

BEDALE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD MONDAY 11th JUNE 2007

PRESENT: Councillor M Young (Mayor)
Councillor W Reynolds (Deputy Mayor)
Councillor M Batty
Councillor R Calvert
Councillor G Drury
Councillor E Dunning
Councillor M Megson (left 9:45)
Councillor A Metcalfe
Councillor R Pocklington
Councillor C Roberts
R Howard (Town Clerk)

099.2007 APOLOGIES:

There were no apologies.

100.2007 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA:

There were no declarations of interest.

101.2007 TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING AND THE ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON THE 14TH MAY:

Having been circulated, the Minutes of the Meeting held 14th May and the Minutes of the Annual Meeting held 14th May were **approved** as a correct record.

102.2007 POLICE REPORT:

The Council received a report from the North Yorkshire Police. It noted the appointment of PC Graham Maxwell and the emphasis on neighbourhood policing. The Council was also made aware of changes to local policing and the response team. Councillors considered the reduction of numbers in the local establishment to be extremely disappointing and requested the Clerk to invite a North Yorkshire Police representative to the August meeting of the Council to debate policing issues in Bedale.

103.2007 PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

It was noted that the consultation document had been completed and returned to the North Yorkshire County Council.

104.2007 BECK SIDE

Repairs to metalled section of footpath

The deteriorating condition of the metalled footpath had been reported to the Public Rights of Way team. Subsequently the PROW personnel had asked for details of ownership of the land over which the path passes. Councillors were of the view that the Bedale Town Council had, in effect, a duty of care and as such were the 'caretakers of

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public land'. The Clerk was requested to conduct further research and respond to the PROW team.

Bank erosion/Harbour wall repairs

Council was provided with a copy of a draft specification for the work required to the beck side bank and the harbour wall. It was **agreed** that the draft specification should be sent to the Environmental Agency and the North Yorkshire County Council Public Rights of Way team to obtain their comments before finalising the document.

Other matters

Reference was made to the tipping of garden waste along the beck side and the Clerk was requested to write to the person concerned asking that they desist from this activity.

It was noted that the beck side footpath was becoming overgrown and untidy and therefore required maintenance. It was **agreed** the Town Caretaker be requested to cut back any undergrowth/overgrowth and generally tidy the area.

Reference was made to items thrown into the beck and consideration given to how they might be removed. It was thought that as both the Aiskew and Leeming Parish Council and the Bedale Town Council had a joint interest in the matter the issue would also be referred to the Aiskew and Leeming Parish Council with a view to joint action and cost sharing.

It was noted that the picnic table may not be in the most appropriate location given the use made of it by local youths. The Clerk was asked to consider whether it could be relocated and at what cost.

105.2007 NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Various Highway matters

Councillors referred to the background papers setting out the outstanding and new matters brought to the attention of the Area 2 Highways Office, Thirsk. It was noted that a reply to the latest letter sent to the Highways Office had not been received. The Council requested the Clerk to copy in relevant County Councillors to any future 'reminder' correspondence and to invite a representative from the Highways Office to the a future meeting of the Council.

Urban Grass Cutting

It was noted that the grass cutting contractor had been requested to maintain two additional small areas of grass on Burrill Road.

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Masham Road/Firby Road

It was reported that other than the standard 20 day response letter, the Area 2 Highways Office, had not provided a reply advising of their position with regard to traffic calming measures to Firby Road and Masham Road.

106.2007 HAMBLETON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Masham Road (Persimmon) Development

The Chairman reported on a Development Control Meeting held on the 31st May and advised Councillors the decision on the Persimmon development had been deferred. It was noted that the question of traffic flow along Masham Road had been identified as not meeting the Ministry of Transport criteria for the introduction of a mini roundabout. Councillors expressed great concern with regard to the validity of traffic flow values and pointed out the likely future development of the allotment area resulting in a consequential tripling of the housing units and traffic to/from the site. The Clerk was requested to write to the Chairman of the Hambleton District Council Development Control Committee expressing the concerns of the Town Council.

It was noted that a meeting of residents was to take place on the Firby Road estate on Friday, 16th June at 7:00 pm.

Street Naming and Numbering

Council **approved** the use of Beechwood Court for land adjacent to Four Winds, Firby Road.

107.2007 USE OF INCOME FROM MARKET

Council **approved** the use of a 'wish list' to identify projects for which the funds raised from the market operation may be used subject to recognising the need to use such income for any emergency Council expenditure.

108.2007 FRENCH MARKET

It was reported that a meeting had taken place with the 'Marche de France', Chamber of Trade and North Yorkshire Police representatives. Arrangements were now in hand to advise residents living in the immediate proximity of the market site of the event. Posters and flyers had been provided by the 'Marche de France' and they would also provide a banner. North Yorkshire Police are to cone off the area on the eve of the event and provide advance warning to car users regularly parking in the area concerned.

109.2007 LITTER PICKING AND BINS

Council **approved** the purchase of replacement litter bins at a cost of approximately £400. Council wished to pursue the purchase of the bins of the type including a lid and referred the Clerk to the Hambleton District Council as a probable supplier.

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110.2007 TREE/HEDGE MAINTENANCE

A tree in Bedale Park had been the subject of damage by youths/children playing or swinging on the lower branches. Councillors were advised the tree in question was a weeping copper beech. The Clerk was asked to obtain advice as to the need for any maintenance/pruning.

Approval was given to the cutting back of hawthorn hedges on the inside perimeter boundary of a recreational grass located on Burrill Road.

111.2007 DONATIONS

Approval was given to the payment of donations to the following organisations:

Bedale Community MiniBus Project	£300
Bedale Festival	£300
Bedale Festival re Scouts & Guides	£ 75
Citizens Advice Bureau	£100
Bedale Bugle	£160

It was **agreed** that RNIB and Hambleton Strollers would not receive a donation. The Clerk was asked to include consideration of a further donation to the Bedale Minibus Project on the July agenda at which time further information would be available with reference to the rental charges for the minibus garage.

112.2007 OFFICE RENTAL

Following a meeting with members of the Bedale Hall Management Committee the proposed service and rental charges for the office used jointly by the Aiskew and Leeming Parish Council and the Bedale Town Council were clarified. It was noted that the fuel charges would not be payable until the new financial year allowing appropriate budgetary provision to be made.

113.2007 MAINTENANCE OF ST GREGORY'S CHURCH TOWER CLOCK

It was **agreed** that the Town Council would continue to make payment for the maintenance of the clock on an annual basis. The Clerk was requested to identify whether the District Council also had powers to make provision for the maintenance of public clocks.

114.2007 CODE OF CONDUCT

Councillors considered whether to adopt the generic or modified (for Parish and Town Councils) Code of Conduct. Proposals were made in support of both Codes of Conduct and it was **resolved** that the Town Council adopts the Standard Boards Model Code of Conduct for Parish and Town Councils.

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115.2007 ANNUAL RETURN

The Council **resolved** to accept the content of the Statement of Accounts including the 'Annual Governance Statement' and the documents were duly signed by Councillor Young and the Clerk.

116.2007 REPORTS OF PREVIOUS MONTHS MEETINGS

Joint Burial Board

It was reported that the precept income received from the Town and Parish Councils was vital to the sustaining the role of the Joint Burial Board and sufficient funds were available to enable ongoing maintenance works to be carried out during the current year.

A copy of the minutes is attached.

Unitary Authority meetings

Despite poor attendances at each of the presentations made by the Chief Executives of the North Yorkshire County Council and the Hambleton District Council, it was reported that the meetings were very informative and provided an opportunity to address audience concerns.

117.2007 CORRESPONDENCE

Members referred to a list of items of correspondence.

Item 18 It was noted that the Hambleton District Council representative dealing with 'Affordable Housing' had accepted an invitation to attend the July Town Council meeting.

Item 21 The Clerk was asked to pass the details of the Hambleton & Richmondshire Carers meeting to Councillor Roberts.

Additional correspondence Item 2 Councillors attention was drawn to the Yorkshire Local Council Association seminars dealing with councillor training.

Additional correspondence Item 5 Councillors noted the Youth Shelter would be removed from Bedale Park towards the end of June. The Clerk was requested to invite the Hambleton District Council representative to a future meeting to provide a view on the success or otherwise of the project together with procurement costs.

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118.2007 PLANNING

1. APPLICATIONS:

Ref: 07/01303/FUL

Proposal: Construction of a dwelling and improvement works to existing vehicular access.

Location: 9 Firby Road

Applicant: Mr M Edmondson

INSUFFICIENT INFORMATION

Ref: Ref: 07/01337/FUL

Proposal: Change of use of agricultural land to equestrian and construction of an all weather riding surface.

Location: Springfield Farm, Masham Road

Applicant: Mr F Thornton

APPROVED

2. DECISIONS:

The following decision notices have been received from Hambleton District Council:

Ref: 07/00796/CAT

APPROVED

Proposal: Proposed works to several trees

Location: 9 South End

Applicant: Paul McGee

119.2007 FINANCIAL MATTERS:

Finance Schedule and Approval of Cheque Payments (papers distributed)

Receipts totalled £4363.94. Cheque Payments totalling £14,660.15 were **approved**.

CLOSURE

There being no further business the Meeting was declared closed at 10:15 pm.