

SCOTTER PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held on 11th August 2008

PRESENT: Councillor C. Day (Chairman), Councillors M. Armstrong, B. Billam, M. Brown, D. Capes, J. Fillingham and S. Rayner, District Councillor W. Parry, County Councillor E. Poll (for public forum only), M. Brown (Clerk), 1 member of the public (for public forum only).

Following a question/answer session with Councillor Eddie Poll on the recent library review carried out by LCC, the meeting commenced at 7.57pm.

67 2008/09 : To receive and approve apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Altoft, Bullivent and Sheardown, who are on holiday.

RESOLVED : To accept and approve the apologies from Councillors Altoft, Bullivent and Sheardown.

Apologies were also received from Ward Councillor Underwood Frost.

68 2008/09 : To receive declarations of interest

Councillor Day declared an interest in relation to item 22 on the agenda (minute reference 88 2008/09) and stated his intention to abstain on that matter. No other declarations were made at this time.

69 2008/09 : To approve the notes of the Council Meeting held on 16th June 2008 as the Minutes of that meeting.

RESOLVED : To approve the notes of the Council Meeting held on 16th June 2008 (as circulated and amended for an error on Page 3) as the Minutes of that meeting. These were signed by the Chairman.

70 2008/09 : Guaranteed Investment Deposit Account

Having considered the action taken by the Clerk following consultation with and approval from 8 of the Councillors, the Council formally

RESOLVED : To approve the re-investment of the £25k capital sum plus interest into a new three-month Guaranteed Investment Deposit Account.

71 2008/09 : Siting of Recycling Banks

The Council considered the request from WLDC for suitable locations for the siting of recycling banks. The only potentially suitable location would be in the car park of the village hall. However, misuse of the car park has resulted in it being closed to the public by means of a barrier whenever the hall is not in use, significantly limiting its potential as a recycling centre. When seen against the background of the improved recycling opportunities presented by the blue bin system, the availability of recycling centres at local supermarkets and opportunities for recycling via regular charity street collections, it was :

RESOLVED : To respond that there are no suitable locations for recycling banks.

72 2008/09 : To consider a request for a donation from Victim Support Lincolnshire

The Council considered the request received against the background of the allowance made when setting the 2008/09 Precept for donations of this kind.

RESOLVED : That, in accordance with its powers under section 137 of the Local Government Act, 1972, the Council will make a donation of £50 towards the work of Victim Support Lincolnshire 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.

73 2008/09 : To consider what response to make to BT's proposal to remove the public payphones on Messingham Road and Gainsborough Road

The Council considered BT's consultation document and the letter in relation to it received from a resident of Gravel Pit Road. Taking into account the extremely low levels of usage of the two public phones, the regular acts of vandalism against them and the widespread availability of land lines and/or mobile phones within homes, it was :

RESOLVED : That the Parish Council will not object to the removal of the public payphones on Messingham Road and Gainsborough Road.

74 2008/09 : To consider a request from a resident for the Council to carry out planned management of Parson's Field to conserve the natural habitat

The Council considered the letter, which was supported by a survey showing the wide range of flora and fauna present in Parson's Field. Whilst the Council appreciated the resident's interest in the area, a planned management regime would likely result in the exclusion of some residents. This is contrary to the purpose of the area (which is as a public open space for the benefit of all) and would be very expensive. It was agreed that the Clerk should respond to the resident accordingly, but giving the Council's assurance that it will continue its efforts to prevent inappropriate uses of the area (e.g. scramble and BMX biking), that it is supporting Lincolnshire Police's Streetforce Project which has recently resulted in a team of young people picking up litter in the field and that it is working with WLDC to employ a part-time local litter picker. If this scheme is successful, the litter picker will spend some regular time in Parson's Field.

75 2008/09 : To consider whether to be represented at CPRE's planning seminar

No-one is available to attend.

76 2008/09 : To receive a report from the Cemetery & Allotments Working Group on its recent safety inspection of the cemetery

Councillors Brown, Day and Capes, on behalf of the Cemetery & Allotments Working Group, inspected the cemetery and confirmed that there were no matters of a safety concern to report on this occasion. However, some of the edging stones to the roundabout have come loose and the Clerk will report this to the Village Person for action. Further to the resolution made at the June Council meeting (minute ref. 58 2008/09) the Working Group also inspected allotments nos. 6 and 11 to assess the progress made in controlling the weeds and reported that, whilst some progress had been made, the allotments still fall well short of an acceptable standard. As there is a waiting list for allotments at both sets of the Council's allotment gardens, it was

RESOLVED : To serve notice to the allotment holder that he is to be restricted to one allotment only from 1st October 2008 and to require that allotment to be brought up to the required standard in the earliest possible time period. The allotment holder may choose which allotment to retain, the delay in implementing the restriction to allow him some opportunity to take advantage of any fruit or vegetable crops planted.

When discussing weed levels, Councillor Day commented that significant growth of weeds has occurred on the riverbanks and asked the Clerk to chase ServiceTeam for the next cut, which is overdue.

77 2008/09 : To approve the letting of cemetery allotment no. 15

The Clerk asked the Council to approve the letting of the above cemetery allotment to the next parishioner on the waiting list.

RESOLVED : To approve the letting of cemetery allotment no. 15 as outlined by the Clerk.

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman signed the letting agreement.

78 2008/09 : To approve the sale of exclusive rights to burial in grave nos. BC74 and BE57

The Council considered applications for the purchase of the exclusive rights to burial in grave spaces BC74 and BE57 and, with all agreed, it was :

Initialled Chairman

RESOLVED: To approve the issue of the grants. These were signed by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

With space in the main cemetery now limited, the Clerk was instructed not to engage in the sale of further exclusive rights to burial (unless an interment is necessary) until such time as the new area of the cemetery has been laid out and is available for use. To this end, it was agreed that a meeting of the Cemetery & Allotments Working group will be held on Monday 1st September 2008 to progress the arrangements necessary to achieve this. In the interim period, the Clerk is to check on the licensing arrangements.

79 2008/09 : To receive a report from the Clerk

The Council noted the report presented by the Clerk and made comment in relation to the following :

75a 2004/05 & 47 2007/08 : Public open space adoption and maintenance

The Council stated its concern that, despite the continued efforts of the Clerk with WLDC officers, very little progress has been made in relation to the public open spaces at Waggoners Close and Astley Crescent and that nothing further has been heard in relation to the open space at Site B, The Rookery. In consequence, it requested the support of Councillor Parry in attempting to resolve these issues in as short a timescale as possible. Councillor Parry commented that he is already liaising with the responsible Planning Officer in relation to Astley Crescent and it would appear that the developer has been under the misapprehension that LCC was taking responsibility for this space. He will follow up on all of these issues.

9 2008/09 : Litter picking

The Council considered the recent e-mail from Mr Selby at WLDC, suggesting that (to test the scheme) a litter picker would be obtained from an agency for the first six months and, if successful, a local person would then be directly employed by WLDC, subject to the Council committing to its share of the expenditure for a period of three or four years. The Chairman commented that he had some concerns about the scheme starting with an agency person due to potential cost and lack of local pride and interest in the work. However, it would appear that this is the only possible way to get the scheme off the ground. Following some debate, it was :

RESOLVED : To agree to Mr Selby's proposed course of action, subject to the charges to the Council for agency work being capped at the hourly rate allowed within the Precept.

79a 2008/09 : Vandalism to litter bin at the playground

The Council noted the instruction given by the Clerk to the emergency contractor to re-fix the damaged bin for public safety reasons and (excepting Councillor Day who abstained)

RESOLVED : To approve the action taken by the Clerk.

The Clerk confirmed that she has now received a letter from Lincolnshire Police giving an incident number for the event. However, as the cost of repairs will be lower than the excess, there is no point in involving the Council's insurer.

80 2008/09 : To receive new correspondence not already included above

Items of correspondence (not already considered above and received prior to the August meeting) were placed on circulation to Councillors at the meeting. This included a special circulation relating to the development of a local emergency plan, an agenda item for the September Council meeting. If the need arises to take action in relation to any of the other correspondence, it will become an agenda item for consideration at a future meeting.

81a 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 meeting held on 2nd June 2008 and

Initialed Chairman

RESOLVED : That it concurs with the actions taken by the Planning Committee and adopts the minutes of the Committee meeting held on 2nd June 2008.

81b 2008/09 : To note the receipt of results from the planning authority

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

121816 82 High Street, Scotter – a planning application for alterations and extension to existing dwelling.
Granted.

122079 8 North Moor Road, Scotter – a planning application to erect an open canopy to rear of the property.
Granted.

122092 The Paddocks, Lindholme, Scotter – a planning application for a first-floor extension to the rear of the property, above a ground-floor snooker room.
Granted.

122107 48 High Street, Scotter – a planning application to install a security shutter to the shop front and associated works, including the installation of 4 No. cowl lights.
Granted.

82 2008/09 : To note income received during June 2008 and to approve the June 2008 cash book and its reconciliation to the bank statements

The Council noted the following income received during June 2008.

| <u>DATE</u> | <u>PAYER</u> | <u>DETAILS</u> | <u>RECEIPTS</u> |
|-------------|--------------------------|--|-----------------|
| 05.06.08 | Co-op Bank | Interest - Current account | 1.11 |
| 06.06.08 | Northern Electric (YEDL) | Wayleave/rental | 1.50 |
| 13.06.08 | Mrs L. Casey | Exclusive Right to Burial in grave BB50 | 50.00 |
| 18.06.08 | Mrs K. J. Day | Rental of Constable land to 28-09-08 | 43.15 |
| 26.06.08 | Cliff Bradley & Sons | Interment of crem.remains of C. Greenside (BB52) | 45.00 |
| | | TOTAL RECEIPTS | 140.76 |

It then examined the cashbook as at end of June 2008 and its reconciliation to the bank statements and **RESOLVED : That the cashbook at the end of June 2008 should be signed by the Chairman and Clerk as a true record.**

83 2008/09 : To formally approve the payments made during July 2008, to note the income received during that month and to approve the cash book as at the end of July 2008 and its reconciliation to the bank statements

The Council considered the payments made during July 2008 (as approved at that time by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman) and it was :

RESOLVED : That, in accordance with its powers under section 137 of the Local Government Act, 1972, the Council incurred expenditure on a skip service and on tree felling services which, in the opinion of the Council, were in the interests of the inhabitants of the Parish and benefited them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure. Also, that the following payments should be formally 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 | Tiscali | Broadband/phone calls, May'08. | 28.15 | 4.93 | 33.08 |
| 401877 | H.M. Customs & Revenue | PAYE & NI, Month 3 | 467.28 | - | 467.28 |
| 401878 | Mrs M. Brown | Wages | 564.13 | - | |
| | | Mileage | 8.00 | - | |

Initialed Chairman

| | | | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| | | Postage | 67.32 | - | 639.45 |
| 401879 | Mr. J. Lyon | Wages | 749.22 | - | |
| | | Mileage | 30.40 | - | 779.62 |
| 401880 | Thompson Waste Mgt | Skip service - Mill Crescent (19/06) | 178.40 | 31.22 | |
| | | Skip service - Charles Avenue (27/06) | 166.40 | 29.12 | 405.14 |
| 401881 | Spencer's Garage | Fuel | 163.43 | 28.60 | 192.03 |
| 401882 | Green Stripe Garden Mach'y | Spare parts | 65.83 | 11.52 | 77.35 |
| 401883 | C.P. Willis (Aspen Tree Services) | Felling of dead trees on cemetery border | 195.00 | - | 195.00 |
| 401884 | Allianz Insurance plc | Insurance premium for mower from 02-08 | 225.59 | - | 225.59 |
| 401885 | P. Smith (PCSO) | Woodstain for fence around playground | 11.06 | 1.93 | 12.99 |
| Direct Debit BT | | Line rental - Q2 2008/09 | 41.61 | 7.28 | 48.89 |
| TOTAL PAYMENTS MADE | | | 2,961.82 | 114.60 | 3,076.42 |

The Council noted the following income received during July 2008.

| <u>DATE</u> | <u>PAYER</u> | <u>DETAILS</u> | <u>RECEIPTS</u> |
|-----------------------|----------------------|---|-----------------|
| 05.07.08 | Co-op Bank | Interest - Current account | 0.94 |
| 16.07.08 | HM Revenue & Customs | VAT repayment | 236.57 |
| 28.07.08 | Cliff Bradley & Sons | Interment of crem.remains of C. Laking (AB66) | 45.00 |
| TOTAL RECEIPTS | | | 282.51 |

It then examined the cashbook as at end of July 2008 and its reconciliation to the bank statements and **RESOLVED : That the cashbook at the end of July 2008 should be signed by the Chairman and Clerk as a true record.**

84 2008/09 : To approve payments to be made

The Council examined the accounts to be paid for supplies and services received and it was :

RESOLVED : That, in accordance with its powers under section 137 of the Local Government Act, 1972, the Council will incur expenditure on a skip service 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 should be 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> |
| Direct Debit | Tiscali | Broadband/phone calls, June'08. | 19.44 | 3.40 | 22.84 |
| 401886 | H.M. Customs & Revenue | PAYE & NI, Month 4 | 483.49 | - | 483.49 |
| 401887 | Mrs M. Brown | Wages | 592.17 | - | |
| | | Mileage | 2.00 | - | |
| | | Stationery | 4.36 | 0.76 | 599.29 |
| 401888 | Mr. J. Lyon | Wages | 744.40 | - | 744.40 |
| 401889 | Thompson Waste Mgt | Skip service - Riverside (10/07) | 108.80 | 19.04 | |
| | | Skip service - Orchard Avenue (31/07) | 146.00 | 25.55 | 299.39 |
| 401890 | Spencer's Garage | Fuel | 164.37 | 28.76 | 193.13 |
| 401891 | Green Stripe Garden Mach'y | Repairs to Stihl strimmer | 9.00 | 1.58 | |
| | | Repairs to ride-on mower + parts | 136.85 | 23.95 | |
| | | Replace brake cable (ride-on mower) | 47.95 | 8.39 | 227.72 |
| 401892 | Scotter Village Hall | Hire of office & meeting rooms, Q1 08/09 | 259.10 | - | 259.10 |
| 401893 | R.N. Store & Co. | Internal audit for 2007/08 | 295.00 | 51.63 | 346.63 |
| TOTAL PROPOSED PAYMENTS | | | 3,012.93 | 163.06 | 3,175.99 |

Initialed Chairman

85 2008/09 : To take any points from members, identify items for the next agenda and to note urgent items of interest.

85a 2008/09 : Skip service, Susworth

Councillor Armstrong reported that the new regime of removing skips by noon to prevent over-filling is resulting in Susworth residents being unable to access it as it arrives later than in Scotter and after the majority of people have gone to work. Following complaints received, it would appear that the situation could be resolved if the skip’s residence time at Susworth could be extended to 2pm.

RESOLVED : To instruct the skip contractor to extend the residence time of the Susworth skip to 2pm.

85b 2008/09 : Holiday

Councillor Capes gave his apologies for the next meeting as he will be away on a late holiday.

86 2008/09 : To consider whether to temporarily exclude the public and press for the following items of business

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 items of business on the basis that they relate to legal issues with respect to the rental of Council-owned land.

87 2008/09 : To approve the draft grazing licence for Constable land

The Council considered the draft licence, based on the model agreement for such licences and drafted in line with the advice received from LALC.

RESOLVED : To approve the grazing licence as drafted.

The Clerk will forward this to the tenant for signature in good time, the current licence expiring on 29th September 2008.

88 2008/09 : To consider the issue of access to Goosemoor land

The Council considered the paper prior circulated on the matter and discussed the suggestion made by the adjacent landowner in relation to access to the Council’s land. Following some discussion, and with the exception of Councillor Day who declared a personal interest and abstained, it was :

RESOLVED : To agree to the conditions proposed by the adjacent landowner in relation to access, subject to those conditions applying only when the land is let to a tenant by the Council.

Should this be accepted by the adjacent landowner, the issue of access will have been satisfactorily resolved. At this point, the Clerk is to inform the Council’s legal advisor accordingly and ask him to progress the conclusion of the agricultural tenancy agreement with the new tenant, omitting the clause related to access.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.10pm.

Clerk:

Chairman:

Date:

Initialed Chairman