

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF TOLLERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Held in the Village Memorial Hall on 4 September 2007 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors: Mr Spark (Chairman), Mrs Jackson, Mrs McAlpine, Mr Simpson, Mr Brown, Mrs Wadsworth and Mrs Rogers (Clerk).
6 members of the public including Cllr David Campbell plus Jo Buffey and Jerry Firth from Yorkshire Rural Community Council (YRCC).

1. Apologies – none
2. Minutes – the minutes of the Parish meeting held on 7 August 2007 were agreed as correct (other than a typing error) and signed by Mr Spark.
3. Matters Arising
 - a) Parish Plan – Mr Brown had sent an e-mail to other councillors prior to the meeting appraising them of the situation. He has the parish plan file that contains a large amount of data from surveys carried out since the funding of £1,935 was advanced by the Countryside Agency, to the Parish Council, in 2002 for the purposes of developing a parish plan. The terms of the grant were not fulfilled i.e. completion of the plan within 18 months of the grant notwithstanding the three time extensions granted. The YRCC took over responsibility from the Countryside Agency and are now seeking evidence of expenditure and work carried out to date and repayment of the monies or part thereof.
Mr Brown regards the issue as twofold 1) agreement and resolution of the funding and 2) agreeing a way forwards within the village this could be one of four options: start again from scratch; review, and reuse where possible, the existing data supported by fresh data – with or without YRCC funding; use the existing data and create our own version, termed differently and without funding; stop.

Jo Buffey then made a presentation to the Council and presented a chronology of events so far which evidenced the communication breakdown between themselves and the Parish Council. Originally Tollerton was granted a total of £3,870 being 75% of the total project cost and payable in two instalments. The application was supported by some survey work although funding cannot apply retrospectively for this. 50% (£1,935) was paid up front with the balance to be paid upon satisfactory receipt of expenditure and progress with the plan. A claim was submitted to the YRCC in March 2005 for work undertaken and equipment purchased (this type of expenditure would not now be eligible). Tollerton was given three time extensions the last one on 30 September 2004. YRCC received no communication from the Council representative despite many attempts and strongly worded letters.

Ms Buffey confirmed that Tollerton is no longer eligible for the second half of the grant and, as Mr Brown had advised, YRCC are seeking a refund. The amount is yet to be agreed and Mr Brown and Mrs Rogers are to liaise with Mr Firth and Ms Buffey in providing evidence of legitimate expenditure and work undertaken since the date of the grant upon which a value will be agreed. The Council will then make a refund to YRCC of the difference between this value and the grant given.

Clerk is to look into 02/03 and 03/04 accounts regarding evidence of the equipment purchased (Mrs Jackson offered to show this the Mr Firth & Ms Buffey) and at the 2003 minutes to evidence the timescale of the questionnaire distributed in the village from which the data was gathered.

Mr Spark apologised to Mr Firth and Ms Buffey for what has happened and agreed that the Council needs to find a way forward. Mr Brown does see value to the village in formulating some form of plan in spite the recent successes in the village e.g. Funding for Tollerton. Mr Simpson questioned whether developing a plan will provide a gateway to further funding which was confirmed by Mr Firth. There are funds available that can only be granted to applicants where there is a parish plan evidencing the need for that funding.

To progress the plan will require a lot of work and Mr Brown felt that approaching the community again to gauge feeling and requisite volunteers for the steering group would be the best way forward. Concern was raised that there would be a lack of volunteers as has historically been the case in the village. The Council is to discuss the matter further at the meeting in October following Mr Brown and Mrs Rogers discussions with the YRCC regarding the funding.

Approved:
Chairman

4. Planning Applications
 - a) 07/02425/FUL – Mr R Meeke, 26 Church Close, Tollerton, York – single storey extension to existing dwelling. Approved.

5. Planning Amendments
 - a) Application for Certificate of Lawfulness – Land at Open View, Main Street, Tollerton – confirmation from Martyn Richards at Hambleton District Council that a certificate is to be issued which will allow a bungalow to be constructed.

6. Planning Decisions and Appeals
 - a) 07/01605/FUL – JE Coning & Sons, Field east of Stark Farm, Sykes Lane, Tollerton – construction of an agricultural contractors storage building and an agricultural contractors workshop. APPROVED. Noted.
 - b) 07/00634/FUL – Tollerton & Huby Lakes Partnership – OS Field 0800 & 2000 Cross Lanes, Tollerton – construction of two fishing lakes, siting of four portable buildings and construction of a car park, gates and gate posts as amended by letter and details received by Hambleton District Council on 19 June and 10 July 2007. APPROVED. Noted.
 - c) 07/01038/FUL – Mr R Hainsworth, Angel Inn House, Tollerton, York – change of use of a dwelling to a dwelling and B&B. APPROVED. Noted.
 - d) 07/02068/FUL - DE Coning OS Field 3765 Sykes Lane, Tollerton – revised application for the construction of an agricultural building and associated hard standing. APPROVED. Noted.
 - d) 07/01835/FUL – Ms L Morton & Mr A Triffitt, Caythorpe Cottage, Alne Road, Tollerton – first floor extension. APPROVED. Noted.
 - e) 07/01836/LBC - Ms L Morton & Mr A Triffitt, Caythorpe Cottage, Alne Road, Tollerton – application for listed building consent for first floor extension. APPROVED. Noted.
 - f) 07/01340/OUT – Mr & Mrs P Cochrane, Land to rear of Cedars End, Back Lane, Tollerton – revised outline application for the construction of a dwelling. REFUSED. Noted and to be circulated.

7. Financial Matters
 - a) Account balances – Treasurers £1,472.41, BMM No1 £4,607.63, s.106 BMM £3,082.72, Scottish Widows a/c £23,073.08.
 - b) The following cheques were signed: 247 - £2.62 Kyle & Upper Ouse Internal Drainage Board
248 - £137.00 Mr W Pratt re: grass cutting September
 - c) The Clerk advised that following the recent audit that Mazars, the external auditors, had advised that the Council's fidelity cover be increased in line with the bank balances held and that the benches also be insured. This will increase the insurance premium, however, it was agreed prudent and the Clerk is to complete the necessary forms and arrange for signature by the Chairman.

8. Correspondence
 - NALC – Conference & Exhibition. Circulate
 - N. Yorkshire CPS - Annual Update 2007. Circulate
 - HDC – Planning Training. Circulate and councillors to annotate with planning training required. Clerk will then liaise to arrange a presentation.
 - HDC – District/Parish Liaison Meeting. Circulate
 - NYCC – Closure of Post Offices. Circulate
 - Vitalise – funding appeal. Councillors to read and discuss possible funding donation at October meeting.
 - Assembly Digest – July/August 2007. Circulate
 - Capt. Brain Harrison-Barry – Feudal title Lordship of the Manor of Tollerton. Circulate and make arrangements at October meeting for presentation. Mr Spark asked for discretion from members of the public on this matter.
 - NYCC – Adult Learning Service. Circulate
 - Clerks & Councils Direct September 200 – Issue 53. Circulate

9. Any Other Business

Mr Brown asked about the e-mail regarding reparation projects in North Yorkshire (previously known as community service). He felt that the information should be disseminated to organisations, such as the Sports and Recreation Club, within the village that may have suitable projects. Clerk to arrange.

Approved:
Chairman

Mrs McAlpine queried the new school bus stop arrangements that are causing some confusion, particularly the Alne bus drop off point. Councillors were also concerned that both Alne and Shipton buses are due to pick up outside the Church and that chaos will ensue should the two buses arrive together. Clerk is to write to David Wake, the school transport officer, at North Yorkshire County Council.

Mrs McAlpine also raised the issue of speeding traffic in the village. Clerk is to give Mrs McAlpine the contact details for Jane Chalfont at North Yorkshire Highways so that a meeting can be arranged as Ms Chalfont is unable to attend meetings on a Tuesday evening.

Mr Spark queried the state of the road surfaces that have not been repaired despite the Council's request in July. Clerk is to chase.

Mr Spark also requested that the Clerk contact Network Rail again in connection with the repairs that are urgently required to the bridge on Sykes Lane.

Mr Spark asked Mr Pratt if he would assist with raising the soil level below the new bench on The Green. Mr Pratt agreed and said that he had heard complaints about the height of the bench and the appearance of the concrete blocks. Mr Spark advised that the raised soil level would remedy these issues.

Meeting open to the public 8.35pm

Mr Pratt asked whether a donation had been received from the Fair as it had badly damaged the grass. Mrs Jackson advised that the representative from the Fair usually brings the money directly to her in October.

Mr Pratt advised that the tree on the village Green would be 100 years old in 2008.

Mr Bastow asked whether any member of the parish council would sit on the Sports and Recreation Club committee – Mr Simpson agreed to take on this role.

Mr Bastow asked that the Parish Council take over the pest control contract as agreed. Clerk is to contact Nick Fletcher of Fletchers Pest Control to arrange this.

Mr Bastow also offered to find out details of a rabbit-fencing contractor if this was still required. Clerk accepted the offer and is to lease with Mr Bastow.

Various members of the public raised the matter of affordable housing. The Council had received revised plans from Dai Howells at Firebird as the sale of approximately 2 acres of land by the landowner, Mr Otterburn, to the owners of Station House meant that the land upon which the original proposal was designed was no longer available. The new proposal sets out the twelve properties around a square that will provide the parking. The Councillors felt that this was not at all in keeping with the village and is therefore not really acceptable. The Clerk is to write to Mr Howells in this regard and also to express the Council's disappointment regarding the lack of discussion and consultation that was promised.

Discussion then took place around the fact that this was the third plan that had been put to Mr Otterburn with the previous ones being turned down. Mr Bastow highlighted the fact that the plan put before the Council in July was in fact dated September 2006 and, regardless of the promises made by Amanda Madden and the housing people at the June meeting, indicated that the proposal had already been put together months before. The Parish Council feels that the proposal will go ahead adjacent to Station Road in Mr Otterburn's field unless the sale of the land to the housing corporation cannot be agreed. To site the development at the far end of the field with access through either Kyle Close or Hambleton View has been discounted by the Highways department on the grounds of access.

Meeting closed 8.55pm

Approved:
Chairman