

Higham with West Close Booth Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting 15TH July 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, PC Hazel Gilhespy, Boro. Cllr. Mr. J. Starkie, Mrs. P. McBurney (Clerk).

Apologies: Co. Cllr. Mrs. S. Derwent, Cllr. Mr. R. Gadd

Members of public in attendance: Three

2518 Public Questions and Police Report

A member of the public had received a letter about the public water supply and asked about the legal situation. Cllr Ingham replied that this was still in abeyance. He also asked if the clerk had copies of legal documentation pertaining to the Dalesmoor Site as these had been supplied to the previous clerk. As neither the clerk nor the chairman was in possession of these documents he expressed his intention of providing a letter giving details of these documents.

The police report was given by PC Gilhespy. She reported that there had been two speeding offences on the by-pass, a garage had been broken into on Grove Lane and two bicycles taken. Suspicious vehicles in the area included a "Thrifty" van in the lay-by on the by-pass, two instances of males in cars waiting for periods of time in Guide Lane and one instance at the junction on Back Lane. Cllr Townsend asked if the notice about overnight parking had been taken down and if wagons were allowed to park near the entrance to Higham Village whilst the driver slept. PC Gillespie responded that the police would intervene if the wagon was parked illegally or in a dangerous position. Cllr Ingham also asked about a trailer advertising Padiham Carpet Mill.

PC Gilhespy also informed the meeting that the Neighbourhood Watch scheme was to be re-introduced and that Higham would be the first area to be involved. The new method of coordinating the scheme would be by using email. The police had attempted to introduce a Farm Watch scheme, but this had had little response up to the present. PC Gilhespy also recommended that PC Greenwood could be approached if there were any questions about wildlife in the area.

2519 Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

Cllr Ingham proposed that the minutes of the June meeting were a true and accurate record, Cllr Townsend seconded this and all agreed.

Matters arising: Cllr Ingham has been in touch with Dalesmoor and has received an email to say that matters are moving, though slowly.

Item 14 was brought forward and Cllr Ingham proposed that Mrs Christine Lomax be invited to take on the role of councillor for a trial period of three months initially. This was seconded by Cllr Townsend and agreed.

2520 Finance

Cheques as itemised in the agenda were authorised.

It was felt that the £100 payment to the Village Hall should be reduced to £75 as from next month. This amendment was proposed by Cllr Ingham and seconded by Cllr Ellis. The proposal was agreed and carried.

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2521: Village Fete Report

Cllr Tetley reported that the village fete was very well supported and should become an annual event. The venue had proved more suitable than the one originally intended. A letter of thanks from the committee is to be sent to Mr Birkett for his work in organising this very successful event. However, because of the amount of organisation required, it was suggested that more people should take on some of this responsibility in the future. Cllr Townsend suggested that more people would have been willing to help if they had known and recommended a leaflet drop to encourage volunteers. PC Gilhespy said that Pendle Borough Council would provide equipment for activities if asked.

2522: Ongoing Projects

The new bus shelter in the middle of the village is now in place and looks very good. Cllr Forrest has removed the old one to renovate and distributed pictures of the proposed shelter at the bottom of the village.

The finger signpost is almost complete and should be up within the month.

Cllr Tetley enquired about the trough. This is not quite finished, and wording is still awaited for the plaque.

The railings around the old chapel in the centre of the village need to be repainted, and this will be done soon.

Cllr Forrest reported that the wall at the lower end of Higham Hall Rd is in a very poor state and a decision needs to be made on how to approach this repair given that the wall is the responsibility of the householders.

The painting of road signs is still ongoing

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2523: Clerk's Report;

The clerks report was distributed at the meeting

2524: County Councillor's Report

There was no report this meeting

2525: Borough Councillor's Report

Boro Cllr Starkie told the committee that two SPIDs ,purchased by Lancashire County Council, were unused at present. As the village of Blacko were buying a new one for their exclusive use, he suggested that the one in use in Higham at the moment should be shared with Newchurch. It was decided to keep the SPID in Higham until it was requested elsewhere.

Boro Cllr Starkie also told the committee that the Planning Officer was aware of the structure outside the Four Aills and the illegally occupied caravan at The Rising Fishery. Both the occupiers had been told that planning permission needed to be sought. Cllr Ingham queried the amount of time before they were obliged to do this. Cllr Starkie said that the council would be lenient for up to six months.

2526: Planning Applications and Decisions

The extension at "Little Owls" was discussed. A member of the public stated that no application had been made for the wall and pointed out that work had already started on the extension contrary to the statement on the planning application. The size and style of the wall were not in keeping with the existing property. Other concerns included the windows and the materials used for the roof. Cllr Ingham suggested that this should be referred to the Area Committee, Cllr Ellis argued that this would not be necessary as there was no good reason and asked for a motion to decide if this should be called in. Cllr Forrest felt that there were good reasons for this to happen. Cllr Ingham proposed that the matter be referred to Barrowford and Western Parishes. This was seconded by Cllr Forrest and carried by the rest of the committee with the exception of Cllr Ellis. The plans for an extension to the property at 28 West Close, Higham were studied. There was no comment on these plans

2527: Committee/ Working Group Reports

There was no report

2528: Vacancy for new Parish Councillor

Discussed in 2519

2529: Parish Matters

Cllr Watson suggested that planning for the Senior Citizens Christmas Party should be begun. Cllr Ingham proposed that Diane Earle be contacted with regard to the catering, and the need to keep costs down was discussed. It was decided to gather a list of eligible names for a personal invitation

Cllr Ingham has been contacted by someone from Read regarding the delivery of newspapers to Higham and asked if there would be any interest. The cost of this service would be £2.75 a week for each recipient.

2530 :Parish Lengthsman Scheme – update and forward planning

Cllr Forrest reported that the grass cutting has now been done. Cllr Forrest suggested that the grass be cut only when needed

Cllr Townsend asked if the goalposts on the playing fields could be painted white.

The state of the hedges was discussed although these should not be cut at present because of the wildlife which is living in them.

It was decided to remove the Japanese knotweed which is growing outside the Four Alls because of the invasive nature of the plant.

Boro Cllr Starkie suggested that the two entrances to the village be tidied up and suggested planting some flowers there.

2531: Correspondence

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

2532: Items for future discussion.

The Senior Citizens Christmas Party

2535: Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on the 19th August at 7.30 in the Village Hall

The meeting closed at 9.23pm