

MINUTES of the meeting of the GRASSMOOR, HASLAND AND WINSICK PARISH COUNCIL held on 14 March 2007 at the Grassmoor Community Centre.

PRESENT

Councillor Mrs E A Hill (in the Chair)

Councillors I F Barlow, A H Booker, Mrs E Greenall, K Hemsley and Mrs P J Hemsley.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A member of the public attended the meeting to express concern over the planning application to build 26 dwellings on the site of 33A Birkin Lane, Grassmoor. The Parish Council noted the residents concerns and these would be taken in to consideration when the Council formally considered the application later in the meeting (See Minute no. 486.)

POLICE/PARISH LIAISON

PCSO James Land attended the meeting to update the Parish Council on crimes committed in the Parish since the last meeting. There had been 3 assaults, one domestic, 2 in Barnes Park. There had also been 5 incidents of damage to windows and also a front door along with 2 verbal threats against an individual. 6 of these crimes had been detected.

In respect of the recent problems near the Norfolk Avenue entrance to Barnes Park, 8 nuisance letters had been issued to individuals aged between 9 and 15. Investigations were continuing to track down 2 more individuals who lived outside of the village. The problems appeared to have subsided, although the area would continue to be monitored.

The Chairman thanked PCSO Land for the prompt and effective response he had made regarding the problems on Norfolk Avenue and also for providing a visible presence around the village.

468. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors C J Clarke, B Garbutt, and R W Marriott.

469. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS INTERESTS

Councillor Mrs E A Hill declared an interest in the item relating to Planning Matters (Minute No. 486).

470. MINUTES RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 14 February 2007 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

471. ITEMS IN EXCLUSION

There were no items to be taken in exclusion.

472. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no Chairman's announcements.

473. GRASSMOOR COMMUNITY CENTRE

The Clerk reported that the Centre Co-ordinator post had now been advertised with a closing date of 2 April. The Centre Co-ordinator had met with the Police and it had been confirmed that there would be a Police Office at the Centre. The alterations would be paid for by the Police and rent would be due on the office.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

474. BARNES PARK- PROBLEMS WITH CRICKET BALLS

The Clerk reported on the present position in relation to the problems with cricket being played in Barnes Park and the action taken to date by the Parish Council. The residents complaints related to cricket balls being hit in to gardens of properties on Durham Avenue presenting a danger. In addition, the Parish Council has identified potential problems of cricket balls being hit on to North Wingfield Road and also Birkin Lane. In response the Parish Council has:-

- Commissioned RoSPA to undertake a risk assessment of the Park in general which includes the playing of cricket. The assessment identified the risk in this respect as low to medium. The Parish Council was recommended to give consideration to :-
 - (1) introducing, subject to funds being available, 5m high ball resisting mesh along the east boundary
 - (2) re-instating conifer or similar hedging along the east boundary where there were currently gaps (particularly the area affected by a previous fire)
 - (3) introducing low height meshing and re-instating hedging in the gaps in the along the west and south boundaries
 - (4) allowing the hedging to grow to a greater height along these boundaries
 - (5) instructing the Cricket Club to play senior matches on cricket strips located centrally on the square
- Asked the District Council to look in to feasibility and costings of erecting either permanent or temporary (i.e. to be erected on match days) 5m meshing along the Durham Avenue boundary. The District Council had indicated that the erecting of such meshing, either temporary or permanent, was complicated by the established trees which were along the east boundary. Any meshing would as a result, need to be positioned several metres inside of the Park boundary which would negate the intended effect of preventing balls from being hit in to

gardens. The estimated cost of the meshing for a 60m length was at least £9,000.

- Consulted local residents of Durham Avenue by questionnaire to ascertain the extent of the problem and also to look at possible solutions. It was clear from responses that there was a problem, although the extent of the problem identified by the occupiers of different properties varied. All parties agreed that they did not wish to see cricket not being played on the Park. All were also very clear that they did not wish to see meshing erected along the boundary. The Parish Council had ascertained that planning permission was required for the erection, permanent or otherwise, of such meshing which was likely to be opposed by local residents.
- Consulted with the Cricket Club and re-iterated the need for all senior matches to be played only on wickets in the middle of the square.
- Instructed the District Council to implement recommendations 2, 3 & 4 arising from the RoSPA risk assessment.
- Has liaised with Zurich Municipal with regard to this problem and they had confirmed that they are happy with the measures taken to help alleviate these problems.

The Parish Council considered in detail the action taken to date and the possible courses of action available to it in the future.

- The Council was happy with the action taken to date in respect of the south and west boundaries and no further action was proposed.
- The Parish Council had serious concerns regarding the introduction of 5m high meshing along the east boundary. The location of the meshing several metres in from the boundary owing to the trees would negate the effect of the meshing in preventing balls entering neighbouring properties. Residents were also against the meshing. Given these factors the Parish Council did not consider the estimated £9,000 cost to be justified. Action had already been taken to re-instate hedging along this boundary and allow it to grow as high as possible. No further action was therefore proposed.
- The Cricket Club had already previously agreed to ensure that senior matches were played on wickets in the middle of the square.
- It was noted that, apart from the concerns raised in the questionnaires to residents, only 2 complaints on the matter had been received by the Parish Council since September 2003.
- The Parish Council has already resolved to seek funding for improvements to the Park as part of a longer-term project. As part of this project any possible solutions would be considered and funding sought.

- The Parish Council would continue to monitor the situation and respond to any new problems or changes in circumstances

RESOLVED that (a) the report be noted;

(b) the Parish Council take no further action in respect of the problems with cricket balls; and

(c) the Parish Council continue to monitor the position and respond to any new problems reported or changes in circumstances which may impact on the issue.

475. CCTV

The Clerk reported that UiT had agreed to replace the camera at the Sportsman even though it was outside of the warranty period. There would be a charge of around £100.00 to cover the costs of erecting the camera.

The Clerk was waiting to hear from the occupier of 153 Mansfield Road, Winsick regarding the broadband connection to his property.

In respect of the serious incident in January where CCTV footage had not been recovered until it was too late, the Chief Constable had asked Chief Superintendent Kelly, the Divisional Commander to respond.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

476. MILL LANE ALLOTMENTS

The Allotment Secretary had reported that the condition of several of the problem allotments had been improved recently. It was not clear whether or not the RSPCA had responded to the alleged mistreatment of animals on the site.

Councillor Barlow reported that the first meeting of the Committee overseeing the community garden project. One problem was that the Committee would not be able to apply for funding in its own right unless it had a lengthy lease on the site from the Parish Council. The Parish Council was not willing to enter in to such a lease with the Allotment Association given the on-going problems with the condition of the site, although the position was improving.

One possible solution was to enter in to a lease with the Community Garden Committee but this would mean the Committee would need to be formally constituted. Another option would be for funding bid to be put forward in the name of the Parish Council. The Clerk agreed to discuss the position with Karen Wibberley.

RESOLVED that (a) the report be noted; and

(b) the Clerk discuss the situation regarding the funding application with the Community Garden Committee.

477. GILL LANE ALLOTMENTS

There were no matters relating to Gill Lane allotments to report.

478. GRASSMOOR LAGOONS

There were no matters relating to the Lagoons to report.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

479. COMPOSTING FACILITY AND HIGHWAYS DEPOT– CAMPAIGN

It was reported that the members of the County Council's Planning Committee had unanimously turned down the planning application for an in vessel composting facility and highways depot at its meeting on 12 March. The County Council could not appeal against the decision.

The Chairman wished to place on record the Parish Council's thanks to those directly involved in the campaign and also those who gave their support to opposing the application. It was agreed that a small reception be held at the Community Centre to thank the campaign group.

RESOLVED that (a) the report be noted; and

(b) a small reception be held at the Community Centre to thank the campaign group.

480. RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER

The Clerk reported that the interviews for the RFO post had been held on 12/13 March. The post had been offered to Gary Huckerby, subject to satisfactory references being received.

RESOLVED that, subject to satisfactory references being received, the appointment of Gary Huckerby to the position of Responsible Financial Officer be ratified.

481. HANGING BASKETS

It was agreed that the Clerk place an order with Plantscape for 35 hanging baskets. As a result of the lack of suppliers of hanging baskets, the Parish Council agreed to waive financial regulation 11.1 (i) relating to the need to obtain quotes for such goods and services.

RESOLVED that (a) the Clerk be authorised to place an order with Plantscape for the supply of 35 hanging baskets; and

(b) financial regulation 11.1 (i) relating to the need to obtain quotes for such goods and services be waived in respect of this order.

482. PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS – MAY 2007

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council elections were to be held on 3 May 2007. The requirement under Quality Parish Council conditions to have all 11 Parish Councillors elected had now been changed. The requirement was now that 80% of councillors had to be elected on 3 May. In the case of the Parish Council, this meant that 9 had to be elected.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

483. DERBYSHIRE UNEMPLOYED WORKERS CENTRE – REQUEST FOR DONATION

RESOLVED that donation of £300.00 be made towards the running costs of the Centre.

484. CHERNOBYL CHILDREN LIFE LINE – REQUEST FOR DONATION

RESOLVED that donation of £300.00 be made towards the running costs of the Chernobyl Children's Life Line.

485. ST JOHN AMBULANCE – REQUEST FOR DONATION

RESOLVED that donation of £200.00 be made towards the running costs of the St John Ambulance.

486. PLANNING MATTERS

The Clerk reported on the following planning application received since the last meeting;

Application No.	Description	Comments/objections/Material considerations
07/00218/FL 33A Birkin Lane J S Bloor	Demolition of bungalow and redevelopment providing 26 two/three storey dwellings	It was agreed that the Parish Council object to this application on the following grounds:- <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Highway access to the site▪ The contamination of the land▪ The density of the dwellings on the site and their proximity to the existing properties on Durham Avenue.

RESOLVED that the Clerk object to the application as detailed above.

487. DERBYSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS (DALC) - CIRCULARS

The Clerk presented for the Parish Council's information DALC Circulars 3/07, 4/07, 5/07, 6/07, 7/07, 8/07 and 9/07.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

488. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

The Clerk presented the accounts due for payment and it was agreed that cheques be signed as detailed below.

RESOLVED that approval be given for the payment of the following accounts:-

<u>CHQ NO.</u>	<u>PAYEE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
SO	R Ackrill (Salary – Mar)	£ 560.62
SO	M Dovinson (Salary - Mar)	£ 450.23
SO	C Winnard (Salary - Mar)	£ 210.57
DD	Powergen (Pavilion Supply - Mar)	£ 23.00
DD	Carphone Warehouse (Mobile - Mar)	£ 2.92
2121	Inland Revenue (Tax & NI)	£ 504.73
2122	C Winnard (Additional Hours)	£ 83.92
2123	Grassmoor Post Office (TV Licence Scheme)	£ 182.75
2124	Grassmoor Community Centre (Room Hire)	£ 39.00
2125	Johnson Publishing (Job Advert)	£ 52.94
2126	Chernobyl Children Life Line (Donation)	£ 300.00
2127	Derbyshire Unemployed Workers (Donation)	£ 300.00
2128	St John Ambulance (Donation)	£ 200.00

.....

Chairman