

MINUTES of the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

held on Monday 1st February 2021 at 7pm using a remote access platform.

PRESENT:

Councillor	Phil Maude (Chair)			
Councillors	Howard Bedford	Claire Hassell	Stella Walsh	
	Mike Brunt	Paul Remmer	Jaqueline Ward	
	Karen Dales	Graham Slater	David Young	
	Glyn Davies			

In attendance: Two residents, Ward Cllrs. Firth & Robinson and the Clerk.

The Chair read out a statement outlining the procedures to be undertaken to hold a lawful and effective remote meeting.

1 APOLOGIES. None. The resignation of Dan Greenwood was noted.

2. VACANCIES. It was **resolved** that Mike Brunt be co-opted to fill the Barwick Ward vacancy, all in favour. Members of the Parish Council (PC) having met him on 11th January 2021.

3 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST. None.

4 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

Two residents spoke to the PC about heavy good vehicles (HGVs) using The Boyle (correspondence item 3099 refers). One was a property owner and the other a tenant. In November, a lorry had hit the side of a property on The Boyle causing damage to drainage downpipes. Lorries regularly drove over the footway due to parked vehicles making the road too narrow to get past otherwise. The tenant was collecting evidence in the form of video footage of this on a daily basis and would retreat from her kitchen at the sound of an approaching lorry. The health and safety risks of lorries driving over the footway were highlighted and the property owner had received informal legal advice. The property owner was sympathetic to the fact that many of the properties on The Boyle have no parking facilities and that street parking is the only option for many residents and suggested either restrictions on both sides of the road outside her property or restricting access of HGVs to The Boyle. The footway was too narrow at this point for the installation of metal posts. Ward Cllr. Robinson was liaising with Leeds City Council (LCC) Highways.

Ward Cllr. Robinson shared a concern of a resident in Scholes regarding people driving across the grass verge on Belle Vue Road when the verge is wet and is churned up as a result (correspondence item 3103). Ward Cllr. Firth was also dealing with this. Video and photographic evidence had been obtained.

5 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING.

It was **resolved** that subject to a correction of duplicate paragraph numbering, the minutes of the PC meeting (11/2020) held on 4th January 2021 (613-615) having been circulated, be approved.

6 OTHER ITEMS

6.1 Consultation from LCC on proposals to reduce the amount of floral displays. There was disappointment that LCC planned to reduce the amount of floral displays in the city and concern that this might have a detrimental effect on the number of staff employed in provision of these displays and a possible adverse effect on the Arium. One Councillor had seen their budget showing the need to save millions and there was a recognition by all of their need to save money for other priorities and a view that any planting should be sustainable.

6.2 The state of Scholes cricket pitch outfield caused by dog walkers, dogs and casual footballers.

The Chair had circulated a report regarding Scholes Cricket Club and their concerns regarding recreational use of the field. He had investigated legal options noting the lack of clarity regarding LCC enforcement of orders on land to which the public don't have access. It was **resolved** to accept the following recommendations of the report, all in favour

- i) The PC work with the Cricket Club to agree on the siting and wording of notices advising that dogs should not be exercised on the sports field.
- ii) LCC Dog Wardens once the notices have been erected to enforce the rules.
- iii) The PC investigate how to secure the mobile goal posts to ensure they are not moved around the field without permission.
- iv) Discussions continue with a local farmer regarding drainage of the sports field.
- v) The Clerk be authorised to incur expenditure up to his delegated amount as he sees fit to take these matters forward, but if necessary, he seek authority from the Finance and General Purposes (F&GP) Committee.
- vi) The Club be invited to work with Councillor Bedford as Editor of the Parish newsletter to submit a suitable article highlighting the problems being experienced at the Sports field.

In passing this resolution, it was acknowledged that a degree of flexibility would be required: the goal posts could not be concreted in as the different age groups using the field needed to use different sizes of goal and pitch; signage wasn't always effective; the wording of signs needed to be concise and courteous; regular changing of signs would be more effective; signs designed by children could be used; consideration be given to sharing costs of signage any drainage solution would be costly as the water needs somewhere to drain to. In some cases, professional dog walkers were using the pitch.

6.3 Repair of the fence at Barwick Sports field. Cllr. Slater and the Clerk had met several contractors on-site the previous month and six quotes had been obtained. Although all had been given the same specification, their suggested solutions varied and like for like comparisons of prices were not possible. It was **resolved** that Cllrs. Bedford, Remmer and Slater choose three of the quotes and make further approaches to the contractors to discuss their quotes in more detail, consider the merits of sitting the bottom of the posts in aggregate for drainage and consider getting the selected contractor to sign a formal agreement. Cllr. Maude would contact the cricket club regarding sharing the cost of the fence adjoining their car park.

6.4 Offer of planings. Following an onsite meeting between Cllrs. Dales and Slater and a LCC Highways Operations Manager, Cllrs. Dales and Slater, an offer had been made of a 17½ ton wagon load of planings, it was **resolved** to accept the offer and to follow up the request from Cricket Club to improve the Verity Strip road surface and enter into discussions with them as to how best to do this as a joint project, all in favour. Cllr. Slater would make further contact with the Highways Operations Manager.

6.5 To consider what actions the PC can initiate to improve the visual impact to visitors entering Scholes village from the A64 with particular reference to the old railway bridge and road junction. It was **resolved** that this be deferred following new information contained in a communication from the Elmet Greenway Group, all in favour. The Neighbourhood Plan Steering group would explore further options for this junction with appropriate consultation.

6.6 Neighbourhood Plan. A report of the first meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering group had been circulated prior to the meeting and the contents noted. Cllr. Maude would Chair the meeting and a secretary had been appointed. Concerns were expressed regarding the Northern Quadrant boundary of the East Leeds Extension.

6.7 East Leeds extension survey. A suggested response had been circulated including suggested names for each quadrant. There were comments that using a form of roof tax to pay for the East Leeds Orbital Road amounted to double taxation.

6.8 Councillor training. It was noted that Cllr. Maude had attended training on "Dealing with complaints and difficult situations" and that Cllr. Slater attended Role of the clerk-RFO training, both on 21st January 2021.

6.9 F&GP Committee. The minutes of the Committee meetings held on 12th and 19th January 2021 had been circulated and their contents noted.

7 PLANNING

The minutes of the Committee held on 18th January 2021 had been circulated and their contents noted.

It was **resolved** that the suggested response to the “Consultation on [Leeds] City Council’s Proposed Modifications to the Remitted part of the Site Allocations Plan” circulated by Cllr. Bedford be submitted, all in favour. Cllr. Bedford thanked all those who had commented on his draft document.

8. FINANCE

8.1 To consider a resolution to donate £200 to the British Legion and donations to other charities.

There was discussion regarding support of the Royal British Legion and whether to give support to other charities. There was support for making a donation to the local branch but contradictory advice from that organisation whether that was still an option. There was support for making a donation in lieu of wreathes and it was **resolved** that £200 be given. A resolution regarding donations to charities was not supported.

8.2 Budget for 2021/22. A budget which had been considered by the F&GP Committee was presented to the meeting, it was **resolved** to accept the suggested budget subject to the following revisions: a £200 adjustment in line with item 8.1 above and revised figures for the cost of speed indicator signs (down to £9,000).

8.3 Precept request for 2021/22. Having agreed the budget, it was **resolved** that the precept for 2021/22 be set at £37,530, all in favour. This would mean that the precept paid by a band D property would remain the same as 2020/21.

8.4 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) return. A copy of the 2020 annual return had been circulated. It was noted that earlier awards would soon be over five years old and could be clawed back by LCC. It was agreed that that the fencing at Barwick Sports field could be paid for from CIL funds and that this be an agenda item for consideration at the next F&GP meeting.

8.5 Cash book and bank reconciliation for January/8.6 Formal approval of invoices and payments to be made for February. It was **resolved** to approve the list of payments shown on the cash book, all in favour.

8.7 Internal Audit. It was noted that the Internal Auditor was booked for 22nd April and that having missed the interim audit in September 2020, there was an option for a belated interim audit prior to the full audit in April (which might cost more without the interim audit but not double). It was decided not to consider an interim audit.

9 CORRESPONDENCE

3099 and 3103 had been considered in the public session and 3104 (Maypole Trust) would be considered at a future public session. 3100 had been considered as agenda item 6.5. Concerns regarding mud on the footway on Leeds Road where the East Leeds Orbital Road crosses (3098) was being dealt with by the working party. The fly-tipping reported on the A64 on the verge opposite the former junction with Potterton Lane had been removed (3102). A request from a resident asking if the next newsletter can remind dog owners to clear up after them (3101) had been dealt with.

9 ACTION TRACKER

The Clerk had circulated the Action Tracker showing all ongoing actions, there was a query regarding progress of the Volunteer Policy being drafted by the Staffing Committee.

10 CRIME REPORT. It was noted that criminal damage had been done to Barwick sports fields and that those responsible were not abiding by existing social distancing rules.

11 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Next PC meeting - Monday 1st March 2021 at 7pm.

Finance and General Purposes (F&GP) Committee – Tuesday 9th February 2021 at 7pm.

Planning Committee – Monday 18th February 2021 at 7pm.

All the above meetings to be held by remote access unless advised otherwise.

The deadline for agenda item requests for the March meeting to be submitted to the Proper Officer is **21st February 2021** (standing order 9b).

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:30pm.

Signed

Chair

1st March 2021