

# Higham with West Close Booth Parish Council

## Minutes of Meeting

### 19<sup>th</sup> February 2008

**Present:** Cllr Mr B Ingham, Cllr Mrs P Watson, Cllr Mr L Townsend, Cllr Mr D Ellis, Cllr D Forrest, Cllr Mr M Tetley, County Cllr S Derwent, Borough Cllr Starkie, Mrs C Carty (Clerk)

**Apologies:** Cllr Mr R Gadd

#### **2428 Public Questions and Police Report:**

- A query was raised on the water supply for the spout and Cllr Ingham confirmed the agreement was signed by the Parish Council but had not been exchanged with Dalesmoor's solicitors yet. This was due to the fact that when the contract was exchanged Dalesmoor would have to pay the first part of the agreement money. It was confirmed that existing agreements / covenants would have been investigated with the solicitor and protected.
- Issues around the road surface of Higham Hall Road were raised as large potholes particularly at the bottom end of the road close to the bypass. Cllr Derwent will look into this matter.
- Road surface on Rake Top Avenue is also in poor condition.

#### **Police Report**

- PC Matthew Hartup reported that Rising Fishery had been broken into at the end of January. A burglary was undertaken at Foxen Dole Lane farm but had not been successful. The School Travel Plan was launched on the 17<sup>th</sup> January but there are still issues around parking at the school. A meeting had been organized in the Village Hall for young people to discuss potential activities and their requirements but no one turned up for it.

#### **2429 Declarations of Interest / Code of Conduct**

- Cllr Forrest declared an interest in the matters concerning the village hall.

#### **2430 Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising:**

The minutes of the meeting held 15<sup>th</sup> January 2008 were proposed by Cllr Ingham, seconded by Cllr Townsend and agreed.

It was noted that the licensee of the Four Alls was leaving on 28<sup>th</sup> February.

#### ***Matters arising***

There were no matters arising from the minutes not already on the agenda.

#### **2431 Appointment of new Parish Clerk**

Cllr Ingham read a statement advising of the procedure for the recruitment of the Clerk. Cllrs Ingham, Forrest and Watson had interviewed and appointed Penny McBurney who would commence on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2008.

#### **2432 Appointment of Responsible Financial Officer**

As the new Clerk would not undertake the accounts work it was proposed that Cllr Watson be appointed as RFO. This was agreed.

#### **2433 Development at Clover Croft**

There has not been any progress on the site for several weeks. There are apparently financial difficulties but Dalesmoor are hoping to be back on site in March.

#### **2434 IT Equipment**

Cllr Gadd had obtained quotations and pieces of equipment had been purchased which included a laptop and a projector and stand.

#### **2435 Proposed Closure of Higham Post Office**

Cllr Ingham advised he had written to the Post Office, to Gordon Prentice MP and to Gordon Brown Prime Minister. Cllr Derwent advised that she has tabled to speak at County next week about these proposed closures. The owners of the shop say it is not viable without the Post Office support.

#### **2436 Finance**

**Proposed** – to accept the cheques as presented to the meeting

**Resolved** – to sign the cheques

#### **2437 Clerks Report**

Written report distributed and accepted.

#### **2438 County Councillor Report**

The Pendle Wayfarer bus service was due to finish but is to be set up as a scheduled service. Connexions and the Youth Service are merging their services. The County budget for the year is to include extra spend on highways but other budgets are being cut.

#### **2439 Borough Councillors Report**

The Council is facing cuts in funding from Government of about £1m for this coming year. A grant of £1000 has been allocated to work on the spout. Noted amendments to footpath at Stump Hall Farm – no objections to this application.

#### **2440 Planning**

##### **New**

*None received*

##### **Update**

- 13/07/0920P - Corncroft, Higham
- Approved
- 13/08/0004P – 6 Anderton Road, Higham

*No decision made at this time*

#### **2441 Committee Reports:**

No Committee Meetings had been held.

#### **2442 Health and Safety Proposals - update**

- Cllr Starkie recommended that the Parish Council provide risk assessments for each job that any volunteer undertakes. There is to be a Village Clean Up on 29<sup>th</sup> March which will require this assessment to be done.
- Noted that grit bins on Rake Top are full of water and rubbish and not grit. Cllr Derwent will investigate this matter.

**2443 Parish Matters**

- A letter was received from J Birkett re holding a Village Fair and looking for support from the Parish Council. Agreed to support in principle but to await further information.
- There is still a vacancy for a Councillor and this needs to be filled as soon as possible.
- A grant of £1000 has been received for work on the spout. There needs to be replacement of the main stone and roof slabs, and the trough needs sealing.
- Need to create a list of work to be undertaken in the Parish and this to be updated as required.

**2444 Parish Lengthsman Scheme**

Cllr Townsend has spoken with the Lengthsman and noted that some work has been carried out. There has been some flooding on West Close Avenue possibly due to blocked drains. Noted wall between the bypass and the Parsonage is falling down and needs some repairs. A small amount of weeding has been done and weeding on Fir Trees Lane is to be undertaken in the spring.

**2445 Correspondence**

A written list is provided to the meeting.

**2446 Items for next meeting**

Items as noted in the minutes plus usual agenda items.

**2427 Date of Next Meetings**

18<sup>th</sup> March 2008 at 7.30pm

Meeting closed at 9.05pm