

Whitley Parish Council – Ref 7/2009

(Minute numbers should be preceded by the above reference prefix)

Minutes of the Whitley Parish Council meeting held on 14th July 2009 at Whitley & Eggborough Primary School.

1. The meeting was opened at 7.30 p.m. by the chairman Cllr Humphrey
2. **Present.** Cllr Humphrey– Chair, Cllrs. F Blackburn, J Davie, & K Walton. Also present was D. Cllr G Ivey. D Cllr S Ryder and Tim Grogan, Licensing Officer at SDC.
3. **Apologies:** Cllr P Gerrard and Cllr S White.
- 4 **Declaration of Interests** – None declared.

5 Minutes of the last meeting

- 5.1 The minutes of the meeting on 16th June 2009 were agreed as being a true record. Proposed by Cllr Walton, seconded by Cllr Blackburn and signed by the chairman.

6 Matters Arising.

- 6.1 The clerk reported that Neil Dobson has carried out the work on the common involving the clearing the footpaths of weeds and constructing two simple wooden benches. The total cost was £205.
- 6.2 The clerk reported that additional third party cover was not required but the equipment on the Whitley Farm play area will need to be added to the schedule. The insurance company will add the items to the list of insured items and send details of the extra premium payable.
- 6.3 Councillor Vacancy –SDC has confirmed that there is no requirement for an election and the clerk suggested that the vacancy be advertised on the notice boards with a closing date for applications to be 31st July 2009. The clerk said that he has already received letters from two applicants and he suggested that a meeting should be called in August 2009 to fill the casual vacancy. It was resolved that the meeting would take place on Thursday 6th August 2009 at 7.00 p.m. at All Saints Church. The clerk and chairman will discuss & agree the detail of the interview arrangements. The clerk will also issue an agenda and post the notice of the meeting.
- 6.4 The clerk reported that SDC have requested that all councillors sign a new design Acceptance of Office form. The clerk handed the forms to those councillors that were present for completion and witnessing.
- 6.5 Allotments – Because Cllr White was not present it was resolved that this item be carried forward to the meeting in September.

Open Forum. The Chairman adjourned the meeting to allow members of the public to give their views and ask questions.

- ◆ Agenda Item 14 – George & Dragon – Outdoor Concerts. Comments from the public were mainly about with this matter. See below for details.

7. Correspondence Received – Items for comment/information.

There were no items under this heading.

8 Finance & Administration

- 8.1 The clerk reported the bank balances at 14/7/09 as being **Current Account** £6,273.58
Deposit Accounts - Ringfenced for playarea maintenance £87,306.02 Other earmarked funds £2,020.89
- 8.2 The following accounts were presented for payment: Rural Action Yorkshire – Subs £25, Web Hosting and Domain renewal £63.23, Neil Dobson grass cutting and fences £513, W & E School – Room Hire £57. These were approved and the cheques were signed.

9. Recreational Open Space in Whitley.

- 9.1 Daffodil Field – Cllr Walton produced an illustration/plan showing how the field will be landscaped. This was produced by NY Groundwork who is also submitting the planning application for change of use. There was a short discussion about the option of offering the plans for consultation or simply go ahead with the plans as produced by NY Groundwork. The design and layout of the ROS was also discussed. Resolved: Grants will be sought for the work being planned and flyers will be distributed throughout the village to advertise the plans for the field and seek views from the public.
- 9.2 The clerk produced a sample maintenance/inspection log for the Whitley Farm play area. In addition to a weekly inspection of the site there will need to be annual inspection and certification by an appropriate organisation. Cllr Walton agreed to produce a log and arrange for a weekly check on the site.
- 9.3 Whitley Farm play area. The chairman, Cllr Walton and the parish clerk signed the transfer documents, transferring the ownership from Persimmon Homes Ltd to the parish council.

10. Whitley Community Website Review

- 10.1 David Broadbent confirmed to the meeting that the website has been updated and the links sent all parish councillors. He welcomed any comments and suggestions from councillors and he is awaiting the acceptance of the new features. He also stated that he has been in contact with a

number of local businesses that are interested in putting information/links on the site. Cllr Huphrey said that he is keen to ensure that the website is made full use of and the content increased.

10.2 Other issues relating to the website. No further matters were raised.

11. Gale Common Moto-Cross Planning Application.

11.1 Cllr Ivey informed the meeting about the planning application – The application is listed for 22/7/09 and there will be a site visit on 20/7/09 at 10.30 a.m. Anyone registering to speak on behalf of the parish council must do so before 20/7/09. She also said that George Bayston, the owner of the site, has invited her to meet him at the site during the next week.

11.2 There was a short discussion about the application and the site and councillors agreed that the clerk should be authorised to send a copy of the parish council comments (as submitted to the planning officer) by email, to all the members of the SDC planning committee. Following a short discussion about a speaker for the parish council at the planning committee meeting, the chairman agreed to attend and speak. At this point D. Cllr Ryder left the meeting.

12. Summer Newsletter

12.1 A draft newsletter was distributed to councillors for them to review and agree the content. Any comments should be passed on to Cllr White and David Broadbent. The final version will then be sent to Osgoldcross Forum for printing.

13. Letter to John McCartney.

13.1 The chairman has drafted a letter of welcome to our new County Councillor and also taken the opportunity to make him aware of the various local issues and concerns. Councillors were requested to send any further points for inclusion in the letter to Cllr Humphrey. The clerk will draft the final version of the letter and send this to C.Cllr McCartney.

14. George & Dragon – Noise from the outdoor concerts. (this item followed Agenda 5)

14.1 Because of the number of resident complaints received by both our district and parish councillors this item is on the agenda for discussion. Tim Grogan the licensing officer at SDC has been invited to the meeting to explain aspects of the licensing laws with regard to outdoor amplified music events. Mr Grogan confirmed that he had received many letters, emails and telephone calls following the events at the G & D over the weekend of the 4th & 5th July 2009. He said that the licensee was operating within the terms of the Licensing Act but he is now in consultation with Martin Edgell the Senior Environmental Health Officer at SDC about the noise levels complaints.

14.2 Mr Howard Rimmer, the licensee, detailed the events that are due to take place over the summer and said that the events of the last two weekends had been well attended. He said for future events he will ask the band to reduce the volume level and he will also erect a noise barrier.

14.3 Several members of the public present expressed their opposition to the concerts taking place every Sunday and at the noise levels experienced over the past two weekends. Further comments from the public included:

- ◆ *Unable to enjoy peace & quite in my own garden during the fine summer weather.*
- ◆ *The band were playing to an audience no more than 40 metres from the stage yet the sound was clearly heard 400 metres distant in Whitefield Lane.*
- ◆ *If I wanted to hear the music I would go to the G & D, but I don't seem to have a choice in the matter*

14.4 D Cllrs Ivey & Ryder have been involved in discussions with Martin Edgell & Tim Grogan and it has been agreed that noise-monitoring equipment will be located in Whitley for the forthcoming concerts. The results from this monitoring will determine the action to be taken by the environmental health department. A general discussion amongst councillors and members of the public on this issue continued until 8.25 p.m.

14a. Chairman's & members' report.

14.1 Cllr Walton reported on the cutting of the grassed area at the end of Lee Lane. Carol Millward of NYCC has agreed to put this area on the NYCC grass-cutting schedule.

14.2 Cllr Humphrey on the church conversion project. – The project has stalled because David Broadbent, the project chairman, has withdrawn from the project. Colin White has not yet replied to a letter sent by the group. The vicar is presently on holiday and it is hoped that he will engage with the project group once he returns.

15. A.O.B

15.1 It was noted that the roadside trees on the approach to the M62 roundabout were in need of pruning.

15.2 The feasibility of a shop in the George & Dragon was discussed. This was mentioned in the Parish Plan and is considered to a community initiative.

15.3 It has been noted that there is standing water on the A19. This has already been brought to the attention of the NYCC Highways Section.

15.4 Cllr Davie represents the parish council at the meetings at Eggborough Power Station.

15.5 Meetings in the near future are the Parish Forum meeting re alternate week waste bin collection on 20/7/09 and the JAG meeting.

The chairman closed the meeting at 9.50 p.m.

Chairman of the Parish Council

Date.