

## **Higham with West Close Booth Parish Council**

### **Minutes of Meeting 17<sup>th</sup> March 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. R Gadd, Cllr. Mr. M. Tetley, Boro' Cllr. Mr. J. Starkie, Mrs. P. McBurney (Clerk)

**Apologies:** Co Cllr Mrs S Derwent, PCSO. N. Wallin

**Members of public in attendance:** Two

#### **2636: Public Questions and Police Report**

- There was no police presence at the meeting, though a report was given verbally to the chairman. PCSO Wallin apologised for the lack of Police presence at the meeting, but hoped that the new PCSO would be able to attend future meetings. He reported that speed gun training would be starting soon and this might have an impact on the reports of speeding in some areas of Higham. He was not aware of any reports of crime in the area in the last month.
- A member of the public asked questions relating to the coming Summer Fete. There is a drainage problem on the playing field which could spoil the Fete if the days running up to the Fete are wet. An estimate for work to ease the problem was £400. A request was made for the council to contribute to the cost of the work. Cllr Ingham proposed that an extra £50 was added to the £250 already promised. Permission was also requested to erect the puppet show in the Village Hall in order to practise for the Fete. This will be put to the Village Hall Committee. A plea was made for church pews which will be needed for seating on one of the shows at the Fete

#### **2637: Declaration of Councillors Interests/Code of Conduct**

- Cllr Ellis declared a personal interest in the drainage of the playing field (see item 2647 ), Cllr Tetley in the discussions for the Summer Fete, and Cllr Forrest in the two applications for planning permission (see item 2645)

#### **2638: 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.

**2639: Matters arising**

- Cllr Tetley reported that the entrance to the top car park on Sabden Rd had been repaired
- Cllr Ingham read out the letter from the Dog Warden and the suggested Flyer re dog fouling. After discussion it was decided that an addition should be made to include the grassed areas. The clerk will contact the Dog Warden with this suggestion and a request for 300 flyers
- The rota for the Village Hall. No councillor has yet been able to attend the Friday sessions. Cllrs Lomax and Ingham offered to attend the next session
- The letter to Mrs Swinbank regarding access to the playing fields needs to be followed up by a letter to her son clarifying the position. Cllr Townsend suggested fencing off the area concerned.
- Cllr Forrest has received an email from the Police re handgun speed enforcement (See 2636)
- Pinfold. Cllr Forrest thanked Cllr Townsend for organising the cleanup of this area

**2640: Finance**

- Cllr Ingham read out a list of the cheques to be authorised as listed on the agenda and these were signed.
- Two of the cheques for the Village hall have still to clear the banking system and Cllr Forrest is to ask Mr Fitton about these.
- A transfer of £500 is to be made from the savings to the current account to cover cheques

**2641: Ongoing Projects**

- A Spring Clean day is to be held. Litter and the cleaning of road signs will be targeted. Saturday the 9<sup>th</sup> May was suggested

**2642: Clerk's Report;**

- The clerk's report was distributed at the meeting. Cllr Ingham read out the letter from a member of the public referred to in the clerk's report in which concerns were raised over the quality of the water at the Spout. The clerk is to contact United Utilities to enquire about when the last water test was done.

**2643: County Councillor's Report**

- There was no Co Councillor's report.

**2644: Borough Councillor's Report**

- Boro' Cllr Starkie asked about progress on the Best Kept Village Competition. Cllr Ingham is to apply for entry. Cllr Tetley mentioned the existence of another competition for villages to enter.
- The sum of £500 will be contributed from Lancashire County Council for

- the “Safe Lane” scheme.
- An enforcement order for the removal of the structure in front of the “Four Alls” public house is now in place. The structure must be removed by the 18<sup>th</sup> April
  - Boro’ Cllr Starkie mentioned the rateable values of houses in Higham and said they were the 5<sup>th</sup> most expensive in the Borough
  - There will be a site meeting to examine the pavements and highway in the village on the 18<sup>th</sup> of March. Councillors were invited to attend. A suggestion was made to widen the footpath near the Chapel. Edging near the “Four Alls” is also needed. Cllr Gadd suggested a coloured strip at the entrance to Sabden Rd to make crossing easier for pedestrians
  - Ann Widdecombe is to be at the Village Hall on Saturday the 21<sup>st</sup> March. Boro’ Cllr Starkie expressed the hope that there would be a good attendance

#### **2645: Planning Applications and Decisions**

- 28 Sabden Rd. The plans were examined and a site visit decided upon
- Rear of Wellhead – 9 Sabden Rd. Plans to knock down the agricultural structure and replace it with a holiday cottage were discussed. Objections based on the proposed use of the structure were raised. A vote was held with six councillors objecting and one abstention.
- The Planning Department has written to the chairman to inform him that future plans would be delivered electronically. Cllr Ingham downloaded the plans discussed at this meeting to demonstrate this.

#### **2646: Committee/ Working Group Reports**

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

#### **2647: Parish Matters**

- On the 1<sup>st</sup> April, Cllr Townsend will ensure that access to the playing fields from Croft Lane will be closed for one day. This is a legal requirement.
- Requests for payment of easements will be delivered before the next meeting
- Conditions on the Playing Fields. Cllr Ellis expressed concerns about the route that excess water will take if plans to drain the waterlogged part of the grounds take place. The possibility of getting a grant for this work was discussed. Cllr Townsend offered to speak to a member of Pendle Council about this. A site visit will be made.
- Freedom of Information. Cllr Ingham asked the council if the draft copy could be adopted. This was agreed. Councillor Ingham will put it onto the website.
- Standing Orders. Cllr Ingham suggested adopting this with changes to be made later if necessary. This was seconded by Cllr Townsend and agreed by all.

**2648: Parish Lengthsman Scheme – update and forward planning**

- Cllr Townsend reported that Pinfold on Sabden Rd has been cleaned up.
- The stile onto Sagar Hill needs urgent attention and the footpath by the vicarage is overgrown. Cllr Townsend will speak to the Lengthsman about both these matters

**2649: Correspondence**

- The letter referred to in item 2642 was discussed. Cllr Ingham will draft a reply to be sent by the clerk
- The email re “Walking in Lancashire” was referred to Cllr Starkie for possible inclusion in the newsletter

**2650: Items for future discussion.**

- Playing Fields

**2651: Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on the 21<sup>st</sup> April at 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 9.45pm