

Higham with West Close Booth Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting 16th September 2008

Present: Cllr. Mr. B. Ingham, Cllr. Mrs. P. Watson, Cllr. Mr. L. Townsend, Cllr. Mr. D. Forrest, Cllr. Mr. M. Tetley, Boro. Cllr. Mr. J. Starkie , Cllr R Gadd

Apologies: Co Cllr S Derwent ; PC Wallin

Members of public in attendance: Two

2548 Public Questions

A member of the public wished to discuss the November Bonfire which is to be held on the playing fields between Higham Hall Rd and Croft Lane. The suggestion was that the format should remain as last year, but with a bigger amount spent on the fireworks, possibly in the region of £1500. A request was made for the Parish Council to contribute towards the Insurance, which is £650. Cllr Ingham suggested the sum of £200 and this was seconded by Cllr Townsend. The proposed date for the bonfire is Saturday 1st November, with an option to move it to the 5th if the weather on the 1st is unsuitable. Signs for the event will be put up in the village.

Police Report

No representatives of the police were available to attend the meeting. However, it was reported that there had been 3 vehicle crimes on Sabden Rd during the last month. Cllr Tetley was able to provide details of one of these, where a CCTV monitor had shown two men attempting to siphon petrol from parked car. Unfortunately, the images were blurred and the men could not be identified. It is hoped that a better quality monitor will be provided soon.

2549 Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

Cllr Ingham proposed that the minutes of the last meeting were correct This was seconded by Cllr Townsend and agreed. Cllr Forrest declared an interest in the Village Hall

Matters arising

- The canopy at the side of the Primary School was discussed. Cllr Ingham said that complaints to Lancashire County Council were frequently ignored, and that there was no point in being asked to comment on issues if comments were then ignored. Cllr Ingham asked if anything could be done about this. Cllr Ellis suggested that the appropriate time to raise this would be at County meetings. Boro Cllr Starkie commented that Education matters seemed to pass through Pendle Borough Council without notice taken of any objections. Cllr Ingham suggested that Co Cllr Derwent be asked about this.
- 10 Higham Hall Rd. Boro Cllr Starkie suggested that the council had seemed to support the application tendered by the residents of this address and pointed out that the council should either object or not object. He said that a member of the public may have been misled by the phrasing of the response to her request. Boro Cllr Starkie that a "no objection" response would be more appropriate and Cllr Ingham agreed.
- There was no further information on the Gazebo outside the Four Alls.

2550 Finance

- Cllr Ingham reported that the Official Auditor had approved the annual return and requested council approval. Cllr Townsend seconded this request. The notice of completion is to be displayed on the notice board outside the Village Hall.
- Cllr Ingham read out a list of the cheques to be authorised as listed on the agenda and these were signed

2551: Ongoing Projects

- Cllr Forrest has sent an invoice for the bus shelter but this has not yet been received. Cllr Ingham will forward the invoice to Pendle Council once it has been received. Bus timetables are to be put up in the bus shelter, and Cllr Ellis suggested that the frame for this be smaller.
- The fingerpost direction sign is now almost finished and Cllr Forrest is in contact with the makers.
- Cllr Ingham asked Cllr Forrest about the Higham Hall Rd sign. Co Cllr Derwent is to provide a new one. The Laneside sign is still to be completed

2552: Clerk's Report;

The clerk's report was distributed at the meeting. The playground report is awaited and the clerk will check on this if the report has not been received by the end of September

2553: County Councillor's Report

There was no Co Councillor's report, but it is understood that work on both sides of the highway will soon be complete. Cllr Ingham read out the note re. Highway spending and Cllr Tetley commented on the unusual way that the grass has been cut.

2554: Borough Councillor's Report

Boro Cllr Starkie reported that an additional £499,000 has been allocated for road schemes and that £4000 of this will be used for county footpaths

2555: Planning Applications and Decisions

- 28 West Close Avenue. This was discussed at the last Parish Council meeting and no objections had been raised. However, the application had been refused at the Barrowford and Western Parishes meeting.
- "The Rising" Fishery. A timber chalet has been applied for to replace the caravan sited there at present. Cllr Ingham displayed the plans for the chalet. Boro Cllr Starkie referred to paragraph 38 of the guidelines for planning applications and asked for this to be read out. This was done by Cllr Ingham. Boro Cllr Starkie explained why this application was an example of the "special reason" referred to in Paragraph 38. Cllr Gadd expressed sympathy for the difficulties faced by the owners of the business and Boro Cllr Starkie suggested that the business could justify the construction, but that a similar situation in Roughlee showed how this could be abused. Cllr Ellis said that the building would be inappropriate in a green belt area and Cllr Forrest asked if other means of security had been investigated. He expressed a strong objection to the construction and this was seconded by Cllr Townsend. All were in favour of this objection with one exception.
- Boro Cllr Starkie urged the Parish Council to have site visits when planning permission is sought and that these should happen within 21 days.

- Cllr Ellis pointed out that the rules for planning permission will be changing in October and that the Parish Council should have someone to explain these changes to them. Boro Cllr Starkie offered to find out information and Cllr Ingham will draft a letter to send to Mr Healey

2556: Committee/ Working Group Reports

There was no report from the Working Group.

2557: Parish Matters

- The Senior Citizens Christmas Party was discussed. Cllr Watson has accepted a quote of £8.50 a head for a two course meal and it was decided that the canapés could be made locally. The entertainment has been booked and invitations were given out to be distributed. Cllr Watson will ask Mr Butterfield to do the bar
- The Parish Magazine. Boro Cllr Starkie showed copies of the projected magazine. The title “Spout” was approved by all. Boro Cllr Starkie offered to put the magazine together if the contents were provided. The church, school and Village Hall should be asked to contribute and Cllr Ellis proposed that a list of Parish Councillors be included. Ann Weekes was suggested as a good source of information and Cllr Watson offered to liaise with her. Four editions a year of the magazine was recommended and it should be A4 in size and in colour. Each print run would cost £150. In answer to the question of the timing of the first issue which was raised by Cllr Watson, it is hoped to aim for 1st November.
- A resident has rung Cllr Ingham to report that poor parking outside the Village Hall during a function had resulted in a bus being unable to pass through the village. The resident had asked if No Parking signs could be used these times. Cllr Ingham put the problems down to bad parking and said that parking was an ongoing problem in the village.
- A letter of thanks is to be written to the organisers of the Scarecrow Festival
- Cllr Ingham proposed that Mrs Lomax be fully inducted as a Parish Councillor. Cllr Townsend seconded this proposal and all agreed. Mrs Lomax will take up her official position as a Parish Councillor at the next meeting

2558 :Parish Lengthsman Scheme – update and forward planning

A lot of work has been completed by the Parish Lengthsman in the past month, but Blind Lane still needs strimming. Cllr Townsend has identified problems with a drain which is causing difficulties for a resident of the village. The resident has been given a reference number to help with a complaint to the Highways Authority.

2559:Correspondence

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

2560: Items for future discussion.

The Senior Citizens Christmas Party.

Village magazine

Playground Inspection report

2561: Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on the 21st October at 7.30 in the Village Hall

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm