

STILLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

Minutes 1st July 2008

Present

Chair: Cllr. J Turner

Cllrs. K Borer, J Clark, E Larson*, J Lithgo, J Wills

District Cllr. F Salt

Clerk: Mrs G Dunn

1. Apologies for Absence

There were apologies from Cllr. W Hedley, Cllr. R Tingle and Cllr. M Tinkler

2. Declarations of Interest in Items on the Agenda

Cllr. Turner declared a personal non-prejudicial interest regarding the discussions over a financial donation to the Stillington and Whitton Residents Association due to her involvement with this group.

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting

Cllr. J Turner signed the minutes of the meeting held on 6th June 2008 as a true and correct record. Proposed by Cllr. J Lithgo and seconded by Cllr. K Borer.

4. Finance

Proposed by Cllr. Turner and seconded by Cllr. Larson the sum of £85.00 to the Youth and Community Centre for room hire fees. (cheque no. 100630).

Proposed by Cllr. Turner and seconded by Cllr. Lithgo the sum of £60.00 to Mrs. J Freeman for the internal audit (cheque no. 100631).

Proposed by Cllr. Borer and seconded by Cllr. Lithgo the sum of £60.00 to Mrs. C Scott for the judging the garden competition (cheque no. 100632).

Proposed by Cllr. Clark and seconded by Cllr. Lithgo the sum of £248.08 for the Clerks salary and expenses – including expenditure on plants (£31.68) for planters in the grounds of William Cassidi School as part of the Open Spaces Project (cheque no. 100633).

At the meeting in April 2008 the Council had agreed to cover the cost of the regular inspections of the West Street Play Area. The Residents Association had received the invoice for this. The price was £411.50 +VAT so it was agreed that the Parish Council should pay the VAT also. It was proposed by Cllr. Borer and seconded by Cllr. Larson the sum of £485.00 to the Residents Association (cheque no. 100634).

The Clerk had distributed a summary of the Council's finances to all members prior to the meeting.

The Clerk informed the Council that the annual audit had been completed and verified by Mrs. J Freeman, the Internal Auditor. It was proposed by Cllr. Lithgo and seconded by Cllr. Wills that the Chairman sign the form on behalf of the Council. Cllr. Mrs Turner and the Clerk signed the form as required.

5. Matters arising from the Minutes

P382 Stillington – Whitton Footpath

The Clerk had tried to find out if any progress had been made but had not heard anything yet. She agreed to continue to try and find out about any developments.

*Cllr. Larson left the meeting at 8:05pm

P382 Traffic Calming – West Street

The community engineer had received approval from the Engineers at SBC to carry out the consultation for this scheme. This was due to take place over the next month with the results available by the end of September. If the consultation supported the scheme then funding could be sought.

P382 Wall Light – Manor Drive

The Clerk had spoken to SBC Street lighting and it was thought that the light had been delivered recently or was due to be delivered soon. If this was the case it should be installed in the near future.

P382 Parking in St John's Park

SBC Enforcement Officers had visited the school on at least one occasion recently. There were ongoing problems in St. John's Park, the Clerk agreed to ask SBC if the planned monthly inspections had begun.

P382 Action Following Tristar Walk

The majority of minor jobs identified during the walk had been completed. The Tristar Manager for the area was considering holding a regular 'surgery' in Stillington for Tristar residents and had asked for the Council's opinion on this. Members thought that a monthly surgery would be a good idea. Tristar would let the Clerk know when the next walk was due to take place. Regarding the re-surfacing of the Manor Walk car parks – the Clerk had been informed by SBC Highways that the scheme was in the reserves for this year if the money was available and if not it would be done in 2009/10.

At the Roadshow Cllr. Turner had talked to a lady who organized a Junior Neighbourhood Watch group in Stockton. The lady thought that Tristar may provide funding to run a similar group in Stillington and, if this were the case she would be prepared to come and organize the group. Cllr. Turner agreed to find out more information about this.

The Clerk also agreed to find out how many Tristar properties there were in the Parish.

P383 Hedgerow/boundary issues

SBC had not informed the Clerk of any decision about cutting back the hedgerow on the edge of the Village as yet. The Clerk agreed to follow this up.

Regarding the boundary issue in Whitton – SBC had informed the Clerk that the fence was within the boundary of the property.

P383 Wimpey Housing 106 Agreement

The SBC Officer involved with this had sorted out the problems with the supplier of the climbing rocks and hoped to place the order for the rocks and the equipment and markings for the yard of the Y&C Centre later in the week. Cllr. Turner was optimistic that the Residents Association could obtain grants to pay for basketball coaching sessions once the hoops etc. were installed

P386 Flooding in Whitton

SBC had discovered a collapsed drain outside of the cottages that had experienced flooding problems. The Clerk agreed to find out if this had been fixed yet and if there had been any further problems.

It was noted that SBC had cleaned all of the drains in the Parish during the last week.

P386 Parish Christmas Tree

The Clerk had made a start on costing a Christmas tree and lights. She agrees to continue to work on this issue over the summer.

P383 Health Service Meetings – Feedback

Cllrs. Lithgo and Wills planned to attend the consultation session that was due to be held in Sedgefield later in July.

Cllr. Turner informed the Council that a walking for health group was starting in Stillington in July. There was also a Health Support Worker who had started to work in the area recently and was happy to talk to anyone who would like advice on health related issues.

Council Vacancies

SBC had sent the Clerk some information regarding the procedure for dealing with a vacancy on the Council.

6. Bus Services - update

The Clerk had received a confirmation letter from Arriva about the changes to the no. 7 bus service. It gave details of a route that differed from that given in the letter from SBC that was read at the meeting in June. The Clerk agreed to clarify this.

The next Public Transport Forum meeting would be held on 12th July in Stockton.

7. Planning the Future of the Villages - Event

SBC had organized a series of consultation events in villages in the Borough for a document called 'planning the future of the villages in Stockton.' One of these events would be held in the Y&C Centre in Stillington on 10th July from 4:00pm – 7:30pm. The Clerk agreed to ask SBC if the Council could have copies of any feedback received at the Stillington event as this could be used in a Planning section of a Parish Plan if one was produced at some stage.

Regarding the Parish Plan, the Clerk had written to the people who had attended the open meeting stating that due to the low number of people who came to the meeting the Parish Council would consider producing a plan later in the year on a smaller scale than originally envisaged.

8. Parish Council Liaison Forum - feedback

Cllrs. Borer and Wills attended. No matters relating to this area were discussed. The next meeting would be held on 15th September. The Clerk agreed to submit an agenda item regarding the appearance of smouldering piles of treated sewage that were appearing in fields in the area – presumably to be used as fertilizer – as there was often an unpleasant smell coming from the material.

The Clerk also agreed to organize a Joint Parishes meeting for the neighbouring Parish Councils on 16th September.

9. CLCA Northern Group Meeting - feedback

Cllr. Borer had attended this meeting along with about 40 other people. Cllr. Borer was pushing for the group to be more pro-active for Council's in this region. Cllr. Borer planned to attend the next meeting in November.

The next CLCA meeting was due to be held on 9th July. The Clerk to ask Cllr. Tinkler if she can attend.

10. Request to attend meeting from the Leader of Stockton Borough Council

Mr. Ken Lupton, leader of SBC had written to the Council asking if Members would like him to come to a future meeting with a Cabinet Member. The Clerk was asked to request that they attend the October meeting if possible. The Mayor had also sent a letter to the Council regarding visiting the Parish. Members agreed that as the Mayor had attended the Roadshow and had recently attended a Parish Council meeting on behalf of the Standards Committee the Clerk should reply stating that there was no need for him to come to a meeting or event in the near future but his presence may be requested later during his term of Office.

11. Standards Issues

There was nothing to discuss.

12. Correspondence – June 2008

SBC Letter from K Lupton

SBC Letter from J Fletcher

SBC email Draft Leisure Strategy – contact details

SBC email Planning the Future of Villages Event

SBC email Wind Turbine Proposal

SBC email Manor Walk car park resurfacing

SBC email Council Vacancies

Arriva Bus Service Alterations

Awards For All End of Award Letter for Honeypot Wood

CLCA Date of next meeting and papers

Charity Commission Annual Return – Morpeth’s Charity

S. Lumb email Traffic Calming in West Street

M&G Investments Statement and Information

SRCGA Questionnaire

Zurich System Changes

The Clerk read the email about the Wind Turbine proposal to the Council. It stated that Gaz de France were now moving ahead with the final studies and consultation with Natural England that were required for the turbine project prior to applying for planning permission.

The Clerk informed members of a further piece of correspondence requesting nominations for the Children’s Trust Board.

13. Planning Applications

App. No. 08/1513/FUL Proposal: Two Storey Extension to Rear (demolition of existing garage) Location: Townend Farm, Whitton

There were no comments on this application.

App. No. 08/1383/FUL Proposal: Erection of a single storey portakabin for use as canteen Location: Darchem Engineering, Ironmasters Way, Stillington

There were no comments on this application

With regard to the Forest Park development. The Clerk had checked the plans and the mound that had been proposed on one set of plans that Members had viewed for the scheme had been shown on the application for outline planning permission but had not been included on the final design for planning permission.

14. Minor Items and Items for the Next Agenda

The Clerk to request that CFYA carry out a sweep of Messines Lane.

The Clerk to report that a quantity of ballast had been thrown from the railway line onto the road.

The Clerk to request that the vegetation to the rear of 22 – 28 Mount Pleasant Grove be trimmed.

Cllr. Turner had heard that a four day Christmas Festival was being planned for the town centre.

The Clerk to request that SBC re-paint the white lines along the Grindon Road and replace the rumble strips at the entrances to the Villages.

The Clerk to find out who is responsible for cutting the hedges on the road bends between Stillington and Old Stillington.

15. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Tuesday 2nd September 2008 in the Youth and Community Centre at 7pm.