

MINUTES of the MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

held on Monday 8th April 2024 at 7pm in Barwick Miner's Welfare.

PRESENT: Councillor Stella Walsh (Chair)
Councillors Karen Dales Kinga Ragg Gillian Williamson
John Hayton

In attendance: Three residents and the Clerk.

1 APOLOGIES. Cllrs. Gilmore, Remmer and P. Walsh.

2 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

There were three members of the public in attendance who asked the following questions;

- What benefit would there be to the Parish regarding the proposal to purchase Scholes Allotments? The Chair answered this question. The resident was under the impression that a property developer had an option to retain the land, the Chair agreed that this would be checked prior to any purchase being made. Another resident suggested that such a purchase required consultation with residents. The proposal was still being considered and all statutory obligations would be carried out at the appropriate time.
- A resident drew attention to paragraph 2c of the terms of reference of the now disbanded Pavilion subcommittee which gave that subcommittee delegated powers to ensure all statutory inspections and checks are done when they become due and asked if the Finance and General Purposes (F&GP) Committee were taking this on, for example Portable Appliance Testing (PAT). The resident was thanked for raising this.
- There was a question about the Scholes Playground meeting. This had been scheduled for 20th March but had been cancelled by Ward Councillors. The meeting took place on 4th April. The discussion was not about proposals for a playground for older children (as expected) but was concerning exiting children's playground facilities and was attended by councillors Dales and S. Walsh. The Parish Council (PC) resolution of March 2023 still stood and this would be on a later agenda when appropriate.
- A resident asked about highways issues such as speeding traffic on Long Lane and suggested that full width speed bumps would be better than what was already there. There had been three accidents on Leeds Road between the Coronation Tree and the properties on the brow on the hill (before Taylor Lane). In two cases, vehicles had finished up in the field on the right (heading towards Barwick). In another case, near the brow of the hill, a car had knocked over the street light and hit a stationary vehicle parked on the land in front of these properties.
- There had been several instances of anti-social behaviour and comments on social media about this. Youths on bicycles were riding across the Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA). Eggs and an honesty box had been stolen and the shop in Scholes had been forced to ban some youths for their anti-social behaviour. The ringleader was believed to be non-resident in the Parish. A resident helping in the Thursday afternoon had noted that those using the MUGA did so under adult supervision. Cllr. Gilmore had raised these concerns at the Police And Communities Together (PACT) meeting. The Clerk has received two emails about this (too late to be listed under correspondence). The Police would be asked to make patrols or to give advice, especially with the summer break coming up. The Police could visit the parents if the identity of the youths was known as this was effective and the Police view was that such behaviour can be nipped in the bud by intervention before such behaviour escalates. There was a suggestion that key fobs be needed for both entry and exit from the facilities in which case another fob reader would be needed but if this reader failed, then people would be trapped inside.

3 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST.

Cllr. Dales regarding item 7.2 due to a family connection.

4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING.

It was **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting of the PC, 10/2023, held on 4th March 2024 (774-777) and of the extraordinary meeting 11/2023 held on 11th March 2024 (778-779) having been circulated, be approved and that they be signed appropriately.

5 CORRESPONDENCE

The list of correspondence items 3294-3299 was presented to the PC. There was a problem with rats at the allotments and a plot holder had suggested via WhatsApp that the PC could bulk purchase rat poison (3299). This was felt to be against the Biodiversity Policy and any dead rats would be eaten by kites and other scavengers and they too would be poisoned. 3298 was from a Scholes resident regarding the poor state of repair of the footway outside Scholes School. This had been addressed with Ward Councillor support and photographs had been taken but there was still a concern that the hedge at the school was overgrown. Cllr. S. Walsh would to speak to the Head of the School.

6 ACTION TRACKER

The Action Tracker had been circulated to all.

- a. Several items on the Action Tracker had been ongoing for several months with no progress from one month to the next. Consideration had been given as to whether these needed to be kept on the Action Tracker and as such, several items were marked as completed and would not therefore be shown going forward.
- b. Scholes Lodge Field gate. The Clerk had obtained quotations for gates and was asked to get quotations for fitting them.
- c. Disused railway bridge. Work had now commenced on this.
- d. Scholes Playground proposals. Cllr. S. Walsh reported on the meeting of 4th April (see Public Participation above). This was concerning the existing playground near the library. Three options had been considered including a full refurbishment and bringing it out further. Leeds City Council (LCC) were looking for a financial contribution from the PC with costs anything from £60,000 to £100,000. The next meeting would be 30th May.
- e. Barclay Bank signatories. The Clerk had spoken to the bank and been sent revised forms. These would add Cllrs. S. Walsh and Williamson. The other signatories would be added individually later.
- f. Barwick and Scholes Football Team. They were now playing their home games at Scholes. There had been issues with a light not working and water leaking when the showers were used. Cllr. Remmer had resolved the lighting issue but had been unable to replicate the water leak issue and had requested photographs if it happened again. He had resolved an issue of drains being blocked at the rear.
- g. Request from a girl's under fourteen's football team to use Scholes pitch. They had attended the extraordinary meeting of 11th March and another meeting had been arranged for 15th April ahead of the Playing Fields Committee meeting.
- h. Hedge cutting allotments. The bird nesting season meant that the hedge cutting would not be done until the autumn and this had resulted in multiple emails from a dissatisfied plot holder (correspondence item 3299).

7 OTHER ITEMS

7.1 Review of the rent charged to allotment holders.

It was **resolved** that the annual rent for a full plot be increased to £32 with effect from October 2025, all in favour.

7.2 Grass cutting of Hall Tower Field and Scholes Lodge Field.

It was **resolved** to accept a quotation of £332 + VAT per cut for cutting the mound on Hall Tower Hill.

It was **resolved** to accept a quotation of £115 + VAT per cut for cutting the flat on Hall Tower Field (based on a minimum of six cuts) plus £315 + VAT per cut of Scholes Lodge Field (the initial cut being £335 + VAT). Cllr. Dales did not vote on either of the above (see item 3 above).

7.3 PC response to the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Bill (Martyn's Law).

It was agreed to defer this item until this bill had become law.

7.4 Proposal to charge for ad-hoc bookings of Barwick football pitch.

Football teams had previously used the pitch at Barwick on a casual basis. The PC had no basis for charging for ad-hoc matches. It was agreed to defer this agenda item until a comparison could be made with what charges other authorities make.

7.5 Purchase of Scholes Allotments and adjacent grassland.

This item was taken at the end of the meeting after it was resolved that the press and public be excluded due to the confidential nature of the matter. The Chair and the Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan Review Group and the Clerk had met with two of the three owners of the land currently being used as allotment gardens and the adjoining grassland. They had made an offer and it was **resolved** that an approach be made to the District Valuer to determine if this was a fair price before taking this any further.

7.6 Reports of meetings/training attended.

- Cllr. Dales had attended a remote access meeting of Leeds Festival Working Group on 19th March 2024. Due to a tragic accident, Festival goers would no longer be allowed to exit the Festival on foot. There had also been an incident where one of the shuttle bus drivers had gone in the wrong way. The next meeting would be on 14th May 2024, Cllr. S. Walsh agreed to attend this as Cllr. Dales was unavailable.
- There had been a meeting to discuss Scholes Playground – see item 6d above.
- The Clerk had attended an Increase your self-esteem Webinar on 12th February 2024.

7.7 Website report

A report of website usage had been circulated to all Councillors.

7.8 Safeguarding report.

In the absence of Cllr. Gilmore, no report was presented.

8 PLANNING MATTERS

- a. The draft minutes of the meeting of 6th March had been circulated to all Councillors ahead of the meeting and the decisions of the Committee were noted.
- b. Work had begun on the middle quadrant of the East Leeds Extension. There was now a twenty-one-day re-consultation (reference 23/00848/RM). The work associated with this would be ongoing for a while, there would be lots of traffic lights and the road would be widened to three lanes.
- c. It was noted that several sites in the Parish had been put forward in response to the LCC call for sites in their Local Plan for 2040. It was agreed that the PC needed to comment on the suitability of the sites put forward following liaison with the Neighbourhood Plan Review Group. There was a concern that the submission for the Protected Area of Search (PAS) land in Scholes (site CFS00338) claimed that the junction safety issue on the intersect between Rakehill Road and Scholes Lane had been resolved and detailed in an Optima Highways update report.

- d. The Planning Committee was few in number. The PC was a statutory consultee and the decisions of the Principal Authority didn't always align with comments made by the PC and therefore the need to even have a Planning Committee was questioned. There would be an agenda item next time to decide on the future of this Committee.

9 FINANCE

9.1 Cash book and bank reconciliation and formal approval of invoices and payments to be made for April/May 2024.

- The Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) had circulated the cash book, bank reconciliation and budget monitor showing all income and expenditure up to the end of the Financial Year (31st March). There were ten items of income totalling £483.65. There were seventeen payments totalling £2,397.12 (ten automated payments totalling £1,737.46, two cheques totalling £50 and five bank transfers totalling £609.66).
- The RFO presented a list of twelve payments for April totalling £1,951.03 to be made by bank transfer and indicated that another payment of £250 + VAT for legionnaire checks at Scholes Sports Pavilion should be added to the list.
- There were also six automated payments due to be taken in May 2024 totalling £1,671.88 and a further nine payments to take on the credit card totalling £216.31 (plus £263.94 for a recently purchased printer).
- It was **resolved** to approve these payments.
- Automated payments due in April had been approved at the previous meeting.
- Insurance would be delegated to the F&GP Committee to decide on who to renew with in the event that the renewal quotation was not received in time for the next PC meeting.
- The RFO reported that he was now using Quickbooks software.

10 CRIME REPORT

Cllr. Gilmore had not been able to attend the PACT meeting of 28th March. The next meeting would be on 9th May 2024.

11 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Date	Time	Meeting	Venue
15 th April 2024	7:30pm	Playing Fields Committee	Miner's Institute
22 nd April 2024	6:30pm	Planning Committee	Scholes Sports Pavilion
13 th May 2024	7pm	Annual Parish meeting	Scholes Sports Pavilion
13 th May 2024	8pm	Annual Parish Council meeting	Scholes Sports Pavilion
20 th May 2024	7pm	Finance and General Purposes Committee	Scholes Sports Pavilion

Note: The wording of agenda items to be submitted in writing to the Proper Officer at least ten clear days before a meeting.

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

Signed

Chair
13 May 2024