

Minutes of the meeting of Riccall Parish Council on 16th February 2009 from 7.30 p.m. at the Regen Centre

Attending: Cllr Keen (Chairman), Cllrs Adamson, Dawson, Duggan, Kilmartin, Sharp, Somers-Joce, Tibbett, Wilkinson and Wilson.
Mrs Lindsey Ryan – Clerk & Finance Officer.

1 Apologies and declarations of interest

Apologies for absence were accepted from:

Cllr John Duggan – holiday.
County Cllr Liz Casling – holiday.
PCSO Alison Marshall – off shift.
PCSO Rachel Thompson – off shift.

Declarations of interest in items on the agenda were made by:

Cllrs Adamson & Wilkinson – cheque for the Regen Centre – item 7.
Cllr Keen – cheque for Chairman's and Cllr's allowance – item 7.

2 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 19th January 2009 (circulated)

The minutes were accepted as a correct record and adopted.

3 Co-Option of Steve Sharp

Steve Sharp was welcomed and co-opted onto Riccall Parish Council. A declaration of acceptance of office form had been signed prior to the meeting and a register of members interests form had been completed.

4 Report on progress and updates since the last meeting

An email update from the District and County Cllr was read out. Cllr Casling had spoken to concerned residents over the application for the *conversion of garage/workshop to a dwelling to include a new porch to the side of The Bungalow, Newlands Farm, Selby Rd* and reported that this had now been refused by Selby DC on the grounds of access and loss of amenity. A site meeting had taken place with Mark Steward of Selby DC and the Clerk to assess Dunelm Farm site. The Clerk would report on this under item 9. Cllr Casling had spoken to Barbara Scargill at Selby DC about the possibility of Riccall PC taking over the maintenance of the green on Saunters Way. Selby DC had agreed that Riccall PC could become responsible and receive payment for necessary work. This will be discussed further under item 6a.

A report had been received from North Yorkshire Police as no officers were available to attend the meeting:

A number of sheds had been broken into on the allotments. Criminal damage had been reported at both the skate park and at Chestnut Terrace. A number of vehicles had been broken into in the local area and property stolen, primarily satellite navigation systems.

The Clerk gave an update on action taken and developments since the last meeting – for information only:

Yorkshire Internal Auditors have been appointed and the Clerk has posted last year's accounts info. to them as a starting point. References were taken up and were satisfactory.

The new cigarette stub bin has arrived and is with Gavin Wright, who is going to install it near to the bus stop, opposite Costcutter on Main Street. NYCC would not give permission to put it onto the bus shelter itself, so it will be mounted on the pole where the bus timetable is.

NYCC Highways have repaired two loose kerbstones on Station Rd and are assessing a section of crumbling footpath on Silver St, after reports from Riccall PC.

The Clerk has received reports from local residents of Church Street about the fluctuating electricity supply to residential properties. Streetlight column No 83 has also been affected by this. The Clerk has been in contact with YEDL, works have taken place to restore the correct voltage and the problem appears to be resolved.

Streetlight column No 37 on Silver Street is off supply and YEDL have been informed.

Two Councillors have claimed the Cllrs allowance for 2008/9 with others considering it for the next financial year.

A litter bin on the Recreation Ground has been damaged by a contractor (Mr Parish) working for Riccall Lands Charity. The Clerk will arrange for the bin to be replaced and arrange for the contractor to receive the bill.

Gavin has fitted the 'No fly-tipping' sign on the Ash Grove / Landing Lane footpath. He has also spent some time clearing the path of soil from Westfield and bringing back the original wooden edging. The Clerk will ask him to do the same thing with the Recreation Ground path.

Branches Out will complete work on the tree on February 26th as the previous visit was cancelled due to snow.

Complaints were received about the fact that the owners of the Park View Hotel had cut down a weeping willow tree. Having spoken to Selby DC, the Clerk had advised the complainants that the tree had no individual TPO on it, nor was it within the conservation area, so it was a decision for the owners of the land.

There has been no response to the advert for Co-option, due to the vacancy created by David Lindsay. The Clerk will put an article into the March Beacon.

5 Matters from Public Participation

Cllr Sharp had received complaints about cars advertised for sale and parked on the grass verge at the north end of the village. *The police had already been out to look at this, the car has now been removed and the situation will be monitored and digital photographs taken as necessary.*

Cllr Sharp had also received complaints about a dog bin that was not being emptied regularly at the end of Station Road. *The Clerk will chase up Selby DC about this.*

6 Correspondence

6a) General correspondence - requiring decisions:

Residents letter about the green area in Saunters Way; the area is untidy with broken fences and requires some maintenance. *The Parish Council has already discussed taking over the maintenance of this piece of land from Selby DC. It was agreed that the Clerk should chase this up and get some feedback from Selby DC. It will be an agenda item in March for further discussion.*

6b) General correspondence - for information:

CE Electric UK – unmetered electricity supply inventory update. *The Clerk has produced an inventory of all PC owned streetlights on request.*

Selby DC – Council tax on new properties. This letter had come in error to the Riccall Business Park address. On querying it, the Clerk had been informed that a new letter is being sent out about business rates payable for the archive storeroom. *This was noted.*

NY Pension Fund – information relating to future contribution rates *-noted.*

6c) Late correspondence – to note only.

Riccall Community Archive Group is compiling a database of information relating to properties and land in the parish in 1906. This information is being extracted from The Poor Rate Survey which was conducted that year. *This was noted.*

7 Accounts and Budget Update

A total expenditure of £4305.66 was agreed.

The Clerk provided an up to date spend against budget report and bank reconciliation.

8 Planning

8a) Selby DC has granted planning permission for the following application:

Erection of a two storey extension to the rear and a single storey extension to the side of 2 York Road, Riccall

Selby DC has refused planning permission for the following application:

Conversion of garage/workshop to dwelling to include new porch to the side of The Bungalow, Newlands Farm, Selby Rd.

8b) The following planning application was considered:

Erection of part two storey, part first floor extension to the front including windows to the side at 3 Fountains Close, Riccall (Case Officer – Cllr Dawson)

The Council had no objections to this application subject to the usual use of sympathetic building materials and the consultation of neighbours. The Council did feel that this site was being overdeveloped and that the bungalow next door will now be further overlooked and potentially suffer a further loss of light.

8c) Other planning matters

The Clerk had agreed to receive planning decisions electronically. After a request from Selby DC, the possibility of being a ‘pilot’ council for electronic planning applications was considered. *It was agreed that Riccall PC would take part in a trial.*

The following application has been withdrawn:

Erection of a dwelling with integral garage following demolition of existing garages and outbuildings at Drover House, 88 Main St, Riccall

9 Reports and Consultation

Any members or the Clerk may report back from relevant meetings at this point:

Cllr Dawson had attended the most recent parish forum meeting and reported that it was a good meeting, with positive action planned for local policing and neighbourhood safety. He gave a postcard to each Cllr, outlining pledges made by NY Police.

Cllr Keen reported that plans for this year's Carnival were progressing well with the theme being 'Riccall on the move.'

The Clerk reported back from a meeting with Roger White of Riccall FC about the proposed junior football facilities. Mr White is the new 'sports development' officer for Riccall United Football Club and is enthusiastic about getting involved in the junior football project for Westfield. He would like to join the Recreation Development Group and use his football expertise to help move this project forward. The Clerk had agreed to set up a meeting with funding advisors, members of the group and Mr White in a few weeks time.

The Clerk reported back from a meeting at the Dunelm Farm site involving herself, Mark Steward and Cllr Casling. The maintenance of the site had been assessed and it was agreed that the overhanging trees and vegetation would be cut back, so that Carr Lane was clearer and more accessible.

10 Recreational update

Cllr Wilkinson gave an update on health and safety checks completed on Recreation Ground play equipment. He had noticed that the picnic bench had some splinters. The Clerk will ask Gavin Wright to sand this down. The joints of the skatepark are rusting – the Clerk will ask the Playdale inspector to look at this.

The Clerk had noticed racial abuse graffiti on the skate park – the police will be informed.

A meeting has been set up with Mike Robinson to evaluate work that is necessary to renovate the Beacon.

Riccall Lands Charity agreed to consider removing the low branches on the large trees near to the play area. Their tree surgeon will assess the impact of this.

The Clerk gave an update on minor repair work. The Playdale inspector will be on site w/c 9th March and alongside the inspection, all of the following work will be completed:

- *Missing caps, washers and covers will be replaced on all equipment.
- *Aerial runway – spring and stop insert replaced.
- *Gate – bottom part of post broken away – Playdale to advise.
- *Skatepark – rusty joints – Playdale to advise.
- *Teen shelter – possible cracked weld – Playdale to advise.

Cllr Tibbett had to leave the meeting early at this point.

11 Skate park

Cllr Somers-Joce reported on the insurance implications of appropriate signage with regard to accident reporting. There is no conditional warranty on the policy but for best practice it would be worth having a separate sign, advising the public about reporting accidents.

It was agreed that Cllr Somers-Joce and the Clerk would work on appropriate wording for the sign.

Ellis Partington at NY Fire & Rescue had responded about Recreation Ground access points in emergencies. He said that there is no formal system in place but that risk information is on MDT terminals and that this shows the access points for the park at Riccall.

The Clerk reported on plans for 'Saturday Skate Club' during 2009. Gary Rowntree is not able to commit to coaching this year as he is involved with another skatepark of his own. Members were disappointed that this was the case. It was agreed that the Clerk would explore various options including Gary being available at other times, an advert going into the Beacon for someone else to step forward and a skate company called 'Popcorn' who organise regular training sessions by travelling to skate parks. She will report back to the March meeting.

12 Standing Orders

It was resolved that an amendment should be made to the Standing Orders, after consideration in February. The amendment allows the August meeting to be excluded from the meeting schedule and for the September meeting to be brought forward to the 2nd Monday if necessary.

13 Consultation responses

A response to the following consultation documents (circulated before the meeting) was considered;

Communities in Control: Code of recommended practice on local authority publicity (Deadline March 12th); the Council had no comments.

Selby DC – Selby District Local Strategic Partnership Social Inclusion and Cohesion Strategy (Deadline March 23rd); the Council had no comments.

14 Lease for unit 1A, Riccall Business Park

It was agreed to defer this item until March, when details about possible business rates would be available.

15 Communication

A quick email alert system for residents was considered, based on ringmaster reports. It was agreed that before any system was evolved, members of Riccall Neighbourhood Watch would be invited to the next Administration & Finance Committee to discuss how the Council can best work in partnership with the organisation.

16 Traffic matters

Estimates for a formalised crossing point near to the Recreation Ground were considered. An estimated cost of £11,427.00 per crossing had been put forward by NYCC. A similar crossing was suggested for Kelfield Road at the school crossing patrol point. NYCC would appreciate a contribution from Riccall PC of around one third of the cost.

It was agreed that these proposals need further thought and should not go ahead as definite bids at the current time.

Information on salt bins was considered. The proposal from NYCC is that the initial provision and filling of each bin would be £125 with each additional replenishment during that winter costing £20. Subsequently a £40 charge for each year would apply, plus additional filling costs. Further details will become available from NYCC.

It was agreed that the provision of salt bins in Riccall should be taken forward by Riccall PC. A representative of NYCC will be invited to the June Administration & Finance Committee to discuss options.

Cllr Duggan had emailed to say that a resident had complained about the lack of dropped kerbs. The resident uses a motorised electric wheelchair and struggles to get around the village using the pavement. *It was agreed that the Clerk should discuss this with the highways inspector.*

Mr O' Connor has complained that the footpath down Coppergate, particularly between No 15 and the Primary School is in a poor state of repair. *It was agreed that the Clerk should discuss this with the highways inspector.*

17 Training

Following an offer from YLCA, an evening training session for the whole council was considered.

It was agreed that this would be beneficial and should happen in March. The training would be general but would also cover some requested areas; finances / budgeting / Quality Council responsibility and benefits and structure of meetings.

18 Memorial tree

Cllr Keen reported on the planting of a memorial tree for former Councillor David Southall. The Mountain Ash 'Rowan' tree had been planted on Saturday 31st January, with the family present. The Clerk had sourced and purchased the tree and Mr Swann had collected it, helped to plant it and provided a guard and stake. A plaque had been organised by Cllr Keen.

In lieu of his time, travel expenses and equipment used, Mr Swann has suggested that the Council makes a donation to a local charity.

It was agreed that Mr Swann should be asked to agree a local charity with a connection to Riccall and that £100 will be donated. A letter of thanks will be sent to Rodney and Peggy Swann.

19 Minor items and items for the next Agenda

None.

The Chairman thanked those present and closed the meeting at 9.30pm

Circulated;

Selby DC – Parish & Town Council Forum – minutes.

Rural Action Yorkshire – Country Air

York & NY Playing Fields Association – The Playing Field newsletter

No Butts – information on cigarette bins