

KIRKBURTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL (ENVIRONMENT) MEETING HELD AT BURTON VILLAGE HALL, HIGHBURTON ON THURSDAY, 15th NOVEMBER 2007 AT 8.30 pm

PRESENT: Cllr Holroyd in the Chair

Cllrs H Barraclough, R Barraclough, R Bottomley, R Burton, A Cooper, P Cunnington, S Dunford, K Dunn, D Hardcastle, J Heward, G Hickey, J Hirst, E Hutchinson, M MacDonald, B Moreton, J Paxton and M Sykes.

Before the meeting started a member of the public addressed the Council on the subject of the Shelley College application.

Apologies were received from Cllrs A Cruden, J Myers and P Rock, the reasons for which were accepted by the Council.

E15 Apologies and Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Members noted the receipt of the resignation of Cllr Dunn from the Parish Council (Environment) meetings. A discussion took place about the future status of the meeting and the Clerk was asked to table this item on the Parish Council agenda. Members also requested a debate on the Parish Council (Planning/GP) meetings at the first appropriate opportunity.

E16 Resignation

Members noted the minutes of the Parish Council (Environment) meeting of 20th September 2007, whose accuracy had been agreed at the Parish Council meeting on 4th October 2007.

E17 Minutes

Members noted the various options available to agree the minutes of future meetings.

E18 Minutes Procedure

Resolved: That the minutes be tabled at the first available Parish Council meeting, to agree the accuracy. It was further resolved that the minutes would only be issued once and members would be expected to retain the minutes for the following environment meeting.

Resolved: To raise standing orders in order to receive information from Mr Windett, KMC Countryside Officer on the following two items.

E19 Dogley Nature Reserve

Mr Windett reported that Dogley had now received the status of Local Nature Reserve, and that access had been improved by the installation of the traffic lights at the junction of Far Dene and Penistone Road. As a result of this, the area was now being promoted as a formal recreation area for children. The Yorkshire Water Trust had obtained landfill tax refunding which would cover the costs of excavations of a large pond.

Mr Windett further reported that the signing of the lease and the title deeds to the land at Healey Greave Wood & Meadow was expected very shortly. When this had taken place, it was hoped to make improvements to the access.

E20 Healey Greave Wood & Meadow and Thunderbridge Meadow

It was reported that the Thunderbridge Meadow had been signed over to the Gargeney Trust, and work had recently been carried out by employees of the HSBC.

Resolved: To reinstate standing orders.

It was reported that Cllrs R Barraclough, Hickey and MacDonald had walked the Farnley Tyas Circular recently and installed the waymarkers on the route. Cllr Hickey distributed draft leaflets and showed a powerpoint presentation of the walk, which he had produced on CD, and could be made available for sale to the public. Cllr Hickey received a vote of thanks for his work in this respect.

E21 Waymarkers and Footpaths

It was reported that Cllr Cooper was due to meet a landowner to negotiate the positioning of the view indicator.

E22 View Indicator

Members noted the latest financial statement.

E23 Budget Proposals

Resolved: To award £500 to the Shepley Bird & Wildlife Group to go towards the cost of

E24 a) Shepley Bird &

purchasing a digi-projector for use at the Group's meetings.

Wildlife Group

Resolved: To award £1,735 to Shelley College to provide and install information boards and waymarker signs around the Eco park pathways.

E25 b) Shelley College

Members made the following suggestions for projects for the current financial year:

E26 New Projects for 2007-08

- To plant autumn crocuses across the Parish.
- Water butt scheme – to purchase a small number and sell to the public at a reasonable cost to encourage water conservation. If the scheme is successful it could be carried out on a larger scale.
- Biodiversity project – providing bat boxes and carry out an action plan of the Parish Council area.
- Carry out a staged project to improve footpaths through Healey Greave Meadow.
- Tree management at Kirkheaton Churchyard.
- Fenay Greenway – to improve the track environmentally. It was accepted that it was not appropriate to discuss this project until the cycleway was developed further by KMC.

Members were asked to progress these projects during the period before the next meeting, and obtain further information/costings where possible to enable at least some of them to be carried out this year. It was noted that some may need to be carried over to the next financial year.

Resolved: To make a recommendation that £13,000 for Environment is put forward into the Council's budget proposals for 2008/09.

E27 Budget Recommendation

Resolved: To defer discussion on the future strategy of Environment to the next meeting, as the status of the group is to be discussed at the January Parish Council meeting, and the outcome of that discussion may have an influence on this matter.

E28 Future Strategy

The next meeting was scheduled for 7.30 pm on 17th January 2008, prior to the Council (Planning/GP) meeting.

E29 Next Meeting

Members were asked to notify the Clerk of any requested agenda items with full information by Monday, 7th January 2008.

E30 Items for Next Agenda

The Clerk reported that the Public Rights of Way Office was organising a clearance of the overgrown section of the Kirklees Way in Flockton, as requested.

E31 Correspondence

The meeting then closed.