

**MINUTES of the MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**

held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2024 at 7pm in Barwick Miner's Welfare

**PRESENT:**

Councillor	Stella Walsh (Chair)		
Councillors	Karen Dales	Kinga Ragg	Paul Walsh
	John Hayton	Paul Remmer	Gillian Williamson

**In attendance:** The Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan Review Group (NPRG), Ward Cllr. Matthew Robinson, one resident and the Clerk.

**1 APOLOGIES**

None.

**2 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.**

The Chair of the NPRG spoke about the Leeds City Council (LCC) call for sites noting that the safeguarded site in Scholes had been put forward for development (to include land west of Main Street and west of Stockheld Lane). A report he had produced had been circulated to all and he expressed disappointment that there wasn't an agenda item to consider this. The issue of sightlines on the Rakehill Road exit (which had been the main reason why the local planning authority had refused previous applications) had been addressed. The developer had reduced the number of houses from about 650 to about 600. Taking into account the additional five-thousand homes being built as part of the East Leeds Extension (ELE), it was easy to see that this would have an adverse effect on three areas in particular health, education and public transport. A meeting with the Integrated Care Board had been offered and special measures would be needed to manage the care needs of the community. A new medical centre and primary school would be built at Smeaton approach. He suggested that there should be engagement with the developer so that if the development was approved by the local planning authority, it would take into account the concerns and aspirations of the local community. For example, giving the village a central hub (as opposed to being a linear village), a new school, a new medical centre, a new village hall, an off site Greenway, improvement to Rakehill Road, a contribution to the Maypole fund or to Barwick Methodist Church, tree planting on the eastern boundary (to protect against further development in the future). Improvements to the Coronation Tree junction could also be discussed, especially if the build-out started at the southern end (although those living nearby had recently resisted proposed changes). The capacity of the Scholes Lane end junction could also be considered. The Parish Council (PC) could press for more bungalows and affordable housing. The land off Manston Lane was owned by LCC (500 houses). The PC needed to consider the implications for its strategic plan. The submission to LCC in response to the call for sites mentioned three options and he suggested that the Clerk write to the developer asking to see these options prior to any discussion. Martin Elliot, Head of Strategic Planning at LCC and LCC had agreed to talks. A questionnaire needed to be put out. It was agreed to call an extraordinary meeting of the PC to consider a resolution that the PC proceed as suggested by the Chair of the NPRG.

Ward Cllr. Robinson commented on some of the agenda items and other matters;

- He agreed with the suggestion made by the Chair of the NPRG.
- He encouraged a prompt submission for funding for Christmas Lights (item 7.6).
- He supported the campaign to get the post box painted (item 7.8) and was awaiting a reply to his request for a meeting and was seeking to put funding aside.
- There would be a speed indicator device on Long Lane funded from the East Leeds Orbital Road budget.
- He was thanked for helping get the Scholes Lodge Field rubbish removed (following liaison with Jack Priestley, Team Leader of the Cleaner Neighbourhoods Team).

- There was now a new highways tracker.
- Regarding Scholes playground refurbishment (item 7.3), LCC needed a further £12,000 in order to fund this work and were looking to the PC for the necessary funds. They had had a grant for health and safety changes. This work could be done by Christmas, however, some of the funding sources were time specific and the overall cost could be considerably more if the project was delayed until after these funding streams had expired.

### **3 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST.**

Cllr. Dales regarding item 7.8 due to a family connection.

### **4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS.**

It was **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting of the PC, 3/2024, held on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024 (795-800) having been circulated, be approved and that the Vice-Chair (who chaired the meeting) be authorised to sign.

It was **resolved** that the minutes of the extraordinary meeting of the PC, 4/2024-25, held on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2024 (801-803) having been circulated, be approved and that the Chair be authorised to sign.

### **5 CORRESPONDENCE**

The list of correspondence items 3318-3327 was presented to the PC.

There were concerns about

- The state of Barwick playground including litter, graffiti and anti-social behaviour (graffiti to be reported to the Police and the resident being asked to do likewise)
- A rat problem on the electricity substation on Welfare Avenue (those responsible had removed the rubbish and cut back vegetation).
- Thorner Neighbourhood Plan Regulation 16 Publicity (sent to the NPRG)
- Barwick playground refurbishment – still to be addressed.
- The quality of footway restoration done on Elmwood Avenue by a contractor who had created a trench for the fibre-optic cables for Broadband and the footway had been sinking near the trench in places. Ward Cllr. Robinson agreed to take this up.
- Gold post box – see agenda item 7.8.
- A property on Richmondfield Lane where the work appeared to have begun without waiting for approval from the local planning authority. Passed to LCC Planning Enforcement who had contacted the property owner.
- Dog signage on Jack Heaps Field, trees, the missing basket swing and the Barwick playground consultation. A comprehensive reply had been sent.
- A Scholes resident expressing disappointment that the Parish Council objected to their planning application.
- A Barwick resident regarding a pedestrian crossing on Barwick Main Street near Jack Heaps Field. He thanked the PC for the reply and would take this up with the local Member of Parliament.

### **6 ACTION TRACKER**

The Action Tracker had been circulated to all and progress on the items listed noted accordingly. Ward Cllr. Robinson advised that LCC had a dog warden (regarding item A3, the concerns of Scholes Cricket Club). Cllrs. S. Walsh and Williamson were now signatories on the Barclays accounts (A7) and steps would be taken to add Cllrs. Remmer and P. Walsh. The spoil on Scholes Sports field had been dealt with (A42). Barwick Bowling Club were concerned about the beer festival as they had a home fixture that afternoon (A42). The trees in Barwick had been inspected by Cllr. Hayton (A45). Scholes 1<sup>st</sup> Scouts were concerned that LCC were not cutting the grass (A44). New goal posts had been installed on Jack Heaps field but some parts had broken and some were missing (A46). The sink holes on Scholes Lodge field had been filled in (A47). There was an on-site meeting with Highways officers at Laverack Bridge on 20<sup>th</sup> September giving opportunity for ongoing highways issues to be put directly to them (A48).

## 7 OTHER ITEMS

It was **resolved** that under section 100 (A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, that press and public (other than the Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan review group) be excluded from the meeting whilst agenda items 7.1 and 7.3 were being discussed on the grounds that these involved the likely disclosure of exempt information, as set out in the relevant paragraphs of Part 1, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 and that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

### 7.1 Scholes allotments and adjacent grassland.

This item was taken in closed session after item 7.9.

A formal valuation had been received, this report valued the allotments and the adjoining grassland. This was compared with the valuation provided which the vendor's surveyor had provided. Discussion about this followed and it was **resolved** to offer to purchase the allotments and associated grassland with the land being bought under two separate contracts across two financial years, and an offer price was agreed.

### 7.2 Request by Barwick and Scholes football club to relocate from using the Sports Pavilion at Scholes to the changing rooms in Barwick.

It was noted that Colton Athletic and Whitkirk football clubs had both withdrawn their interest in playing at Barwick (see the minutes of the extraordinary meeting, item 4, pages 801-802). Barwick and Scholes football club had expressed an interest in relocating from Scholes to Barwick. It was **resolved** that they be allowed to do so under the same terms as had been offered to Colton Athletic and Whitkirk football clubs. They would be responsible for cutting the grass (as they do at Scholes).

### 7.3 Scholes Playground refurbishment.

This item was taken in closed session after items 7.9 and 7.1. The comments by Ward Cllr. Robinson in the public session were considered. Cllr. Ragg reported on the available finances of the PC. It was **resolved** to make a significant contribution towards the cost of the refurbishment of Scholes playground. There would be an agenda item for the extraordinary meeting to consider any counteroffer which might be made.

### 7.4 A policy, or a standard approach, for dealing with short notice requests for the use of PC land.

A request had been received in the summer for permission to land a helicopter on PC land. There were no PC forthcoming PC meetings to formally consider this request, and this led to a suggestion that a policy be adopted which could be referred to for any other requests made at short notice. It was **resolved** that the PC policy for any future requests would be to refer them to the next PC meeting (and appropriate documents such as risk assessments be requested) and if no meetings were due, then any such requests would be refused. This policy would not trump health and safety considerations (for example if the air ambulance needed to land).

### 7.5 Opening a savings account with Lloyds.

It was **resolved** to accept a recommendation of the Finance and General Purposes Committee that a savings account with Lloyds Bank be opened which would give 2.5% interest with a deposit of £20,000 which required thirty days' notice for any withdrawals, all in favour.

### 7.6 Grants for Christmas Lights.

It was **resolved** that grant funding be sought to support the cost of Christmas Light provision in the Parish in 2024, all in favour.

### 7.7 Biodiversity policy.

The Biodiversity Policy was reviewed as it had been six months since the policy had been adopted (see minutes of the meeting of 5<sup>th</sup> February 2024, item 7.6, page 770). It was **resolved** to adopt the Biodiversity Policy without further amendments, all in favour.

### 7.8 Getting a post box painted gold in recognition of a resident's success in the Olympic games.

A local resident had won a gold medal in the velodrome in the Paris 2024 Olympic games and the local community were trying to get the local post box painted gold in recognition of this achievement. It was **resolved** that the PC supports this campaign as necessary. Cllr. Dales would supply a photograph.

### 7.9 Key fob access to the Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA)

It was noted that trial period of allowing access to the MUGA without the need for key fobs had ended. It was **resolved** not to reinstate key fob access to collect key fobs and give refunds. The next newsletter would communicate this decision to residents.

### 7.10 Reports of meetings/training attended.

There was nothing to report as there had been very few meetings in August.

### 7.11 Safeguarding report.

There was no report this time.

## 8 PLANNING MATTERS

Application number & date	Applicant	Description
24/03124/FU 24/03125/LI	The Old Rectory Main Street	Erection of oak framed carport and store to front Listed Building Application for erection of oak framed carport and store to front
It was noted that the proposal was to take down two healthy trees, an ash and a sycamore. These were two large trees which formed part of the visual amenity of the heart of the village. The report made by the Landscape Team was noted and the PC was fully in agreement with their conclusion. The property used to be the Rectory and the adjacent property (shown on the location plan as The Rectory) was once an area of woodland. The number of mature trees on these two plots of land had significantly reduced since 1980 (when the new Rectory was built). The PC could not support a proposal which takes down two of the few remaining trees, indeed the suggestion of the Landscape Team to reduce the size of the car port and retain the trees seemed to be the better option. As such, the PC could not support this application and therefore it was <b>resolved</b> to <b>object</b> to the proposal as presented.		
24/04367/FU	25 Fieldhead Drive	Removal of front extension to form new single storey infill extension to front; conversion of garage to habitable rooms; addition of Juliet balcony to rear.
It was noted that there have been half a dozen applications made regarding this property starting with a first-floor extension in 1988. Although the Local Planning Authority has approved subsequent changes, there was a concern that the proposed work would add significantly to the original footprint of the building and will be more than 50% bigger and it was therefore <b>resolved</b> to <b>object</b> to the above proposals on the grounds that it represented an overdevelopment of the original property.		

## 9 FINANCE

### 9.1 Formal approval of invoices and payments to be made for September 2024.

- The Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) had circulated a bank reconciliation and a list of anticipated payments for September 2024. There were thirteen

payments to be made by bank transfer totalling £1,755.46. Since the agenda papers had been circulated, the newsletter had been produced and the invoice was awaited. In addition, the report showed four retrospective payments of £882.74 which had been made during August using the RFO's delegated authority and two other payments totalling £420 which had been paid in August for work on Scholes Sports pitch and on Scholes Lodge Field.

- There were also six automated payments due to be taken in October 2024 with an estimated total of £1,699.08 and two payments made on the PC credit card totalling £157.92 which would be taken early in October.
- It was **resolved** to approve these payments.
- Automated payments due in September totalling £1,699.08 had been approved at the previous meeting. In addition, three payments made on the PC credit card totalling £76.01 would be taken early in September 2024.
- Contractual payments such as the Clerk's salary did not need to be reported as there was an obligation to pay these irrespective of formal approval at the meeting.

**9.2 Budgeted income/payments vs. actual income/payments for the year to date.**

The RFO had circulated a report showing budgeted income/payments vs. actual income/payments for the year to date.

**9.3 Thank you gift for those who deliver PC newsletters.**

It was **resolved** that under the power of Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972, that a small gift of appreciation be purchased for those who deliver PC newsletters. The Royal British Legion would be reminded that they needed to apply to the PC for support for the Remembrance Day parade in November.

**10 CRIME REPORT**

Cllr. P. Walsh reported that the next Harewood Ward Police and Communities Together (PACT) meeting would be held in the Miner's Institute at 6:30pm on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2024.

**11 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Venue</b>
9 <sup>th</sup> September 2024	7pm	<b>Extraordinary meeting of the Parish Council</b>	Scholes Sports Pavilion
9 <sup>th</sup> September 2024	<b>Finance and General Purposes Committee</b>		Scholes Sports Pavilion
	Immediately following the conclusion of the extraordinary meeting		
7 <sup>th</sup> October 2024	7pm	<b>Parish Council meeting</b>	Scholes Sports Pavilion
14 <sup>th</sup> October 2024	7:30pm	<b>Playing Fields Committee</b>	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 9:22pm.

Signed

Chair  
7 October 2024