

# Whitley Parish Council – Ref 10/2009

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

## Minutes of the Whitley Parish Council meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> October 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, S White, K Walton and J Watson
3. **Apologies:** Cllr. Gerrard - Business
- 4 **Declaration of Interests** – None Declared

### 5 Minutes of the last meeting

- 5.1 The minutes of the meetings on 8<sup>th</sup> September 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 C.Cllr. McCartney was unable to attend tonight's meeting because of other commitments but he hopes to attend the next parish council meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2009.
- 6.2 The chairman said that he would like the councillors to review the council's Standing Orders at the next meeting. It is good practice to periodically review Standing Orders and the Internal auditor recommended that this be done every two or three years. The clerk will send out to all councillors the current Standing Orders as a .pdf file, and councillors are requested to read the document and bring any queries/comments to the November meeting. The clerk reminded councillors that items in bold type couldn't be amended.
- 6.3 Play Area Inspection Logs – The chairman produced a sample of the inspection logs to be used for the council owned playareas and after a short discussion, the councillors accepted the design and the proposal of a monthly rota for inspections.
- 6.4 The clerk reminded councillor about the YLCA training courses booked for November and the details about times and locations will be forwarded by Email.

### 7. Allotments in Whitley – Update & Discussion.

- 7.1 Cllr. White introduced John Holdway, the prospective chair of the Whitley Allotments Society, and then proceeded to address the councillors on the plans for allotments in Whitley. There was a short discussion about the preparation and work that needs to be done on any land acquired by the council, including parking access and water supply.

7.2 The clerk reported that Tim Marlow had responded to our letter re the purchase of the land and has suggested that the price for the piece of land off Whitefield Lane would be £15K, which he says is equivalent to about £12k per acre. The clerk said that the land area is less than that quoted by Tim Marlow and our estimate is 0.75 acres, which would make the price about £9K. All councillors considered that the price per acre was not realistic and it was resolved that the council offers to buy the land for £5750. Proposed by Cllr. White and seconded by Cllr. Blackburn and carried by a show of hands. The clerk was asked to write to Tim Marlow with the responses from the councillors and make a firm offer for the land.

7.3 Cllr. White said that if the land was acquired, we need plans for the site and the layout of the plots. In addition there needs to be a decision made on the management of any allotment site owned by the council. After a short discussion, Cllr. White proposed that sites should be managed by the Allotment Society and this was approved by a show of hands. Management issues will include the division into plots, water supply, and security of water supply. On the question of change of use from agriculture to allotments, John Holdway confirmed that planning permission is not required. The purchase of land for allotments should be on the agenda for the next meeting.

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

- ◆ The organiser of the Community Cinema in Selby, at the invitation of Cllr Davie, addressed the meeting about the scheme. It is a not for profit scheme to serve the smaller villages around Selby. The cinema is in Selby Town Hall and the transport and refreshment, at a small charge, are available for those wishing to attend the film shows. Leaflets were handed out and the clerk will arrange for a poster to be displayed in the parish notice board. The chairman thanked Eva for the presentation.
- ◆ Michael Coney who lives in Whitley Farm Close asked councillors about the possibility of a Mountain Bike Track in Whitley and specifically, on the Daffodil Field. He went to say that this is a popular sport but councils had closed many tracks in the Selby area. There was a short discussion about the need for a track in the village and issues such as noise, safety, construction and maintenance costs. It was felt generally that there was not enough space on the Daffodil field to include a track, without compromising the other facilities planned for the site. The matter will be raised at the consultation meeting on 24/10/09 and views sought.

## **8 Correspondence received. (Items for comment/information.)**

8.1 The clerk produced a questionnaire that needs to be completed by 2/11/09. The response is on behalf of the parish council and was agreed to accept the offer by Cllr. White, to complete and submit the questionnaire.

## **9 Finance & Administration**

- 9.1 The clerk reported the bank balances at 8/9/09 as being **Current Account** £7,904.73, **Deposit Accounts** - Ringfenced for playarea maintenance £87,365.08 Other earmarked funds – Land Purchase £2021. 57.
- 9.2 The following accounts were presented for payment:: - Retrospective approvals YLCA training courses £210, JR & L Taylor Grasscutting £70. Other – Neil Dobson Grasscutting £80, JR & L Taylor Grasscutting £140. The above items were approved for payment.

## **10. Recreational Open Space in Whitley.**

- 10.1 Daffodil Field. – Cllr Walton reported that a meeting with highways has been arranged to discuss access to the field from the A19. The change of use planning application has not yet been submitted but this will be organised by Peter Murphy and his team. Cllr. Walton had received a comment about the litter on the playarea and the clerk agreed to contact Selby DC about this, Cllr. Walton also told the meeting that the Alcohol Free Zone restriction are now in force.
- 10.2 The consultation meeting has been arranged for Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> October at the church, 11.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. The distribution of the flyer with details of the meeting and a diagram of the proposed layout of the ROS have already been done. There was a short discussion about the arrangements on the day of the event. It was agreed that visitor comments be collected along with the names and addresses of those attending and also wishing to volunteer to assist in the development of the site.

## **11. Transfer of Ownership – “The Oaks” Playarea.**

- 11.1 The clerk said that the transfer documents were ready for signing and requested that the chair and vice-chair sign both copies of the document. Cllrs. Humphrey and Walton signed the documents and the clerk will now send these to the Selby DC solicitor.
- 11.2 Cllr White said that residents had complained about the state of the trees and shrubs on the site and Cllrs. Humphrey & White will inspect the site and report before the transfer is completed. It was agreed that if any work is required, Barratts should be contacted, with a view to getting them to pay for the work.

## **12. Community Website.**

- 12.1 The clerk requested clarification on two points in relation to the revised design community website. These were:
- ◆ Those businesses that had purchased webspace adverts for the year to 31/10/09 no longer appear on the website
  - ◆ There are numerous new links to local businesses that previously would have attracted a fee of £25 p.a., have not been invoiced by the parish council for this service.

12.2 A short discussion took place about the situation and in particular the ownership and responsibility for the content of the website. If the website is not managed by the council should there be a disclaimer on the site? It was resolved that Cllrs. Humphrey and White will meet with David Broadbent to discuss and clarify the position and report back to the council.

### **13. Christmas Lights in Whitley.**

13.1 Councillors discussed the previous proposal to share the cost of a tree and lights outside the George & Dragon, and Howard Rimmer who was at the meeting, agreed to this. It was resolved that a 25ft tree be purchased along with lighting. Cllr. Walton will liaise with Howard on this matter and is authorised to spend as a maximum, the sum as set out in the Parish Council 2009/10 budget.

### **14. Planning – Gale Common Moto - X**

14.1 The clerk reported on the revised planning application and said that the council's responses will be submitted before the closing date of 23<sup>Rd</sup> October 2009. A request has been made that the application be put to the full planning committee at Selby DC so that a parish council representative can put our objections and comments to the committee. It is likely that the meeting will be in November or December and Cllr. Humphrey will speak on behalf of the parish council.

14.2 Cllr Davie has been in touch with Natural England and he suggested that we get in touch with Sue Campbell to seek advice on issues relating the environment and wildlife adjacent to the Moto –X site. It was resolved that the clerk should do this.

### **15. Chairman's and members' reports.**

15.1 Cllr. Walton reminded the other councillors about the JAG meeting on Thursday 22/10/09.

15.2 Cllr Humphrey reported on his attendance at a PCC meeting about the church project. The Archdeacon was at the meeting and he felt that the discussions & reactions for the scheme continuation were very positive. He also reported on attendance at an E-planning meeting at Selby DC. The council intends to apply for a grant to buy equipment that will assist with accessing the government's planning portal and provide information on planning applications to both the councillors and members of the public.

### **16. A.O.B – No items raised.**

The chairman closed the meeting at 10.00 p.m.

**Chairman of the Parish Council**

**Date.**