

# STILLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Stillington Parish Council, Minutes Created as PDF by VillageNotes.com

## Minutes 4th March 2008

Present

Chair: Cllr. J Turner

Cllrs. K Borer, W Hedley, E Larson, J Lithgo, R Tingle, M Tinkler, J Wills

Clerk: Mrs G Dunn

### 1. Apologies for Absence

There were apologies from Cllr. J Clark

### 2. Declarations of Interest in Items on the Agenda

During item 4, Cllrs. Tingle and Wills and Lithgo declared a personal non-prejudicial interest in the discussions, as they are members of St. John's Church PCC.

### 3. Minutes of the Last Meeting

Cllr. J Turner signed the minutes of the meeting held on 5th February as a true and correct record. Proposed by Cllr. K Borer and seconded by Cllr. R Tingle.

### 4. Finance

Proposed by Cllr. Wills and seconded by Cllr. Tingle the sum of £131.58 to Cllr. Turner for a new laser printer with four toners (purchased since the last meeting following consultation with other Councillors). This printer will carry out the majority of the tasks currently undertaken by the old photocopier more efficiently (cheque no. 100614).

Proposed by Cllr. Hedley and seconded by Cllr. Larson the sum of £207.28 to the Clerk for salary and expenses (cheque no. 100616).

The replacement of one of the mowers used in the churchyard had been discussed at previous meetings and the finance for the mower had been included in the projected outgoings for 2008/09. Cllr. Wills had found out that a suitable machine – a John Dere JS63 - was in stock at Clayton's for £566.00. This price compared favourably with others found on the Internet. It was proposed by Cllr. Turner and seconded by Cllr. Borer that Cllr. Wills organizes the purchase of this machine as soon as possible.

### 5. Matters arising from the Minutes

#### P358 Stillington Open Spaces Project and Honey Pot Wood Improvements

A local resident had offered to make a number of 1.2m x 1.2m wooden planters for the Villages. The materials for the planters would cost about £50. They would be reinforced and

designed so that metal stakes could be used to secure them to the ground. He had already made up one planter – a photograph was shown to members. It was proposed by Cllr. Wills and seconded by Cllr. Tingle that eight planters were ordered as there were sufficient funds in the Open Spaces budget and Village of the Year prize money to pay for the planters and to fill them with soil, plants etc.

\* 8.05pm Cllrs. Borer and Larson Left the Meeting

### **P359 Fence repairs in Stillington**

No remedial work had taken place as yet. The Clerk to chase up.

### **P359 Bus services – Various**

Cllr. Salt had contacted the Clerk since the last meeting to say that he had spoken to a few people and there didn't seem to be any truth in the rumours that the Darlington service was to be withdrawn. Cllr. Turner was aware that Sadberge residents were campaigning for an improved service. Cllr. Turner had attended the inaugural meeting of the Tees Valley Bus Users' Forum at the Swallow Hotel. She had spoken to a representative from Arriva who had stated that Arriva were bidding for additional finance that would be used to improve services. A representative from the Stillington and Whitton Residents Association had agreed to become a member of the new Steering Group. Cllr. Turner had also attended a TVRCC Rural Transport event. People attending had been advised to pressurize the Boroughs into enabling better public transport for the rural areas on the grounds of social justice.

### **P359 Damaged Bench – Whitton**

SBC had confirmed that the bench would be replaced in the near future.

### **P359 Stillington – Whitton Footpath**

Cllr. Borer and the Clerk had met Mark Gilson from SBC and Paul Easby, an engineering consultant, at the railway bridge between Whitton and Stillington. It was thought that, subject to identifying funding, the footpath could be widened on one side of the road and the road extended into the rough ground that was currently opposite the narrow footpath. The Parish Council were advised that Network Rail would have to be consulted about the proposals as the work would be in close proximity to the bridge.

### **P359 Messines Lane Street Nameplate**

This had not been replaced as yet – the Clerk agreed to chase it up. It was proposed that the Clerk suggest that the whole sign be removed or fixed to the brick wall of the railway bridge to prevent further vandalism.

### **P359 Dog Bins**

SBC had agreed to provide four lamppost bins to complement the two freestanding bins that the Parish Council were prepared to purchase. Following consultation with residents in Whitton it was agreed not to place a dog bin on the Green as a number of residents were opposed to this. The Clerk agreed to write to all Whitton residents about the problems to see if this had any effect.

The Clerk was asked to direct SBC to place a free standing dog bin on West Street Playing Field and at the end of Messines Lane – near the railway bridge. She agreed to identify lampposts near the Mount Pleasant Playing Field, between the rear of Park Crescent and Manor Walk and just outside Stillington along the footpath to Whitton for the SBC bins. She

was asked to request that SBC retain a lamppost bin that could be used in Whitton in the future if the letter writing campaign had little effect.

### **P359 Morpeth's Charity**

The Clerk had written to the PCC of St. John the Divine asking if the PCC would consider becoming the Trustee for the Charity. There had not been a PCC meeting held since then so there was no response as yet.

### **P360 Flooding in the Subway**

The Clerk had contacted Network Rail about this issue. An inspection of the track drainage in the area had been arranged. An update would be provided once these checks had been carried out.

### **P360 Traffic Calming – West Street**

The Community Engineer had drawn up plans for speed humps on West Street. Three humps were shown; one was very close to 'The Royal'. Councillors thought that this would be more effective a short distance away from the Public House. Overall Members were happy with the other locations. The Clerk agreed to pass these comments onto the Engineer.

### **P362 Noisy Neighbours – SBC Procedure**

The Clerk had contacted SBC enforcement regarding barking dogs etc. An Officer had advised that anyone who had a complaint should contact them directly as they would need details about the problem. Members suggested that the SBC enforcement number be put in the Parish Council Box in the Parish News.

Cllr. Turner informed members that the Community Police Officer and the Neighbourhood Officer would be holding a monthly beat surgery for the Western Parishes in Stillington Y & C Centre. The dates would be published in the Parish News.

### **P363 Pot Hole – Park Crescent**

This had been repaired

### **P363 Ground reinstatement by Wimpey**

This had been reported and remedial work was underway.

### **P363 Conifer on Tristar Property**

The Clerk had reported the tree to Tristar. Tristar had agreed to assess the situation and get an arborist to look at the tree. Tristar would keep the Parish Council informed of any progress.

## **6. Monthly Parish Walk**

During the walk around the West Street Playing field Councillors had agreed that additional hedging should be planted to mark the boundary and to screen the railway fence. The Clerk informed members that 50 meters of hedging would cost about £180 to include plants, guards and canes. It was proposed by Cllr. Turner and seconded by Cllr. Tinkler that 50m of materials are purchased as soon as possible and to start by screening the railway fence. The Clerk had talked to the Community Payback Team supervisor and he agreed that his team would be able to plant the hedge. The next walk was arranged for Thursday 27th March at 10.00am. Meet at the Mount Pleasant Playing Field.

## **7. Parish Plan Meeting - Feedback**

Since the meeting Cllr. Turner had discussed that matter further with a member of the Sadberge Parish Plan steering group. He had provided various documents and information etc. that had been used in Sadberge that Stillington and Whitton could use for reference. Members agreed to hold a separate meeting at 10.00am on Thursday 20th March to agree a date and discuss publicity for a public meeting.

## **8. Wimpey Housing 106 Agreement**

Cllr. Turner and the Clerk were due to meet Tony Raine from SBC on Thursday 6th March to find out how this project was progressing.

## **9. Parish Council Liaison Forum – Date of Next Meeting**

The Clerk informed the Council that this meeting would be held on Tuesday 25th March. The agenda items raised at the last meeting had been submitted. Cllr. Hedley agreed to attend and other members hoped to attend also.

## **10. Joint Parish Council – Date of next Meeting**

A number of members from other local Councils had expressed an interest in attending this meeting on 18th March. Cllr. Turner and Cllr. Tinkler agreed to represent the Council.

## **11. Local Development Framework Training Day - feedback**

A number of Councillors and the Clerk had attended this event. They had found it interesting and it provided useful information regarding the timetable for the LDF process etc.

## **12. Wind Turbine Project Update**

The Clerk had received an email from the SBC Officer who had been involved with this project. It was currently at a standstill as Gaz de France disagree with SBC Planning dept. over the need for an Environmental Impact Assessment. The message stated that SBC were still committed to delivering the scheme if possible though it may have to be with a different developer.

## **13. Request from NALC representative to attend a meeting**

The North East Regional Development Officer had written to ask if she could attend a meeting to talk about the Quality Council Scheme. Members agreed that they didn't need any additional input about this matter at the current time.

## **14. Community Payback Team Work Programme**

The Clerk read out the list of project that the Community Payback team was willing to undertake in the future. The supervisor was happy to consider any additional work.

## **15. Community Litter Pick – Date for 2008**

It was agreed to hold this event on Wednesday 23rd April. The Clerk to Contact CFYA for support.

## **16. Standards Issues**

The Clerk reminded Councillors that SBC was looking to appoint two substitute parish representatives for its Standards Committee.

### **17. Correspondence – January 2008**

SBC Acknowledgement of Survey Response

SBC Wind Turbine Project

SBC email Standards Committee Parish Representatives

SBC email Links to agendas of Standards Committee Meetings

Enjoy England Celebrate St. George's Day

ENTEC UK Tees Valley Joint Minerals and Waste Development Plan Documents

Five Lamps Free Skills Training for the Voluntary Sector

Gov Office NE NE Regional Spatial Strategy – Further Proposed Changes

Governance Hub Publication – Trustee Voices

NALC Quality Councils

Network Rail email Inspection of track drainage

Magazine A Slice of Life

Renaissance Agenda and Minutes

SRCGA Tees Valley Bus Users Forum

SRCGA Support Sessions

TVRCC Help Yourselves Awards

S Richardson Flyer re Entertainment for Roadshow

### **18. Planning Applications**

**07/1674/FUL** Residential development of 13 new dwelling houses and conversion of barn to dwelling house

Townend Farm Whitton

The Officer whose comments had caused the Parish Council members concern had replied to the Clerk stating that with hindsight he acknowledges that he should have chosen his words more carefully as his comments could be open to misinterpretation. He went on to state that he did not seek to imply any impropriety. Councillors accepted this as a resolution of the matter.

**08/0419/FUL** Proposed rear single storey extension with porch to front 29 St. John's Park, Stillington

There were no comments on this application.

**07/3278/FUL** Erection of wooded building containing 3 no. stables Kenny Halls Field 4732, Whitton (Further chance to comment)

This application had been approved with conditions.

### **19. Minor Items and Items for the Next Agenda**

The drains on Messines Lane were blocked with leaves though seemed to be working still. It was thought that the routine clearance of all of the drains in the Village was due in March or April so that process would clean them out.

The Clerk to report ivy and branches that needed cutting back from the footpath on the South Street/Mount Pleasant junction.

There had been a few problems with youths congregating around the Pizza shop – it was agreed to raise this at the Beat Surgery.

The Clerk to contact Network rail to see if the branches from a fallen tree could be removed from the embankment on Messines Lane.

The Clerk to report that the wall light in Manor Drive was out of action once again.

The Clerk reminded Councillors about the TVRCC event – Celebrating Community Activity - that was due to take place at Thorpe Thewles later in the month.