

# STILLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

## Minutes 3rd June 2008

Present

Chair: Cllr. J Turner  
Cllrs. K Borer, J Clark, E Larson\*, J Lithgo, R Tingle, J Wills  
Clerk: Mrs G Dunn  
PCSO Lee Butterworth  
Mr. P Rogers – Local Resident

### 1. Apologies for Absence

There were apologies from Cllr. W Hedley and Cllr. M Tinkler

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

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

Cllr. Wills declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest regarding the payment made to the Parish News Magazine due to his involvement with this publication.

### 3. Minutes of the Last Meeting

Cllr. J Turner signed the minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 6th May 2008 as a true and correct record. Proposed by Cllr. Cllr. R Tingle and seconded by Cllr. K Borer.

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

Cllr. J Turner signed the minutes of the meeting held on 6th May 2008 as a true and correct record. Proposed by Cllr. J Wills and seconded by Cllr. J Clark.

### 4. Finance

Proposed by Cllr. Borer and seconded by Cllr. Turner the sum of £176.41 to the CLCA for membership fees. (cheque no. 100625).

Proposed by Cllr. Tingle and seconded by Cllr. Lithgo the sum of £888.31 to SBC for grounds maintenance in 2007/2008 (cheque no. 100626).

Proposed by Cllr. Wills and seconded by Cllr. Larson the sum of £346.85 for the Clerks salary and expenses – including expenditure on plants for the Open Spaces Project (cheque no. 100627).

A letter had been received from the Stillington and Whitton Residents Association requesting assistance with Insurance costs for the playground. It was proposed by Cllr. Wills and seconded by Cllr. Borer the sum of £500.00 to Stillington and Whitton Residents Association to cover the cost of insuring the Playground (cheque no. 100628).

Proposed by Cllr. Tingle and seconded by Cllr. Larson the sum of £10.00 as a donation to the Parish News Magazine to cover the cost of distributing the Honey Pot Wood leaflets (cheque no. 100629).

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

## **5. Matters arising from the Minutes**

### **P375 Stillington Open Spaces Project and Honey Pot Wood Improvements**

The Honey Pot Wood leaflets had been distributed to residents of Stillington, Whitton, Redmarshall and Carlton. The flowerbed at Chapel Gardens had been planted up by Cllr. J Turner, S. Turner and the Clerk. The planters were all doing well. The Clerk had written to the resident who had been parking on Chapel Gardens and they were now parking elsewhere.

### **P376 Fence repairs in Stillington**

The South Street Fence had been repaired. The Clerk was asked to thank SBC for the work that had been done.

### **P376 Stillington – Whitton Footpath**

Network Rail had responded briefly to SBC stating that there was no objection in principle to the scheme to widen the footpath over the railway bridge. A more detailed response was expected – The Clerk agreed to follow this up.

### **P376 Messines Lane Street Nameplate**

This had been replaced.

### **P376 Dog Bins**

The new bins had been installed by SBC. The bins paid for by the Parish Council had been placed on the playing field and at the end of Messines Lane. SBC had also put lamppost bins near the Mount Pleasant Playing Field, on Manor Drive and between Stillington and Whitton. The Clerk had an additional bin that could be used in Whitton or at some other location at a later date. The Clerk was asked to request an additional adhesive sign for the bin on the Playing Field.

### **P376 Traffic Calming – West Street**

The Clerk had not heard anything further from the Community Engineer; she agreed to contact him to find out what would happen next about this proposal.

### **P376 Wall Light – Manor Drive**

The light had not been replaced as yet, the clerk agreed to find out when the work was due to take place.

### **P377 Parking in St John's Park**

The Clerk agreed to find out if any patrols had taken place to date. The Enforcement Section at SBC had informed the Clerk that there was now a designated Enforcement Officer for the Schools. A rota of patrols for the schools in Stockton was being drawn up. William Cassidi was classed as a medium priority school and should receive a visit from an Enforcement Officer about once a month. PSCO Butterworth confirmed that he had been involved with static patrols around the zebra crossing to try to encourage drivers to slow down and stop for pedestrians.

### **P377 Action Following Tristar Walk**

No one had noticed if any of the work highlighted had been carried out. The Clerk agreed to have a walk round the area concerned before the next meeting and, if work hadn't been done, find out when any outstanding work would be completed. She also agreed to find out what the timescale of the work around the Manor Walk area would be. The Clerk agreed to inform Tristar that the Council appreciated the opportunity to meet their Officers in the Village and would like to be involved in any similar walkabouts in the future.

### **P379 New Kissing Gates**

The Clerk had written to local landowners informing them about the kissing gates that SBC had available for ROW in the Borough. She had also suggested to SBC that a gate could be used at one of the access points to the Forest Park. The Clerk had talked to the tenant of the field adjacent to the West Street Playing Field. He wasn't against the gates being replaced but he was concerned that metal gates were more at risk of being stolen – a number had been taken from local farms in recent weeks. If this were to happen there would be problems with ponies escaping etc. Members agreed that as walkers rarely used the path it would be better to keep the wooden gate at present.

### **P380 Hedgerow/boundary issues**

Cllrs Borer, Turner and the Clerk had met two SBC Officers to look at the overgrown hedgerow at the entrance to Stillington to try and ascertain who was responsible for cutting it and whether SBC considered that it needed to be cut. The Officers present were not sure where responsibility lay and agreed to carry out a land search on the area and ask another Officer who was responsible for sightlines to come out and look at the hedge.

The Officers also agreed to look into the location of a fence in Whitton and ascertain whether it was within the boundary of the property.

### **P380 ASB Problems**

PSCO Butterworth informed the Council about the number of phone calls about ASB that had been received over the last month and about a variety of other incidents that had taken place in the Village recently. He was informed about the problems a local milkman was having. The next beat surgery would be held on 11th June.

## **6. Monthly Parish Walk**

It was agreed that this item should be put back on the Agenda in September.

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

The meeting had not been very well attended but there had been quite good representation from Whitton. At the meeting the people present had discussed holding a second meeting but, on reflection, Councillors considered that a second meeting would probably not be any more successful. It may be possible to speak to the people of Whitton and ascertain their views on the matters that they were concerned with.

The Clerk agreed to find out more about a petition that was currently at the Health Centre and see if there was a problem that the Parish Council could be of assistance with. The Clerk had been sent information about the future provision of hospital services in the area. She agreed to copy the dates and times etc. of the open meetings and distribute these to Councillors.

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

Cllr Turner informed Members that SBC were still negotiating prices for the climbing boulders. The company that had provided the best quote initially for the work had informed SBC that some of their costs had increased so the Officer involved was looking at other company's prices also. The Clerk agreed to find out what progress had been made.

### **9. Bus Services – update/developments**

The Clerk read out a letter from SBC informing the Council that Arriva intended to change the No. 7 bus service from the end of September. Many of the requests that the Council had asked for, along with the other Parish Councils, had been accommodated. The letter warned however that the service remained at risk if it was not well used. Members thought that proposals sounded very positive and asked the Clerk to write to the SBC Officer involved thanking him for the work he had done. Members agreed that the Council should try to promote bus use among local residents. The Clerk was asked to try and find out if the revised service would call into Tesco and North Tees Hospital. The Clerk agreed to publish the main points of the letter in the Parish News Magazine.

The Clerk had received a letter about future meetings of the 'Bus Users Forum'. It stated that separate meetings would be held for each Borough in the future so that the individual needs of each Borough could be addressed. Cllr. Wills agreed to attend future meetings along with P. Rogers (on behalf of the Residents Association).

The Clerk for Sadberge Parish Council had sent the Council a copy of a letter he had sent to Darlington Borough Council thanking them for the positive consultation that had taken place over the no. 97 bus service. The Clerk agreed to send a letter to Sadberge PC asking them to pass on thanks from Stillington and Whitton to the appropriate members of Darlington BC for considering all of the villages along the route of the bus service – even though some were outside of the Borough of Darlington.

### **10. Transport Strategy – meeting feedback**

Cllr. Turner had been unable to attend this meeting as planned.

### **11. Parish Council Liaison Forum – Date of next meeting**

The next meeting is due to be held on Monday 16th June 2008. Cllr. Wills and Cllr. Borer thought that they would be able to attend. Some other members thought that they might be able to attend.

The Clerk distributed some information sheets that she had received from the CLCA. She informed members that a meeting of the Northern Group of Local Council Associations would be held on 5th June in Barnard Castle. Cllr. Borer planned to attend this meeting.

### **12. Standards Issues**

The Clerk informed the Council about the agenda for the next meeting of the Standards Committee. She highlighted a few items as had been requested by SBC.

### **13. Correspondence – May 2008**

SBC email Whitton Railway Bridge

SBC email Community Protection Updates

SBC email Town/Parish Council minutes

SBC email New Kissing Gates

SBC Funding Bulletin

SBC Arriva Bus Services

SBC Nominations request for QIA STAR Awards

Big Lottery Fund North East Seminar

Co. Durham Assoc. CiLCA Course Mentoring  
of Local Councils

CLCA Invoice for Membership Fees

Durham University Working with Local Communities Event

M&G Investments Statement re Cassidi Trust

Momentum Healthcare Consultation

NE Social Enterprise Winning Contracts Event  
Partnership

SRCGA Network Event

SRCGA Fundraising and Publicity Information

SRCGA Environment Partnership- request for nominations

TVJSU email Tees Valley Bus Users Forum

TVRCC email Breathing Spaces Event

Vitalise Request for donation

The Clerk also informed members about training courses that were being offered by SRCGA.

#### **14. Planning Applications**

**App. No. 07/3382/FUL** Proposal: Conversion of existing farm outbuildings to form 1 no. dwelling Location: Townend Farm, Whitton

The Clerk had received a letter giving the Council the opportunity to respond to an appeal about the decision made by SBC about the above application. The Clerk was asked to send a letter in support of the application to the Planning Inspectorate.

**App. No. 08/1037/FUL** Proposal: Erection of a single storey portakabin for use as office

Location: Darchem Engineering, Ironmasters Way, Stillington

There were no comments on this application

**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

This application had been approved with conditions

The progress of the Forest Park development was discussed. Members wondered what had become of the mound that had been proposed to on one set of plans that had been viewed for the scheme. The Clerk agreed to check the final plans to see if the mound to screen the development from the industry was shown.

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

The Clerk had received a letter from a resident in Whitton who had recently experienced flooding problems during a period of heavy rain. Cllr. Borer agreed to talk to the resident about the problem, the Clerk agreed to talk to SBC and see if the problem was being dealt with.

The Clerk to ask CFYA to ensure that the drains between Kirk St. and South St. are cleaned out well when all of the drains are cleaned in June as an unpleasant smell has been coming from them at times.

Following a request from a resident for a Christmas tree in Whitton the Clerk had asked other Parish Councils in the area about where they got their Christmas trees. One Council seemed to have a good deal with a garden centre in Billingham and the Clerk agreed to investigate this matter further.

Members were informed that Darchem had won a business award recently. The Clerk was asked to write to the company to congratulate them and thank them for their continued involvement with the Council and other groups and activities in the Village.

Cllr. Turner informed Members that information boards about the work of the Parish Council would be displayed at the Roadshow on 8th June.

## **16. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Tuesday 1st July 2008 in the Youth and Community Centre at 7pm.