

SCOTTER PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held on 20th April 2009

PRESENT: Councillor M. Brown (Vice Chairman and acting Chair), Councillors N. Altoft, M. Armstrong, B. Billam, J. Bullivent, D. Capes, J. Fillingham, S. Rayner and A. Sheardown, M. Brown (Clerk).

As there were no members of the public present, the meeting commenced at 7.33pm.

1 2009/10 : To receive and approve apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Day who is unable to attend due to work commitments. With the Vice Chairman taking the Chair in his absence, it was

RESOLVED : To accept and approve the apology from Councillor Day.

An apology was also received from Ward Councillor Parry who is attending a District Council meeting.

2 2009/10 : To receive declarations of interest

Councillors Brown and Sheardown declared an interest in relation to agenda item 21 (minute ref. 21 2009/10) on the basis of their tenancy of an allotment at Scotterthorpe and stated their intention to refrain from voting on the matter. Councillor Fillingham declared an interest in relation to the payment to Scotter Village Hall Association included in agenda item 15 (minute ref. 15 2009/10) due to his membership of that Association and stated his intention to abstain from voting on this item.

3 2009/10 : To approve the notes of the Council Meeting held on 16th March 2009 as the Minutes of that meeting.

RESOLVED : To approve the notes of the Council Meeting held on 16th March 2009 (as circulated) as the Minutes. These were signed by the Chairman.

4 2009/10 : To consider the investment of £25k into a 6-month guaranteed investment bond.

The Clerk explained that, with precept monies now received, the Council has an opportunity to make a short-term guaranteed investment to maximise interest generation. £25k in a six-month bond will generate gross interest at 0.93%, compared with the existing deposit account (0.09%) and the current account (0.18%). The Council approved the action already taken by the Clerk in transferring the majority of the monies held in the deposit account into the current account to maximise interest generation and

RESOLVED : To invest £25k into a 6-month guaranteed investment bond.

The Clerk will prepare the necessary paperwork for the signature of the Chairman and Vice Chairman.

5 2009/10 : To consider a recommendation from the Cemetery & Allotments Working Group to approve draft documentation from WLDC in relation to the litter picking scheme.

The Council considered the recommendation from the Cemetery & Allotments Working Group that it should approve the draft paperwork submitted by WLDC in relation to the litter-picking scheme, the recommendation being made following receipt of detailed clarification from Mr Selby on issues raised by the Working Group.

RESOLVED : To approve the draft paperwork, subject to the amendments requested by the Working Group and subject to its interpretation being in line with the clarification received.

6 2009/10 : To provide comment to the County Council in relation to the latter's proposal to erect a barrier on the public footpath on Clay Lane to prevent access and subsequent damage by horses.

The Clerk explained that she had been contacted by an officer of the County Council who had inspected Clay Lane following receipt of complaints from members of the public regarding its

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extremely poor state. Inspection showed that this public right of way was being damaged by horses and photographs showing the state of the pathway were shown to the Council. The County Council proposes to erect a barrier at the commencement of the right of way to prevent access by horses and the Council's views are sought. As the Council has, in accordance with its powers under s.137 of the Local Government Act 1972, previously carried out work in removing dead trees/branches from this right of way, it

RESOLVED : To make no objection to the proposal but to request that the erected barrier be removable in the event that tree maintenance work is required.

7 2009/10 : To agree a response to Stamford Homes on its request for dates for Council representatives to attend a site visit to agree the transfer of the public open space.

The Council considered this request against the background of the efforts already expended by Councillor Day in relation to the matter and stated its preference that Councillor Day be involved in any such meeting due to his knowledge and experience. Considering Councillor Day's work commitments, this would suggest an evening meeting which may be unpalatable to the Stamford Homes' representative. The Clerk is to discuss the matter with Councillor Day.

8 2009/10 : To consider a request to provide a letter of support for a bid to Monde Green Environmental Body Ltd for £10k for Parish Plan schemes.

With the assistance of Councillor Bullivent, the Clerk explained the request received via Mrs Mumby for the Council's support for this bid. As it is now highly unlikely that the Biffa bid will be successful, the playing fields project will need to be broken into smaller parcels of work with a view to attracting bids for each element. Monde Green is the body that now looks after the landfill tax credits, so if the Council supports this application and it is successful, the Council will need to provide match funding in the amount of 11% of the requested sum (i.e. £1,100). This would come out of the £3850 currently set aside for the Biffa bid. Councillor Bullivent explained that the Playing Fields Committee is working with Mrs Mumby to agree the precise scheme that will be proposed for the bid.

RESOLVED : To support a bid to Monde Green for £10k towards the playing fields project and to commit to provide match funding of £1100 should the bid be successful.

9 2009/10 : To approve the sale of an exclusive right to burial in grave no. BF68

Further to a recent burial in this grave plot, the Council

RESOLVED : To approve the sale of the exclusive right to burial in grave no. BF68 to the family of the deceased.

The grant of exclusive right was signed by the acting Chairman and a Councillor at the meeting.

10 2009/10 : To receive a report from the Cemetery & Allotments Working Group on its recent safety inspection of the cemetery

During the period Councillor Capes, on behalf of the Cemetery & Allotments Working Group, had inspected the cemetery and confirmed that there were no matters of a safety concern to report on this occasion.

11 2009/10 : To receive a report from the Chairman on his recent inspection of Parson's Field

The Clerk reported that, when giving his apologies for the meeting, Councillor Day had informed her that horse riders had recently begun to use both Parson's Field and the playing fields during their rides. Councillor Capes commented that he had also seen evidence of horses in Parson's Field and stated his concern for the safety of other users of this public open space when the horses are present. The Clerk stated that the Playing Fields Committee has reported the misuse of the area under its control to Lincolnshire Police and has asked for the latter's advice and assistance in preventing further misuse. It was agreed that the Clerk should make a similar report in relation to Parson's Field.

12 2009/10 : To agree which Councillor will be responsible for playground safety inspections for the next month

RESOLVED : That Councillor Bullivent will continue to inspect the playground for a further month.

Councillor Brown volunteered to take on the inspection work for a period of two months from the date of the May Council meeting.

13 2009/10 : To receive new correspondence not already included above

Items of correspondence (not already considered above and received prior to the April meeting) were placed on circulation to Councillors at the meeting. If the need arises to take action in relation to any of this correspondence, it will become an agenda item for consideration at a future meeting.

14 2009/10 : To note the receipt of results from the planning authority

The Council noted the following results received from the planning authority during the month :

122559 Land to rear of 64 High Street, Scotter – a planning application for erection of 1 dwelling.
Granted

123443 Allotment Gardens, High Street, Scotter – a planning application for change of use of land currently used as temporary allotments to cemetery land.
Granted

123450 18 Messingham Road, Scotter – a planning application for the erection of a 1kw vertical axis wind turbine.
Granted

123471 51 High Street, Scotter – a planning application for the construction of a new dwelling to land at the rear.
Refused

123599 48 High Street, Scotter – a planning application for 3 refrigerator compressor units on Hobbs Lane, Scotter, to change the design of the approved security shutter and its colour from green to white and to change the design and colour of the shop door from a single leaf to one and a half leaf in aluminium.
Refused

15 2009/10 : To approve payments made to complete the 2008/09 financial year

The Council examined the accounts paid for supplies and services received since the last meeting and which completed the 2008/09 financial year and, with the exception of Councillor Fillingham who abstained :

RESOLVED : That, in accordance with its powers under section 137 of the Local Government Act, 1972, the Council incurred expenditure on tree surgery at Scotter Cemetery which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interests of the inhabitants of the Parish and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure. Also, that the following payments are approved.

<u>CHEQUE</u>			<u>NET</u>		<u>TOTAL</u>
<u>NO.</u>	<u>TO WHOM PAID</u>	<u>PARTICULARS OF PAYMENT</u>	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>VAT</u>	<u>PAYMENTS</u>
401957	H.M. Customs & Revenue	PAYE & NI, Month 12	361.49	-	361.49
401958	Mrs M. Brown	Wages	528.47	-	
		Mileage	5.20	-	
		Postage	3.90	-	
		Rental for Susworth notice board	1.00		
		Stationery	4.11	0.62	543.30

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401959	Mr. J. Lyon	Wages	542.87	-	
		Mileage	12.80	-	
		Refuse sacks	7.83	1.17	564.67
401960	Spencer's Garage	Fuel	134.40	20.16	154.56
401961	LALC	Annual subscription + copies of LCR	372.50	53.70	426.20
401962	Playing Fields Committee	Donation for EL&PL insurance from 01/03	750.00	-	750.00
401963	C.P.Willis(Aspen Tree Services)	Branch removal - cemetery	120.00	-	120.00
401964	LDTBF	Rental of Parson's Field - 6 months	5.00	-	
		Rental of access way - 6 months	0.50	-	5.50
401965	SVHA	Office rental & room hire, Q4 08/09	233.50	-	233.50
TOTAL PAYMENTS			3,083.57	75.65	3,159.22

16 2009/10 : To note income received during March 2009 and to approve the 2008/09 year end cash book and its reconciliation to the bank statements

The Council noted the following income received during March 2009.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>PAYER</u>	<u>DETAILS</u>	<u>RECEIPTS</u>
03.03.09	H M Revenue & Customs	VAT repayment	105.71
05.03.09	Co-op Bank	Interest - current account	0.04
09.03.09	Mrs M. Brown	Cash rental rec'd for cemetery allotment no. 11	1.00
11.03.09	Barningham Memorials	Memorial to C.A. Laking, AB66	80.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS			186.75

It then examined the cashbook as at end of the 2008/09 financial year and its reconciliation to the bank statements and

RESOLVED : That the cashbook at the end of 2008/09 financial year should be signed by the Chairman and Clerk as a true record.

17 2009/10 : To approve payments to be made

The Council examined the accounts to be paid for supplies and services received since the last meeting and :

RESOLVED : That the following payments should be approved.

<u>CHEQUE NO.</u>	<u>TO WHOM PAID</u>	<u>PARTICULARS OF PAYMENT</u>	<u>NET VALUE</u>	<u>VAT</u>	<u>TOTAL PAYMENTS</u>
Direct Det Tiscali		Broadband/phone calls, February '09.	18.80	2.82	21.62
401966	ICCM	Annual membership 2009/10	80.00	-	80.00
401967	Community Lincs	Entrance fee to BKV competition 2009	15.00	-	15.00
401968	West Lindsey CAB	Donation	200.00	-	200.00
401969	Scotter Bowls Club	Donation towards top dressing	458.35	-	458.35
TOTAL PROPOSED PAYMENTS			772.15	2.82	774.97

18 2009/10 : To approve the appointment of R.N. Store to carry out the internal audit for the financial year 2008/09

The Council reviewed the effectiveness of its system of internal audit, with its scope clearly laid down in the agreed audit plan and the independence and competence of its auditor being guaranteed by the utilisation of an external professional firm of accountants. A suitable relationship exists between the parties to ensure that the audit can be properly carried out and the audit itself is properly planned and recorded. Against this background, it was :

RESOLVED : To appoint R.N. Store to carry out the internal audit for the financial year 2008/09.

19 2009/10 : To take any points from members, identify items for the next agenda and to note urgent items of interest.

19a Councillor Bullivent referred to the recent surfacing of several footpaths within Scotter and stated his concern that the slurry seal applied is wafer-thin and is already peeling off in places. This view was supported by several Councillors who felt that the work had been carried out far too quickly for there to be any quality in the result.

RESOLVED : To write to LCC Highways to ask for the inferior work to be re-done at the contractor's cost.

19b Councillor Billam reported that action is still awaited in relation to the large pothole on Westcliffe Road. The Clerk will raise this again with LCC Highways. In relation to potholes, Councillor Armstrong reported that there is a large pothole in the middle of the road outside the lodge on Susworth Road. The Clerk will report this.

19c Councillor Fillingham reported that the public footpath is in need of attention from outside no. 27 Messingham Road to the village boundary. Councillors were also concerned about the overgrown state of the footpath to Messingham within the county boundary. The Clerk is to report both of these issues to LCC Highways.

20 2009/10 : To consider whether, in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and press should be temporarily excluded from the meeting.

RESOLVED : That, in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and press should be temporarily excluded for the following item of business on the basis that it relates to a commercial matter.

21 2009/10 : To consider a recommendation from the Cemetery & Allotments Working Group in relation to Scotterthorpe allotments

Further to the previous resolution made in relation to the above (under minute 239 2008/09), the Working Group reported that additional information had come to light that necessitated a review of that resolution. The Council considered the additional information provided and, with the exception of Councillors Brown and Sheardown who abstained,

RESOLVED : To approve the revised recommendation made in relation to maintenance and administration charges for the Scotterthorpe allotments, with the new charges to be implemented after one year's notice has been given in line with the existing tenancy agreements.

On a related matter, the Clerk asked the Council's advice as to whether a parishioner could join the waiting list for another allotment at the cemetery if that person already held an allotment at the site. The Council confirmed that its policy is to give priority to those who do not already hold an allotment but that the expression of interest should be noted in the event that an allotment becomes free and there is no-one waiting.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.12pm.

Clerk:

Chairman:

Date:

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