

MINUTES of the MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

held on Monday 1st July 2024 at 7pm in Scholes Sports Pavilion.

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

In attendance: Vicky Nunns of Leeds City Council (LCC) Climate, Energy and Green Spaces, four residents, two representatives of Whitkirk Football Club and the Clerk.

1 APOLOGIES

Cllrs. Remmer and S. Walsh

2 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

The following issues were raised;

- Two members of the public regarding two beech trees on Scholes Lodge Lane belonging to the Parish Council (PC) which were overhanging their property (see the minutes of the February 2024 meeting, public participation, page 768). They have lived in the village for fifty-four years and never asked the PC for anything and urged the PC to reconsider its decision not to counter-balance any cutting of the beech trees the resident would do on their side (planning permission had been given for the trees to be trimmed evenly). They had been asking for this for two years and had resorted to involving Ward Cllr. Robinson. The trees were cut five years ago. They noted that precept had been increased to maintain assets and noted the financial reserves of the PC. They felt that the bird droppings were a health hazard (droppings getting onto the wheels of the mobility scooter and into the house) and commented that the trees were close to a telegraph pole. The Chair advised that if the resident cut the branches by 1.5 metres, then the trees would not become dangerous if the PC did not carry out similar works to balance this. The PC would double-check its responsibilities.
- Two representatives of Whitkirk Football Club were in attendance seeking a pitch to play on for the coming season. One had spoken to the Clerk earlier that day and was aware that the pitch at Scholes was unavailable. They play at 11am on a Sunday which means that the pitch at Barwick could be used although there was agreement in place with Mount Saint Mary's (MSM) Football Club regarding the changing rooms (they would prefer to have changing rooms but would settle for just having a pitch). They were self-financing and have been established at Whitkirk for fifteen years but were let go the previous week. They don't need the pitch for mid-week training which they can do at Temple Newsam in the summer and on an all-weather pitch at John Smeaton in the winter. They gave about 50% of their income to Whitkirk Cricket Club (their landlords) and pay £50 a week for refereeing. Their season starts the first week in September and their players come from Cross Gates, Swarcliffe and Seacroft. They had eleven home games a season plus cups. They were looking for a twelve-month agreement. The need to communicate with MSM football club was noted. The Finance and General Purposes Committee would consider this request and an extraordinary meeting would be called if necessary.
- There was a query about the proposals to buy the allotments in Scholes and the budget required for this and comments about transparency. The need for consultation with all residents was noted.

3 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST.

None.

4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING.

It was suggested that the words “He proposed having a memorial bench down Aberford Road” in the reporting of public participation would read better if this was changed to “The resident proposed . . . “. It was **resolved** that subject to this correction, the minutes of the meeting of the PC, 2/2024, held on 3rd June 2024 (790-794) having been circulated, be approved and that the Chair be authorised to sign.

5 CORRESPONDENCE

The list of correspondence items 3313-3317 was presented to the PC.

- 3316 Was from a resident of Barwick (and dog-walker) asking for more “no dogs” signs on Jack Heaps Field and the dog waste bin to be removed. The Clerk had already obtained the extra signs and they needed putting up. He had asked LCC to remove the dog waste bin but had not had a reply and would chase this up.
- 3317 Was an enquiry from a third party acting on behalf of Yorkshire Air Ambulance about having a clothes bank in Barwick Village Hall car park. It was decided to decline this request.

6 ACTION TRACKER

The Action Tracker had been circulated to all and progress on the items listed noted accordingly. There had been no progress on the Strategic Plan and it was agreed that this be an agenda item for the September meeting and that in the meantime, Councillors suggest projects which could be considered.

7 OTHER ITEMS

7.1 Scholes allotments and adjacent grassland.

It was **resolved** under Section 100 (A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 to exclude the press and public from the meeting during the discussion on item 7.1 due to the confidential nature of the business being transacted as defined in Schedule 12A of the said Act. This item was taken after the Financial reports in Section 9. Clarity was sought regarding the proposed usage of the adjacent grassland with options to extend the allotments or to create an orchard or use as a children’s play area. Cllr. Hayton had researched typical prices for agricultural land. It was **resolved** to accept the quotation for carrying out a valuation of the land on the understanding that this would be valued for use as allotments or as an orchard noting that this area was landlocked. It was **resolved** to get a solicitor to handle the conveyancing subject to the land valuation being acceptable. It was noted that if purchased, ongoing maintenance would need to be budgeted for.

7.2 Proposals for Scholes playground

This item was taken immediately after item 3 to allow Vicky Nunns of LCC Climate, Energy and Green Spaces (formerly Parks and Countryside) to speak. She reminded the meeting of the background relating to playground equipment installed at Scholes (Elmet) Primary school which had previously been planned to go near the East Leeds Orbital Road and was aware that this equipment was not available to the public. She had been tasked by Ward members to find somewhere in Scholes for playground equipment and proposals had been put forward for redevelopment of the existing facilities near the library and a couple of meetings had been held. One proposal to extend the footprint of the existing playground by the inclusion of a sliver of land adjacent to the playground was rejected on the grounds that the extra cost did not justify the small gain this would achieve and there were too many underground services to make this viable and it would put children very close to the footway. This option came in at £70,000 whereas the option without this was £56,000. Ward members had pledged some money towards the cost and LCC were looking to the PC to contribute (as the PC would have access to grant funding not available to LCC). Grant funders would need to see evidence of consultation as part of any application,

the newsletter would be ideal. The proposed equipment would cater for children of primary school age and the site would be divided into play zones. Views were expressed on the types of equipment (it is difficult to have too many swings, there should be equipment for children with particular needs such as an inclusive roundabout, the springers were not liked). She confirmed that LCC would deal with the ongoing maintenance of any equipment. She felt that the existing equipment had two to three years of life left in it. There was a suggestion that the equipment be replaced piece by piece. Vicky advised that the problem was with the wet pour which could only be replaced once all the equipment was removed, modern playgrounds only have wet pour in the immediate area of each piece of equipment. It was **resolved** to move forward with the proposals. As an aside, Councillors asked about the missing basket swing at Barwick playground, Vicky explained that LCC doesn't have the budget to hold spares in stock and wear and tear is caused when too many children sit on the swing at once.

7.3 Agreement with Garforth Girl's under fourteens.

A draft copy of the agreement with Garforth Girl's under fourteens football team had been circulated to all Councillors for comment and to one of the representatives of the club. The representative suggested changing the name of the club to under fifteens as this would be the age bracket of the girls in the coming season. Councillors suggested that the day of the week that the pitch was available (Saturday) be specified in the part of the agreement defining the rights and it was suggested that the reference to Scholes Cricket Club in paragraph 2 be amended to also include Barwick and Scholes Football Club. It was **resolved** to accept the draft agreement to include the above suggested amendments, there was one abstention.

7.4 Clerk's landline.

It was noted that the Clerk's landline contract was due for renewal on 3rd July 2024. Several renewal quotations had been received some of which were competitive on price but offered slower broadband speeds. It was **resolved** to renew with the existing supplier as their quotation could not be matched by their competitors without loss of broadband speed.

7.5 Approach by a football team from Colton looking for a pitch and changing room facilities and to standardise ways of dealing with such requests in the future.

There had been an approach by Colton Football Club looking for a pitch and changing room facilities. Their initial approach had not specified which pitch they were looking for but a subsequent request specified Scholes. It was **resolved** to decline their request as Scholes pitch was now used on both Saturdays and Sundays and there was agreement with Barwick and Scholes Football Club regarding the changing room facilities. It was **resolved** that the Clerk be empowered to refuse all future requests to use the pitches in Barwick and Scholes without the need for this to be an agenda item whilst ever both pitches were already taken on both a Saturday and a Sunday. It was suggested that this policy be published on the website.

7.6 Christmas Light provision for 2024.

Cllrs. Hayton and P. Walsh had met to consider options for Christmas Lights. The budget was £4,500 although this had been negotiated down to £4,000 in 2023. They had suggested uprights. This suggestion was not supported based on previous occasions when this had been considered, e.g. the tree opposite the Gascoigne Arms public house. Solar power had been considered (Kippax Town Council had tried this) but LCC would not allow it. The preference was for strings. Cllr. Dales expressed disappointment with the motifs for 2023. Leeds Lights had a selection to choose from but those who get their requests in early get a greater choice leaving a limited choice for those who make their requests later. It was **resolved** to retain the same as 2023

but to strive to get a better price. One suggestion was to seek sponsorship from local businesses.

7.7 Reports of meetings/training attended.

There was nothing to report this month.

7.8 Safeguarding report.

There was no report this time.

8 PLANNING MATTERS

Application number & date	Applicant	Description
24/02937/FU	Lowfield Farm, Aberford Road	Change of use of land to residential use and erection of detached garage.
It was noted that there had been a previous application for the erection of a garage for four cars and first floor office and gym which was refused. The property already had a bay and there was a living room and kitchen which were not mentioned in the planning application. There was a concern that access would only be via the Aberford Road entrance. There were already facilities for parking. It was resolved to object to this application as it would be overdevelopment in the green belt.		
24/03008/FU	33 Richmondfield Lane	Demolition of existing bungalow and erection of one detached dwelling
It was noted that the proposed detached dwelling would be three storeys high which would have an adverse effect on the bungalow behind it. It was resolved to object to this application as it was not in keeping with the surrounding area.		
24/03174/FU	78 Belle Vue Avenue	Replacement of flat roof with pitched roof; dormer window to rear with roof lights; first floor side extension over garage and conversion of garage to form a utility room
Concerned was expressed that many bungalows in the Parish were being turned into two storey dwellings which had an adverse effect on availability on bungalows for residents who suffer reduced mobility who want to downsize to something better suited to their needs. It was felt that an increase from two to five bedrooms would result in a building which was unsuitable for the size of the plot as it would have an adverse effect on amenity space. There was concern about lack of parking provision. It was resolved to object to this application on the grounds that it was overdevelopment of the available space.		
24/03287/FU	75 Nook Road	Part single and part two storey side and rear extensions, porch to the front.
It was noted that the proposed porch would be forward of the building line which was not something the PC would normally support although precedent has been set by constructions forward of the building line in neighbouring properties. There was a concern about parking as the garage was too small to be used for this purpose. There were concerns that the proposed extension would have an adverse effect on the neighbouring property due overshadowing, especially as the neighbouring property was set back from the building line (the 45° rule regarding right to light was referenced). Therefore, for the above reasons, it was resolved to object to this application		
24/03367/FU	11 Elmete Avenue	Single storey side and rear extension incorporating new garage; demolition of existing garage; alteration to window at first floor to side; widening of existing drive.
It was noted that there was a previous application in 2017 for a part two storey, and part single storey side and rear extension, which was approved, and that this application was for a single-storey extension with a replacement garage and utility area. It was therefore resolved to raise No Objection to this application.		

24/02677/FU	5 Elmwood Avenue	Demolition of existing garage to rear; New detached garage to side of existing dwelling; associated new and widened vehicular access.
This property was next to the surgery. It was now a two-storey house having previously been a bungalow. It was noted that these plans proposed a new garage with a pitched roof in a new location to replace the existing flat roofed one. It was therefore resolved to raise No Objection to this application.		

9 FINANCE

9.1 Formal approval of invoices and payments to be made for July/August/September 2024.

- The Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) had circulated a bank reconciliation and a list of anticipated payments for July/August 2024. There were twelve payments for July totalling £1,705.03 (including one being retrospectively reported for £406.36 as per the June minutes item 7.2 on page 792) and five payments totalling £830.83 for August to be made by bank transfer. Since the agenda papers had been circulated, two of the above anticipated invoices had been received being grass cutting of Hall Tower Field (£115 + VAT) and of Scholes Lodge Field (£315 + VAT). There was a query about an apparent double payment of staffing costs which was clarified.
- There were also six automated payments due to be taken in August 2024 with an estimated total of £1,792.22 and six similar payments for the same amounts to be taken automatically in September.
- It was **resolved** to approve these payments.
- Automated payments due in July had been approved at the previous meeting.

9.2 Financial reports.

The RFO had circulated a report showing budgeted income/payments vs. actual income/payments for the year to date. There was a query about budgeted income and negative amounts for the Pavilion budget. The report had highlighted the non-payment of the insurance premium and this had been addressed.

9.3 Internal Auditor's report.

This item was deferred to a future meeting.

9.4 Notice of Public Rights and Publication of Unaudited Annual Governance & Accountability Return.

It was noted that the Notice of Public Rights and Publication of Unaudited Annual Governance & Accountability Return has been published online and in the notice boards commencing on 17th June and ending on 26th July.

10 CRIME REPORT

In the absence of Cllr. P. Walsh, there was no report but it was noted that there had been issues with motorbikes and with doors being attacked.

11 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Date	Time	Meeting	Venue
8 th July 2024	7pm	Finance and General Purposes Committee	Scholes Sports Pavilion
2 nd September 2024	7pm	Parish Council meeting	Barwick Miner's Welfare

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 9:06pm.

Signed

Vice-Chair
2 September 2024