

Minutes of the meeting of Riccall Parish Council on 15th June 2009 from 7.30 p.m. at the Regen Centre

Attending: Cllr Keen (Chairman), Cllrs Adamson, Dawson, Duggan, Kilmartin, Sharp, Somers-Joce, Wilson, Wilkinson and Winterburn.

Mrs Lindsey Ryan – Clerk / Responsible Financial Officer

Cllr Liz Casling – until the end of her report during item 5

Inspector Chris Witty – until the end of item 4

1 Apologies and declarations of interest

Apologies for absence were received from:

Cllr Tibbett – work commitments.

PCSO Alison Marshall and PCSO Rachel Thompson - off duty.

Cllrs Adamson and Wilkinson declared an interest in the cheque for the Regen Centre – item 8.

2 Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on 18th May 2009 (circulated)

The minutes were accepted as correct record and adopted.

3 Co-option of David Winterburn

David Winterburn was welcomed onto Riccall Parish Council and all of those present introduced themselves. A declaration of acceptance of office had been completed and signed with the Clerk. A register of member's interests will be filed and a copy sent to Selby DC.

4 Inspector Chris Witty

The Chairman welcomed Inspector Chris Witty of Selby Police. Inspector Witty is new to the post and went on to explain what he hopes to achieve in his time at Selby Police. He aims to:

maximise the use of PCSO staff,

have more officers on the streets, rather than tied up with administration,

make police officers as pro-active as possible,

make the Eastern Safer Neighbourhoods Team the best performing area locally.

Inspector Witty has 25 years experience in the police, working in areas of North Yorkshire including York and Selby. It is expected that 24hr custody will be available at Selby Police Station by October next year and that Selby will become one of eight Chief Inspector led districts. Chief Inspector Mark Khan will be overseeing Selby, Tadcaster and Sherburn.

In answer to some question, Inspector Witty gave the following information. Current understaffing is due to staff being lost to other specialist units. Speeding concerns along the A19 at Riccall will be addressed through local action.

The Chairman thanked Inspector Witty and he left the meeting at this point.

5 Report on progress and updates since the last meeting

District and County Cllr Liz Casling updated members on action taken and developments since the last meeting – for information only:

A Selby Young Carers social worker is now in place, after investigations from Cllr Casling. These investigations took place after complaints from a Riccall resident about a gap in service for the Selby area.

There have been complaints from local residents about noise issues surrounding a resident of Coppergate. Cllr Casling is looking into these. The Clerk will report further on this issue later in the meeting.

Abbey Leisure Centre is possibly going to transfer from Council ownership to a trust. Cllr Casling is concerned about the implications of this move for services offered at the centre and will keep the Parish Council informed.

The issue of cars for sale, being parked on grass verges next to the A19 was raised. The Clerk confirmed that action on this appears to be a grey area, with no agency wanting to take responsibility for dealing with it. The police will not deal with it and the service offered by Selby DC Environmental Health is too slow to be of any real use. Cllr Casling will contact Trading Standards to take further advice.

Cllr Duggan asked whether Selby DC could work with Riccall PC to control and ideally eliminate dog fouling. Cllr Casling will consider ideas to help with this.

Representatives of North Yorkshire Police (PCSO Marshall and PCSO Thompson) were not in attendance. However a report on recent problems had been provided and was noted.

An update was received from the Clerk on action taken and developments since the last meeting – for information only:

Six applications for funding have been received from Riccall Community Groups and will be considered at the Administration & Finance Committee.

The June Riccall Beacon is complete and has gone out.

Manor Garth and Mount Path have been re-surfaced. The Highways Inspector has some snagging issues to deal with.

The Clerk will look for a larger painting and decorating company to complete the work on the Riccall Beacon.

The spring on the gate at the end of Mount Path is faulty. The Clerk will contact the ROW officer.

The Highways Inspector had checked some overgrown hedges that had been reported at the last meeting and found them to be reasonable.

A research project on rural affordable housing, commissioned by Defra, will take place on Monday 6th July at Riccall Regen Centre. The Clerk has been helping the consultant involved to set it up and to find some interested local residents, who will take part.

When putting in the new tree on the Village Green in January, it had been noticed that the guard can now be taken off the memorial tree for Jack Hartas. Cllr Keen will do this work and will look into costs of replacing the plaque which has become worn with age and is currently attached to the tree guard.

Mr Popplewell of Selby Rd had been in touch to thank the Council for the regular grass cutting that now takes place on Selby Rd. He did ask whether the road could be more regularly swept. The Clerk will ask the question of Selby DC.

Gavin Wright will paint the skate ramps shortly and repair the Village Green notice board roof and the name planter.

The Riccall Lands Charity has moved much of the rubble and soil from the allotments and put it onto Westfield in a large pile. The Clerk has spoken with Paddy Hodgkiss and asked that it be removed ASAP. Skips are being organised to clear the rubbish.

6 Matters from Public Participation

Mrs Foster had complained to Cllr Kilmartin about dog fouling outside the Village Institute. Cllr Kilmartin had referred the complaint to the Institute Committee.

The Clerk reported that various residents had complained about the noise issues surrounding a resident of Coppergate. The resident lives in a Selby DC house and is allegedly playing music loud day and night and this is of particular nuisance late at night. The dog at the property also barks late into the night. The Clerk had suggested that the residents contact Selby DC environmental health, District Cllr Liz Casling, the district dog warden and the housing officer. It appears that several complaints have already been made against this individual over a number of years.

It was agreed that a letter should be written to the area housing officer, asking what action is planned to alleviate the issues. The letter will be copied to County Cllr Liz Casling and Mark Crane.

A resident had phoned anonymously to report cars that park along the entrance road going into the Meadows estate. The resident had complained that 8 – 10 cars and vans block this area, making it difficult for other motorists and unsafe for children playing outside. *NY Police will be informed.*

7 Correspondence

7a) General correspondence - requiring decisions:

NYCC – Community Emergency Scheme – would Riccall PC like a presentation? *An officer will be invited to attend the September Administration & Finance Committee.*

York and District Mind – request for funding. *No details of a link to Riccall have been established, although requests have been made.*

Selby Nation Diary – events listing for Selby and surrounding villages. *The person organising this has been directed towards the Riccall PC website for local contact details and has already visited the Regen Centre.*

7b) General correspondence - for information:

Neil Skinner – Village SOS information. *Noted.*

Riccall Parochial Charities – note on governing document, confirming that Riccall PC has the responsibility for nominating one of the trustees. *Noted.*

District Cllr Liz Casling – information about Saunters Way green area. *Noted.*

Ian Strong – future Parish Council training. *Noted.*

Mr P. Williamson – ROW signage for footpath 9. *Noted. The ROW officer has been contacted by this resident.*

7c) Late correspondence – to note only.

Energy Saving Trust – information about how to reduce the carbon footprint of local people and reduce CO₂ emissions, therefore preventing climate change. Representatives will come out to community events. *This was noted.*

A quote has been received from Tarmac for an annual inspection of streetlights. *This item will be placed on the July agenda.*

8 Accounts and Budget Update

A total expenditure of £9584.56 was agreed.

A breakdown of HM Customs and Revenue returns was provided, as was an up to date bank reconciliation and budget update.

It had been agreed at the May meeting that the Clerk would compare the insurance quote from Allianz with one from Zurich, in readiness for agreeing an insurer at this meeting.

The Clerk read out the quotes and the differences between each quote. Cllr Somers-Joce gave some background information about the insurance industry and possible future changes within the industry.

It was agreed that the Council should enter into a five year agreement with Zurich Insurance at £3766.39 per annum.

Vote: 9 for 1 against

9 Planning

9a) Selby DC has granted planning permission for the following applications:

Conversion of garage/workshop to dwelling including erection of an extension to side and bay window to front of the Bungalow, Newlands Farm, Selby Rd

Proposed extension to the side and rear of 42 Hawthorns, Riccall

Application to crown lift to 2.5m Oak Tree T01 of TPO 21/2003 at Oakmead, Kelfield Rd, Riccall

9b) The following planning applications were considered:

Erection of a two storey extension to the side, single storey extension and conservatory to the rear of 16 Coppergate, Riccall (Case Officer – Cllr Sharp)

The Council had no objections to this application, subject to sympathetic building materials and the consultation of neighbours but noted that there appeared to be no access around the rear of the property for emergencies.

Erection of a detached dwelling with detached garage following demolition of outbuilding at 8 Church Street, Riccall (Case Officer – Cllr Adamson)

The Council had no objections subject to sympathetic building materials and the consultation of neighbours.

Application for a single storey modular pre-school building at Riccall County Primary School, Coppergate

Cllrs Adamson and Wilkinson declared an interest in the application and took no part in the vote.

The Council objected to the application on the grounds of traffic problems in Coppergate. It was felt that the addition of this building on the school site could only serve to exacerbate the current congestion and access problems in Coppergate at peak times.

9c) Other planning matters

None

10 Reports and Consultation

None

11 Recreational update

Cllr Kilmartin gave an update on health and safety checks completed on Recreation Ground play equipment. Whilst completing her checks, she had found some offensive graffiti on the skate park, otherwise no other problems. *The graffiti will be removed when the ramps are painted shortly.*

The Clerk gave an update on phase 4 of the development of the Recreation Ground. The new pre-school area and bird nest seat have been successfully installed. Slight changes to the positioning of the area were made during the installation process, on agreement with members of the Recreation Group. The ROW officer was called out to double check the positioning of the new area and confirmed that it was acceptable. The overgrown areas to the side of the Recreation Ground were cut back, to allow easier access at the side of the new area. A press release about the new equipment has been issued to the local media, with articles appearing in local newspapers. The Clerk had set up a trip for the Riccall Pre-School staff and children in order to provide a press photo opportunity.

Playdale have completed an inspection of the area and Waldemarr Kripp of Groundwork Wakefield has visited the site to inspect the area. Mr Kripp is acting as a lead professional and will issue a certificate of final and practical completion, which in turn will allow the funding to be released from the 'Changing Spaces' fund.

Peter Murphy is meeting with the Clerk and other members of the RRDG to consider a sustainability grant for promotion of the project.

Patches of grass are yellow, where the contractors have removed them and then put them back after installation. If this doesn't improve, Playdale will be asked to assess the situation and put it right.

Playdale will be asked to check the gate post and the loudspeakers for stability.

It was agreed that two age restriction signs will be ordered for the new enclosed area and two signs for the bird nest seat, stating that a maximum of 4 children should use the swing at one time.

Parking is becoming an ever increasing problem at the Recreation Ground and the RRDG will be asked to look into this in further details. The Riccall Lands Charity will be asked to cut the front hedge a little lower, for visibility.

It has become evident recently that bigger bins and more bins are needed on the Recreation Ground. *The Clerk will meet on-site with a representative from Environmental Health to discuss this.*

Lots of very positive feedback has been received from local people about the new facilities.

One resident has emailed to complain about teenagers using the pre-school area and acting in an anti-social way. The local police have been made aware of the new facilities and asked to regularly check the area, particularly in the early evenings, whilst the novelty value wears off for the older youths.

12 Riccall Carnival

A rota was set up for the Parish Council information stand. The Clerk will be in attendance all afternoon with the following Cllrs helping:

Cllr Steve Sharp 1-2pm

Cllr Howard Adamson 2-3pm

Cllr David Winterburn 3-4pm (if the football tournament allows)

13 Minor items and items for the next Agenda

None.

The Chairman thanked members and closed the meeting at 10.07pm

Circulated:

Open Spaces Society – Open Space magazine and annual report / accounts

Selby District AVS – Tidings

YLCA – White Rose Update

Campaign to Protect Rural England – Fieldwork