

STILLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

Minutes 6th May 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

Cllr. J Turner signed the minutes of the meeting held on 1st April 2008 as a true and correct record. Proposed by Cllr. M Tinkler and seconded by Cllr. J Clark.

4. Finance

Proposed by Cllr. Lithgo and seconded by Cllr. Tinkler the sum of £150.00 to Scott Brothers for topsoil for the Open Spaces Project (cheque no. 100621).

Proposed by Cllr. Turner and seconded by Cllr. Tinkler the sum of £96.26 to Claytons for lawn mower servicing (cheque no. 100622).

Proposed by Cllr. Tingle and seconded by Cllr. Tinkler the sum of £280.78 for the Clerks salary and expenses – (cheque no. 100623).

Proposed by Cllr. Tinkler and seconded by Cllr. Tingle the sum of £400.00 to Stillington and Whitton Residents Association as a contribution to the cost of the Stillington Roadshow (cheque no. 100624). Cllr. Mrs. Turner informed the Council that this donation would pay for the Birds of Prey demonstration and assist with other general expenses.

5. Matters arising from the Minutes

P370 Stillington Open Spaces Project and Honey Pot Wood Improvements

Members were informed that the planters were now all in place and had been planted up. The Community Payback team had provided very useful assistance with the job of filling the planters with soil. There had been some surplus topsoil, the Clerk intended to purchase the bulk of this from the Council, local residents had been permitted to remove small amounts of

the remaining soil. The Clerk was asked to write to a resident who continued to park on the Chapel Garden site and request that he park elsewhere. The Clerk had received a letter from Awards for All confirming that the grant was now finished and the file closed. The leaflets for Honeypot Wood had not been distributed as yet due to the number of other leaflets etc. that were to go out with the May edition of the Parish News. The Clerk hoped that they would be distributed in June. The Clerk was asked to write NEIR and thank them for their assistance with the construction of the planters. The Clerk confirmed that letters of thanks had been sent to Clarkes and Mr. Naisbitt for their assistance with the project.

* Cllr Larson left the meeting at 8:00pm

P371 Fence repairs in Stillington

A contractor has been appointed by SBC to repair the South Street fence. The damage at Mount Pleasant had been assessed by SBC as 'low risk' so no remedial action was planned.

P371 Stillington – Whitton Footpath

SBC had not had a response from Network Rail as yet.

P371 Messines Lane Street Nameplate

This had not been replaced as yet. SBC would consider mounting the new plate on the wall.

P371 Dog Bins

The new bins were due to be installed in about 10 days time.

P371 Morpeth's Charity

Before any further action could proceed the Church would have to open a bank account in the name of the charity. The charity funds could then be transferred.

P365 Flooding in the Subway

Network Rail had carried out an initial check of the trackside drainage – no deficiencies had been found. Network Rail had requested copies of drainage plans from their archives to fully investigate any underground routing along the top of the subway.

P371 Traffic Calming – West Street

The Clerk had received a copy of the amended plan. As requested by members one of the proposed speed humps had been moved further down West Street. The Clerk agreed to confirm with the Community Engineer that the Council was happy with the plan so that consultation etc. could proceed.

P371 Conifer on Tristar Property

This had been removed, a few smaller conifers remained.

P371 Removal of branches – Messines Lane

Network Rail had assessed the site. As the branches did not risk safety on the line they would be removed as and when time permitted.

P371 Wall Light – Manor Drive

SBC had agreed to replace the old light with a new one and hoped that this would result in better performance.

P373 Service Level Agreement (SLA) for West Street Play Area

SBC had supplied the Residents Association with a contract to inspect the play area. This was to be signed and returned by the Residents Association and a donation to cover the costs would be provided by the Parish Council as agreed last month.

P374 Annual Garden Competition

The Clerk informed the Council that this would take place in July.

P374 Parking in St John's Park

The Clerk had left messages with SBC Enforcement Section about this problem, she had had no response as yet but would continue to try and speak to somebody about the issue. There had been complaints from parents that cars were not stopping at the zebra crossing – particularly just before midday on Friday when a shift from the industrial unit was finishing as the morning nursery were leaving school. The Clerk agreed to talk to the Police and Enforcement about this matter.

P374 Complaints about agricultural fertilizer odour

The Clerk had spoken to an Environmental Health Officer about this. He had confirmed that the material was a product created from human sewage and had stated that it was a safe substance provided it was handled correctly. The Env. Health Officer had referred the Clerk to a website which had further details about the substance and the Clerk read this information to the Council.

P374 Access to the Youth and Community Centre

The Clerk confirmed that there were sufficient dropped kerbs to enable wheelchair access to the Community Centre. One of the older kerbs was higher than the newer style but Cllr. Turner confirmed that a number of residents attended the Luncheon Club in Wheelchairs or scooters and had not complained of any problems.

P374 SBC Land Policy

The Clerk had spoken to an Officer at SBC about the open land on the Industrial Estate. He had confirmed that the Council policy was to obtain the best value for the land and this would be to sell it as a single unit. If SBC sold the land in smaller lots they would have to pay for the installation of access roads to the plots. However, if the land remained unsold, SBC would consider selling it in smaller units.

P372 Annual Litter Pick

Significant amounts of litter had been collected despite the very poor turn out for this event – which had been well attended in recent years. Certain areas of the Village were discussed where litter was gathering underneath bushes and shrubs making it difficult to collect. It was agreed that the community payback team should be asked to assist with these areas later in the year. Cllr. Turner had heard that a Parish Council in the Darlington area employed a local person to pick up litter in the Village.

6. Monthly Parish Walk

On April 22nd Cllr. Turner and the Clerk had joined Tristar and SBC staff and Cllr. Salt on a walk around the Tristar properties in the Village. The Clerk had received a list of issues that were raised during this walk and any action that would be taken. The SBC Highways Officer thought that the Manor Walk car parks are due to be resurfaced soon. The removal of the neglected brick planters on Manor Walk was discussed. The new policy of making Tristar bungalow residents responsible for their own grass cutting was also discussed as many of the bungalows have large areas of open space around them. There would be a risk that if the tenant did not pay the Council to have the area cut large areas would soon be very overgrown. The Tristar representative agreed that the tenants of the bungalows shouldn't have to be responsible for such large areas of grass.

A number of Councillors had held a separate walk around the Whitton Grove/Park Crescent areas on 1st May. No major problems had been noticed, one resident had complained about the quantity of dandelions in the central green areas.

7. Parish Plan Meeting

This is due to be held on 8th May. Fliers had gone to all homes in the Parish with the Parish News Magazines and there has been information in the magazine also. The Clerk from Sadberge PC is coming to the meeting to explain how the Parish Plan process has worked in Sadberge.

8. Wimpey Housing 106 Agreement

The work at the rear of the Community Centre had been agreed, as had the supply of the climbing rocks. It was hoped that there might be some money remaining in the budget for some additional pieces of small play equipment also.

9. CLCA – Feedback from Meeting

Cllr. Borer had attended. There had been further efforts made to encourage Councils to work towards quality status. Cllr. Borer will be writing a policy document for the CLCA about working more effectively with the NALC office in London.

10. Stillington – Darlington Bus Service Meeting - Feedback

Cllr. Turner and Cllr. Clark had attended a meeting about the future of the number 97 bus service. In the future Darlington Borough Council would subsidize the service. Three options for the routing of this bus had been discussed; two of these had been short listed as possibilities as they prioritized access to services and schools. The Council looked at the options and agreed that they would be happy with either option for Stillington Residents. A meeting with Sadberge resident would soon be held for them to decide on their preferred option.

The next Transport Strategy Meeting for the Western Parishes would be held on 19th May. Cllr. Turner agreed to attend.

11. Parish Council Liaison Forum Meeting Dates

The next meeting would be held in June. For an agenda item the Clerk was asked to request more information on enforcement action in school zones and the regularity of patrols in these areas.

12. Standards Issues

The Clerk read out an email from SBC informing the Council that from 8th May Standards Committees, such as Stockton's, will be the recipients of any written complaints about the

conduct of either SBC Members or any Councillors of Town/Parish Councils within the Borough.

13. Correspondence – April 2008

SBC Invitation to Transport Strategy Meeting

SBC Service Level Agreement for Play Area

SBC New local assessment regulations

SBC A slice of Life – publication

SBC Celebrating Faith and Beliefs event

SBC PCLF Dates

SBC Confirmation of Precept

SBC (email) New Kissing Gates

Awards for All Confirmation of Close of Grant File

BDO Stoy Hayward Audit Forms

CCLA Mandate Form to transfer Trustees for Morpeth's Charity

CCLA Annual Report and Accounts

Cleveland Land Services Advertising Material

County Training Partnership New Contact Details

Environment Agency Tees CAMS Document

NALC 2008 Conference

NALC Open Day – County Hall

Ramblers Association Magazine

Renaissance Agenda and documents for meeting

S Bell Notes from Joint Parishes Meeting

Steve Lumb Revised Plan for West Street

Tristar (email) Village Walkabout

TVRCC Rural News

TVRCC Village of the Year Competition 2008

Zurich Health and safety advisory seminars

Zurich Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act

The Clerk read out details of an event for local Councils to be held at County Hall in Durham.

With regard to the Stockton News request for articles it was agreed to wait until the Roadshow had taken place and submit an article about that event.

With regard to the Ramblers Magazine, Cllr. Turner had spoken to a lady in the Village who was thinking of setting up a walking group. The Clerk agreed to pass on contact details etc.

The email regarding kissing gates informed members that SBC had a number of kissing gates available to replace stiles on footpaths in the Borough. The Clerk was asked to request a gate for the West Street Playing Field and to ask the tenant of the adjacent land to consider requesting a gate for the next stile along this route. She was also asked to request a gate to replace one of the stiles that allowed people to access the Forest Park. The Clerk agreed to send a letter to the main landowners in the Parish making them aware of the offer that SBC had made.

14. Planning Applications

07/3160/FUL Proposal: Erection of Agricultural Shed

Location: White House Farm, Whitton, Stockton-on-Tees

A group of Councillors had met on 8th April to discuss this application to ensure comments were made within the time limit.

The application had been re-submitted with the building re-sited and different external materials used. As the building had been brought closer to existing buildings and the external appearance had been altered the council no longer had significant objections to the application. The Council requested that if the plans were approved then conditions should state that the building could only be used for agricultural purposes. Members also questioned the need for the building, as other buildings on the site were not fully utilised.

15. Minor Items and Items for the Next Agenda

A Councillor agreed to inform CFYA that a carpet had been left near his property.

The Clerk confirmed that a community skip would be placed in Jasper Grove for St. John's Park/Jasper/Weare Grove on 23rd July. Cllr. Clark agreed to deliver some information to residents in this area to ensure they were aware of the skip.

The Clerk to find out if a new fence line in Whitton is beyond the boundary of the property.

The Clerk to report problems with dogs being allowed out without their owners.

The Clerk to check that the right of way between the Forest Park and the Thorpe Leazes Road is clear.

A milkman in Stillington had experienced anti social behaviour with local youths. It was agreed to advise the milkman to talk to the police and to raise the matter at the next Beat Surgery on 14th May.

It was agreed not to enter the Tees Valley Village of the Year Competition this year.

16. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Tuesday 3rd June 2008 in the Youth and Community Centre at 7pm.