

**MINUTES of the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

held on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2023 at 7pm in the Pavilion, Scholes

**PRESENT:**

Councillor	Paul Remmer (Chair)		
Councillors	Alexandra Cantelo	Kinga Ragg	Jacqueline Ward
	Claire Hassell	Graham Slater	

**In attendance:** One resident and the Clerk.

**1 APOLOGIES.** Cllrs. Dales, Walsh and Williamson.

**2 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST.** Cllr. Remmer stated that he knew two of those who had provided quotations and would therefore not take part on the voting on this matter.

**3 VERITY STRIP.**

It was agreed that a member of the public could speak about this matter due to his particular knowledge and experience. He had produced a report which had been circulated ahead of the meeting. He reminded the meeting that the Cricket Club lease their pitch from the Parish Council (PC) and this lease predated the acquisition of the Verity Strip and the lease from Leeds City Council (LCC). Barwick Cricket Club don't have any legal rights to access their Pavilion via the Verity Strip. They had agreed at their March committee meeting to contribute £2,000 towards the cost of improving the surface. They were anxious that the work was done before the new cricket season got underway. The terms of the lease mean that LCC consent is needed prior to this work going ahead. Ward Cllr. Robinson was trying to set up a meeting to get consent from LCC and he was of the view that this could be achieved and would try to do so before the pre-election period (formerly known as purdah). The resident stressed the need for urgency noting that money had been set aside for this in the PC budget. He commended the PC to look at the quotations and approve the works. He was happy to deal with LCC. Cricket club were happy to contribute unconditionally and then negotiate an agreement for them to use the strip and to contribute to the ongoing liability. This could be dealt with on an ongoing basis with a report to the PC at a later stage as necessary. The season was due to start on 14<sup>th</sup> April. There were questions from Councillors regarding whether those who were allotment holders had a pecuniary interest and a comment that when the idea was first discussed, cricket club's offer had been £3,000. The allotments were still part of the PC but if the proposal to form a separate allotment association was realised, then that association would need to make a contribution towards maintenance of the strip. There was a query whether the meeting with the cricket club had been a formal meeting, Cllr. Remmer advised that it had been informal.

The meeting then considered the three quotations and the proposal from the cricket club. The same specification had been issued to all. One of them had quoted a lead time of seven weeks and another had quoted three weeks. Frustration was expressed at the time this matter had been going on with a view that the opportunity to move this forward should be taken without the need to set up further meetings. It was confirmed that planning permission was not necessary. It was **resolved** to accept a quotation of £5,788 + VAT being the lowest price of the three, all in favour (Cllr. Remmer did not vote – see item 2 above). The resident would set up a meeting with Ward Cllr. Robinson. It was **resolved** to accept cricket club's offer to contribute £2,000. The PC would look to charge cricket for maintenance and allocate funds from rental of the allotments towards this.

#### 4 INVOICES RECEIVED SINCE THE MARCH MEETING.

The Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) presented a list of income received since the last meeting and a list of invoices received since then which required approval. The only item of income was £50 for sponsorship for a tree on Scholes Lodge Field.

A payment of £161.31 for Councillor's expenses relating to the Pavilion had been already taken as the claim had been made in time for the March meeting but due to an oversight by the RFO, had not appeared on the list of payments to be approved at that meeting. There were £1,082.69 other payments to be made as listed on the paperwork circulated with the agenda with the following changes

- i. The invoice from LCC for lawn seed had arrived that day and was lower than reported being £37.80 (incl. VAT) and not £41.98
- ii. The invoice for the March cut of Scholes Lodge Field had been reported as £275. In fact it was £275 + VAT, i.e. £330.
- iii. An invoice for spray treatment of dock had arrived since the agenda papers were issued, £114.74 + VAT, i.e. £137.69
- iv. Payment to the new Pavilion cleaner had been reported at the March meeting but at that time the amount was unknown as her invoice was awaited, this would be £50 for five thirty-minute cleans.

Two of the invoices listed had been paid using the PC credit card (Barwick in Elmet Playground consultation leaflets and Land Registry searches). These would therefore be taken by direct debit early in April.

It was **resolved** to approve all the reported payments.

#### 5 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE.

Although not a formal agenda item, the resident, who was the Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan Review Group was given the opportunity to bring the PC up to date with the latest developments regarding the review of the Neighbourhood Plan. Their desire to extend the boundary of the Neighbourhood Plan to the western edge of the East Leeds Orbital Road (ELOR) had met with some opposition from ward councillors. in Cross Gates. The review group therefore decided not to continue to pursue this. The East Leeds Extension would add an additional five hundred houses to the Parish but the inclusion of these would undermine the position of the Parish as a rural area. There had been liaison with Ian MacKay (LCC Neighbourhood Planning Manager) and Ward Cllr. Stephenson. Martin Elliot, head of strategic planning at LCC wouldn't rule out anything (e.g. east of the ELOR) but would be happy to have a meeting with the PC in the autumn. The resident reported that the Parlington Estate was on the market. A local resident who had previously been involved in planning matters had expressed the view that the PC should organise a public meeting, the resident felt that this was premature.

#### 5 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

**Parish Council** – 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2023 in Saint Philip's Church Hall, Scholes at 7pm

**Finance and General Purposes Committee** – 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2023 at 7pm in the Pavilion.

**Planning Committee** – 5<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at 6:30pm in Barwick in Elmet Miner's Welfare.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7:52pm.

Signed

Chair  
15 May 2023