

PRESENT: Cllrs:- V.M. Whitbread (Chairman), K.W.J Innocent (Vice Chair),
F. Henderson, A Mackie, M.R. Rhodes, M Batt, J Halliday, B Gibson.

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:- Cllr J Proctor, G Taylor, P Rimmington, J Whitbread, S Zimmerman, B Zimmerman.

PUBLIC SESSION

A resident raised concerns about the amount of litter, particularly in Spen Common Lane and A64 roundabout and suggested organising a litter picking up exercise, plus signs to discourage litter throwing. Cllr Proctor advised that his office will put us in touch with the right people to provide us with equipment. The Council will contact them and the LCC Environmental Team. The Council was very appreciative of Gerry Taylor's offer to organise the litter picking exercise and will work with her on it.

A resident advised that a dog warden is patrolling the village and can impose a £70 fine for dog fouling. Cllr Proctor advised that residents who witness dog fouling or litter throwing can contact the environmental team at LCC and a penalty will be awarded if the witness is considered credible. The council will put details in the Parish magazine.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Blanchard and A Henson (Clerk) sent apologies.

2. DECLARATION OF PREJUDICIAL/PERSONAL INTERESTS

None.

3. MINUTES

Paragraph 2 of the February minutes, which contained a typing error referring to item 15 instead of 14, should be amended.

Resolved: Proposed by Cllr Henderson and seconded by Cllr Whitbread to receive and approve the minutes of the meeting of 1 February 2012 subject to the typing error correction.

4.POLICING MATTERS

No police attendance.

5. CLERKS REPORT

Mrs Taylor's letter had been discussed in the residents session and Mr Jones' letter would be discussed under item 13.

The lack of a response from the Environment Agency and Highways on the issues of the bridge in the wildlife area and speeding were discussed. Cllrs Batt and Whitbread will contact Cllr Proctor's office to check to whom they should have been sent in case they have been lost in the system.

6. WEBSITE UPDATE

Cllr Batt introduced Simon and Becky Zimmerman, residents in the village from the 'Square Space' company, who have been approached with a view to improving the Council website and potentially extending it to having sections for other groups in the village should they wish to use it.

Simon presented proposals to use a content management tool to produce a new website. This would be interactive, allowing postings and links to facebook and other social networking sites. Costs would be in the region of £800 to £1,200 with maintainance costs of around £12 per month (so no more expensive than the existing site). The website would be easy to amend and update once set up. The tool is technically robust but there is customer support for any technical issues. Data from the existing Parish Council website could be uploaded to the new one and accesses to the old site would be redirected.

Resolved: Proposed by Cllr Innocent and seconded by Cllr Henderson that Cllrs Batt and Mackie investigate the tender process and approach other companies for similar proposals and costings.

This will enable to Council to make a decision re the website.

7. PLAYGROUND REPORT

Cllr Blanchard provided the following report:

The painter has been sourced, and Cllr Whitbread will contact him to see if he still has any paint left.

Bardsey Builders will give some spoil to fill in the holes on the grass surface.

Had a site meeting with Andy James (Ornate Iron CO) on the 25th February. He his going to do an estimate for the metal gate concerns and the sharp edges on some of the play equipment.

Mole hills: A contact is needed to tackle the molehills.

Cllr innocent will ask the Bramham Park 'mole-catcher' if he can help.

Resolved: Proposed by Cllr Innocent and seconded by Cllr Whitbread to investigate costs for a new playground and potential skateboard area (Cllrs Halliday & Henderson will investigate).

8. JUBILEE & GALA

Cllr Innocent provided an update. Plans for the Jubilee and Gala are progressing well. The opening date of the Diamond Jubilee Gardens is to be advised. The Community Action Group is also planning a bulb planting exercise and will be looking for volunteers.

9. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Cllr Innocent provided an update. A further meeting of the committee had been held and a logo has been designed. The website needs to be developed ASAP but could eventually be subsumed into a new Council website should that go ahead. The committee is preparing for the Community Conference. The number of housing developments that the village will have to take is not yet known.

10. DATE & VENUE FOR NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is 4 April. It will be the Annual Meeting and will be held in the Village Hall. Groups in the village will be invited to give updates.

11. PLANNING MATTERS

The council noted that the Warren Lane substation application for a certificate of lawful use has been refused and the council's comments had been considered. The council will need to monitor the situation in case of an appeal.

12. FINANCIAL MATTERS

Deferred for Cllr Whitbread to check with the Clerk.

13. BSLA

Resolved: Proposed by Cllr Whitbread and seconded by Cllr Innocent to suspend standing order for Cllr Proctor to take part in the discussion.

The Council noted the update received from Cllr Gibson, specifically that works are roughly on schedule, and Gas has now been installed.

Correspondence from Mr Jones raising issues regarding communications between the BSLA and the Council was discussed.

Resolved: Proposed by Cllr Innocent and seconded by Cllr Batt that Cllrs Whitbread and Innocent meet with the BSLA to discuss any outstanding issues and with the aim of improving communications and the relationship.

BRAMHAM HOUSE OPTION AGREEMENT

LCC Executive Board has proposed paying the monies for the sale of the strip of land on Freely Lane, relating to the Bramham House option agreement, in 2 parts, £110,000 this financial year and £142,000 in the 2012/13 financial year.

Resolved: proposed by Cllr Innocent and seconded by Cllr Whitbread to accept the LCC proposal to pay the monies in 2 parts.

The Council had previously resolved (November EGM) to give the BSLA £108,000 of the total monies received subject to them not drawing down the £50,000 awarded to them from the Community Fund and updating the lease.

Cllr Proctor advised that because the options agreement (negotiated in XX) related to the pavilion the first payment (£110,000) will not be released unless he can assure LCC officers that £108,000 will go to the BSLA and he urged the Council to resolve this.

A discussion took place on the merits of the Community Fund being a part of the resolution, given that the Council does not control it and that some Cllrs and residents have concerns over the lack of openness relating to its decisions and accounts.

There was also discussion on how the 2nd payment (£142,000) could be spent, in consultation with the Village and considering a large project or smaller ones, and maximising monies available by applying for matched funding.

Resolved: Proposed by Cllr Whitbread and seconded by Cllr Henderson – Delegate authority to the Chair and the Vice chair to reach agreement with the BSLA that they draw down the £50,000 from the Community Fund and receive £58,000 from the option agreement first payment. In the event that the Community fund advises the Council in writing that the £50,000 is not still available and of other projects to which it has been allocated the council will provide the £108,000 from the first payment. The payment is also subject to the 2nd condition from the EGM resolution being fulfilled, amendment of the permissions section of the lease.

14. MINOR ITEMS AND ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

Cllr Mackie will explore introduction of village recognition awards.

Cllr Rhodes will check if a P45 has been issued to the previous clerk.

Cllrs Henderson, Rhodes & Blanchard to start preparation for administration of festival tickets.

Community Conference will take place Friday 18th and Saturday 19th May.

BEATING THE BOUNDS

Reverend Stanley Menzies is organising the Beating of the Bounds for 21 April and asks the council to assist in publicising it and encouraging participation.