

Higham with West Close Booth Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting 17th November 2009

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

Apologies: Cllr. Mrs. C. Lomax.

Members of public in attendance: Ms. E. Fletcher, Mrs. K. Fothergill, and PC Mark Dibb.

2765: Police Report and Public Questions

- Cllr Ingham welcomed back the Police presence at the Council meeting. PC. Dibb introduced himself and gave out contact details.
- The police report: It is intended to use a police vehicle to raise the profile of police in the village. The crime figures from April 2009 consist of five vehicle crimes, two burglaries, one instance of criminal damage and three thefts. The PACT priorities are speeding vehicles and parking on the zig-zag lines outside the school. There is to be some police presence here at key times. Boro' Cllr Starkie asked about the graffiti in the village. PC Dibb said CCTV footage was being investigated. Some pictures from this can be publicised to encourage identification.
- Public questions: Ms Fletcher asked if there was space available in the village hall to store archive material for the Higham History Society. Cllr Ingham referred her to the Village Hall Committee via Cllr Forrest. Mrs Fothergill referred to the recent damage to her garage and expressed her intention to leave the graffiti until investigations were complete. Members of the council encouraged her to consider an early removal of the graffiti as it was detrimental to the appearance of the village and may promote copycat activities.

2766: Declaration of Councillors Interests/Code of Conduct

No interests were declared.

2767: 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.

2768: Matters arising (for information only).

- Boro' Cllr Starkie reported that the re-surfacing of roads in the village was complete and that the County Council have put in an extra grid and dropped more kerbs. A small area of cobbles has been removed from in front of the spout. White lines are to be painted, forming a pedestrian walkway, from the end of the footway at the Clover Croft site, in front of the Four Alls car park and extending to the junction of Sabden Road. Boro' Cllr Starkie answered questions about the reasons for these. Co Cllr Derwent explained the reasons for the removal of the hump at the bottom of Sabden Rd.

2769: Clover Croft Development

- There have been problems with the pipe across the Clover Croft site which has reduced the water flow to the spout. The pipe will shortly be replaced with one of a larger diameter.
- Ms. Fletcher asked who was responsible for any problems with the water supply to the spout. Cllr Ingham replied that it is the responsibility of the Parish Council.
- Ms. Fletcher also asked the intentions for the area where the builders' cabins are positioned. Cllr Ingham assured her that the land would be returned to its previous state.

2770: Planning Applications and Decisions

- There are no planning applications at present.

2771: Finance

- Cllr Ingham itemised the cheques to be sent and these were signed.

2772: Clerk's Report

- The clerk's report was sent as an attachment before the meeting. Information received after this was sent was detailed at the meeting.

2773: County Councillor's Report

- The review of unadopted streets. The council will only take these on if they are brought up to an adoptable standard. Cllr Ingham enquired if the road up to Sabden Rd Car Park would qualify for this when it was improved, but Cllr Tetley pointed out that the cost would make this inadvisable.
- The County Council are looking to identify needs in Pendle particularly in Culture and Sport. Co Cllr Derwent suggested a publication to inform residents of the facilities in this area and said that transport costs cause difficulties for some activities, especially for young people.
- Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service: This provides good service installing fire alarms etc.
- Co Cllr Derwent expressed her pleasure at the return of police presence at Council meetings after much effort to re-install this.

2774: Borough Councillor's Report

- Private Water regulations will come into force in December 2009.
- Boro Cllr Starkie reported on a meeting he had attended about the Pendle Witch Trials and showed a brochure highlighting the events of 1612. He suggested the idea of a sponsored walk and requested other ideas.
- LALC meeting. Cllr Ingham and Townsend were invited to attend
- Remembrance Sunday Service. Attendance was good.
- Boro Cllr Starkie has attended the conference on recycling.

2775: Committee/ Working Group Reports

- No reports.

2776: Sabden Rd Car Park

- There has been no progress since the last meeting. Cllr Tetley hoped to report on progress by the next meeting.

2777: Senior Citizens Christmas Party

- Cllr Ingham said that the village hall would open at 5.00pm for the organisers to set up. This was in response to a question from Cllr Watson.
- Co Cllr asked about the raffle and said that prizes would be needed.
- Cllr Watson asked about alcohol provision. Cllr Tetley and Forrest will organise this.
- Cllr Watson is to ring Mr Butterfield to ask if he would run the bar again.
- The alcohol licence has been applied for.
- Final numbers for the party should be confirmed by November 27th.

2778 The playground

- Cllr Gadd has checked the playground and identified risks from the RoSPA report. Boro' Cllr Starkie asked if a regular check had been recommended. Cllr Gadd is to undertake this.
- Cllr Townsend will contact the lengthsman to repair any areas of risk.

2779: Parish Matters

- Lighting on Hollinghurst View: Cllr Ingham has identified dark areas near the main road. Co Cllr Derwent will ask County to investigate.
- Footpath from Higham to Fence: the grass has been cut.
- The railings around the Methodist graveyard will be painted early next year.
- The Fir Trees bus shelter may not be painted until next year.
- The Village Bonfire was a success, with profits reported as £840. Receipts from village activities will be handed to Cllr Ingham and the possibility of VAT refunds may follow.
- The trees in the village centre and graveyard were discussed.

- The SPID: A letter is to be written to Old Laund Booth Parish Council requesting confirmation of the decision not to share the cost of repair to the SPID and suggesting the relinquishing of any future use of the device if this should be the case.
- Cllr Gadd asked about reforestation. This will be added to the next agenda.

Cllr Ellis left the meeting at this point.

2780: Parish Lengthsman Scheme

- The by-pass near Fir Trees Avenue: Tidying is complete.
- The wall by the parsonage: Still to be tidied.
- The planter on the by-pass: this has now been filled with winter flowers. The sign is awaited.
- Croft Lane: bushes etc still to be trimmed back.

2781: Correspondence

- There was no correspondence to add to that already listed on the clerk's report.

2782: Items for Future Discussion

- Ownership of the land between 106 Higham Hall Rd and the Village Hall.
- Reforestation.

2783: Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on the 15th December at 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 9.37 pm.