

SCOTTER PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held on 16th February 2009

PRESENT: Councillor C. Day (Chairman), Councillors N. Altoft, M. Armstrong, B. Billam, M. Brown, J. Bullivent, J. Fillingham, S. Rayner and A. Sheardown, Ward Councillor W. Parry, M. Brown (Clerk).

As no members of the public were present at the time for commencement of the open forum, the meeting commenced at 7.31pm.

197 2008/09 : To receive and approve apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Capes who is away.

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

An apology was also received from Ward Councillor Underwood-Frost.

198 2008/09 : To receive declarations of interest

Councillors Brown and Fillingham declared an interest in relation to agenda item 21 (minute ref. 217 2008/09), the former on the basis that it includes some expenses he incurred purchasing Christmas lights for the crib and the latter in relation to the payment to Scotter Village Hall Association due to his position within that Association. Both Councillors stated their intention to refrain from voting on the matter.

199 2008/09 : To approve the notes of the Council Meeting held on 19th January 2009 as the Minutes of that meeting.

RESOLVED : To approve the notes of the Council Meeting held on 19th January 2009 (as circulated) as the Minutes. These were signed by the Chairman.

200 2008/09 : To consider a request from LCC for part-funding of a pedestrian crossing on the A159.

The Council considered the paper prior circulated in relation to this item, which summarised the recent exchange of correspondence between the Highways officer and the Clerk and the subsequent telephone conversation between the parties. In essence, whilst the recent survey supported the provision of a pedestrian crossing, the results were marginal and LCC's budget is extremely tight. It is likely to be a considerable time period before the crossing is installed unless some part-funding is provided by the local community. Considering the importance assigned to the crossing by the community but taking into account that such a payment was not regarded as necessary when setting the 2009/10 Precept, it was

RESOLVED : To offer part-funding of £1k during 2009/10 and a further £1k during 2010/11, subject to the project being included in the 2009/10 Rural Priorities Initiative Scheme.

The Clerk will write to LCC accordingly.

201 2008/09 : To consider what response to send to LCC's consultation on library services in light of the results of the recent survey

The Council considered the paper circulated with the agenda in relation to this item and examined the summary of results of the library questionnaire prepared by the Clerk. The survey results (whilst disappointing in terms of the number of responders) demonstrated a strong requirement for an open session that could be attended by full-time workers, such that it would be seen as a fair and equitable service to all Council tax payers. Comments also supported an improved availability and turnover of books. A small number of volunteers had put their names forward to assist in extending library opening hours. It was agreed that the summary and the questionnaires be returned to the Eau Community Centre Management Committee, with a view to them taking forward the alteration in hours, book availability issues and use of volunteers with the LCC Library Services representative

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who attends their meetings. In terms of the current consultation, the Council noted that it is very much focussed on local organisations taking responsibility for providing volunteers to extend and improve library services. As this comes hard on the heels of a significant deterioration of LCC's service to this community and against the background of the questionnaire responses, the Council **RESOLVED : To respond to the consultation, reminding LCC of the previous exchange of correspondence between the parties and supporting the work of the Eau Community Centre Management Committee in persuading LCC to improve the current situation.**

The Clerk will also copy this to the Eau Community Centre Management Committee.

Councillor Armstrong raised the issue that the alteration of the mobile service to Susworth from fortnightly on a Wednesday to monthly on a Monday had the added disadvantage that, if the Monday in question is a Bank Holiday (and many of the Bank Holidays fall on a Monday), the service is cancelled and library users have to wait two months for the service.

RESOLVED : To ask LCC, as part of the response to the consultation, to ensure that the burden of bank holidays should be shared equally amongst mobile library users.

202 2008/09 : To consider a request from a parishioner to support his complaint to WLDC and LCC regarding the use of a private garden for commercial purposes

The Council considered the letter received from the parishioner, accompanied by copy letters that he has already sent to the District and County Councils raising his concerns about the use of a private garden and the adjacent public verge on Messingham Road for commercial purposes. With the exception of Councillor Day who abstained, it was

RESOLVED : To support the parishioner's complaint by writing to WLDC and LCC regarding the matter.

203 2008/09 : To consider a response to North Lincs Council's consultation on its Development Plan document : Housing & Employment Land Allocations

The Council considered the information provided by North Lincs Council in relation to future potential housing developments in Kirton in Lindsey. Considering that Scotter is downstream of Kirton, the Council voiced its concern on the impact of additional drainage on the River Eau.

RESOLVED : To respond to the consultation stating that, in relation to the proposed development sites in Kirton in Lindsey, the Council trusts that the drainage appraisals will take proper consideration of any down-stream risks .

204 2008/09 : To consider what action to take in relation to the lack of a Community Beat Officer for the parish.

The Council considered the matter discussed at a recent Community Panel meeting about the ongoing lack of a Community Beat Manager for Scotter due to the ill-health of PC Leggott.

RESOLVED : To write to the Chief Constable to ask for the beat to be covered by a suitable officer until such times as PC Leggott is able to return to work.

On a related item, the Council considered the options for Council Tax increases included in the latest consultation produced by Lincolnshire Police in relation to its 2009/10 budget. With the exception of Councillors Bullivent and Rayner who abstained, it was :

RESOLVED : To support Option 1 of the consultation (a Council tax increase of c. 5% that would broadly maintain the existing level of service) on the basis that the Council has no confidence that a higher tax burden would result in additional police resource for this community.

205 2008/09 : To consider a request from Mencap for a donation

The Council considered the information provided by Mencap and

RESOLVED : Not to support the request.

206 2008/09 : To consider a request from Churches Together for permission to use Riverside for the annual service.

The Council considered the request against the background of the assurances made in relation to insurance for the event and

RESOLVED : To grant permission for Churches Together to use Riverside for the annual service on Sunday 12th July 2009, subject to receipt of a signed indemnification.

207 2008/09 : To consider a request, received via the Community Panel, for the Council to ask LCC to place a grit bin near to the bend on North Moor Road at the entrance to the village.

The Council considered this request, raised as a result of two recent incidents when climatic conditions changed after the road had been gritted by LCC Highways and resulted in road accidents, and stated its concerns regarding members of the public going out onto this busy road and at a blind bend to provide a gritting service. The fact that additional gritting is required will likely only be known once an accident has taken place in any event. Councillor Rayner pointed out that the ice that forms at this location is as a result of water ponding and proposed that LCC should be asked to consider the design of the drainage and the road camber with a view to finding a long-term solution. Considering this, and with the exception of Councillor Day who abstained, it was

RESOLVED : To ask LCC Highways to revise the road camber and drainage arrangements to prevent the ponding of water and to give its opinion on the suitability of a grit bin at the location.

208 2008/09 : To agree a date, time and format for the 2009 Annual Parish Meeting

Following the relative success of the 2008 meeting, it was agreed that the 2009 meeting should follow a similar format in that the reports from the various organisations be made available in hard copy form for attendees to take away and read at their leisure, with the meeting itself to discuss issues of local interest (e.g. withdrawal of cemetery subsidy). In sending out the invitations, the Clerk is to ask potential attendees for topics that they would wish to see on the agenda.

RESOLVED : To hold the Annual Parish Meeting on Wednesday 8th April 2009 at 7.30pm in the large committee room at Scotter Village Hall, the meeting to follow the format of the 2008 meeting.

209 2008/09 : To approve the letting of cemetery allotment no. 11

The Council considered the request from the Clerk to approve the letting of the recently vacated allotment 11 to the next parishioner on the waiting list.

RESOLVED : To approve the letting of cemetery allotment no. 11 as outlined by the Clerk.

210 2008/09 : To receive a report from the Cemetery & Allotments Working Group on its recent safety inspection of the cemetery

Councillor Day, 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.

211 2008/09 : To receive a report from the Chairman on his recent inspection of Parson's Field

The Chairman and Councillor Sheardown reported that they had separately inspected Parson's Field for safety on several occasions during the period and all was in good order. Despite Councillor Sheardown's ongoing efforts in collecting litter in the field, Councillor Day is of the opinion that the litter is building up and that this should be monitored.

212 2008/09 : To agree which Councillor will be responsible for playground safety inspections for the next month

Councillor Rayner volunteered to continue with this duty for a further month. In consequence, it was

RESOLVED : That Councillor Rayner will inspect the playground for the next month.

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213 2008/09 : To receive a report from the Clerk

The Council noted the report, with comments made in relation to the following :

102b 2008/09 : Kirton drainage scheme

The Clerk reported that a response has now been received from the Environment Agency which states that North Lincs Council is still evaluating various options for the scheme and do not yet have a firm commencement date for the works. As the type of work will only discharge clean water, a Consent to Discharge will not be required. However the proposal does have to take into account the requirements of PPS25 which states that any new discharge must not exceed that of the previous arrangement and, where possible, should reduce the flood risk downstream of the outfall. The Environment Agency has recently appointed consultants to carry out economic and viability evaluations of possible works to reduce flood risk in Scotter and the consultants have been asked to contact North Lincs Council to ensure that any effect from their proposed works is included in the appraisal.

112d 2008/09 : Playground Safety

The Council considered the Cemetery & Allotment Working Group's recommendation that a post should be hammered into the gap between the Council's fence and the school fence, to prevent young children being able to access High Street at this point and

RESOLVED : To approve the recommendation..

The Chairman will carry out this work at a convenient time.

160 2008/09 : Installation by YEDL of underground cable at Scotter Cemetery

The Council discussed the ground works being carried out by YEDL at the cemetery and the impact that this will have on part of allotment no. 18 and considered the Chairman's proposal that, due to the relatively shallow depth of the underground cable (c. 750mm), the portion of allotment 18 used for cable-laying purposes be marked off and grassed, such that it can no longer be used for cultivation purposes.

RESOLVED : To instruct the Village Person to mark off and grass the portion of allotment 18 used for cable-laying purposes.

The Chairman will provide the Village Person with suitable markers and the Clerk will write to the holder of the allotment accordingly.

180 2008/09 : Removal of cemetery subsidy by WLDC

The Council considered the recommendation from the Cemetery & Allotments Working Group that its electorate should be informed of the District Council's decision to remove the cemetery subsidy at the earliest opportunity, proposing that it be included in the Chairman's next report to the Eau Valley Advertiser, that an article about it be simultaneously placed on the Council's website and that it be a topic for discussion at the Annual Parish Meeting 2009.

RESOLVED : To approve the recommendation.

188 2008/09 : Overhanging branches at the cemetery

The Council considered the disparate responses received as a result of letters sent to the residents of the two properties (one on Revills Close and one on High Street) who appear to have trees within their boundaries whose branches are overhanging cemetery land.

RESOLVED : That, in accordance with its powers under section 137 of the Local Government Act, 1972, the Council will incur expenditure on tree surgery work 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.

Due to the relatively small scale of the work, a quotation will be requested from Aspen Tree Services for consideration at the March Council meeting.

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213b 2008/09 : Invoice discrepancy – skip service

The Council considered the Clerk’s report regarding the recent invoice received from the skip contractor covering the provision of the skip service at Dar Beck Road on 5th February 2009, which included a quoted weight of waste of 7.1t, supported by an electronic weighbridge ticket. As this was well in excess of the previous maximum weight in the Clerk’s records (of 2.66t) and the historical average weight (c. 1.9t), the Council was pleased that the Clerk had challenged the invoice. The skip provider responded that 7.1t was the recorded figure and that such skips are capable of taking up to 12t of waste. However, an offer has been made to cancel this invoice and replace it with an unsubstantiated invoice for 1.7t instead.

RESOLVED : To approve a re-submitted invoice at 1.7t of waste weight.

214 2008/09 : To receive new correspondence not already included above

Items of correspondence (not already considered above and received prior to the February 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.

215a 2008/09 : To receive the Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings published since the last Council meeting and adopt the recommendations contained therein

The Council considered the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 19th January 2009 and 2nd February 2009 and

RESOLVED : To concur with the actions taken by the Planning Committee and to adopt the minutes of the Committee meetings held on 19th January 2009 and 2nd February 2009.

215b 2008/09 : To note the receipt of results from the planning authority

The Council noted that no results had been received from the planning authority during the month.

216 2008/09 : To note income received during January 2009 and to approve the January 2009 cash book and its reconciliation to the bank statements

The Council noted the following income received during January 2009.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>PAYER</u>	<u>DETAILS</u>	<u>RECEIPTS</u>
02.01.09	H M Revenue & Customs	VAT repayment	207.53
05.01.09	Co-op Bank	Interest - current account	0.26
14.01.09	J. Naylor Funeral Directors	Interment of C. Pickup, BB56	100.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS			307.79

It then examined the cashbook as at end of January 2009 and its reconciliation to the bank statements and

RESOLVED : That the cashbook at the end of January 2009 should be signed by the Chairman and Clerk as a true record.

217 2008/09 : To approve payments to be made

The Council examined the accounts to be paid for supplies and services received since the last meeting and, with the exception of Councillors Brown and Fillingham who abstained,

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 Debit	BT	Line rental, Q4 2008/09	45.61	6.84	52.45
Direct Debit	Tiscali	Broadband/phone calls, December '08.	16.97	2.55	19.52
401943	H.M. Customs & Revenue	PAYE & NI, Month 10	301.33	-	301.33
401944	Mrs M. Brown	Wages	528.47	-	
		Mileage	4.00	-	

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		Postage	30.12	-	
		Stationery	3.13	0.47	566.19
401945	Mr. J. Lyon	Wages	396.88	-	396.88
401946	Pestx Ltd	Pest control, 01/02/09 to 01/05/09	85.00	12.75	97.75
401947	Glasdon UK Limited	Metal Guppy bin + fixings & fixing tool	366.02	54.90	420.92
401948	Scotter Village Hall Ass'n	Office rental & room hire, Q3 2008/09	239.45	-	239.45
401949	M. Brown	Purchase of Xmas lights for crib	14.46	2.17	16.63
TOTAL PROPOSED PAYMENTS			2,031.44	79.68	2,111.12

218 2008/09 : To take any points from members, identify items for the next agenda and to note urgent items of interest.

No such points were made.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.24pm.

Clerk:

Chairman:

Date:

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