

Minutes of the meeting held at the Village Hall on Tuesday 26th January 2010.

The Chairman opened the public meeting at 7.00 pm. Fourteen members of the public were present.

Cllr. Harrison read out the following statement concerning the new play area in Keble Park:

“This project goes back many years and involved the Parish Council reviewing various sites in the village but we were constrained by the fact that most were small unsuitable areas and we were prevented from sourcing larger areas due to lack of ownership and planning constraints.

Eventually we decided that the only land available was the original site on Keble Park North. We advertised and subsequently held a full Consultation Day on 16 September 2007 on the Keble Park North site when the overwhelming majority of people were in favour of going ahead with the scheme.

However, during drawing up proposals for the scheme, we were conscious of various issues and I quote from the original project summary:

“We are mindful that the project is located within a residential community with homes overlooking the play area.”

This, of course, raised safety and security issues and advice was sought from City of York Architectural Liaison Officer, City of York Young People and Family Worker, City of York Play Strategy, North Yorkshire Police Liaison Officer and Play for England.

Fencing issues were raised several times over the last couple of years and it was proposed that we would strengthen the original fence but would try to avoid wooden fencing as we did not want to build a “compound area” but an open looking park for young people and their families to enjoy. This was reinforced by recent statement by the Safer York Partnership that stated:

“If residents start putting up fences, the natural surveillance from surrounding properties will go and that is likely to increase the likelihood of antisocial behaviour”

Gating the area was also discussed with the relevant experts and the Police, who have been widely involved in the creation of the park from inception, 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 but may prevent them from patrolling the area on a regular basis and if necessary reacting to anti-social behaviour.

We have stressed on many occasions that we would continually review the situation once the park was open and take any action necessary to ensure that people living around the park would not have their lives disrupted by any anti-social behaviour.

We were presented with a petition in November 2009 by some of the residents living around the park and also heard views from local residents. The Parish Council took these opinions on board and stressed at the meeting that:

“The Parish Council aim to work with them to ensure that their quality of life is not compromised by the new play area. Addressing the matter of anticipated breaches of privacy: it was confirmed that the Parish Council intend to identify the boundary of the park very clearly and mark this with a new fence.”

It was discussed that it is difficult, at this early stage, to anticipate breaches of privacy and residents were asked that this situation be monitored in the coming months with specific concerns reported back to the Parish Council.

In conclusion, it was reiterated that the Parish Council aim to create a play area to enhance the quality of life for youngsters in the village but not to the detriment of surrounding neighbours. The Parish Council will seek to work closely with residents and the Police to ensure that the play area is respected and enjoyed by all who use it.

Again, at the December meeting six residents attended the meeting for an update on the situation.

The Parish Council sympathised with their concerns and it was stressed again that the Parish Council was 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 before final plans were agreed with City of York Council and the Police.

Turning to the petition that was presented at the previous meeting one of the requests was to erect "Fence panels/screening to neighbouring homes"

And in order to address security concerns the Parish Council confirmed that several quotes from fencing contractors have been obtained 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.

The petition also requested gates to protect the park and it would appear that the current opinion among experts has also changed and that restricting access "out of hours" may be the way forward. The Parish Council had never discounted this idea but wanted to wait and see whether play area would be used with respect and the community as a whole would help police the area to enable people to enjoy this facility for years to come.

Several months ago I had a discussion with the local police who confirmed that if the play area was to be locked they would be given a key to allow easy access for any officers on duty in Bishopthorpe.

I will therefore be proposing later in the meeting, because I cannot legally propose the matter during the public meeting, that the Parish Council should install gates to protect the park "out of hours". I understand there was also a proposal from two local residents that they would take responsibility for opening and closing the site and I also like to take up this offer and formalise any arrangement.

In conclusion, I believe the way forward is to implement the proposal to grow fast growing shrubs up the newly strengthened fence to provide a baffle (I understand this can be achieved in little over one year), and to install gates on all entrances.

Thank you for coming this evening and thank you for your input over the last couple of months and I will say once again that the Parish Council is 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"

Questions were invited from the parishioners:

The Councillors were asked to comment on the number of pieces of equipment in the play area – specifically if they thought that the area was too crowded.

Cllr. Harrison reminded the meeting that at the public consultation day held in September 2007, local residents had the chance to influence the design of the play area. Ideas and suggestions were taken away by the Parish Council from this meeting and discussed in detail with the following: City of York Architectural Liaison Officer; City of York Young People and Family Worker, City of York Play Strategy, North Yorkshire Police Liaison Officer and Play for England. Progress was reported on a monthly basis in the Parish Council minutes and also in Link

magazine. At any time during this period, residents had the opportunity to suggest how the play area should be built but no one came forward with any suggestions. Therefore, acting on a range of professional advice, the Parish Council gave instruction for the play area to be constructed.

A question was raised asking if the children using the play area will be supervised.

Cllr. Harrison replied that they would not be supervised by the Parish Council.

Mr Clark of Keble Park North produced a letter from Cllr. John Galvin, which he read out to the meeting. In the letter Cllr. John Galvin states his support to re-install play equipment on the Keble Park North site. However, to alleviate his own concerns that there may be a potential for an increase in anti-social behaviour, he visited the site with Jim Shanks, the Safer York Architectural Liaison Officer. Mr Shanks suggested that to improve security to the play area, access could be restricted by the installation of gates and ‘*if necessary*’ erection of fencing to secure the play area and provide privacy. Mr Clark stressed that his own privacy will be compromised and to show the Councillors how, he passed a number of photographs around the meeting showing the direct view of his garden from the top of some of the new equipment.

Responding to these comments, Cllr. Mrs Thornton outlined how the Parish Council is striving to resolve the issues raised by residents. Acting on advice from the former Architectural Liaison Officer, the Parish Council was instructed not to gate the play area in order to facilitate open policing. However, this advice has been dramatically reversed during the course of the past two weeks by the new Architectural Liaison Officer, which directly contradicts that given by his predecessor. The Parish Council will act on the new advice and a proposal will be made, following the public meeting, to install gates.

Cllr. Harrison advised that the existing chain link fence, which marks the perimeter of the park, would be repaired and replaced to the same standard as new around the whole area. To conclude, Cllr. Harrison confirmed that the following action would take place:

- The fencing contractor will be called back on site to replace and repair the existing chain link fence around the whole area.
- New gates for the entrances will be proposed later in the meeting.
- Ms Moehr and Mr Territt, of Keble Park North, will be contacted to formalise their offer of locking and unlocking the gate to the park.

Ms Amy Durrant and Mr Colin Sinclair from Kirkwell attended the meeting to discuss the planning application for 14 Copmanthorpe Lane.

Ms Durrant explained how they wished to discuss the proposed planning application, 09/00819/FUL – *Site to rear of 14 Copmanthorpe Lane, single storey dwelling with rooms in roof to rear of 14 Copmanthorpe Lane.* Explaining that the new development will be only fourteen metres away from properties in Kirkwell and only seven metres away from those in New Lane, Ms Durrant questioned how this application could be approved given that the former application, which sited the new development twenty-one metres away from existing properties, was refused. Ms Durrant asked if the Parish Council would support her objection.

Cllr. Mellors confirmed that the Parish Council had strongly objected to this application on the basis that the privacy of neighbouring dwellings would be encroached. However, despite numerous objections from residents close to the site and the objection from the Parish Council, the City Council intends to approve the application. Cllr. Harrison confirmed that the Parish Council will support Ms Durrant’s objection and suggested that a formal complaint should be made to the City Council. Cllr. Mellors suggested that the Standards Committee may also be able to offer assistance and promised to forward their contact details.

The public meeting closed at 8.00 pm

Council Members Present: -

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

10/01 1 **Apologies for absence.**
Cllr. Watkins and Cllr. Dale

10/02 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. Dunn declared an interest in item 11.1*

10/03 3 **Minutes of Meeting 15th December 2009**

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

10/04 4 **Consideration of Planning Matters and recommendations of the Planning Group**

4.1 Notice of Applications received

4.1.1 **Cranford, 35 Sim Balk Lane.** Single storey rear extension. 09/02259/FUL. No Objection

4.1.2 **25 The Orchard.** Single storey rear extension. 09/02269/FUL. No Objection

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

4.2.1 **51 Main Street.** First floor pitched roof rear extension. 09/01986/FUL. (**No Objection.**) Refused

4.2.2 **9 Croft Court.** Single storey rear extension, dormer to rear and velux window to front. 09/01926/FUL. (**Objection.**) Approved

4.3 Other Planning Matters

4.3.1 *Update on Terry's Planning Application* – Cllr. Mellors reported that the application is going before the Planning Committee on the 4th February. Bishopthorpe Parish Council is fully supportive of this development but has raised concerns about the anticipated impact increased volumes of traffic will have on the village. Suggestions to alleviate the traffic volume have been put to City of York Council.

4.3.2 *York Open Planning Forum Newsletter – December 2009* – noted

10/05 5 **Services**

5.1 Village Hall Management Committee

5.1.1 *Management Committee Report* – No report

5.1.2 *The Charity Commission – submission of Trustee Annual Report and Accounts for year ending March 2009 – (due by 31st January 2010)* – A formal request has been made to Martin Flook, Treasurer of the Village Hall Management Committee, to produce a set of accounts for the year ending March 2009 as requested by the Charity Commission.

- 5.1.3 *Bank Accounts changes (in conjunction with item 5.2.7)* – Cllr. Harrison reported that both the Village Hall Committee and the Sports and Leisure Committee are experiencing problems with their respective accounting procedures. Suppliers have not been paid and accounts have not been produced. The Clerk was asked to assume responsibility for both accounts, incorporating them into the Parish Council account.

Action Clerk

A petty cash account will be maintained for the Village Hall Management Committee. In order to allow the Committee a degree of financial flexibility, it was decided that they should be granted the authority to spend up to £500 on any individual item with an annual limit of £2,000 without reference to the Parish Council.

- 5.1.4 *Performing Rights Society Limited – Annual review* – Cllr. Mrs Thornton reported that this item has been actioned.

At this point Cllr. Mrs Thornton reported that the Ebor Players are striving to achieve a fair agreement with the Village Hall Management Committee regarding the level of rent to be charged retrospectively for using the Village Hall in 2009. An increase of 10% on the amount paid in 2008 has been offered in addition to a one off payment of £100 but this has been refused. Cllr. Mrs Thornton presented the meeting with calculations to digest for full discussion in February.

5.2 Sports and Leisure Management Committee

- 5.2.1 *Management Committee Report* – Nothing to report
- 5.2.2 *Change of use – planning application* – Cllr. Mellors reported that this matter is progressing slowly.
- 5.2.3 *Ferry Cottage* – Item to be removed from Agenda.
- 5.2.4 *Conditions of Hire Form* – Nothing to report
- 5.2.5 *Rental income and operating costs – list to be prepared by Committee* – Nothing to report
- 5.2.6 *Smiths Gore – sports field rent increase* – Nothing to report
- 5.2.7 *Bank Account changes* – refer to item 5.1.3

5.3 Finance Committee

- 5.3.1 *Committee Report* – Following a meeting held on the 21st January, it was agreed that the precept should be held at 2009/10 levels. Changes to the Committee accounts were also discussed in detail, as noted in item 5.1.3
- 5.3.2 *Precept Schedule 2010* – Cllr. Harrison proposed that the precept for 2010/11 should remain at £28,000 per annum. Seconded by Cllr. Mrs Thornton. Carried Unanimously. The schedule was signed by Cllr. Harrison and the Clerk and will be returned to the City Council before 31st January as requested.
- 5.3.3 *Council Tax Base 2010/11* – noted

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 that York Pride have quoted £320 + Vat to remove the pink paint smeared on the play area by vandals. Once removed, the inspection of the site will be arranged.

5.5.1.1 *Gating entrances to the park* – Continuing from points raised in the public discussion, Cllr. Harrison proposed that the Parish Council close the Lamplugh Crescent entrance for security reasons and gate the Keble Park North entrance with a new gate. Seconded by Cllr. Mrs Thornton. Carried Unanimously.

5.5.1.2 *Fencing the boundary* – Cllr. Harrison recommended that the fencing contractor should be recalled to the site to quote for repairing and renewing the chain-link fence around the whole boundary.

Cllr. Mrs Bruce agreed to request three quotes for an eight-foot solid fence surrounding the play area. **Action Cllr. Mrs Bruce.**

5.5.2 *By-law investigation regarding the prevention of dogs in the new play area* – Advice is to be sought from the City Council by Cllr. Mellors.

5.6 Allotments

5.6.1 *Monthly Report* – Cllr. Harrison read out an email report received before the meeting from Cllr. Dale in which he confirmed that four available plots on the Appleton Road site are shortly to be offered to the next people on the waiting list.

5.6.2 *Letter from Stephenson & Son regarding the damage caused by cattle to fence* – A letter to Stephenson & Son was prepared by Cllr. Dale and signed by Cllr. Harrison requesting that the farmer replace the fence around his field to ensure that cattle are unable to break into the allotments again.

5.7 Senior Citizens Support

5.7.1 *Monthly Report* – Nothing to report

5.7.2 *Comment on Bishopthorpe.net regarding icy pathways in the village* – Following the recent spell of heavy snow, pathways in the village became hazardous to use. Cllr. Harrison suggested that the village may benefit from additional salt bins and the Councillors were asked to consider suitable venues for new bins. The item will be included on the February Agenda for full discussion.

5.8 Web-site Management

5.8.1 *Web page* – Nothing to report

5.9 Environmental and Sustainability Issues

5.9.1 *Monthly report* – Cllr. Mrs Green thanked Cllr. Mrs Thornton for her help with the Village Recycle Day, which was held on Saturday 9th January. The day proved very successful with helpful contacts being made with City Of York Council recycling Officers: this may lead to new recycling facilities being established in the village in the near future.

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Financial Transactions

6.1 Payments to approve

Clerk's Salary	476.00
Clerk's Expenses- (<i>photocopying £6.48</i>)	6.48
Quarterly Phone Call charge	1.99
Quarterly AOL broadband connection charge	29.97
Smiths Gore – rent for Sports Field	125.00
Smiths Gore – rent for 1m ransom strip – Appleton Road Allotments	1.00
City Of York Council Commercial Waste Collection – Sports Pavilion	52.33
City Of York Council Commercial Waste Collection – Village Hall	36.33
Youth Award Prize – Alice Harrison	150.00
Youth Award Prize – Rachel Olley	150.00
Russ Turner – Erection & removal of Christmas tree to Village Hall	70.17
Sports Pavilion - J Short – Cutting of cricket club outfield	680.00
Sports Pavilion – Cleaner Invoices 98, 62 &51	217.26
Sports Pavilion – Justin Foster repairs to lavatory	35.00
Village Hall Honorium – May Massie	200.00
Playgroup rent – 26 meetings September to December	234.00
Junior Badminton rent – 13 meetings September to December	117.00
Brownies rent – 12 meetings September to December	90.00
Youth Club rent – 12 meetings September to December	90.00
Youth Award – update of wooden presentation board	47.00

Payment Total	£2809.53
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Play Area Payments

Post Installation Play area Inspection by Playdale RPII Inspector	339.25
York Vale Fencing Ltd – chain link fencing for play area	2,562.97

Play Area Payment Total	£2,902.22
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Grand Total to be debited this month	£5,711.75
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6.2 Income Receipts

HM Revenue & Customs – Duty / VAT repayment	28,443.96
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Income Total	£28,443.96
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Approval of financial transactions proposed by Cllr. Harrison and seconded by Cllr. Mrs Thornton. Carried Unanimously.

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School Governors

7.1 *Infants School* – Nothing to report

7.2 *Junior School* – Cllr. Mrs Green reported that all Govenors are currently undergoing training sessions in preparation for the anticipated Ofsted inspection in the Summer.

- 10/08 8 **Youth Awards**
8.1 *Committee Report* – Cllr. Harrison thanked Cllr. Mrs Thornton for conducting the presentation ceremony. This year’s winners were announced as Alice Harrison and Rachel Olley. Cllr. Mrs Bruce was thanked for her hospitality hosting the evening dinner.
- 10/09 9 **Pinfold**
9.1 *Committee Report* – Nothing to report
- 10/10 10 **Sensory Garden**
10.1 *Committee Report* – Cllr. Mrs Green reported that the garden was kept locked during the heavy snowfall at the beginning of January and the Parish Council are grateful to Richard Williams for taking care of the water feature to ensure that it did not freeze.
- 10/11 11 **Police Liaison**
11.1 *North Yorkshire Police Force* –

PC Anna Daniels emailed a report as follows:

Ferry Lane Cottage fire – 4th January – four local youths were arrested and one has been charged with arson. The male is currently awaiting sentence from York Magistrates Court.

Burglary at Archbishop Junior School – 10th January – three local youths have been arrested but have been released on bail and are to return to Fulford Station in February.

Cllr. Harrison reported that the Police have requested a public meeting to discuss anti-social behaviour in the village. This is schedule for Tuesday 2nd March at 7pm at the Village Hall and will be chaired by Cllr. John Galvin.
- 11.2 *Cycle track – proposed gating* – Nothing to report
- 10/12 12 **Local Council Association**
12.1 *YLCA Update* – Cllr. Mellors reported the following items:
 - City of York Council have indicated that they may be prepared to maintain play areas if there is sufficient demand. Bishopthorpe Parish Council has formally registered an interest in the scheme.
 - YLCA has completed their office move.
 - Contact to the YLCA must in future be through the Clerk only – no direct contact from Councillors will be encouraged.
 - A £36,000 funding bid is being submitted by the YLCA in relation to the creation of new parishes.
 - Annual subscriptions will increase this year
 - The next branch meeting is planned for 4th February at Dunnington.
- 12.2 *CPRE - Magazine* – Information passed to Cllr. Mrs Green
- 12.3 *White Rose update* – The implication on Parish Councils of the pending legislation to remove cheque payments by 2018 is being considered.
- 12.4 *YLCA Membership Subscription notification* – noted
- 12.5 *York Voluntary Voice newsletter* – Information passed to Cllr. Mrs Green

- 10/13 13 **Highway Matters**
13.1 None
- 10/14 14 **Correspondence**
14.1 City of York not covered elsewhere
14.1.1 None
- 14.2 Others
14.2.1 *Letter from Mr Kelly* – A letter will be sent to Mr Kelly to explain that the recent spate of anti-social behaviour wreaked on the Acaster Lane shops was not an isolated incident but part of an endemic problem in Bishopthorpe. It will be stressed that it is in no way related to the Urbie bus. **Action Clerk**
- 10/15 15 **Ward Committee**

The next Ward Committee meeting is on Wednesday 10th February at Bishopthorpe Village Hall.
- 10/16 16 **Any other business, which the Chairman considers urgent under the Local Government Act 1972.**
- **Second Annual Darts Challenge** between the Ebor Players and Bishopthorpe Parish Council – Wednesday February 10th, 7.30pm, Ebor
 - **Bishopthorpe Gala** – will be held on Saturday June 19th
 - **Bishopthorpe Dog Show** – Cllr. Mrs Green requested agreement in principle for the Dog Show. Cllr. Mrs Thornton agreed to raise the point at the Sports and Leisure Committee meeting on 1st February.
- 10/17 17 **Date and time of next meeting next Parish Council meeting Tuesday 23rd February 2010** 7.00pm in the Village Hall

Meeting closed at 9.53 pm