

ARKENDALE, CONEYTHORPE & CLARETON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING IN ARKENDALE PARISH CHURCH, WEDNESDAY 19th SEPTEMBER 2007 @ 7.30 p.m.

Present: T. Braithwaite (Chair)

P. Topham

S. Shipman

A. Briggs

P. Houseman

Peter Thorndyke (Clerk / Financial Officer to the Council)

There were 3 member of the public in attendance.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meetings held on Wednesday July 11th 2007, as previously circulated, were approved unanimously and duly signed by the Chairman.

3. CORRESPONDENCE

3.1 HBC letter re 'Planning Services Peer Review'

3.2 HBC 'Summary Performance Plan'

3.3 HBC 'Consultation on Licensing Policy'

3.4 HBC letter about advertising adoption of new code of conduct. PT was asked to ask HBC for a refund of this cost.

3.5 HBC letter re Environmental Services.

3.6 HBC letter re changes to local government structure.

3.7 HBC letter re local sandbag store.

3.8 HBC 'Review of Polling Districts'

3.9 HBC letter re consultation meetings with Parish Councils 2007 – 2008

3.10 HBC letter re flooding hardship fund.

3.11 HBC 'Consultation on Development Control Policies'

3.12 YLCA notice of Harrogate branch meeting

3.13 NYCC letter re closure of post offices.

3.14 NYCC letter re A59 and Flaxby road junction

3.15 NYCC 'Consultation on site allocation for minerals and waste development'

3.16 Harrogate District Communities Partnership letter re safer communities

3.17 NYSP letter re 'NY Compact'

3.18 Harrogate CVS letter re setting up of common database.

3.19 NYCC letter and questionnaire re Boroughbridge transportation study.

4. FINANCE

The Parish Councillors unanimously approved the following cheque payments:

Cheque to Johnston Publishing for notice of adoption of new 'Code of Conduct' £80.25

Cheque to P Thorndyke – 6 months salary for 1st April to 30th September 2007 £509.99 at rates for 2006/2007. National rates for 2007/2008 not yet agreed. (Cheque postdated to 30.9.07)

PT reported receipt of reclaimed VAT of £110.73

5. PLANNING MATTERS

Planning appeal made by Mr McKenna and Mrs Bradshaw against refusal to permit a first floor extension at the Granary and Bothy, in Coneythorpe.

Application by Mr D Bailey for a detached garage at Hazel Head Farm Arkendale sent to Harrogate with no objections from Parish Councillors.

There had been no planning determinations by HBC since the last meeting.

TB reported that an independent assessor had been sent to view the proposed site for a joiners shop in the village on Monday the 10th September, as a result of Mr Barker's appeal. A number of residents had gathered at the site to demonstrate their opposition to the proposal.

6 POLICE MATTERS

It was noted that there had still not been any response from the police about any action they might take in response to the survey carried out earlier in 2007 that showed that motorists were speeding through Arkendale. One particular driver had been seen regularly passing through the village early each morning at excessive speed. AB felt she knew the person involved and agreed to approach her and request that she curbed her speed.

ACTION: AB

7. CONEYTHORPE – PARKING ON VILLAGE GREEN

This matter has been resolved and can be removed from the agenda. The stones are in place and although they were initially ignored, HBC sent a letter to the offender, who has not encroached on the village green since.

8. FLY TIPPING, VANDALISM, VILLAGE MAINTENANCE (INCLUDING DOG EXCREMENT)

TB advised that he had received complaints from members of the public about dog excrement on Moor Lane. He did not wish to see signs being put up and it was decided that initially a low-key approach should be tried. Accordingly each member of the parish council (and any other concerned resident) was asked to have a quiet word with the keeper of any dog seen fouling the pavements or grass verges in the village, and ask them to use ‘pooper scoopers’ or stop their dogs offending. The situation will be monitored over the next few months.

Both TB and PH raised the subject of litter and fly tipping around the area. It was agreed that their was little the Parish Council could do except report each incident to the appropriate person at HBC (who had reacted promptly in the past) and, if possible take the registration number of any offender’s vehicle. HBC will prosecute if they have eyewitnesses. SS agreed to put a comment about this matter in her column in the local newspaper.

ACTION: ALL

9. THE MAR

A working party had removed weeds from around the Mar earlier in the year. D McAndrew of HBC had now arranged for one of his rangers and 50 army apprentices to come to the village at 9.15 a.m. on Sunday 23rd September to remove the willows from around the Mar. They required certain support such as old saws, hand wipes, hot water soap and towels. PH agreed to meet them and provide as much assistance as possible. It was anticipated that they would leave at about 3.30 in the afternoon. The ranger, C. Slater, would ensure that the greater crested newts were not disturbed.

ACTION: PH

10. E-MAIL ADDRESSES FOR ARKENDALE RESIDENTS

PT reported that he had only 30 names to date on the register of e-mail addresses for Arkendale. This appeared disappointing but he had no way of knowing how many households n the village used e-mail. Hopefully it would grow by ‘word of mouth.’ In the meantime he would place a notice on the Parish Council’s notice board about the register.

ACTION: PT

11. VILLAGE WEBSITE

TB reported that he had spoken to Sean re concerns expressed about slow posting to the village website. Sean is getting married shortly and has recently changed jobs, with the result that he has had less time available to update the site. Nevertheless he promised to bring the site up to date and maintain it going forward. The parish councillors expressed their appreciation of the time he spends on developing and maintaining a very professional looking site.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING.

This was amended to December 5th at 7.30pm in the Arkendale Parish Church.
There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

.....(Signed) Chairman

ADDENDUM:-

Following the meeting a discussion took place about the consultation document on Development Control Policies. There was alarm expressed at the proposal that 26% of future housing in the Harrogate area would be built in villages. P To said that Coneythorpe was specifically referred to as a possible site for a few low cost dwellings. The document indicated that building might take place on green belt land or land previously turned down for development, and compulsory purchase was an option open to councillors. The document did, however, go on to say that 'the majority of housing will be built in villages that have access to jobs, transportation and shops. Using this criterion it was unlikely that Arkendale, Coneythorpe or Clareton would be targeted. PT agreed to put this item on the agenda at the next meeting, and the parish council would monitor developments.

A discussion was also held on the need to pass correspondence around more speedily and it was agreed that each person would only retain the blue folder for a maximum of 5 days. In addition the person passing the folder on would e-mail PT each time so that he always knew where to find the folder, in case a response was needed urgently.