

STILLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

Minutes 1st April 2008

Present

Chair: Cllr. J Turner
Cllrs. K Borer, J Clark, E Larson*, J Lithgo, R Tingle, M Tinkler, J Wills
Clerk: Mrs G Dunn

1. Apologies for Absence

There were apologies from Cllr. W Hedley

2. Declarations of Interest in Items on the Agenda

There were none.

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The following had been omitted from the minutes of the March meeting - "the Clerk to ask SBC to re-consider trimming the hedge at the eastern end of Stillington. The majority of the hedge is growing outside of the boundary fence for the field and is therefore on the verge (i.e. on land that falls under the responsibility of SBC) rather than in the field." With this addition agreed, Cllr. J Turner signed the minutes of the meeting held on 4th March as a true and correct record. Proposed by Cllr. R Tingle and seconded by Cllr. J Lithgo.

4. Finance

Proposed by Cllr. Lithgo and seconded by Cllr. Tinkler the sum of £566.00 to Claytons for the new lawn mower (cheque no. 100617).

Proposed by Cllr. Tinkler and seconded by Cllr. Tingle the sum of £198.00 to Hill and Sons for the hedging plants for the playing field (cheque no. 100618).

Proposed by Cllr. Tinkler and seconded by Cllr. Turner the sum of £412.52 for the Clerks salary and expenses – including £205.24 for the Open Spaces Project (cheque no. 100619).

Proposed by Cllr. Borer and seconded by Cllr. Tinkler the sum of £400.00 to A. Naisbitt for the production of eight planters for the open spaces project (cheque no. 100620).

5. Matters arising from the Minutes

P364 Stillington Open Spaces Project and Honey Pot Wood Improvements

The plants, planters and compost had all been purchased. Quotes for the supply of topsoil had been received. It was envisaged that the planters would be put into position in mid – late

April. It was agreed that one planter should be located at the entry of Whitton Grove and Park Crescent, one in Whitton, one at the entry to Mount Pleasant, one near Weare Grove, one near Bellsmoor Close and three on Chapel Gardens.

Clarkes of Stillington were providing the angle iron required to anchor the planters into the ground. The Clerk was asked to thank Clarkes for their support and also to write to the person who organized the Community Payback Team work and thank them for their assistance.

Cllr. Borer informed the Council that a new kissing gate had been erected at one entrance to Honeypot Wood. It was envisaged that the Honeypot Wood leaflets would be distributed with the Parish Magazine in May

* 8.00pm Cllr Larson left the meeting

P365 Fence repairs in Stillington

There had been no repairs carried out as yet, the Clerk to chase up.

P365 Damaged Bench – Whitton

The new bench had arrived in Whitton.

P365 Stillington – Whitton Footpath

The Clerk had not heard anything further about this and agreed to find out what progress had been made.

P365 Messines Lane Street Nameplate

The new sign had not arrived yet. The Clerk to chase up.

P365 Dog Bins

These had been ordered and should be in place by the end of April. The Clerk was asked to report a dog to SBC that was being allowed to stray near it's home.

P365 Morpeth's Charity

A letter had been received from the St. John's Church PCC stating that they would be happy to administer Morpeth's Charity in the future.

P365 Flooding in the Subway

The Clerk had not had any feedback from Network Rail as yet. She agreed to chase this up.

P366 Traffic Calming – West Street

The Community Engineer had been advised of the alterations to the design of the scheme suggested at the last meeting. The Clerk agreed to find out what would happen next to try to progress the scheme further.

P366 Conifer on Tristar Property

The Clerk had not been informed of any decision that had been made about this matter. She agreed to contact Tristar and try and find out what had been agreed. She also agreed to find out the date of the next Tristar walkabout in the Village.

P366 Hedge Planting – West Street Playing Field

The first phase of hedge planting had taken place around part of the playing field boundary. The work had been carried out by the Community Payback team.

P368 Removal of branches – Messines Lane

The Clerk had contacted Network Rail to find out if anything could be done about this issue. She had been told that someone from Network Rail would assess the situation and inform the Clerk of any decision made.

P369 Wall Light – Manor Drive

The Clerk had reported to SBC that the light was out of action once again. Members asked the Clerk to request a meeting with the street lighting inspector at SBC to discuss future options for this light as it was regularly out of action.

6. Monthly Parish Walk

A walk had taken place around the Mount Pleasant area on 27th March. As a result the Clerk was asked to report to SBC that the boundary fence for the Mount Pleasant playing field was damaged and that a mattress had been left in the playing field. The Councillors intended to raise the poor condition of the walls, steps and car park surfacing behind Manor Walk with Tristar on the next walkabout in the Village along with a few smaller issues that had been noticed or mentioned by residents.

The Clerk was asked to request that a community skip be placed in the St. John's Park area this year. If an additional skip was not possible then she will request that one of the West St. skips be transferred to this area.

It was agreed that the next Parish Walk will take place on 1st May at 10.00am. Councillors planned to walk around the Whitton Grove/Park Crescent areas.

7. Parish Plan Meeting

It was planned to hold an open meeting to gauge levels of interest in producing a Parish Plan on either May 8th or 15th – it was hoped that the Clerk of Sadberge Parish Council who had experience of this process would be able to attend on one of those dates. A flyer advertising the meeting would be delivered to all homes in Stillington and Whitton with the next edition of the Parish News.

8. Wimpey Housing 106 Agreement

The SBC Officer involved in this process was still in the process of obtaining quotes for the work. It was envisaged that the work would be completed and the climbing rocks in place by the school summer holidays. SBC was intending to pass the ownership of the rocks to the Residents Association to be managed with the rest of the playground equipment.

9. Parish Council Liaison Forum – Feedback

Cllrs. Turner, Tingle and Lithgo had attended. There had been a presentation on the agenda system and discussions about public transport. An update concerning the bus service to Long Newton had been sent to the clerk sine the meeting.

10. Joint Parish Council – Feedback

Cllr. Turner and Cllr. Tinkler had attended. The main discussions had centered on wind turbine developments, the quarry in Grindon Parish and concerns over the potential to use the site for landfill following extraction and the bus services. An invitation to attend a meeting with Sadberge Parish Council to discuss the future route of the Darlington bus service is due to arrive later in the month. Cllr Turner and Cllr. Clarke expressed an interest in attending this meeting once it was arranged.

11. 2008 Community Litter Pick

This event would be held on Wednesday 23rd April. The Clerk to arrange publicity and equipment.

12. TVRCC Events - Feedback

Transport Event – This was a good event that had been well attended. Cllr Turner attended from the Parish. Representatives from central government agencies were present along with people who operate the Lynx bus service. From discussions it appeared that schemes similar to the Lynx service were running more successfully in other parts of the country.

Celebration Event - A number of Councillors and the Clerk had attended this event in Thorpe Thewles along with many other people from surrounding villages. There were some useful presentations – in particular the proposals for agreeing the site of a new hospital for the area. Cllr. Turner and the Clerk presented an item on community activity in Stillington.

13. Routine Inspection of West Street Play Area

Cllr. Turner and the Clerk had met with an Officer from SBC who was concerned with Service Level Agreements (SLA). Currently some Parish Councils were paying to have their play areas inspected, others, including Stillington and Whitton are not. To ensure uniformity SBC planned to charge all Councils for this service. Cllr. Turner had asked SBC to consider waiving the fee as the Residents Association owned the equipment. SBC were unable to do this. The cost of the SLA would be £411.50. This includes fortnightly inspections and the annual RoSPA inspection, which would cost the Residents Association about £350.00 to organize independently. It was proposed by Cllr. Borer and seconded by Cllr. Tingle that the Parish Council should make a donation to the Residents Association to cover the inspection costs.

14. CLCA – Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be held on April 9th. Cllrs. Borer and Tinkler planned to attend.

15. Standards Issues

A report that will be presented to SBC Standards Committee was shown to Councillors.

16. Correspondence – March 2008

SBC Annual Contract Agreement – West Street Play Area

SBC Preston Park – Come Back the Bid

SBC Email Re Conifers – Whitton Grove

SBC Email Feedback from Village Study Event

Audit Commission Appointment of External Auditor

BDO Stoy Hayward Local Council Briefing – Spring 2008

CLCA Agenda and Minutes

Deprived Area Fund Event – Raising Awareness and Creating Opportunities

MIND Awareness Raising Event

NHS Trust/SBC Delivery of an Alcohol Awareness Project

NEREO New Contact Details

Network Rail Email Re branches on Embankment – Messines Lane

Sedgefield B.C. Draft Windlestone Hall Supplementary Planning Document

Standards Board Town and Parish Standard

Stockton Renaissance Community Empowerment Network Questionnaire

Tees Valley Flyer re: Free Professional Expertise

Professional Services Group

Wicksteed Promotional Material

In addition that Clerk had received material about the Care for Your Area Awards and an Open Day Event for Local Councils to be held in Durham on May 10th.

17. Planning Applications

08/0748/FUL Proposal: Revised application for a side and rear extension to Hillcrest Cottage and for the removal of condition 2 on Planning Application 90/1461 to allow the use of the property as an independent dwelling.

Location: Hillcrest, Morrison Street, Stillington

There were no objections to this application.

18. Minor Items and Items for the Next Agenda

There had been complaints made that traffic from the industrial estate was ignoring the zebra crossing. This was particularly a problem around 11:30am when children were being collected from nursery. Darchem had been contacted by the school staff about this problem, Cllrs. Turner and Borer agreed to raise it at the next industrialists meeting.

The Clerk to contact Cynthia Scott to agree a date to judge the annual garden competition.

The Clerk to contact SBC enforcement following complaints about drives being blocked by school traffic in St. John's Park.

The Clerk to contact an Environmental Health Officer to try and find out what the piles of strong smelling black material was that had been delivered in significant amounts to agricultural land in the area.

The Clerk to check whether there were sufficient dropped kerbs to access the Youth and Community Centre.

The Clerk to try and find out if SBC had a development policy for the open land in the industrial estate.

It was reported that a small number of residents had attended the Police beat surgery held in March.

29. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Tuesday 6th May 2008 in the Youth and Community Centre at 7pm. This would include the AGM and the Annual Parish Meeting.