

ARKENDALE, CONEYTHORPE & CLARETON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING IN ARKENDALE PARISH CHURCH, WED. NOVEMBER 19th 2008 @ 7.30 p.m.

Present: P. Topham (Chair)

S. Shipman

A. Cuthbert

P. Houseman.

Peter Thorndyke (Clerk / Financial Officer to the Council)

There were 15 members of the public in attendance and Anthony Alton our Harrogate Councillor.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from M. Howe.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meetings held on 27th August 2008 (Wednesday), as previously circulated, were approved unanimously and duly signed by the Chairman.

3. CORRESPONDENCE

3.1 White Rose Update from YLCA

3.2 The Funding Bulletin from Harrogate CVS

3.3 National Salary Award (interim) from NALC.

3.4 Village Road Safety Schemes from HBC (2 letters). PTh was asked to submit application for £3,000 for a VAS and discuss with Ken Major where it could be sited on the road down the hill past the Bluebell, towards Ferrensby.

ACTION: PT

3.5 E-mail about info on their website from YLCA

3.6 Letter from ARCH mediation services.

3.7 Letter about commuted sums from HBC

3.8 Consultation Documents from The Dept. of Communities and Local Government (2).

3.9 Letter from Zurich Insurance about their reorganisation.

3.10 Two letters from Parishioners about the proposed Village Conservation status.

3.11 Letter from NYCC re Budget and Council Plan consultation.

3.12 Letter from HBC about the Leeds City Partnership.

4. FINANCE

4.1 The clerk presented a cheque for approval, being the clerk's salary of £535.47 covering the 6 months ending 30th September 2008. This was approved unanimously and duly signed.

4.2 PTh presented the proposed spending plans for the remainder of 2008 – 2009 and the spending to date in the fiscal year. These were accepted unanimously.

4.3 PTh presented the proposed budget for 2009 – 2010 and the proposed precept. These were accepted unanimously. PTh was asked to submit the precept request, which was the same as in previous years (£2,600) to HBC as soon as possible. PTh reported that there had been some adverse comments from the external auditors re the building up of unspent precept receipts, but the Parish Councillors felt that any surplus could be spent on granting money for the new village hall next year or on road safety improvements if grants were not available for the full amounts.

5. PLANNING MATTERS

5.1 The following decisions on planning have been received: -

Application to build a rear conservatory at Field House Arkendale from Mr Andrew Grant – Refused by HBC.

5.2 The following new planning proposals have been received and considered by the Parish Council: -

Application to erect an agricultural building in a field west of Long Acre, Moor Lane, Arkendale, submitted by R. Milner. After discussion the Parish Council agreed to object (circle choice B) on the grounds that it would contravene the Harrogate District plan in that it would have a major visual impact on the area, that the access and egress from the site was on a dangerous corner, and that it would fail to respect the privacy and amenity of neighbours.

5.3 Other Planning Matters: - Nothing to report.

6. POLICE MATTERS – SPEEDING ETC.

Further discussion took place on the possibility of acquiring one or two Vehicle Activated Signs, for use in Arkendale (see correspondence above).

7. FLY TIPPING, VANDALISM, DOG FOULING, VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

PTh reported that, following a letter he had sent to HBC he had a call from Mike Poole, the Environmental Protection Officer. As a result of that conversation two new bins had been provided in Arkendale for litter and dog waste. MP did not believe he would be able to obtain the budget to provide a litter collection service in Arkendale, as we had requested, but he reminded us that mechanical verge sweeping was conducted 3 times per year in the villages. This could also be asked for on call if a particular situation warranted it. He said he would look into the dog fouling problem on Lidgett Lane in Coneythorpe, but there had been no discernable action as yet. PTh was asked to chase him on this point.

ACTION: PTh

8. ARKENDALE - CONSERVATION VILLAGE

PTo said that he recognized the strong feelings from residents about this matter. PTh reported that his (unscientific) canvassing had revealed only one person in favour and all others against the possibility of Arkendale applying for conservation area status. Both PTo and SS pointed out that the possibility had come to the Parish Council's attention because of their enquiries about methods of saving the red telephone box in Arkendale. There had been no intention to impose the Parish Councilors views on the village. PTo took the opportunity to pledge that, whilst he was Chairman, no major decisions affecting the villages would be taken without first seeking the views of the residents.

Given the strength of feeling it was decided not to pursue the possibility of Conservation area status.

9. VOTING AGE CONSULTATION RESPONSE.

It was decided that no response was necessary at this stage though the general view of the Parish Council was negative to the proposal.

10. ADOPTION OF MANDATORY PUBLICATION SCHEME

PTh read out his proposed responses to the questions on the Model Publication Scheme document that he had previously circulated. Given that, as a small PC, we do not have a website, nor do we publish newsletters, all the answers had to be 'Hard copy available – contact clerk'. PTh pointed out however that we should, at least, provide information on the notice board, giving contact details for Parish Councilors. A number of them are, however, ex-directory and do not wish their addresses or telephone numbers to be made public. It was agreed, however, that PTh could put the names and e-mail addresses of the Parish Councilors on the notice boards. Anyone without access to the Internet would have to contact the clerk in order to contact a Parish Councilor.

It was unanimously agreed that the proposed publication scheme should be adopted with immediate effect.

11. PARKING ON GREEN IN CONEYTHORPE

PTo reported that this was still a problem and, after discussion, A. Alton agreed to take the matter up with Harrogate Council officials. PTo agreed to let him have further details after the meeting.

ACTION: PTo

12 RODENT INFESTATION AT CLARETON

PTo said that a resident who had already contacted HBC had brought this problem to his attention. An officer from HBC had been and inspected the site and agreed that a large quantity of grain had been dumped and this was attracting the rats. It also gave off a pungent odour. The official had agreed to contact the farmer involved and ask him to remove the grain, and ask NYCC to fill in the rat holes in the roadside verges. PTh was asked to contact the official concern and ask him to expedite the matter.

13.DATE OF NEXT MEETING.

The dates proposed for future meetings of the Parish Council, as shown on the agenda, were all agreed. These were February 4th 2009, March 25th, May 27th (incorporating the Annual Meeting and the village meeting) July 22nd, September 23rd, December 2nd, February 5th 2010, March 31st and May 12th (incorporating the Annual Meeting and the village meeting).

There being no further business the chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

.....(Signed) Chairman