



Minutes of Meeting 17th January 2012

Present: Cllr. Mr. B. Ingham, Cllr. Mr. D. Forrest, Cllr. Mrs. C. Lomax, Cllr. Mrs. P. Watson, Cllr. Mr. R. Gadd, Cllr. Mr. M. Tetley, Cllr. Mr. J. Metcalfe, Boro. Cllr. Mr. J. Starkie, Co. Cllr. Mrs. S. Derwent, PCSO. James Owen, Mrs. P. McBurney (Clerk).

Apologies: None

Members of public in attendance: None

3300: Police Report and Public Questions

- PCSO. Owen reported on the crime statistics for the area during the past year. In Higham, the number of reported crimes rose by 9 to 25. Instances of burglary were down but violence, auto-crime and criminal damage increased.
- Boro. Cllr. Starkie asked PCSO Owen if there was any further information on the accident on the by-pass last June. PCSO Owen had nothing more to report.
- Co. Cllr. Derwent enquired about the procedure for requesting a temporary one-way system during village events. It was decided to write to Inspector Phil Davis at Nelson Police Station nearer the time when this facility would be needed.

3301: Declaration of Councillors Interests/Code of Conduct

No interests were declared

3302: Minutes of the last meeting

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

3303: Matters arising (for information only).

There were no matters arising from the last meeting.

3304: Finance

- Cllr. Ingham itemised the cheques and these were signed.
- Cllr Ingham presented the budget for the coming year and recommendations of the Finance meeting held earlier in the month. He proposed that the Precept should be increased in relation to the reduction of the Grant, this was seconded by Cllr. Gadd and all agreed.

3305: Clover Croft Development

The progress of the Development was discussed. Cllr. Ingham reported that the next phase was being started by the construction of the stone boundary wall up to the playing fields.

3306: Planning Applications and Decisions

- The extension at Willowgate. Sabden Road has been approved.
- Field 2117. Foxendole Lane. Cllr. Ingham proposed having no objections to the application providing all legal requirements for farm buildings in the green belt are met. This was seconded by Cllr. Metcalfe and all agreed.

3307: Clerk's Report and Correspondence

- The clerk's report was distributed before the meeting.
- An invitation to the Mayor's "Going for Gold" was shared. There was no positive response at this time.

3308: County Councillor's Report

- Co. Cllr. Derwent reported on the provision of six extra parking places at Halmote Ave.
- Budget: Lancashire Co Council has set aside several million pounds to assist development in apprenticeships, travelling to education, youth zone extensions, employment of armed force veterans in schools, library re-furbishment, improving transport and economic development
- There are to be new Primary Schools in Barnoldswick, Nelson/Brierfield, and an extension to Reedley Primary School
- 20mph speed limit: Higham is in the 4th phase

3309: Borough Councillor's Report

Boro. Cllr. Starkie asked if there were any plans for the Queen's Jubilee Celebrations. The reply was that none have been planned.

3310: Committee/ Working Group Reports

Footpath 54 was discussed at the Barrowford and Western Parishes meeting. There will be a site investigation.

3311: The Playground – Report on Monthly Inspection

Cllr. Gadd reported missing fence sections. Cllr. Forrest has replacements ready.

3312: Parish Matters

- Mowing Contract 2012-2013: The previous contractor has agreed that there will be no virtual increase in last year's price, and furthermore this amount would be valid for a further year. Cllr. Ingham proposed accepting the tender. This was seconded by Cllr. Tetley and all agreed.
- Land rear of 34 Sabden Rd. Deeds and letters relating to the disputed land have been discovered which prove ownership by Higham Parish Council. Cllr. Ingham has written to Mr. Swinbank. No response has been received as yet. A solicitor may be needed.
- Dog fouling: There have been no further complaints, but the situation shows no improvement.
- The SPID has been in Fence since 14 July. There has been no response to Cllr. Ingham's request (see 3296)

- Bushes at the rear of the demolished garage need to be cleared. It was suggested that an approach be made to Mr. Barnes for the use of machinery
- Fir Trees bus shelter: This is under construction.
- Village Hall Donation: No estimate for the work is available as yet. The possibility of a grant is in doubt. Cllr. Ingham will discuss this with Mr Fitton.
- Other Parish Matters:
 - a) The tree in the Village Centre: This will be removed and a new tree planted to mark the Queen's Jubilee. Cllr Ingham is to contact Mr Binney.
 - b) Best Kept Village Competition: Cllr Forrest is to contact Brian Sutcliffe to propose that he co-ordinate the event.

3313: Parish Lengthsman Scheme

- The new Dog Bin needs fastening to the fence.
- The new bench on the playing field needs to be fastened down.
- The pathway between the playground and Acresbrook needs re-covering with broken stone and bushes in this area need to be cut back.
- The two benches on the playground need to be fastened down.

3314: Items for Future Discussion

No items were suggested.

3315: Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on the 21st February 2012 at 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm.