

Burton Agnes Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting

at Burton Agnes School

Monday 26 September 2016

Those present were:

Parish Councillors

Mrs Sue Burt (Chair)
Mr Garry Burt (Treasurer)
Mrs Jean Boynton
Mrs M Scrowston
Mr Clive Neale
Mrs Lynne Bell

Members of the Public

Mrs Andrea Duggan
Mr James Duggan

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Mr Jonathan Owen and Mrs Jane Evison

2. Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Members of the public business

The Chair welcomed Andrea and James Duggan from Park Farm and invited them to speak. Mrs Duggan raised the issue of speeding traffic along the A614 stating that it posed a danger. Heavy vehicles and private cars were regularly exceeding the speed limit which made it dangerous for cars emerging from dwellings along the road and also for children and other pedestrians using the road. She pointed out that there was no continuous footpath both sides of the village which necessitated crossing the road. There was no sign on the main road indicating the presence of a school and she stated that there had been incidents endangering pedestrians trying to cross the busy road near the school and a number of parents were concerned. The problem was greatest on Mondays and Fridays, but was an issue pretty much all the time. She had some suggestions which might alleviate the problem: putting up repeater signs reminding motorists of the 30mph limit and the erection of a red triangle sign warning of the proximity of a school.

She also raised the issue of cars being parked on the footpath forcing pedestrians to walk in the road. She stated that she had asked the individual concerned not to park on the pavement without success.

Mr Duggan endorsed Mrs Duggan's statements. He noted that the police did carry out speed monitoring on the A614 and stated that he had discussed the issue with an Officer who had informed him that on that day he had clocked 37 cars/lorries exceeding the limit.

The Chair informed Mr and Mrs Duggan that they had raised the issue of speeding and of illegal pavement parking with the police more than once. After a brief discussion the Parish Council decided that they would raise the issue again with the Police and approach the School with a view to making a joint approach to ERYC about the issue of signage.

4. Minutes of meeting held on 13 June 2016

Before proceeding to the minutes, the Chair welcomed Ms Jennifer Hobson and introduced her as the new Parish Clerk.

The minutes were agreed as a true record and signed by Mrs Burt.

5. Matters Arising

Youth Provision

Mr Neale reported that the issues with BT had been resolved, 4 group leaders were in place, three of them experienced. Despite early interest in the project, attendance had been poor. The club had been running 2 weeks with 4 juniors and no seniors, so a senior section had been put on hold for the time being. Hopefully numbers would grow. The Club was looking into establishing links with Rudston with a view for catering for older students as well. The Club had grant funding up to next March/April, but Mr Neale was hopeful of securing some changes to this.

On a linked issue, Mr Neale asked if the Parish Council could enquire about the possibility of having some extra lights installed up the Rudston Road as far as the Sports Club. Although the Club had installed additional lighting on site, the road from the village was both without a pavement and without street lights. This was a potential hazard for youngsters, particularly on dark Winter evenings. It was agreed that the Parish Council would approach ERYC to ask.

Lions Club donation

The Chair reported that the litter bins had been installed in both Thornholme and Burton Agnes. So far no invoice had been received from ERYC. She had chased this and asked for clarification as to whether the Parish was to be billed or whether a decision had been taken not to do so. Until the invoice was received, the Parish Council could not confirm to the Lions Club that their money had been spent. If ERYC did not wish to bill the Parish for the bins, the Parish Council would need to identify another project and seek the Lions Club's approval, or return the donation. The tree in Gransmoor had been planted.

Bank account signatories

This would be covered in the Treasurer's report.

6. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported that the Parish Council's current account stood at £5560.57 in credit and the Reserve account balance was £3248.56. There were a number of payments pending, a total of £104.40, giving a current balance of £5459.17. This included £400 grant from the Lions Club referred to above.

PKF Littlejohn had cleared the 2015/16 accounts on 7 September and the notice advising residents of the availability of the accounts for inspection would be posted on Parish notice boards. PKF Littlejohn had submitted an invoice for £120.00 with the return of the documents. The Parish Council had never paid this when Winns cleared the accounts in previous years, and neither Rudston nor Carnaby had been invoiced this year. The Treasurer stated that he would query the invoice. With effect from FY 2016/17 new rules applied to the accounts which would only need to be cleared by an independent accountant, in our case Winns.

The Treasurer informed the meeting that an invoice had been received from Burton Agnes Estates for £685 to cover Church maintenance and £74 for War Memorial maintenance. Whist content with the latter, the Treasurer sought the guidance of the Parish Council on the former. He reminded the meeting that the previous year he had written to Burton Agnes Estates with a number of questions relating to the Churchyard maintenance invoice noting that this was not a statutory duty of the Parish Council. No response had been received. The Parish Council was unanimous that they would not discuss the possibility of making any donation for this purpose until answers to the questions posed last year had been received.

The Treasurer reported that the Parish Council had not yet applied for the £1250 'automatic' grant given as we were one of the 6 closest Parishes to the Lissett Wind Farm. He stated that the Parish could offset the additional costs (beyond the Lions Club donation) of the litter bins and possibly purchase some multicoloured recycled plastic seats for the play park. If no other in-year ideas were forthcoming, he proposed that as it was not possible to buy a great deal these days for £1250, the possibility should be investigated of applying for and banking this year's £1250 which could then be added to next year's allocation providing a sensible sum to offer as part funding to the Sports Club for a new mower. This would serve the community both for the users of the Sports Club and the Youth Club. This was agreed. It was observed that there did not seem to be any reason for this request to be refused. The legitimacy of the role of Beverley in interfering with this aspect of the Wind Farm grant was questioned.

The Parish Council was expecting shortly to receive a request from Driffild School for a donation towards the Twilight bus service which enabled students to attend after school activities with the certainty of being able to get home. He reminded the meeting that the Parish Council had supported this in previous years and sought their approval to do so again. This was unanimously agreed.

Finally the Treasurer reported that the signatories of the Parish Bank account had been changed. The current signatories were himself as Treasurer and Jennifer Hobson as Clerk. Both signatures were required on all cheques.

7. Standing Orders and Health and Safety Policy

The Chair referred to the two draft documents she had circulated. She proposed an amendment to the Standing Orders to clarify the position on disruptive or disorderly behavior by visitors to the meeting. The two draft documents, with the proposed amendment, were adopted by the Parish Council and would be published on the website.

8. Neighbourhood Networks (formerly Neighbourhood Watch)

This item related to an e-mail received from the Parish's PCSO in which he proposed that Parish Councils should be registered as Neighbourhood Network groups so that entire villages came under one umbrella instead of the current position which could see individual streets registered.

In discussion it was noted that Burton Agnes Parish Council covered three geographically separated villages. There had been no interest in any form of neighbourhood watch and there was no interest from Council members in making any attempt to set up an over-arching Network, which they regarded as impractical.

9. Allotment enquiry

The Parish Clerk had received an enquiry from a resident in Station Road about the existence of allotments. There had hitherto not been any interest in allotments in the Parish and the Parish did not own any land which could be turned over for this purpose. If sufficient interest were to be expressed in the Parish (by convention this has been taken to mean a minimum of 6 council tax paying households) the Parish Council would need to explore the possibility of leasing land from a local landowner for the purpose. This would be explained to the enquirer.

10. Anaerobic Digester Community Liaison Meeting

The next meeting scheduled for October 20th at 14.00 would be held at the AD site. Burton Agnes Renewables (BAR) had extended an invitation to anyone in the Parish to attend the meeting to see the installation first hand. As a courtesy, anyone wishing to do so was asked to let the Parish Clerk know in advance so that BAR would know how many to expect. Notification of the meeting would be posted on the website.

11. Ambulance First Responder Scheme

An e-mail had been received from Trish Kilner who had given a presentation to the Parish Council back in February about the service. The Chair recalled that she had contacted Ms Kilner immediately after the presentation offering assistance in raising awareness, but had heard nothing further. Ms Kilner had stated that an individual in Thornholme had expressed interest and asked if the Parish Council needed to be kept informed of developments.

In discussion the Parish Council expressed disappointment that it had taken so long for the Responder organization to come back to them, and some concern that this indicated a lack of resources to support this venture. They were content for the Service to continue without further reference to the Parish Council.

12. Any Other Business

Damage to verges by ERYC weedkilling

It was reported that there had been complaints from a Parish resident that a passing ERYC weed control vehicle had sprayed the grass in front of his house. The Parish Council sympathized with this and agreed that more care should have been taken, but as the incident had occurred some months ago and only just come to their attention, action could not sensibly be taken at this juncture.

Vandalism at the Sports Club

Mr Neil reported that there had in the past week been some vandalism at the Sports Club with plastic chairs having been thrown into the adjacent field. He hoped that this was a one-off and did not mark the start of further activity of this nature. He would report it to the Police.

13. Date of next meeting.

The next meeting would be held on 31 October 2016 at 7.00.

The meeting finished at 8.30pm