

Minutes of the meeting held at the Village Hall on Tuesday 15th December 2009.

The Chairman opened the public meeting at 7.04 pm. Six members of the public were present to discuss issues connected with the new play area in Keble Park.

Mr Hind, of Keble Park North, asked what action the Parish Council had taken in the last three weeks (since the November Parish Council meeting) to protect the privacy of local residents surrounding the new play area in Keble Park. He reminded the Councillors that the petition presented at the November meeting called for the park to be gated and asked the Parish Council to explain their apparent resistance to this suggestion. Emphasising the need to work together, Mr Hind asked for a commitment from the Councillors to review individual pieces of equipment, which are a cause for concern to some residents surrounding the area.

Mr Mawer, of Keble Park North, expressed his support for the play area but stressed concerns about security - particularly in light of the recent paint attack. Having lived in Bishopthorpe for many years, Mr Mawer explained that the play area was originally surrounded by a high wooden fence and he suggested that the Parish Council should consider re-instating this to provide both security and privacy for those houses surrounding the park.

Ms Hoynes, of Beech Avenue, explained that she was attending the meeting to discuss how her quality of life may be compromised by the new play area. To illustrate in what ways, the Councillors were presented with a number of different photographs: one of which showed how the top of the Zip-wire could be seen above Ms Hoynes's garden fence. She fears that any person standing on the Zip-wire frame would have a direct view into her garden. A pair of large garden shears covered in pink paint were shown in another photograph after being thrown over Ms Hoynes's fence into the enclosure housing her working dog. To provide security and privacy the Parish Council was asked to remove both the Zip-wire and the climbing frame or alternatively erect an eight-foot wooden fence.

Cllr. Harrison thanked the parishioners for attending the meeting and sympathised with their concerns. He stated that the Parish Council are striving to provide a safe, modern play area for children of the village but at the same time are committed to working with local residents to protect their privacy. Extensive research was undertaken before the construction of the park with many experts called in for advice. The City Council was involved in the planning process and part funded the project along with the Ward Committee. All planning obligations have been fully met by the Parish Council. However, Cllr. Harrison acknowledged that if certain pieces of equipment were causing concern, they would be re-examined in order to provide a working solution for all parties concerned.

The Police have been widely involved in the creation of the park from inception, but have advised the Parish Council not to gate the entrances. In their experience, this action would not prevent people entering the play area if they are determined to do so. However in order to address security concerns, Cllr. Harrison confirmed that the Parish Council has obtained several quotes from fencing contractors since the last Parish Council meeting and intend to replace and repair the existing fence shortly. It was also planned to grow plants up the fence to provide privacy and muffle any noise coming from the play area.

Cllr. Harrison expressed regret that the parishioners present tonight did not get involved in the process at an earlier stage when their opinions may have influenced the layout of the play area. Answering calls that the Parish Council has not publicised the project widely, Cllr. Harrison stated that following the consultation day it has been reported in the Parish Council minutes over a two-year period with corresponding updates published monthly in the village magazine, Link. It was also the subject of an article in the York Press after the award of a substantial grant from City of York Council.

To move matters forward, Cllr. Harrison suggested that Play Dale and the Police should be invited back to the site to discuss possible solutions to resolve local concerns. Cllr Harrison thanked the local residents present for their offer to view the play area from their gardens and confirmed that the Parish Council will aim to work with residents to build a safe, secure play area, which at the same time will not compromise privacy of surrounding residents.

The public meeting closed at 7.43 pm

Council Members Present: -

Cllr. Harrison (Chairman), Cllr. Dale, Cllr. Jemison, Cllr. Dunn, Cllr. Mrs Bruce, Cllr. Higgins and Cllr. Mellors.

09/173 1 **Apologies for absence.**
Cllr. Mrs Thornton, Cllr. Watkins and Cllr. Mrs Green

09/174 2 **Declarations of Interest**

At this point Councillors are asked to declare any personal or prejudicial interests they may have in the business on this agenda.

- *Cllr. Mrs Bruce declared a personal interest in item 5.6.1*

09/175 3 **Minutes of Meeting 24th November 2009**

Acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Cllr. Mellors and seconded by Cllr. Jemison. Carried Unanimously by all who attended the meeting.

09/176 4 **Consideration of Planning Matters and recommendations of the Planning Group**

4.1 Notice of Applications received

- 4.1.1 **25 Croft Court.** Single storey side extension including garage following demolition of existing garage. 09/02133/FUL. No Objection
- 4.1.2 **25 Lamplugh Crescent.** Variation of condition four of approved development 09/01332/FUL to allow an additional window in sunroom and two velux roof lights within side extension. 09/02145/FUL. Objection
- 4.1.3 **2 Keble Park Crescent.** Single storey pitched roof rear extension. 09/02164/FUL. No Objection
- 4.1.4 **9 Keble Park North.** Replacement first floor window to side. 09/02181/FUL. No Objection

4.2 Notice of decisions given (*Parish Council decisions are highlighted in red*)

- 4.2.1 None

4.3 Other Planning Matters

- 4.3.1 *Update on Terry's Planning Application* – The application is to be reviewed in February but the public are invited to attend a presentation on the 17th December at St Chad's Church.

09/177 5 **Services**

5.1 Village Hall Management Committee

- 5.1.1 *Management Committee Report* – The Parish Council must apply for the Precept payment from the City Council before 31st January. To aid the decision process, the Village Hall Management Committee was asked to decide the level of increase in hire charges for the Village Hall. **Action Cllr. Watkins**
- 5.1.2 *The Charity Commission – submission of Trustee Annual Report and Accounts for year ending March 2009 – (due by 31st January 2010)* – Nothing to report
- 5.1.3 *Letter from Sandit Flooring* – Cllr. Harrison reported that a letter has been sent to Sandit enclosing a cheque for £1,580.90 in final settlement of their invoice.

- 5.2 Sports and Leisure Management Committee
- 5.2.1 *Management Committee Report* – Cllr. Harrison asked that the Committee provide a list of rental income and operating costs for the Pavilion (to be forwarded to Smiths Gore). **Action Cllr. Mrs Thornton**
- 5.2.2 *Change of use – planning application* – The Clerk confirmed that the Planning Application was sent to the City Council on the 10th December.
- 5.2.3 *Ferry Cottage* – Nothing to report
- 5.2.4 *Conditions of Hire Form* – Nothing to report
- 5.2.5 *Letter from Smiths Gore re sports field rent* – A letter was received from Smiths Gore suggesting a 100% increase in rent for the cricket field from £250 to £500. In response to the Parish Council’s reply suggesting that this was excessive, the amount requested by Smiths Gore has been reduced to £340. Cllr. Harrison agreed to contact them to negotiate further. **Action Cllr. Harrison**
- 5.3 Finance Committee
- 5.3.1 *Committee Report* – Nothing to report
- 5.3.2 *Precept Schedule 2010* – Cllr Harrison reported that due to careful budgeting and resourceful cash management, whilst undertaking two major projects, the Parish Council had successfully remained within budget. He also suggested that it may be possible to maintain the precept at the current level for the 2010/11 financial year. The precept schedule must be returned to the City Council by 31st January. **Action Cllr. Harrison**
- 5.3.3 *Double Taxation* – Cllr. Harrison suggested that the Parish Council may wish to apply for double taxation relief for maintaining the new play area next year. The cost of this expenditure will be closely monitored over the next twelve months.
- 5.4 Field 84, Riverside and Footpaths Working Party
- 5.4.1 *Working Party Report* – Nothing to report
- 5.5 Youth Support and Children’s Recreation
- 5.5.1 *The Park, Keble Park North* – Cllr. Mrs Bruce reported the following points:
- Construction of the play area is complete. Cllr. Mrs Bruce requested that the security fencing be left in place until the ROSPA inspection has been passed and it is deemed safe to open. The official opening day will be arranged in the New Year.
 - Cllr. Mrs Bruce agreed to contact York Pride to request the removal of the pink paint caused by vandals. **Action Cllr. Mrs Bruce**
 - City of York Council has agreed to install two bike racks – free of charge to the Parish Council – at the entrance to the park.
 - June Whittaker has requested permission to hold a village play day for children, on Wednesday 4th August 2010 in the new play area. This is the kind of event the Parish Council envisaged for the play area and permission was granted. **Action Cllr Mrs Bruce**

5.5.1.1 *Gating entrances to the park* – Following extensive consultations with the Police, the Parish Council have been advised not to gate the entrances to the park. However, this decision will be continually reviewed once the park is open.

5.5.1.2 *Fencing the boundary* – The three quotes obtained by Cllr. Mrs Bruce were discussed at length. A proposal was made by Cllr. Harrison to accept the quote to replace and repair the existing perimeter fence at £1,005.25 plus VAT and an additional quote of £726.25 plus VAT to construct a new wooden fence at the entrance from Keble Park North. Seconded by Cllr. Mrs Bruce. Carried Unanimously.

To conclude matters arising in the public meeting, Cllr. Harrison agreed to contact Play Dale to ask that representatives return to the site to discuss privacy issues and the location of particular pieces of equipment. **Action Cllr. Harrison**

5.6 Allotments

5.6.1 *Monthly Report* – Offers of new plots are to be made to the first four people on the waiting list for Appleton Road.

5.6.2 *Email from Brunswick regarding the Acaster Lane site* – Brunswick Nursery has agreed to clear Plot 11 at the Appleton Road site.

Cllr. Dale suggested that the Parish Council should consider offering the badly overgrown plot at the bottom of the Acaster Lane site to the next person on the waiting list free of rent for one year. The Councillors agreed with this suggestion.

Cllr. Dale also agreed to draft a letter to include the following two matters of concern at the Acaster Lane site:

- All plot owners must accept responsibility for composting their own waste on their plot and desist from dumping it elsewhere in the site.
- Some holders are paying their rent annually but are not maintaining their plot at all during the year. There are currently eighteen people on the waiting list and the Councillors decided that this practice would be disallowed in future. It will be stated in the letter that the plot must be regularly maintained or the Parish Council will terminate the tenancy.

Action Cllr. Dale

5.6.3 *Letter from Stephenson's & Son* – Cllr. Harrison passed the letter from Stephenson's to Cllr. Dale and requested that he draft a reply asking for the cattle-damaged fence to be replaced by the farmer. **Action Cllr. Dale**

5.7 Senior Citizens Support

5.7.1 *Monthly Report* – Nothing to report

5.8 Web-site Management

5.8.1 *Web page* – Nothing to report

5.9 Environmental and Sustainability Issues

5.9.1 *Monthly report* – Nothing to report

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| 09/178 | 6 | Financial Transactions | | |
| | | 6.1 | <u>Payments to approve</u> | |
| | | | Clerk's Salary | 476.00 |
| | | | Clerk's Expenses- (<i>photocopying £10.16, Stamps £17.17</i>) | 27.33 |
| | | | G & S Jackson and Son – Sports Pavilion Grass Cutting | 1,150.00 |
| | | | AON Limited – additional premium for play area cover | 321.53 |
| | | | Lottery postal expenses – Cllr. Mrs Thornton | 5.40 |
| | | | Village Hall keys – Pextons – Cllr. Mrs Thornton | 11.25 |
| | | | British Gas – 25 th August to 7 th December | 557.31 |
| | | | Village Hall Management Committee – Parish Council ¼ly rent | 65.00 |
| | | | Payment Total | £2,613.82 |
| | | | <u>Refurbishment Payments</u> | |
| | | | H Watson & Son Ltd | 2,206.85 |
| | | | H Watson & Son Ltd | 2,803.13 |
| | | | David Chapman and Associates – Professional Fees | 1,443.46 |
| | | | James Brindley – Furniture and fittings | 593.88 |
| | | | GTC Sports – Furniture and fittings | 646.88 |
| | | | Leosign – Furniture and fittings | 59.11 |
| | | | John Lewis – Furniture and fittings | 153.45 |
| | | | ESE – Furniture and fittings | 409.69 |
| | | | Mobility Buddy – Furniture and fittings | 143.75 |
| | | | Trade Frames – Furniture and fittings | 119.28 |
| | | | Refurbishment Payment Total | £8,579.48 |
| | | | <u>Play Area Payments</u> | |
| | | | Play Dale Playgrounds Ltd - Third Instalment | 21,311.80 |
| | | | Play Area Payment Total | £21,311.80 |
| | | | Grand Total to be debited this month | £32,505.10 |
| | | | 6.2 | |
| | | | <u>Income Receipts</u> | |
| | | | Lottery – final payment | 17,576.00 |
| | | | Income Total | £17,576.00 |
| | | | Approval of financial transactions proposed by Cllr. Dale and seconded by Cllr. Jemison. Carried Unanimously. | |
| 09/179 | 7 | School Governors | | |
| | | 7.1 | <i>Infants School</i> – Nothing to report | |
| | | 7.2 | <i>Junior School</i> – It is noted that an arrest was made for the recent damage caused to the school. | |
| 09/180 | 8 | Youth Awards | | |
| | | 8.1 | <i>Committee Report</i> – The winners' names are due to be announced on the 18 th December. | |

- 09/181 9 **Pinfold**
9.1 *Committee Report* – Nothing to report
- 09/182 10 **Sensory Garden**
10.1 *Committee Report* – It was reported that due to illness and unforeseen circumstances a Christmas Tree will not be erected in the garden this year.
- 09/183 11 **Police Liaison**
11.1 *North Yorkshire Police Force* – Report from PCSO Colin Martin received following the meeting:

Bishopthorpe Figures
19th November 2009 – 11th December 2009

Arson

20/11 – Trampoline set on fire on Acaster Lane
04/12 - York RI Sailing Club set on fire

Criminal Damage

21/11 – Window broken on Main Street
22/11 – Damage to field shelter on Acaster Lane
06/12 – Threats to burn down house – **1 Arrested**
06/12 – Oil poured over the door to the Methodist Church
06/12 – Paint on Play equipment / machinery at the play park on Keble Park North

Commercial Burglary

10/12 – Junior School entered, Damage caused – **1 Arrested**

Burglary

26/11 – House entered on Keble Park North, key's and scooter taken
21/11 – Shed entered on the Allotments on Appleton Road
09/12 – Garage entered on Maclagan Road

ASB – (None crime)

20/11 – Scooters on Main Street
24/11 – Youths on play park on Keble Park North
26/11 – Youths on play park on Keble Park North
27/11 – Fire works been set off on Ferry Lane
09/12 – Youths outside the Methodist church.

- 11.2 *Cycle track – proposed gating* – Cllr. Higgins reported that he has contacted both Sustrans and Cycle England to discuss ways in which the entrance to the cycle path at Keble Park North can be gated. Replies are awaited

- 09/184 12 **Local Council Association**
12.1 *YLCA Update – Cllr. Mellors* - Nothing to report
12.2 *Fieldwork Magazine* – noted

- 09/185 13 **Highway Matters**
13.1 Ricky Watson of the City Council has agreed to put forward a request on behalf of the Parish Council to change the lights on the crossroads of Main Street and Sim Balk Lane to brighter white lights. The proposal should be completed in January for inclusion in the next financial year.
- The lighting on Ferry Lane was also discussed and Mr Watson agreed to review the new light outside the pavilion as agreed by the award of a Ward Committee Grant. The road surface was also discussed with Michael Watkins of City of York with a to review to be undertaken before the start of the next financial year.
- 09/186 14 **Correspondence**
14.1 City of York not covered elsewhere
14.1.1 None
- 14.2 Others
14.2.1 *North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority – Summary of Accounts 2008 / 09 – noted*
- 09/187 15 **Ward Committee**
Nothing to report
- 09/188 16 **Any other business, which the Chairman considers urgent under the Local Government Act 1972.**
- Cllr. Mellors commented that the Parish Council has the power to set by-laws and suggested that consideration should be given to setting a new one to prevent dogs entering the play area. He agreed to contact City of York Council Legal Department for further advice. **Action Cllr. Mellors**
- 09/189 16 **Date and time of next meeting next Parish Council meeting Tuesday 26th January 2010** 7.00pm in the Village Hall

Meeting closed at 8.44 pm