

MINUTES of the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

held on Monday 2nd September 2019 at 7:30pm at Scholes Methodist Hall.

PRESENT:

Councillor	Claire Hassell (Chair)		
Councillors	Joanne Austin	Phil Maude	Graham Slater
	Karen Dales	Paul Remmer	Stella Walsh
	Glyn Davies		

In attendance: Fourteen residents, PCSO Sue Broadbent (part), Ward Cllrs. Sam Firth & Matthew Robinson and the Clerk.

1 APOLOGIES: Cllrs. Neil Beaumont, Howard Bedford, Matthew Clover and John Moreland

2 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST. None

3 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was **resolved** that the minutes of the Parish Council (PC) meeting (4/2019) held on 1st July 2019 (551-555) having been circulated, be approved and that the Chair sign the minutes, proposed Cllr. Maude, seconded Cllr. Slater, all in favour.

It was **resolved** that the minutes of the extra-ordinary meeting (5/2019) held on 29th July 2019 (556) having been circulated, be approved and that the Chair sign the minutes, proposed Cllr. Slater, seconded Cllr. Maude, all in favour.

4 CRIME REPORT

Full details of the report are posted on the PC website. There were two *Burglary Residential* crimes in August (Elmwood Lane & Station Road). The former was a break into a wooden shed with nothing taken and in the latter case, stolen property was discarded at the front of the location. There were three cases of *Theft From Motor Vehicles* (Arthursdale Grange, Arthursdale Close and Scholes Lane, Whinmoor). Items stolen included a saw and power tools and vehicle registration plates. There were two cases of *Criminal Damage* (Belle Vue Road and Rakehill Road, Barwick in Elmet). In one case damage was done to a cat door following an attempt to break into a vehicle and in the other case a vehicle was keyed. There was one case of *Theft of Motor Vehicle* (Chapel Lane) being a motorbike stolen and set on fire (the suspect has been arrested). There was also one case of theft of hen food from Carrfield Drive.

The Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) reported that two known burglars had been caught. Concerns were expressed regarding inconsiderate parking outside the school at pick up and drop off times and the verbal abuse given by some motorists when challenged. There were ongoing problems regarding quad bikes.

5 FINANCE

5.1 The cash book, bank reconciliation statement, screen print and budget monitor had been circulated showing payments made during July & August of £3,440.92 (thirteen cheques totalling £3,210.84 and eight direct debits of £430.08). There was a £200 adjustment as one of the cheques previously reported was unrepresented as the payee no longer accepts this payment method.

5.2 The cash book showed twelve cheque payments to be made in September amounting to £3,700.27 plus three direct debits (the value of one is awaited).

5.3 External Auditor's Report. It was noted that the External Auditor's Report had been received which confirmed satisfaction that proper practices are in place and that there is nothing of concern. The Internal Auditor is due on 26th September for the Interim Audit.

6 CORRESPONDENCE

There had been a request by 1st Scholes Scouts to lay a wreath (3036), Cllr. Hassell would liaise with the Royal British Legion about this. Cllr. Walsh had written replies to letters from Barwick children in year three (Mulberry Class) regarding litter and dog-fouling (3037). There had been concern about water seepage in the footway at the junction of Long Lane and Gascoigne Avenue (3040). Barwick Bowling Club had advised that they were planning to remove two old storage sheds and replace them with a single metal one and that they have received MICE funding (3042). The Clerk would ask them to check whether planning permission was needed.

7 OTHER ITEMS

7.1 Leeds Local Access Forum advising of the 2026 deadline for claiming historic rights of way.

It was agreed that a resident with the necessary knowledge would research historic rights of way and that there would be a formal resolution on the October agenda if the outcome of his investigations suggested that this is necessary. It was noted that the resident may incur a small amount of expenditure in carrying out his investigations.

7.2 Public Session timings. There would be an agenda item at the October meeting to consider a resolution that the Parish Council meeting starts at 7pm with a maximum of thirty minutes for residents to speak to follow the Declarations of Pecuniary Interest. Cllrs. Walsh and Slater will consider changes to the Standing Orders when necessary.

7.3 Installation of a gate at the entrance to Bog Lane – see Open Forum.

7.4 The septic tank behind Barwick Football Pavilion. Cllrs. Davies, Remmer and Slater had investigated the issues regarding the septic tank and had done some excavation work. Cllr. Remmer reported the best-case scenario and suggested sharing facilities with the cricket club would be the most cost-effective option until a permanent solution could be found, Cllr. Hassell would speak to the cricket club about this. Other options might need to be considered such as pumping the waste away.

7.5 Using the Sports Pavilion at Scholes for meetings. The suitability of this venue was discussed and although Committee and Working Party meetings could be held there, it was decided to take measurements of the available floor space before making a decision regarding full PC meetings. Cllr. Remmer would take measurements.

7.6 Scholes Sports Pavilion. It was noted that meetings had taken place on 2nd and 10th July between Councillors and representatives of Scholes Tennis Club and FC Scholes (a club previously known as Beechwood interested in using the sports facilities). At the latter meeting, a representative of the Tennis Club had signed a declaration surrendering their lease and the PC had therefore taken control of the Sports Pavilion. Cllrs. Moreland and Slater were thanked for the emergency work they had undertaken to make the Pavilion usable. It was **resolved** that a Pavilion maintenance budget be set of up to £1,000 to include insurance, utility bills, security, legionnaires checks, annual fire extinguisher inspection and essential repairs, proposed Cllr. Hassell, seconded Cllr. Remmer, all in favour. It was **resolved** that a management working party be appointed to run the Pavilion, proposed Cllr. Remmer, seconded Cllr. Maude, all in favour (it was noted that a Tennis Club representative had proposed a meeting of interested parties). A proposal to appoint a committee to manage the sports fields in both villages was deferred. Cllr. Maude had liaised with the Solicitors and circulated a proposed licence for Scholes FC to use the Pavilion to all. It was **resolved** to agree the licence for £750 (reviewed annually), proposed Cllr. Slater, seconded Cllr. Walsh, all in favour.

7.7 Wall at Scholes Lodge Lane. One quote had been obtained by Cllr. Slater for the repair to the wall and a further quote was awaited. It was noted that planning permission might be required as this was within the Conservation Area. Cllr. Hassell would keep the resident whose property adjoined the wall informed and there was discussion about use of a building surveyor.

7.8 Memorial Benches. Consideration was given to having a 1.2 metre bench in each village dedicated in memory of the late Royal British Legion Standard Bearer for the Parish. It was decided to defer this to a

later meeting whilst enquires be made regarding suitable locations and to allow the Royal British Legion to consider.

7.9 PC representation on the Elmet Greenway Group. It was proposed by Cllr. Remmer and seconded by Cllr. Hassell that Cllr. Maude be appointed to represent the PC on the Elmet Greenway Group and report back when appropriate. Cllr. Moreland was proposed by Cllr. Slater. It was **resolved** that Cllr. Maude be appointed with one vote against the proposal (Cllr. Maude did not participate).

7.10 Leaflet informing residents regarding home security. Cllr. Hassell had several leaflets advising residents of security measures they can take to protect themselves against crime. Cllr. Slater would scan a copy to add to the PC website.

7.11 Allowing Mount Saint Mary's Football Club to sublet. It was **resolved** that Mount Saint Mary's Football Club be allowed to sublet the use of the pitch at Barwick to Scholes FC, on condition that Scholes FC pay to the Parish Council a fee of £100 for use for the season 2019/2020, proposed Cllr. Slater, seconded Cllr. Walsh, all in favour.

7.12 Adoption of the Parish Council grant funding policy. The Finance & General Purposes Committee would consider the draft a funding policy circulated to all Councillors ahead of the meeting and make a recommendation to be considered at the October meeting.

7.13 Commemoration of the 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE) Day (Bank Holiday Friday 8th May 2020). It was **resolved** that the PC agree in principle to having an event as part of national commemorations of this anniversary, proposed Cllr. Hassell, seconded Cllr. Remmer, five were in favour and there were three abstentions.

7.14 Facebook/Website/Newsletter. In the absence of Cllr. Beaumont, there was no Social Media report and the issue of upgrading the website would be deferred to the October meeting.

7.15 Christmas Lights. Cllrs. would accept the offer of Leeds City Council (LCC) officers to meet at their depot to discuss options. Two or three dates would be suggested in order to find one convenient to all parties.

7.16 Clerk's appraisal. The Clerk's appraisal had been completed. Cllr. Walsh would circulate a report of the key outcomes of the Clerk's annual appraisal which included an increase in remuneration, and number of hours worked per week to twenty-three.

7.17 Scholes Lodge Farm report. The dock had been sprayed but the grass had been cut soon afterwards – further sprays are needed including spot spraying. Mole control is an ongoing issue, more planting is planned. The manhole cover repair has been completed. An apple festival is planned, the insurer has confirmed that this event is covered. It was hoped to run this event without cost to the Parish, but news was received at the meeting that an application for a grant had been declined.

7.18 Surgeries Cllr. Slater reported on the two surgeries held since the last full PC meeting. Issues raised included Scholes Playground roundabout and a suggestion that the bench commemorating the hundredth anniversary of the start of World War One could be moved from the library to a more appropriate location either nearer the war memorial or the peace monument. There was concern that there were no play facilities in the village for children over the age of eight. There were concerns expressed about speeding traffic on Scholes Main Street. Issues raised at the August surgery included concerns about the long-term future of Scholes library and about the churches proposal to house asylum seekers.

7.19 Resolution for the PC to adopt the Terms of Reference for the Crime Reduction Working Group. In the absence of Cllr. Clover this was deferred to the next meeting.

7.20 Finance & General Purposes Committee Report. The draft minutes of this Committee meeting had been circulated with the agenda and the contents were duly noted.

7.21 Chairmanship training course. Cllr. Bedford had attended this training course and had circulated a report to all noting the key learning outcomes. He recommended Councillors attend this course.

7.22 Finance training course, 18th July. Cllr. Clover and the Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) had attended this training course. The RFO gave a report expressing disappointment that there was a significant overlap with a VAT training course he had already attended twice and that key areas of finance were not covered such as General Power of Competence.

7.23 Playground inspection training, 25th July. Cllr. Hassell and the Clerk had attended this course. There had been a series of presentations by Streetscape (on equipment), Came and Company (regarding insurance and inspections), Fields and Trust and from a Yorkshire Local Councils Associations officer regarding VAT and the need for items purchased to be in the name of the PC.

7.24 Meeting to discuss dog-fouling issues, 2nd July. Councillors had met with LCC officers to discuss concerns about dog-fouling in the Parish. Leaflets had been obtained and it was noted that LCC now employ an extra dog warden.

7.25 Meeting with Scholes Village Hall, 5th July. Councillors had met with members of the Village Hall Committee. Their main concern was lack of volunteers. They were looking for people to help organise the gala as it falls to Village Hall Committee members.

8 PLANNING

The **Planning Committee** had met on 15th July and 12th August. The minutes/draft minutes of these meetings had been circulated with the agenda and the contents were duly noted.

It was noted that the Site Allocations Plan was adopted by LCC at its full council meeting on 10th July.

9 REFERRALS & RISK ASSESSMENTS

There was a request for a one-way system to be considered for Belle Vue Estate. Cllr. Walsh had been liaising with Ward Cllr. Robinson regarding reinstatement of yellow lines on Belle Vue Avenue following resurfacing. There were potholes on The Avenue and Taylor Lane. Concerns were expressed regarding drainage on Scholes Main Street following recent very heavy downpours of rain – Cllr. Dales advised that Yorkshire Water Authority would be coming out that week. There was concern about the playing surface of Scholes Tennis Courts and it was suggested that a sign be put up to the effect that the surface is in a state of disrepair and that those using it do so at their own risk.

10 MATTERS FOR INCLUSION ON THE OCTOBER AGENDA. The October meeting would consider a resolution that the Parish Council considers the speed watch programme and a proposal that the Parish Council considers alternatives for legal matters and will note the dates for the funfair.

11 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Monday 7th October: Barwick in Elmet Methodist Schoolroom: Open Forum (7pm), Parish Council Meeting (7:30pm).

Monday 16th September: Planning Committee (6.30pm), Barwick Methodist Schoolroom

Wednesday 18th September: Finance & General Purposes Committee (7pm), Scholes Sports Pavilion

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:45pm.

Signed

Chair
7th October 2019

OPEN FORUM

- Several residents expressed dissatisfaction with that a sign had been fixed to the bridge at the bottom on The Approach marked “Historic Arthursdale”. There was concern that the consultation process had only included residents of that part of Scholes rather than the whole village and that this could set precedent for similar requests. There were also concerns that the item had not been referred back to the PC and that due process had not been followed. References to the history of this area were outlined. It was noted that there was no cost to either the PC or to LCC for the sign and that the sign had been put up with the consent of LCC.
- Two residents of Kiddal expressed frustration about poor broadband in that hamlet. Ward Cllr. Robinson had lobbied on their behalf and made everyone aware of a voucher scheme allowing residents in such areas to share the costs of installation of the necessary equipment. Support from the PC was requested. This would be an agenda item next time with a suggestion that Cllr. Bedford be approached.
- Following a meeting with representatives of the various bus companies, a resident expressed disappointment that having had her expectations raised, the promised improvements to the 11 service had not been forthcoming. Cllr. Firth has a direct line to the operator and asked that any future complaints about the service are done through him. There was also frustration about the lack of published paper version of timetables.
- A resident expressed concern about an agenda item which seemed to suggest that the PC would contribute towards the cost of a gate at the entrance to Bog Lane. This would deter anti-social behaviour and fly-tipping. She was advised that funding from the PC is not required as Ward Councillors will provide the financial support, the support of affected farmers was being sought.
- Frustration was expressed regarding Leeds Festival, one resident on the A64 had the entrance to his property being used by taxi drivers as a turning point. Thorner was fully closed off. It was felt that LCC need to agree an improved traffic plan for future events. A forthcoming meeting with licensing officers and Festival Republic would present an opportunity to raise concerns.