barrows

Cllr Cottle stated that there is over £3000 for the purchase of picnic tables and gateway signs etc from the Bikes and Barrows fund. A site meeting will be taking place in November to establish where the tables will be positioned and discuss the groundwork.

Following Cllr Cottles departure, Joanne Golton confirmed that £3000 was allocated for the above but that there was not this amount left.

VH parking

The clerk stated that she had not received a reply from the resident. Cllr Babbs stated that the resident had contacted him and fully accepted that the driveway is not his and that he does not intend to do any more work. The PC felt it was appropriate that this should be confirmed in writing. Cllr Babbs will contact the resident with a view to asking him to sign the letter for the parish council records. For the future (in the event of anyone else living there), it was felt that Cllr Cottle should obtain advice from Community Futures legal team and the clerk was asked to email him and put this on the next agenda for discussion.

Village hall news update

Joanne Golton provided the following update:

- ❖ The hall is attempting to improve disabled access at the front.
- ❖ Joanne expressed her thanks to the lengthsman for installing the 2 new benches.
- ❖ The AGM meeting is on Tuesday 30th October.
- ❖ There is a food and gift fair on Sunday 28th October.
- ❖ A new floor will be going down in the kitchen.
- ❖ New spotlights will be installed as well as other replacement lights.
- ❖ A secretary is required to help out as and when required.

Gateway signs

Joanne Golton showed the PC 3 designs. Option 1 costs £778, option 2, (skyline) with “Parish of Nether Wyresdale, Lancashire” wording and option 3, (skyline) without wording and including roses. Both the latter cost £300 each.

Option 2 was preferred as there was less black but it was decided to include the roses shown on option 3. The design will be amended accordingly and Highways will be consulted.

5. Matters arising:

Dispensation (playing field)

The clerk stated she has received the following confirmation that dispensation has been granted as follows:

“I confirm that, at its meeting on 18 October, the Council resolved:

“That all six current members of Nether Wyresdale Parish Council – Councillors Anderton, Atkinson, Babbs, Collinson, Cottle and Gorst – be granted a dispensation to enable them to participate in discussions and vote on issues relating to Scorton playing field, until the end of the current council term in May 2015.”

However, it has only just become apparent, following a discussion at a regional network meeting attended by our Senior Solicitor last week, that Parish Councils (or Parish Clerks, if the authority is delegated to them by the Council) have now been given authority to grant dispensations under the provisions of the Localism Act 2011.

Section 33 of the Act states that:

“A relevant authority may, on a request made to the proper officer of the authority by a member or co-opted member of the authority, grant a dispensation relieving the member from either of the restrictions in Section 31(4) in cases described in the dispensation”

Parish Councils are listed as a “relevant authority” in section 27(6)(d) of the Act and the Parish Clerk is the Proper Officer for this purpose. The restrictions in section 31(4) of the Act prevent a member with a pecuniary interest from either participating or participating and voting in any discussion on that matter at the meeting - unless a dispensation has been granted under section 33. The maximum period for a dispensation is 4 years. If the Parish Council wishes to delegate the granting of dispensations to the Parish Clerk it will need to make a formal resolution to that effect.

To avoid any doubt and, to remove any risk of a potential challenge to any further decisions made by the Parish Council relating to Scorton playing fields, it would, therefore, be prudent for the Parish Council itself to resolve to grant a dispensation to its Members to consider such matters.

I will be writing, in the near future, to all Parish and Town Clerks in the Borough to draw their attention to this new provision.”

Email confidentiality and procedure

Cllr Gorst confirmed that his email address is secure. The clerk was asked to email a copy of the protocol previously sent and this will be considered at the next meeting.

School signs

The clerk received the following reply from Highways:

“The sign only 20mph limit has recently been introduced in the village and extends to cover the Gubberford Lane/ The Square to reduce the speed that motorists drive. The 30mph buffer has also been extended further out of the village.

The historic collision record for Scorton is good and there are no related collisions within the last 5 years that would support additional measures.

There are existing school warning signs outside the main school access off Snowhill Lane and the placing of additional signs can be counterproductive as they do not directly relate to specific points where there are high levels of activity associated with the school.

The placing of signs will result in additional sign clutter within the village conservation area and the county is attempting to reduce the number of signs that are introduced to address this problem.

Therefore with regard to the reasons provided above, I regret to inform you that the county council is unable to recommend the introduction of school warning signs at this time as requested.”

Cllr Collinson state that there should be a reply stating that the number of school children has increased over the last five years as well as their usage of the village hall. She will obtain a comparison in the number of children attending the school now, compared with five years ago. The PC felt that a lollypop board would be a good idea for the school if they don't have one. The clerk will send a reply as soon as she has received Cllr Collinson's figures.

Springfield Gardens complaint

The clerk received the following reply from Highways:

“Highway regulations only permit certain signs to be placed on the highway and unfortunately there are no appropriate signs that could be placed with specific wording to prevent motorists parking opposite, or near driveways. The county council can consider introducing double or single yellow line parking restrictions backed by a traffic regulation order if deemed appropriate and the collision record supports their introduction. However these measures are not generally used for private driveway accesses and I would not be able to justify their use at this location.

The council can consider applications for the introduction of H-bar markings to indicate that that access is required to a private driveway entrance, although the cost of introducing these to the person requesting is £79. These markings can only cover the area where the kerb or access is flush with the carriageway and are usually provided at locations where vehicles are obstructing the immediate private access and cannot be used on the opposite side of the driveways or alongside full height kerbs. I accept that this may not be what the property owner is seeking, but regrettably I must advise you that there are no other alternatives that we can consider at this location.”

Cllr Babbs will inform the resident.

Dog fouling (Millennium Way)

Cllr Cottle was absent for this part of the meeting. This item will go on the next agenda.

Sandbag collection point leaflet

The clerk received an email from Val Wilson on this matter:

“I have spoken to Cllr Berry and it is a changing situation. Following the second lot of heavy rain they have decided that the leaflet needs to be more than just simple information(as was originally the intent) but give more tips on self help and an emphasis on assisting others (good neighbor). Apparently at the height of the rain they were digging sand from Rossall Beach! Placing heavy sand bags for collection is not a very good idea for elderly so it is an on-going process.”

6. Open forum:

Parking Nr Tithbarn Lane

Cllr Babbs explained to the public the proposal to introduce yellow lines 15 metres each side of the junction with Tithbarn Lane.

St cleaning (Rd Sweeping)

A member of the public stated that due to the arrival of autumn, there is a lot of leaf debris in the outlying areas of the parish. This will be reported to John Bettle (WC).

Overgrown hedge

A member of the public raised this issue but it has not been established which property owns the hedge. Some of the PC members will speak to nearby householders to try to find out who it belongs to.

7. Playing field:

Progress report

Cllr Cottle absent for this part of the meeting.

Youth shelter

Following a Courier article, Cllr Cottle submitted a bid to obtain grant aid (to support community schemes) for this purpose. He has informed the clerk that he has not heard anything and believes this has been unsuccessful.

MUGA

Cllr Cottle informed the clerk earlier that he is awaiting feedback regarding funding from Val Wilson (WC).

Playing field maintenance (hedges)

Cllr Collinson has made enquires but has not yet found someone to undertake this. She will make further enquires and report back at the next meeting.

8. Correspondence/circulated items:

Refer appendix 1 (public to refer to clerk for further information and post received following publication of agenda)

Items to discuss as follows:

LALC – Fracking

Cllr Babbs stated that the presentation was informative. The PC has concerns about the implications of fracking and will wait and see what happens.

WC – Remembrance services 10th and 11th Nov letter Clerk read

WC – License for Christmas trees & decorations 2012/13 letter Clerk read

9. Borough Council matters:

No report as Val Wilson absent

10. Planning:

12/00672/FUL - Replace extant planning permission to extend time re plan
09/00774/FUL – installation of new bailey bridge crossing with approach
ramp and link to existing track @ Six Arches Caravan Pk

The clerk confirmed that comments were sent regarding the above on 19/10/12.

12/00704/FUL and 12/00703/ADV – Wyreside Hall

The parish council stated they had no further comments to make regarding the above.

11. Decision notices:

12/00533/FUL (Brooklands, Trough Rd) **Granted**

12. Highways:

Drainage and flooding issues

- ❖ Cllr Gorst stated that there is a drainage problem at the end of his drive on the highway (Dolphinholme House, Bay Horse).
- ❖ He also reported that at the entrance to Tinker's Lane, there is a blocked culvert.
- ❖ Finally, he reported that water had been flooding onto the highway from the south west end of Wyreside Cottage (from an unknown source) onto Wagon Rd.
- ❖ Cllr Collinson stated that water runs down Snow Hill and misses the drain at the bottom. Water then accumulates past the shop, as one of the drains is blocked, causing flooding. She drew a diagram to demonstrate.
- ❖ A member of the public stated that metal rods in the drains are prone to rusting, causing them to break away.

The clerk will report all the above.

13. Lengthsman:

Jobs

No jobs mentioned for action.

Cllr Babbs stated that Josh (lengthsman) has agreed to keep a short record of work undertaken and location. The clerk stated that she thought this was a good idea in order to provide clarity as to where he has worked because Forton PC have received a complaint regarding the amount he is paid.

Vegetation and Signpost update

The clerk confirmed that the £200 is for both undertaking the work and inspections.

14. Finance:

Account update (6 monthly) review and current balance

The clerk passed round the 6 monthly update and confirmed that after expenses, there should be over £5000 remaining at the end of the year.

Current balance is £8737.40

Surplus Jubilee medals- Received payment from Cllr Atkinson of £35.

Dolphinholme Village Show Committee – donation request Not applicable. Cllr Gorst confirmed that the show has already taken place. The parish council was unaware of this. There was a delay in discussion, as the PC wanted to speak with Cllr Gorst before making a decision. Cllr Gorst was absent from the last 2 meetings. He has experienced problems with receipt of one or two of his emails.

The PC agreed to pay the following:

BDO audit bill - £162

The clerk informed the PC that the audit is complete. The only item raised was the requirement to specifically minute the PC's agreement to the annual governance statement and the accounting statement.

VH Donation (Scorton)- £600

VH donation (Dolphinholme) - £200

Clerk expenses - £24.92

Cockerham bin hire and collection (lengthsman) Sept –March 2013 - £56.42

The clerk explained that Gillian Benson has told her that one parish could claim back the whole VAT amount. The clerk said she felt this was not correct and contacted HMRC for clarification. The bill has been split equally between the 4 parishes (Net and VAT). HMRC have confirmed that this is acceptable and stated that it was incorrect for one parish to pay and reclaim the whole VAT amount. They have advised her to send a covering letter including clarification that there is only one bill.

15. Health & Safety:

None

16. Points of interest:

Agendas procedure update

The clerk confirmed that following the last meeting, she had discovered from a legal adviser at NALC, that agendas can be sent by email to cllrs, provided that a resolution is passed to that effect at a PC meeting (a resolution was passed at the last meeting) and that it is also included in the standing orders. She confirmed that she has recently downloaded a new set of standing orders (which have yet to be agreed) and the issuing of agendas via email is included in this version (created by Northumberland Association of Local Councils). This version is specifically tailored for smaller parishes and she will email this to councillors when she does the review.

Drainage problem (Nr Sykes Farm)

Further to the report from Cllr Atkinson, the clerk reported that she had received an email from Sim Lane Dixon (Highways Agency) to state that he would sort out the drain issues.

Dead Pig on verge (Nr Webster's Farm)

The clerk reported that John Bettle (Wyre Council St cleaning) could not find the pig. Cllr Atkinson stated that he has since found it and the body has now been removed.

17. Date of next meeting: **22nd Nov 2012 (Precept)**

As there was no further business, the meeting concluded at 9.35PM

APPENDIX 1 – CORRESPONDENCE (EMAILED)

WC – Cabinet minutes 12th Sept link

WC – Marine Gardens event 22nd September

WC – Press release 4 wyred up Fleetwood Town

WC – Forward plan Oct-Jan 2013 link

WC – Overview & Scrutiny Committee agenda 24th Sept link

Community Futures – AGM 24th Oct emailed to Cllrs Cottle and Babbs

WC – Full Council minutes 6th Sept link

WC – Audit Committee agenda 25th Sept link

LALC – Fracking info See item 8

WC – Mayoral charity festival 6th Nov

Lancs Police authority – PCC community presentation

LCC – Bus service changes

WC – Overview & Scrutiny Committee agenda 1st Oct link

WC – Forward plan Oct – Jan 2013 link

LCC – Lancs minerals & waste local plan modifications to site allocation documents and link

WC – Planning Committee agenda 3rd Oct link

Lancs Police Authority – “Just Tell One” bulletin

WC – Remembrance services 10th & 11th Nov letter See item 8

LALC – Winter service conference 20th Oct

WC – Resources portfolio holder reports 27th Sept (Red Marsh Drive)

WC – Life in Wyre survey

WC – Overview & Scrutiny Committee minutes 24th Sept link

Community Futures – newsletter emailed to Cllrs Babbs and Cottle

LCC – Environment bulletin Oct 2012

WC – Licenses for Christmas trees & decorations 2012/13 letter See item 8

Glasdon products

WC – Resources portfolio holder decision (Red Marsh Drive)

WC – Overview & Scrutiny committee minutes 1st Oct (leisure centre review) link

WC – Police & Crime Commissioner election (for noticeboard)

WC – Audit Committee minutes 25th Sept link

WC – Mayoral charity event Christmas candlelight poster (12th Dec)

**LALC – Newsletter & workshops: Chairmanship, finance and neighbourhood plans
“Getting started”**

Lancs police & crime commissioner candidate – parish survey

LALC – Rural crime workshop 12th Oct

WC – Forward plan – Oct to Jan 2013 link

Parish online – Bulletin

LALC – Wyre Area Committee meeting 9th Oct

WC – Planning Committee minutes 3rd Oct link

Electricity North West - Survey

WC – Full Council agenda 18th Oct & items 7 & 8 links

Community Futures – E-bulletin emailed Cllrs Babbs & Cottle

WC – Portfolio holder report 11th Oct link

WC – Life in Wyre Survey

LCC – Parish & town council conference booking form (10th Nov)

Community Futures – AGM info emailed Cllrs Babbs & Cottle

WC – Overview & Scrutiny Committee agenda 22nd Oct link

LCC – Bus service changes November 2012

LALC – Parish Matters (Came & Co autumn newsletter)

LCC – Prospective candidate event 28th Nov (County Cllr elections)

WC – Wyre Together awards info

FOB – Bowland bulletin autumn 2012

WC – Cabinet agenda 24th Oct link

WC – Licensing committee agenda 25th Oct link

Streetscape – Outdoor fitness products leaflet

WC – Schedule of decisions

LALC – Smile conference 15th Nov

WC – St cleaning task group 30th Oct agenda link

WC – Electoral review of Wyre posters and letters

LCC – Police and crime commissioner hustings event 1st Nov

WC – Overview & scrutiny committee 22nd Oct minutes link

Community Futures – Fass event emailed to Cllrs Babbs and Cottle

WC – The Big Freeze invite 12th Nov

WC – Full council minutes 18th Oct

Community Futures – E-bulletin

Community Futures – Stop press cats training

WC – Cabinet minutes 24th Oct link

WC – Schedule of executive decisions

WC – Resources portfolio holder decision (Thornton)

