

Higham with West Close Booth Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting 17th February 2009

Present: Cllr. Mr. B. Ingham, Cllr. Mr. D Forrest, Cllr. Mrs. P. Watson, Cllr. Mr. D. Ellis, Cllr Mrs. C. Lomax, Cllr. Mr. L. Townsend, Cllr. Mr. M. Tetley, Boro' Cllr. Mr. J. Starkie, Co. Cllr. Mrs S Derwent, Mrs. P. McBurney (Clerk)

Apologies: Cllr. Mr. R Gadd, PCSO. N. Wallin

Members of public in attendance: None

2620: Public Questions and Police Report

- There was no police presence at the meeting, though a report was given verbally to the clerk. There have been reports of three thefts in Higham over the last month, thefts of coping stones, a bicycle and a child's quad bike. There was also damage to a vehicle on Higham Hall Rd.
- PCSO Wallin is to visit Higham Primary School to promote the Building Bridges scheme. There are still problems with parents parking outside the school at the start and end of the day
- A member of the public sent a letter to Cllr Ingham regarding the problem with dog fouling, which Cllr Ingham read out at the meeting. Several suggestions were made and the advice given was to report any known offenders and to contact the dog warden again to see if there are any warning notices or appropriately worded flyers available for use in the village. A response to the letter was asked for. The clerk will undertake both of these tasks.

2621: Declaration of Councillors Interests/Code of Conduct

- Cllr Forrest declared a personal interest in the Village Hall.
- Cllr Ingham read out a statement reminding Councillors that Parish Councils are democratic institutions and that members of the public should not be circulated with any views other than those agreed by the Council. He reminded the meeting that Borough Councillor and County Councillor are invited as guests to the meetings, but all decisions are made by the Parish Councillors.

2622: Minutes of the last meeting

Cllr Ingham proposed that the minutes of the last meeting were correct. This was seconded by Cllr Townsend and agreed.

2623: Matters arising

- The precept was agreed and has been sent off as recommended by the Finance Committee
- Boro' Cllr Starkie asked about the results of the visit to Croft Top and Cllr Forrest reported that the site had been examined and seemed to be in slightly better condition than previously, though there were areas that still needed improving. However a start has been made and no further action is needed at present.
- The licence application referred to in 2605 has now been withdrawn.
- An amendment to 2612 was requested by Boro' Cllr Starkie and has now been made.
- Boro Cllr Starkie asked if the clerk had received communication about the precept from Pendle Council. Up to now no communication has been received on this subject.
- Co Cllr Derwent asked if an inspector has come about the bus timetables. The response was that no one has yet arrived about these.
- Co Cllr Derwent also said that she understood that the road sign at Laneside would be repainted soon and that the footpaths will also be reviewed.
- A sum of £250 has been received and Co Cllr Derwent asked if money was needed for other projects. Cllr Forrest suggested that the Scarecrow Committee would find extra funding useful and received a form to apply for this.

2624: Finance

- Cllr Ingham read out a list of the cheques to be authorised as listed on the agenda and these were signed.

2625: Ongoing Projects

- Sabden Rd car park: Boro Cllr Starkie suggested that quotes for this work should be requested soon. Cllr Tetley said that repairs to this area was needed urgently. Cllr Townsend agreed to contact the Lengthsman about this.
- Cllr Tetley reported dark areas on Hollinhurst View because of the height of the fencing, and said that a street light was needed here.

2626: Clerk's Report;

- The clerk's report was distributed before the meeting as an attachment to the agenda.

2627: County Councillor's Report

- Co Cllr Derwent reported that discussions were being held in order to bring more issues to Parish Council level.
- Help Direct is soon to be launched. Co Cllr Derwent explained how this service would operate.

2628: Borough Councillor's Report

- Boro Cllr Starkie informed the meeting that Ann Widdecombe would be in the area on the 20th March and it may be possible for her to visit the village hall on that afternoon.

2629: Planning Applications and Decisions

- Higham Hall. Alteration to existing access - Approved

2630: Committee/ Working Group Reports

There was no report from any of the working groups or committees

2631: Parish Matters

- The problem of speeding on Acresbrook and Sabden Rd was discussed. Co Cllr Derwent said that temporary signs would be requested. She added that the Accident Prevention Team was examining areas of the by-pass near Padiham.
- Freedom of Information. Cllr Ingham has investigated information formats from other parish councils and has drafted one for Higham. He gave out copies of Standing Orders for councillors to study before the next meeting and a copy was given to the clerk for reference.
- Nothing has been received on the Precepts.
- The rota for the village hall was discussed.
- Parking remains a difficult area in the village. Parking on the grounds of the old Methodist Church was discussed.
- Boro' Cllr Starkie asked for responses to the second edition of "The Spout." The feedback for this has been good.
- Fund raising. Boro' Cllr Starkie suggested that fund raising events should be left to the Village Hall Committee.
- Cllr Watson reminded the meeting that Easements would be due for collection soon. A letter will be written to a resident on Sabden Rd who no longer requires access to the playing fields through the back garden, waiving the need to pay the annual easement.
- Cllr Ellis left the meeting at 9.00 pm during discussions about Parish Matters.

2632: Parish Lengthsman Scheme – update and forward planning

- Cllr Townsend reported that Pinfold on Sabden Rd has been cleaned up.
- Cllr Watson said that the bench on Sabden Rd needed repainting

2633: Correspondence

- Information about Two “Best Kept Village” competitions was given out. Boro Cllr Starkie suggested that the spout could be used as a focus if a competition was entered.
- Cllr Forrest raised the matter of a document which had been put in the public domain by another Councillor. Cllr Forrest was far from pleased with this action, and supported the Chairman’s comments at the start of the meeting. He stated that the Parish Councillors had worked hard over the past 2 or so years to try to regain some respect from the village, and this episode was a retrograde step.
- The invitation to the Buckingham Palace Garden Party was passed to Cllr Ingham.
- It was agreed to display the posters for both the Monday and Tuesday walks on the village notice boards.

2634: Items for future discussion.

- Easements and the gate to the playing fields
- Freedom of Information for Higham Parish Council
- Standing orders

2635: Date of next meeting

The meeting closed at 9.32pm

The next meeting will be held on the 17th March at 7.30 pm.