

Higham with West Close Booth Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting

18th September 2007

Present: Cllr Mrs P Watson, Cllr Mr D Forrest, Cllr Mr L Townsend, Cllr Mr D Ellis, Cllr Mr J Jackson, Cllr Mr R Gadd, Mrs C Carty (Clerk), County Cllr Derwent, Borough Cllr Mr J Starkie and Cllr Buck - Mayor of Pendle.

Apologies: Cllr Mr B Ingham

Members of the Public in attendance: - There was one member of the public in attendance.

2321 Presentation for Mayor of Pendle

Cllr Forrest welcomed Cllr Buck to the meeting. Cllr Buck explained he was visiting all the Parish and Town Council in the Borough. He gave an overview of how he got involved initially in the Brierfield Neighbourhood Council. He explained that he was keen to ensure Parishes felt that they were not working in isolation. He reviewed the regeneration being undertaken and how he hoped this might attract more tourists to the Pendle area. He noted the festivals that had recently taken place and how he would be looking to support local specialist shops during November and December. He thanked the Parish Councillors for all their hard work.

2322 Public Questions and Police Report:

- There are briars overhanging from Higham Hall Road onto Acresbrook. Cllr Derwent advised that this would be done towards the end of the growing season.

Police Report

- There was no police report available but the damage to Cllr Jackson's property was noted. The Council stated that they found it disgraceful that this action had been taken and if any information was received about who might have done this it would be reported to the police. It was noted however that the Police only seem to work between 9.00am – 5.00pm. It was agreed to ensure the PC and PCSO receive minutes of the meetings and encourage them to attend.

2323 Declarations of Interest / Code of Conduct

- Cllr Forrest declared an interest in the Village Hall. There were no further declarations of interest mentioned by the Councillors

2324 Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising:

Minutes of August 2007 meeting were asked for approval.

The minutes were proposed by Cllr Townsend seconded by Cllr Watson and agreed.

Matters arising

Cllr Jackson advised that at the AGM he had been nominated to receive the planning applications but these were going to Cllr Ingham. It was pointed out that at the August meeting it was agreed that Cllr Ingham as Chairman would receive them. This was not formally voted on but was agreed at that meeting.

Re 2301 – It was reported that the SPIDS had not been to Higham but had been in the other partner areas. It was not sure when the device would be located in Higham.

Cllr Derwent had to leave the meeting at this time.

Re 2304 – it was reported that traffic lights are in place at the mill site. The landlord at the Four Alls is to present the proposed footpath plans to the brewery. There will then need to be a meeting with the landlord and the Parish Council.

Re 2307 – H & S work is still ongoing.

2325 Dalesmoor

It was reported that the water pipe on site had been damaged accidentally by the contractor and have done a temporary repair but are now on with a permanent repair which could take about 2 days.

Cllr Jackson requested copies of the correspondence to and from the solicitor. He also wished to know which deeds the solicitors are holding.

2326 Clerks Report

Written report provided and noted.

2327 County Councillor Report

No report available due to Cllr Derwent having to leave the meeting earlier.

2328 Borough Councillors Report

Cllr Starkie reported an investigation from the Standards Board of Pendle Council against a Higham Parish Councillor.

There is a report of a blocked drain on Higham Hall Road which needs digging out. This will be done by LCC.

Cllr Starkie advised the results of the Best Kept Village competition and encouraged Higham to enter for next year.

Recommendation that a newsletter be produced to let villagers know what the Council are doing and how active they are.

2329 Co-option of Parish Councillors

One vacancy available. Posters are on notice board and Councillors encouraged to speak to people who might be interested.

2330 Planning

- 13/07/0658P Croft Top Stables, Croft Top Lane, Higham – Erection of open fronted store and two additional stalls to existing stable block
Agreed to carry out site visit on 26/9/07 at 6.15pm from Village Hall

Update

- 13/07/0527P 29 Acres Brook Road, Higham – Attach conservatory to rear (30/7/07)
Application approved
- 13/07/0535P 35 Higham Hall Road Higham – Retain covered decking on rear garden land (3/8/07)
Application refused
- 13/07/0591P 34 Acresbrook Road, Higham – Convert lounge to garage and erect first floor extension above to form en-suite bedroom
Decision 24/9/07
- 13/07/0572P Little Owls, Sabden Road Higham - Extension to south west elevation at ground and first floor (part); extend curtilage and erect double garage with a stable unit
Application withdrawn.

2331 Easements

- All payments now received
- Agreed bills to be sent out mid March 2008

Proposed - by Cllr Townsend to lock gates on 1st April each year for one day only seconded by Cllr Jackson.

Resolved - Agreed as will ensure easements are valid.

Re Mrs Birnie – garage is not easily accessible and she had indicated that if unable to turn it round and build a new garage she may wish to give up the site. Need to write and clarify the position.

Re Mrs Swinbanks – we had advised that we would fence off the garden as she no longer wished to have the easement. Agreed for Cllr Ingham and Cllr Jackson to visit her to discuss this further.

2332 Finance:

Accounts to Pay

- *Clerk salary / expenses £164.07*
- *Village Hall - £100*
- *C Walton £322.50*
- *B Ingham £23.01*
- *Lancs County Council £803.00*

All payments agreed

Clerk explained that the new cheque book had been 'misaid' by the bank and they were trying to establish if it had been posted out or was still in a branch. It was possible it may have been sent to a previous Clerk. Cllr Townsend agreed to visit the previous Clerk to determine if received there. Agreed to pay Clerk this evening and other cheques to be raised when new book arrives.

2333 Committee Reports:

- **Finance Ctte**
 - Meeting held 28th August. Clerk reported discussions and minutes of this meeting available for next Parish Council meeting in October.
 - Agreed Richard Gadd to assist with completion of any grant applications.

2334 Lancs Fire & rescue Consultation Document

Report noted

2335 Consideration of Grants from Rural Communities

Agreed to invite Mark Chapellhow to October / November meeting and include invitation to Village Hall committee and shop owner.

2336 IT bid – consideration of purchased

Include a discussion with Village Hall committee to determine what equipment they would find useful.

2337 Employment Land Review

Report noted

2338 Adoption of Parish Plan

Proposal - to formally adopt the Parish Plan – proposed Cllr Townsend seconded Cllr Gadd

Resolved – to adopt the Parish Plan – carried 3-2

2339 Parish Matters

- Cllr Jackson reported that there were problems with the drainage off the mill site but not really a responsibility for the Parish Council. It was agreed to monitor this.
- Re letter from Chris Binnie. He had notified Walton's what trees and brambles can be removed.
- Sabden Road Car Park – quote received for work at £11,000. Need to review alternatives at this time.
- Letter from resident of Halmote Avenue – agreed to write to Housing Pendle and if required arrange a site visit with representatives from the Parish Council
- Letter from resident re refuse / recycling collections. It was noted that orange bags can be supplied if the resident can't wheel their bins to the collection area. Cllr Forrest will look at the tree branches being shredded. Agreed to contact the resident to say investigating his concerns and to send a copy of the letter to the Borough Council

2340 Parish Lengthsman Scheme

Need to look at weed spraying on Croft Lane and Sabden Road by the car park. Look to trim area at bottom of village on the island.

2341 Correspondence

List of correspondence passed out.

2342 Items for next meeting

Items as noted in the minutes.

2343 Date of Next Meetings

16th October 2007 at 7.30pm

Cllr Jackson then made a statement about what had happened to his property and that he laid the blame 'at the door of the Parish Council'. The Chairman stated that all members of the Parish Council were disgusted with what had happened and had every sympathy for Cllr Jackson and his family.