

STILLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

Minutes 5th February 2008

Present

Chair: Cllr. Mrs. J Turner
Cllrs. K Borer, J Clark, W Hedley, E Larson*, R Tingle, Mrs. M Tinkler, J Wills
District Cllr. F Salt
Clerk: Mrs. G Dunn

Two members of the public attended the meeting

1. Apologies for Absence

There were apologies from Cllr. J Lithgo

2. Declarations of Interest in Items on the Agenda

During item on Morpeth's Charity Cllrs. Tingle and Wills 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. Mrs. J Turner signed the minutes of the meeting held on 8th January 2008 as a true and correct record. Proposed by Cllr. W Hedley and seconded by Cllr. K Borer.

4. Finance

Proposed by Cllr. Mrs. Turner and seconded by Cllr. Larson the sum of £50.00 to the Parish News Magazine for advertising (cheque no. 100611).

Proposed by Cllr. Borer and seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Tinkler the sum of £397.52 to Zurich for the insurance premium (cheque no. 100612).

Proposed by Cllr. Mrs. Turner and seconded by Cllr. Hedley the sum of £213.26 to the Clerk for salary and expenses (cheque no. 100613).

5. Matters arising from the Minutes

P353 Stillington Open Spaces Project and Honey Pot Wood Improvements

The Clerk informed the Council that SBC had no plans to extend the area for car parking at Honey Pot Wood in the near future. Once the leaflets were in circulation any additional pressure on the car parking area would be monitored. Members were still concerned about road safety outside of Honey Pot Wood and the Clerk was asked to contact SBC and express these concerns.

Cllr. Mrs. Turner informed the Council that the pipes intended to be used for planters were no longer available so she would be trying to find an alternative as soon as possible. A couple of residents had expressed interest in adopting a planter.

Cllr. Mrs. Turner would raise the subject of a feature for Chapel Gardens at the next industrialists' meeting.

*Cllr. Larson left at 8.00pm

P353 Fence repairs in Stillington

The Clerk had contacted the owner of the fence that ran alongside Messines Lane. He did hope to repair the fence in the future but had experienced vandalism problems in the past when he had repaired the fence so was looking for a low cost option.

The Clerk agreed to chase up whether further work would be carried out on the South St. Fence as no further repairs had taken place as yet.

P354 Co-ordinated letters re bus services – response

The Clerk read letters of response from SBC and Arriva to the Council. The letters stated that the concerns would be taken into consideration when the No. 7 bus service was reviewed. A review was due to take place in the next few months. The Clerk agreed to put a summary of the joint action taken by the Parish Councils into the 'Parish News' magazine.

Concerns were raised that the Darlington bus service was under threat of withdrawal. Cllr. Salt agreed to find out whether this service received any subsidy from SBC and try to discover if the service was at risk.

P354 Wall Light – Manor Drive

SBC had informed the Clerk that the cost to replace the wall light with a column were prohibitive – it would cost in the region of £1200 to extend a cable to the appropriate point in addition to the cost of a column. The Clerk agreed to write to the resident at 4 Manor Drive and inform them of SBC's decision.

P354 Hedgerow/Shrub Cutting

The Community Payback Team had carried out a significant amount of work around the Lawson Street area. Members asked the Clerk to express their thanks to the team for the work carried out. The Clerk explained that the work was not quite complete and that the team leader was willing to consider any additional work in the Village.

Some trimming of trees and shrubs had been requested around Manor Walk. The Clerk agreed to look at the area and inform SBC of any work required.

P354 Damaged Bench – Whitton

The Clerk agreed to contact SBC about this, as it had not been replaced as yet.

P354 Stillington – Whitton Footpath

A surveyor had been out to look at the site. SBC Highways was in the process of drawing up possible options for the site.

P354 Messines Lane Street Nameplate

This had not been replaced as yet – the Clerk agreed to chase it up.

P354 Dog Bins – Costs

SBC would supply, install and empty a dog bin for a cost of £400 per bin. It was proposed by Cllr. Mrs. Tinkler and seconded by Cllr. Borer that two bins are purchased. One from the 2007/08 precept and one from the 2008/09 precept. It was agreed that one should be placed on the West Street Playing field and one on Whitton Green. The Clerk agreed to ask SBC if they could supply an additional bin for Messines Lane.

P354 Morpeth's Charity

Cllrs. Borer and Larson had studied the governing document and other information that the Clerk had supplied to them about Morpeth's Charity. They recommended that the Parish Council ask the PCC of St. John the Divine Church, Stillington if they would be willing to take on the administration of this charity. It was proposed by Cllr. Hedley and seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Tinkler that the Clerk should write to the PCC and request that they become Trustees for the Charity.

P354 Current Police Cover

Cllr. Mrs. Turner informed Members that a new Community Police Constable had been appointed for the area – P.C. Rafferty. He is already working in the Western Parishes and had introduced himself to the Luncheon Club, School, and Youth Club etc. He intends to attend the next industrialists' meeting.

P355 Stillington Forest Park Issues

Following discussions at a previous meeting the Clerk had written to SBC requesting that the warden's post for the Local Nature Reserves (including Stillington Forest Park) be continued once the initial funding came to an end in March. SBC had responded positively to this request and the post would continue. No progress had been made with plans to engage more people in the management of the fishing at the Park.

P357 Flooding in the Subway

The Clerk had reported the flooding to Network Rail. NR responded stating that their engineers would look at the area. NR Suggested that part of the problem may be blocked drains on the highway around the subway – if this were the case it would be the responsibility of SBC. Cllr. Mrs. Turner recalled that in the past Network Rail had flushed out all of the drains along the railway and this had improved the situation. The Clerk agreed to request that Network Rail consider taking this action again and to check that the highway drains were clear.

357 Damaged Bus Shelter – Morrison St.

This had been fixed.

357 Traffic Calming – West Street

The Clerk had met the Community Engineer on West Street. He agreed to draw up plans for speed humps so that subject to favourable consultation with residents and funding being allocated the plans for a scheme would be ready.

6. Monthly Parish Walk

The proposed walk around the West St. Playing Field and nearby houses in January had been cancelled so it was agreed to re-schedule this walk for 15th February at 10.45am.

7. Parish Plan Meeting - Feedback

Members agreed that the meeting held with Jay Jackson from TVRCC in January had gone well. At the meeting Members agreed that the Parish Council would organize a public meeting – probably in April or May – to find out what level of support there was in the Community for a Parish Plan. If there was sufficient interest from people other than Parish Council Members the process producing a Parish Plan could continue.

Cllr. Mrs Turner agreed to try and arrange a meeting with a Sadberge resident who had been heavily involved with the production of their Parish Plan.

The Clerk had drafted a flyer that could be produced to promote a public meeting. Members agreed to consider this and finalise details at the next meeting.

8. Wimpey Housing 106 Agreement

Cllr. Mrs. Turner had spoken to an SBC Officer about the current situation. He had obtained quotes for the surface markings and additional play equipment and was intending to contact the Parish Council once the details of the contract could be finalised.

9. Parish Council Liaison Forum – Date of Next Meeting

The Clerk was asked to submit the following Agenda items for the meeting due to be held on Tuesday 25th March:-

- a. What procedure is used to allocate dog bins to areas of the Borough?
- b. Following the production of the Transport Strategy, has SBC got a policy or strategy for Rural Transport and if so, what is it?
- c. How are traffic-calming schemes prioritized in the Borough?

10. Joint Parish Council – Date of next Meeting

Members agreed to propose a meeting for representatives from the Parish Councils in the Six Parishes area on 18th March. The Clerk agreed to find out which other Councils were interested in attending.

11. Local Development Framework Training Day

Cllrs. Mrs. Tinkler, Mrs. Turner, Borer, Tingle and Wills and the Clerk all intended to attend this event organized by SBC on 9th February.

12. Standards Issues

The Clerk read out an email inviting members from Town and Parish Councils in the Borough of Stockton-on-Tees to apply to become a substitute parish representative on the Council's Standards Committee.

13. Correspondence – January 2008

SBC Arriva Bus Services

SBC Local Nature Reserves Wardens Post

SBC Date of Parish Council Liaison Forum

SBC Local Development Framework Training and Village Study Consultation

SBC Stockton News – next deadline

SBC Mapping arrangement guidance for Parish Councils

SBC Questionnaire re. Refuse collection and recycling in the Borough

SBC (email) Mayor's Charity Dinner Dance

SBC (email) PARISH Reps. On Standards Committee

SBC (email) Link to SBC Council Agenda

Arriva No. 7 Bus Service

Audit Commission Appointment of external auditor

Came and Company Insurance quote offer

CCLA Statement – Morpeth's Charity

CLCA Feedback from Regional Conference

Charity Commission Governing Document for Morpeth's Charity

Darlington BC Local Development Framework – Issues and Options

Dept. for Communities and Consultation – Orders and Regulations Relating to the Local Government Conduct of Local Authority Members in England

M&G Investments Statement – Cassidi Youth Centre Trust

Queensbury Shelters Catalogue

SRCGA Minutes from meeting and Community Groups Questionnaire (for SBC)

SRCGA AGM Reminder

SLCC The Clerk – magazine

SLCC 2008 Regional Conference

TVRCC Open Space and Recreation Survey (for SBC)

TVRCC Re: Parish Plans Meeting

TVRCC Info. about free training courses and events including sustainability and community energy efficiency and community action.

Wicksteed Catalogue

Members discussed and responded to the questionnaire regarding refuse collection and recycling.

The Clerk agreed to copy and circulate details of the event to be hosted by TVRCC regarding celebrating community groups in this area that will be held in Thorpe Thewles in March.

14. Planning Applications

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

The Clerk read out a reply from SBC regarding their concerns over the handling of this application. It suggested that the Council contact the Officer directly whose comments had caused concern. The Clerk agreed to do this.

07/3354/FPD Conservatory to rear 34 Forest Park, Stillington

This application had been approved with conditions.

07/3328/REM Reserved matters application for the erection of 8 no. detached dwellings Townend Farm, Whitton This application had been approved with conditions.

App No 07/3382/FUL Conversion of existing farm outbuildings to form one dwelling Townend Farm, Whitton This application had been refused.

07/3183/FUL Single Storey Rear Extension 17 Weare Grove, Stillington

This application had been approved with conditions.

07/3278/FUL Erection of wooded building containing 3 no. stables

Kenny Halls Field 4732, Whitton (Further chance to comment)

There were no comments on this application.

15. Minor Items and Items for the Next Agenda

Residents who were troubled by dogs barking at a neighbouring property had approached a Councillor. The Clerk agreed to contact SBC to find out what action they should take.

The Clerk to report a pothole on Park Crescent.

The Clerk to talk to the Wimpey Site Manager about re-instating ground outside of the Church that had been churned up by a delivery to the site.

The Clerk to contact Tristar about a large conifer tree at one property in the Village that was shading a neighbouring property.