

Higham with West Close Booth Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting 15th April 2008

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

Apologies: PC Hartup, Cllr Starkie.

A personal interest was declared by Cllr Forrest Re item in section 2478

Members of public in attendance: One

2468 Public Questions and Police Report

A member of public asked about the water supply from the spout outside the Four Alls. Cllr Ingham explained the current situation, which was that once the builders were back on site the situation would be resolved.

A question was asked about the increase in the Parish Precept and it was pointed out that the increase appeared large because there had been no increase in several previous years.

There was no Police report as PC Hartup was on holiday.

2469 Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

Cllr Ingham proposed accepting the minutes of the last meeting. Cllr Townsend seconded this. The Annual Return was now complete and approved. This can be inspected by the public and a notice is to be displayed.

2470 Finance

The Auditor's Report was summarised by Cllr Ingham and the recommendations shared. The Auditor's opinion of the 2006-7 Annual Return was presented to the council, together with issues arising. The Annual Return was approved and accepted by the council

Cllr Ingham outlined the payments made and the cheques received.

The renewal for the insurance has been received by Cllr Ingham and studied with Cllr Forrest. Some adjustments need to be made. Playground equipment is to be included and is due on the 1st June.

Cllr Forrest suggested that the first grass cutting of the year should be made by arrangement in order to ensure that the grass was ready for this first cut.

A Finance meeting was arranged for Wednesday 23rd April at 7.00pm at Cllr Ingham's home.

2471: Bids for Pendle Borough Council Capital Grants

Bids for Grants need to be made before the next council meeting. A bid of between £3000-£4000 would be a reasonable sum. Ideas discussed have been a new bus shelter for the centre of the village and re-surfacing the car park on Sabden Rd. The latter was deemed too costly. Cllr Townsend suggested sports equipment, but Cllr Ingham reminded him

that the building developers Dalesmoor would be giving a sum of money towards this at a future date.

Cllr Forrest distributed a picture of an oak bus shelter which would be suitable for the replacement at a cost of approximately £3500, though it was felt that a bid for £4000 for this would be a more realistic sum. Co Cllr Derwent advised that the bid be submitted as soon as possible and adjustments made at a later date. The existing shelter could be moved to a new location.

Cllr Forrest would undertake to write a letter to Philip Mousdale at Pendle Council.

2472: Ongoing Projects

Refurbishment of the spout outside the Four Aills. Only one day's work had been done by the date of the meeting but the project is still ongoing and will be completed at a later date.

2473: Development at Clover Croft Mill Site

There has been no further development since December. Cllr Ingham is in regular contact with the developer and stated that a winding up order has been issued to him but that the developer still intends to complete the work in conjunction with another building firm. He hoped to be back on site in May. Cllr Ingham suggested that Dalesmoor would still be the preferred developer because of the agreement made between them and the council.

2474: Closure of Higham shop and Post Office.

The shop and Post Office are to close at 1.00pm on Monday 28th April. There was discussion about the difficulties faced by many of the villagers when this happened. Suggestions were made about bus services, use of the Mobile Library and the delivery of newspapers. Co Cllr Derwent will suggest the use of the Mobile Library at a County Council meeting; however, she had already asked if any help could be given to the village because of the closure of the shop, but the Co. Council does not own anything in the village except the school.

2475: Clerk's Report

Clerk's report attached as appendix

2476: County Councillor's Report

- Co Cllr Derwent reported on public rights of way. Footpath 36 has alignment issues and the nettles need removing. Footpath 37 is obstructed by a building. The farmer has received a letter and is in the process of making a decision between moving the building or diverting the footpath. Footpath 54 has received a diversion order and a formal enforcement order is in place to remove the obstruction to the footpath. A request for way marking has been made at Driver's Height Farm (Footpath 125) and the problem with the stile has still to be resolved. A diversion for Footpath 34 has been applied for. Cllr Townsend enquired about the state of the footpaths in other areas but it was explained that this was the concern of a different council.
Co Cllr Derwent handed out a brochure for cyclists (Pendle Pedal)

2477: Borough Councillor's Report

No Report. Cllr Starkie not present.

2478: Planning Applications and Decisions

- Appeal re conversion of agricultural building to a holiday let at 9 Sabden Rd.
- Erection of a double garage at Higham Hall.
- Certificate of Lawfulness - Little Owls, Sabden Road. Decision re garden deferred to enable further study of the application. This should be discussed at the next Barrowford & Western Parishes meeting

2479: Committee/ Working Group Reports

No report

2480: Health and Safety Proposals

No report

2481:

- Village Spring Clean Day: Well supported by villagers. Request for more councillors to be involved in the next clean-up
- Playground report. The report stated that the chains on the swings need replacing and there are some problems with the spacing of the bars on the climbing frame. Gaps in the tarmac surface of the playground need repairing. Cllr Gadd queried some of the terminology of the report; for example the term "maintenance cycle" and "qualified and competent person." Some parts of the report were deemed to be vague, particularly the risk factors, and Co Cllr Derwent commented on the poor quality of the report.
In response to the report it was decided that temporary repairs could be done to the fence as a section 106 payment would fund a more permanent one. The gaps in the tarmac could be filled in by the Parish Lengthsman. Co Cllr Derwent suggested that the Parish Council should have a plan for the use of the funds when they become available and that Pendle Parks and Recreations could be approached for recommendations.
- Cllr Watson reported that she had received a complaint about the parking in front of the stone trough by the Four Alls. This parking obstructs the features of the trough and endangers traffic exiting Sabden Road onto Higham Hall Road. A plan to prepare a polite notice to use on offending vehicles was discussed.
- The newly emptied garage could be used for temporary storage of items for village events. A letter will be written to Mr J Birkett giving permission to use the building free of charge when used for this purpose only. This arrangement will be reviewed annually
- Co Cllr Derwent gave a list of events for which a licence would be needed to Cllr Tetley
- Road Signs. A letter was received from Mr Barlow who has found a "Higham Hall Road" sign buried in the playing field. This has now been fixed back in position.

He also requested a new sign for Laneside Avenue. Co Cllr Derwent will order a new sign and posts for the top junction of Higham Hall Road with the A6068. A resident of Acresbrook Rd has offered to re-paint the sign there. Cllr Watson asked for the "No Tipping" sign near the playing fields to be replaced. Other road signs in the village will be examined for repairs.

- A bollard is missing near the parsonage and at least one vehicle is using this track. Co Cllr Derwent will ask for a replacement.
- Cllr Forrest had received an email regarding the road surface at the bottom end of Higham Hall Road. Re-surfacing should be completed at the latest by October 2008
- AGM 20th May 2008. Cllr Ingham asked for volunteers to attend committees and meetings complementary to Parish Council meetings. As a result of this request, Cllr Townsend offered to attend LAPTTC meetings, Cllr Forrest offered to attend Safety Committees and Cllr Ingham will continue to attend the Area Committee meetings

A notice will be posted re the AGM meeting .

2482: Parish Lengthsman Scheme – update and forward planning

The Lengthsman has done most of the jobs that were requested so far. Cllr Townsend is liaising with him re future tasks. Cllr Forrest reported that so far the Lengthsman has completed 305 hours. The extra hours are to compensate for the fewer hours completed in previous years. Involvement in the Green Partnership Scheme would lead to more funding and Cllr Forrest will liaise with David Oyston on this. The Lengthsman's conditions of contract were handed to the clerk for filing. A walk round the village will be undertaken soon. Co Cllr Derwent expressed a wish to be involved with this. The date was set for Thursday 24th April at 6.00pm.

2483:Correspondence

A list of correspondence is included in the Clerk's Report

2484: Items for future discussion.

This should include the Annual Return and the results of the Village Walk

2485: Date of next meeting

The next meeting is on 20th May 2008 at 7.30pm and is preceded by the AGM at 7.00pm.

The meeting closed at 9.55 pm