

ARKENDALE, CONEYTHORPE & CLARETON PARISH COUNCIL.

MINUTES OF A MEETING IN ARKENDALE PARISH CHURCH, WED. 4th OCTOBER. 2006 @ 7.30 p.m.

Present: T. Braithwaite (Chair)
W. Lill (Vice Chair)
S. Yorke
Peter Thorndyke (Clerk / Financial Officer to the Council)
There were 8 member of the public in attendance.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Malcolm Howe sent his written apology. He has decided to resign as a parish councillor. John Tomlinson also resigned on the 10th August 2006, and, following due process will be replaced by Mr Peter Topham as from the 12th October 2006 as the councillor for Coneythorpe. PT to inform HBC of MH's resignation.

ACTION: PT

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meetings held on Wednesday July 26th 2006, as previously circulated, were approved unanimously and duly signed by the Chairman.

3 CORRESPONDENCE

PT listed the correspondence received since the last meeting. These will be (or have been) circulated to the Parish Councillors:

- 3.1. A letter from the Little Red Bus about a new car - sharing scheme within the Harrogate area.
- 3.2. A letter and leaflet from ENCAMS concerning 'Litter and the Law' and a guide to improving the local environment.
- 3.3. A letter from John Watson our County Councillor requesting that we put him on the mailing list for agendas of our meetings, and indicating that he would attend a future meeting.
- 3.4. Another letter from John Watson offering a possible small grant for any expenses or costs of dealing with the newts.
- 3.5. A letter from the Mayor's Parlour in Harrogate reminding us that he would like to show his support for any event taking place in the parish.
- 3.6. A letter from HBC about their performance plan and a summary of their performance in 2006 / 2007.
- 3.7. A letter from HBC and a consultation document about the 'Community Sports Regeneration Plan at Claro Road, Harrogate'
- 3.8. A letter from HBC stating that The Harrogate and District Local Development Framework has been approved and would be launched as planning policy on 1st September 2006.
- 3.9. A letter from HBC re Parish Consultation meetings 2006 / 2007. This council's meeting is due on Wednesday the 7th February 2007 at Conyngnam Hall. Any items for inclusion on the agenda must be submitted before 19th January 2007.
- 3.10. A letter from HBC about a possible breach of planning regulations at the Maize Maze on Moor Lane AND a further letter stating that, after investigation, no breach had occurred.
- 3.11. A letter from HBC requesting submission of the precept requirements (form P1) for 2007 / 2008 prior to January 15th 2007.
- 3.12. A letter from HBC inviting applications for grants for road safety improvements in villages. (This was sent as a result of our enquiries about a new road sign on the road into Arkendale from the A168).

4 FINANCE

The following expenditure was approved unanimously:

A cheque HBC for £265 to cover the cost of a planning application for a proposed new Village Hall in Arkendale. (Note: prior to that cheque being sent, a cheque for the same amount was received from the Trustees of the Arkendale Village Hall).

A cheque for £58.75 payable to Mazars to cover the cost of the annual external audit.

A cheque for £509.99 to P. Thorndyke being the half yearly salary payable to the parish clerk (April to end September).

PT, after informing the meeting that he was a member of the Arkendale Village Hall Committee, said that the Arkendale village hall needed to be replaced. The committee were looking at various funding options to raise approx. £150,000 and, in discussions with YRCC, it had been suggested that the parish council could borrow a significant sum of money to pass to the village hall trustees from the Public Works Loans Board at advantageous interest rates, funding repayments and interest by way of an increase in the precept. By way of an example, he said that a £80,000 loan repaid over 30 years would add about £25 per annum to the precept for each household in Arkendale, Coneythorpe and Clareton. The committee were not in a position to take this forward at the moment - they were still taking advice - but parish councillors ought to be aware that an approach could be made and might like to consider the matter in advance.

5 THE MAR

TB said that he had received a number of complaints from villagers who felt that the Mar and its surroundings were deteriorating and that unless something was done the Mar would become overgrown and effectively cease to exist within 10 years. Hugh Roberts from the Pond Conservation Trust was present at the meeting and it was agreed to discuss the matter with him at the end of the meeting.

At this point John Watson, the local County Councillor, joined the meeting and was welcomed by the chairman.

6 VILLAGE ROAD SIGNS

PT reported that he had, as instructed at the previous meeting, been in touch with HBC regarding possible grant aid for the provision of an 'ARKENDALE' sign on the road leading from the A168. He had received details of 'THE VILLAGE ROAD SAFETY SCHEME 2007-2008'. It would appear that a grant might be possible if the road sign incorporated a road safety message such as 'ARKENDALE WELCOMES CAREFUL DRIVERS'. PT agreed to complete and submit the application form before the deadline of 1st December.

ACTION: PT

7 PLANNING MATTERS

Since the last meeting HBC have granted planning permission to:

Accent Homes to build one detached dwelling to the rear of South View, Arkendale.

G. Crayford to erect a rear extension at 1 Shortsill Lane, Coneythorpe.

J. Horner to build a rear extension at Bryan Lodge, Arkendale.

A planning application, no. 6.78.88.FUL 06/04757/FUL, for a new village hall in Arkendale, submitted on behalf of the Arkendale Village Hall Committee, was discussed and it was agreed that the parish council actively supported the application. PT was asked to submit the form to HBC in the usual manner.

ACTION: PT

8 POLICE MATTERS

Nothing to report

9 WATER PRESSURE IN VILLAGES

PT read out the last letter from Yorkshire Water in which they confirmed that the pressure was low in this area and that they would be seeking capital funding to correct the situation over the next few months.

10 NEW NOTICE BOARDS

The councillors passed a vote of thanks to Mr. R. Bailey who had kindly supplied a new notice board for Arkendale, for parish council use only, free of charge. This had been erected next to the existing board on Sunday 1st October.

PT was asked to look into whether a new notice board in Coneythorpe to be sited on the village green, needed planning permission. The old one on the public house wall had deteriorated to a point where it was not repairable.

ACTION: PT

11 RECYCLING SITE IN ARKENDALE

PT confirmed that HBC would be happy to site a mini - recycling centre in Arkendale, subject to a survey of the proposed site and permission of the site owner. TB said that he would discuss a possible site with the owner before responding to HBC.

ACTION: TB

12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

November 15th 2006, then 31st January 2007, 28th March 2007 and AGM on 16th May 2007.

There being no further business TB closed the meeting at 8.24 pm

.....(Signed)
Chairman

Following the conclusion of the formal meeting Hugh Roberts talked about the Mar and the implications of the discovery of a major colony of Greater Crested Newts on the site. HBC and Natural England have been made aware of their presence because the GCNs are a fully protected species and any developments in Arkendale would have to take account of the colony. Some of the local residents in the audience expressed their frustration at not being able to improve the aesthetics of the Mar that was becoming overgrown with weeds etc.

HR said that the weeds could be pulled out when not in seed, and that Dan McAndrew at HBC would probably supply one of his rangers to cut back the Willow trees. He said that the site supported lots of other wildlife as well as the GCNs and that the drying up of the Mar was due to a number of factors including climate change, work to prevent road flooding, and new buildings.

After discussion it was proposed that new ponds should be dug out behind the existing Mar, and the GCNs be moved to those new ponds over the next two years. Then the main pond could be de-silted. In the meantime the balsom weed should be pulled out and the willow cut down.

HR agreed to talk to Natural England about the de-silting and PT agreed to contact Dan McAndrew to try to arrange an on site meeting with him in about 2 weeks time. HR said that the PCT might be able to assist with funding the work.

.