

Higham with West Close Booth Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting 20th October 2009

Present: Cllr. Mr. B. Ingham, Cllr. Mr. D. Forrest, Cllr. Mrs. P. Watson, Cllr. Mr. L. Townsend, Cllr. Mrs. C. Lomax, 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: None

Members of public in attendance: Two

2747: Public Questions

- A member of the public asked about the flooding at the top of the playing fields, where the ditch is blocked by hedge trimmings.
- A question was asked about the future use of the compound presently occupied by the builders on the Clover Croft site. Cllrs Ingham and Forrest explained that the area will be returned to the grassed playing field area when the development is complete.
- A complaint was received about a quad bike using the playing fields and damaging the ground. Cllr Ingham said that this needed monitoring as the perpetrator had not been identified.
- An update on the current road improvements was requested. Co Cllr Derwent and Boro Cllr Starkie replied that the work had been brought forward owing to a new scheme to improve roadworks. Boro Cllr Starkie said it was hoped to put a white line at the front of the "Four Alls" public house for the use of pedestrians.

2748: Declaration of Councillors Interests/Code of Conduct

No interests were declared.

2749: 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.

2750: Matters arising (for information only).

The Speed Indicator Device (see 2739) has been sent for repair. Cllr. Ingham explained that the damage was to the circuit board. The cost of repair was discussed. After the examination of alternatives, Cllr Forrest proposed investigating the sharing of this cost with Fence. This was seconded by Cllr Townsend. The vote was six councillors in favour of the proposal and two against.

2751: Clover Croft Development

- The building work has now resumed. The agreement between the Parish Council and the Developer has been signed and the first instalment paid.
- Boro Cllr Starkie asked for assurance that concerns about the building site which were raised by a parishioner in previous meetings had been thoroughly investigated. Cllr Ingham replied that the concerns had been checked with the solicitor and was confident that all aspects were correct.

2752: Planning Applications and Decisions

- 8 Gawthorpe View. Plans have been approved after slight amendments.
- “Well Head”, Sabden Rd. Application to convert to a holiday home. The Planning Inspectorate is to visit the site in November.
- “The Fishery”, Guide Lane. An Enforcement Order has been served giving the owner four months to remove the caravan.

2753: Finance

- Cllr Ingham reported that the Official Auditor had approved the annual return and requested council approval. Cllr Townsend seconded this request, all voted in favour. The notice of completion has been displayed on the notice board outside the Village Hall.
- Cllr Ingham read out the issue regarding Risk Assessment and recommended that this is reviewed at least annually and minuted.
- Cllr Forrest to request new tenders for grass cutting etc.

2754: Clerk’s Report

- The clerk’s report was sent as an attachment before the meeting.

2755: County Councillor’s Report

- Co Cllr Derwent reported that work to repair the road surfaces on Sabden Road and Higham Hall road was now under way despite minute 2731 (September 2009) which suggested that this work was some way off.
- Budgets are being carefully scrutinized at County Hall. Priority being given to early intervention and care is being taken to minimise the effects of any cuts
- Lighting on Halmote Rd/Hollinghurst View. Homes here are being re-wired and exterior lighting improved. Co Cllr Derwent recommended waiting to see if this would help to improve the matter.

Cllr Gadd left the meeting at this point

2756: Borough Councillor’s Report

- Boro’ Cllr Starkie reported that a meeting would be held in November to announce plans for Town and Parish Councils
- He explained the Funding Formula. Higham will lose a small amount of its present funding under the new formula

2757: Committee/ Working Group Reports

- Cllr Ingham attended the meeting of Barrowford and Western Parishes. Items relevant to Higham were:-
 - 1) Moor Cotes Farm.
 - 2) Lighting on Halmote Rd/ Hollinghurst View (see 2756).
 - 3) The footpath through the barn at Stump Hall Farm. A decision about this was deferred for a future meeting.

2758: Sabden Rd Car Park

- Cllr Ingham read out the letter received from the Land Agents representing Huntroyde Estate, informing the council of a rent increase for this land. A letter will be sent accepting the increase and enquiring about the length of time the charge will stand.
- Two tenders for re-surfacing the car park have been received. Complete costings will need to be made available. Boro Cllr Starkie advised that when the work is completed, the grant should be claimed from Pendle Borough Council.

2759: Senior Citizens Christmas Party

- Cllr Watson has received a quote of £9.00 per head for a two course meal by Diane's Catering, with canapés to be supplied by Parish Council volunteers.
- Mr Winkley is not available for the date of the party, but Cllr Watson has contacted Glenn South who will designate a replacement if he is not available.
- The draft for the invitations is ready for sending out. It will be amended and delivered at the same time as the next issue of "The Spout".
- Cllr Ingham is to include a request in "The Spout" for eligible parishioners to inform the Council if they do not receive an invitation.

2760: Parish Matters

- Lighting on Hollinghurst View-see 2756.
- The footpath between Higham and Fence – no progress.
- The flooding at the bottom of Guide lane seems to have been cured by the recent work.
- The water spout - the sign has now been replaced.
- The bus timetable - a copy is now displayed in the main shelter.
- Methodist Church railings - a letter has been sent (see 2742).
- Fir Trees Lane bus stop - Co Cllr Derwent has requested the repainting and will monitor the situation.
- The playground - this will be a separate item on the next agenda.
- Boro Cllr Starkie commented on the lack of contributions to the 'Spout'. Cllr Forrest is to write a short piece about Jonas Moore for the next edition.

- The Village Bonfire - this will take place on the 31st October and will have a Halloween theme. Additional funding was requested and it was proposed by Cllr Forrest that the contribution towards the insurance was raised to £300. This was seconded by Cllr Ingham and agreed. Cllr Tetley requested that future accounts be presented.
- The tree in the centre of the village - work needs to begin soon.

Cllr Ellis left the meeting at this point

2761: Parish Lengthsman Scheme

- Sagar Hill Stile – completed.
- Laneside Hedge – completed.
- Fir Trees Lane - The tidying of overgrown vegetation has not yet begun. It was suggested that AA Services may need to undertake this task. The wall by the Parsonage is also in need of tidying.
- The Planter on the By-Pass has now been rebuilt in its new position. Plants are needed to provide winter colour. Cllr Townsend will speak to the lengthsman about this. A sign was suggested which read:- 'Welcome to Higham. Birthplace of Sir Jonas Moore'. Cllr Ingham proposed that this should be added to by a similar planter at the east entrance to the village. Cllr Townsend seconded this and all agreed.

2762:Correspondence

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

2763: Items for Future Discussion

- Senior Citizens Christmas Party.
- The playground.

2764: Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on the 17th November at 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 9.37 pm.