

# Lothersdale Parish Council

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## Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 12<sup>th</sup> January 2012, at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Present: Councillor Stephen Cohen (Chairman)  
Councillor John Brown  
Councillor Catherine Gott  
Councillor Peter Harrison  
Councillor Julian White  
Clerk Esther Barrows

In attendance: Councillor Patrick Mulligan and 1 member of the public

### 1/01 Apologies

No apologies for absence were received.

### 1/02 Declaration of Interest

Cllr Gott declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item 1/03 (h) and took no part in the discussion. Cllr Harrison declared a personal interest in item 1/07 (ii).

### 1/03 Minutes

- i) Resolved: That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2011 be signed as a true record.
- ii) Clerk's and members' reports on updates and actions taken on matters discussed at the previous meeting:
  - a) Water leak at the former Chapel: The clerk and chairman have been in contact with representatives of the chapel. The Council agreed to source alternative arrangements. EB has spoken to Highways inspectors in relation to finding and cutting off the faulty pipe. A licence will be needed and the work would have to be carried out by approved contractors. EB to apply for licence and obtain quotes. To possibly send quotes to Chapel representatives.
  - b) Strimming of land opposite former chapel. Carried out by Chris Cowgill: Invoice to be added to Cowgill's winter invoice.
  - c) Recreation Ground Sign: The new sign is to be moved from the pedestrian entrance and put where the recycling bins are. The chain and padlock are to be replaced on recycling bin entrance (new if needed). The old sign is to be returned to pedestrian sign entrance. Chris Cowgill is currently carrying out this work and will inform EB when this is complete.

Action

EB

EB

- d) Street Light Repairs: EB sourced the report on handing over Lothersdale Lights to NYCC. Before adoption can take place, five street lights need repairing. The Parish Council have agreed to these repairs, on the understanding that these repairs would bring the lights up to adoption standards. EB is also to arrange infill inspection prior to possible adoption. EB to ascertain infill results before next Parish meeting.
- e) Playground equipment: The clerk has obtained quotes from the manufacturers for the replacement parts, and is also awaiting a written quote from M. Parker for fitment. EB to also meet with C. Cowgill for fitment quote. To then inform manufacturers of ROSPA inspection report and to include any additional repair costs in final quotes. The clerk has applied to the Craven Area Committee for additional funding towards these costs (under the banner of the Toddler Group) The deadline for funding applications is 26.1.12, a decision may be available by the next meeting.
- f) MUGA construction: Tennis court markings are to be completed in Spring, when the paint will dry more successfully. It has been ascertained that the step rebuild was not included in the original contract, the Council have yet to make a decision about the step rebuild (possible one and two step repair with hand rail). The water leak at the MUGA is still ongoing, the council are not in possession of information at present about what the contractor has done and who or what was specified. PH has attempted to discover who prepared the drawing and specified the drainage work. EB to obtain quote from M. Parker for replacing drainage pipes around the MUGA. Awaiting handrail quote.
- g) Overgrown trees at the Brow: The Council would like to thank Trevor Smith who has willingly and speedily carried out the tree pruning to make the Brow safer for high sided vehicles.
- h) Dangerous tree at Quarry Road: Cllr Gott declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the item and took no part in the discussion. EB contacted NYCC highways, the Tree Officer at Craven District Council, and two Tree Surgeons within the Village. With the information supplied, the Council have decided that the tree is on private land, overlooking a private highway, and therefore is not a Parish Council matter.
- i) Localism Bill: Although the Council had originally planned to set an agenda to cover this item at the January 12<sup>th</sup> meeting, the decision was made to wait until SC and EB had visited Gargrave Village Hall on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2012, where the 'Localism Act and National Planning Policy Framework' were being discussed in more detail. EB and SC to inform the Council of its outcome at the next meeting.
- j) Precept 2012-2013. It agreed to set the precept at: £14,260, a rise of 2.14%
- k) Online Transportation Survey. Completed by all councillors.

Action

EB

EB

EB

SC

EB

- l) Branches on adjacent mature trees overhanging telephone lines: EB contacted BT and NYCC Highways. Unless the trees are interfering with highway users on road or footpath, there is no need to cut back. Council to not act at present.

**1/04 Maintenance work in Recreation Ground:** Chris Cowgill has informed the clerk that the bin by the Tennis Court has been knocked over, and is now stuck on a tree post. This needs replacing. Trees have fallen onto the fence near the Youth Shelter, new rails on this fence are needed. Various dead trees are leaning over the Millennium Walk, and equipment needs servicing. EB to meet with CC to assess repairs needed in Recreation Ground.

**1/05 Reports from invited guests**

Cllr Mulligan inspected and signed Grant Fund Application Forms. Grants are still available from the Craven Area Committee. The deadline for applications is 26<sup>th</sup> January 2012.

**1/06 Public Question Time**

There was no adjournment for public questions.

**1/07 Finances**

(i) Resolved: That the accounts presented be paid:

Esther Barrows (Clerk)	193.24 Salary		
	13.06 Expenses		
	£ 206.30 Total		
Quantum Arbitrator	£840.00		
(ii) December 2012			
Opening balance	£		
Current account	9,504.73		
Deposit account	<u>6,971.55</u>		
	16,476.28		16,476.28
Receipts			
Interest	<u>5.31</u>		
	Sub-total	16,481.59	16,481.59
Payments			
E. Barrows	209.83		
Digley Associates	48.00		
Craven CAB	<u>40.00</u>		
	297.83		<u>-297.83</u>
			16,183.76
Closing balance			
Represented by:			
Uncleared cheques	- 297.83		
Current Account HSBC	9,504.73		
Deposit Account Standard Life	<u>6,976.86</u>		
	16,183.76		16,183.76

**1/08 Correspondence:**

- (i) **Hawshaw Road Sign:** Apologies were received for the delay in putting up the sign (Unsuitable for HGVs). It will be in place early in the new year.
  
- (ii) **Wheelie bin enclosure adjacent to Hare And Hounds Car Park:**  
Cllr Harrison declared a personal interest. The Council received a copy of a letter dated 21.12.11, ref: 915/10, referring to the viewing of the wheelie bin enclosure on 15.8.11, (by the Planning Enforcement Team Leader). No formal enforcement action would be taken against the structure in place at that time and the file was then closed. If a mini recycling facility was proposed on the same location, this may need planning permission, and further discussions were recommended.
  
- (iii) **Notice of Decision** from Craven District Council. Case Ref: 000772.  
Member Concerned: Councillor Catherine Gott. Complainant: Mr. Jacek Piergies.

A Determination-Sub Committee of the Standards Committee met on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2011. Taking all the circumstances into consideration the Sub-Committee found that there was a technical breach of the code in relation to the above case reference number.

The Sub-Committee's considered that it is clear from the responsible approach taken by Councillor Gott to the investigation and the frank answers given by her that she acted in good faith at all times but is aware of a gap in her knowledge on some technical standards issues. Therefore it is their unanimous view that they did not need to impose any sanction in this case.

The sub-committee also bear in mind and encourage the informal nature of the proceedings of Lothersdale Parish Council. The councillors would like to state that their endeavors are always in the interest of the Parish, and they will continue with their duties to the benefit of the village.

**1/09 Planning Application Number 53/2011/11857: Conversion and Minor Extension Of Vacant Former Methodist Chapel To Form Two Dwellings.** The Council approved the proposed planning application, but indicated opposition to the proposed build outs effectively occupying land around the chapel, and informed the planning committee of the water leak.

**1/10 Members' Community Reports**

**A** It was pointed out that tenders for the coming year would have to be issued soon.

**B** CDC waste management department had asked if the current recycling bins could be relocated on more level ground. It was felt that this was not possible.

**Date of the next meeting February 9<sup>th</sup> 2012**

Signed..... Date