

Minutes of the meeting of Riccall Parish Council on 20th October 2008 from 7.30 p.m. at the Regen Centre

Attending; Cllr Keen (Chairman), Cllrs Adamson, Dawson, Duggan (until 7.40pm), Kilmartin, Tibbett and Wilson.

1 Apologies and declarations of interest

Apologies for absence were accepted from;

Cllr Wilkinson – work commitments
Cllr Lindsay – holiday
District and County Cllr Liz Casling – another meeting
District Cllr Christine Goodall

Cllr Adamson declared an interest in item 7 on the agenda, due to a cheque that was made payable to him and one for the Regen Centre.

2 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 15th September 2008 Minutes of the Administration & Finance Committee Meeting held on 22nd September 2008

Both sets of minutes were accepted as a correct record and adopted.

It was agreed at this point that item 8b should be brought forwards, due to the fact that Cllr Duggan was feeling unwell and wanted to leave the meeting;

8b) To consider the following planning application:

Erection of a dwelling with integral garage following demolition of existing garages and outbuildings at Drover House, 88 Main Street, Riccall (Case Officer – Cllr Duggan)

Riccall Parish Council had no objections to the application, subject to the use of sympathetic building materials and the consultation of neighbours.

The District Council will be asked why a separate application has not been received for conservation area consent to demolish the garage and outbuildings.

Cllr Duggan left the meeting at this point.

It was agreed that item 4 should be brought forwards, as the Riccall Youth club had not yet arrived at the meeting.

4 Report on progress and updates since the last meeting

The District and County Cllrs were not present.

There were no representatives of North Yorkshire Police present.

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

The new sign has been put up at the skate park, only to be instantly vandalised. The Clerk has contacted GBH to say that the sign was not fit for purpose, as it could be peeled away from the backing panel. Eventually GBH has accepted this and has offered to replace it with another sign, this time with a laminated cover.

The road markings have now been completed on Main Street, around the Post Office and in some other areas of the village.

It was agreed that at the request of Boothferry Pest Services, the clerk could provide a reference.

Bins are regularly not being emptied on the Recreation Ground. Although when the Clerk telephones to complain, the bins do get emptied, a long term solution to the problem is not being found. The clerk will write a letter to Environmental Health asking for an explanation.

David Ottaway, the footpaths officer, has agreed that some of the trip hazards along Carr Lane should be levelled out. He has asked the highways inspector to complete some work on the path.

Mark Steward at Selby DC will provide an update on the situation with the Dunelm Farm site before the November meeting.

Fly-tipping signs will be erected at Checker Lane and on the path between Ash Grove and Landing Lane.

Staff appraisals have taken place and will be discussed at the next Administration & Finance Committee meeting. As a result of discussions with Mr Walker, the clerk has attempted to get NYCC to agree to put cigarette stub boxes onto the bus shelters.

The emergency planning unit at NYCC has been contacted and asked to provide an example of good practice.

Riccall Parochial Charities will discuss the trust document further during their November meeting and may add a paragraph about Riccall PC being a custodial trustee.

Cllr Keen reported back after a conversation with PC Wadsworth. The police are attempting to prosecute two youths who have been accused of unauthorised graffiti in the district, including areas of Riccall.

3 Riccall Youth club

Three members of Riccall Youth Club attended with youth worker Andrew Fletcher to talk to members about the success of the graffiti workshop. The young people wanted to do this as an annual project in the summer holidays and wanted Riccall PC to consider part-funding it. The project was discussed and photographs shown on a slideshow on a laptop that the young people had brought with them. Councillors were impressed with the project and thanked the members of the youth club for attending to talk about it. The grass humps near to the skatepark were discussed. It was suggested that matting is put onto the humps to make them usable for BMX bikers. There was some discussion about a possible path link to the park and about a tarmac square in front of the ramps so that the benches can be used to grind.

The Council agreed to consider part-funding a similar graffiti project for next summer and can discuss it in more detail on a future agenda, when costs are available.

5 Matters from Public Participation

Cllr Tibbett expressed concern about some 'Beware of the Bull' signs that have appeared near to the public right of way along the river bank. The clerk will speak to the footpaths officer about this.

6 Correspondence

6a) Correspondence - requiring decisions:

*Barlby Parish Council – request for contributions to a tribute booklet in memory of John Nicholls, a well respected local policeman. The clerk will contact Richard Moody and Steve Stacey to see if they have any anecdotes to add to the booklet. An article will go into the Beacon in December.

6b) Correspondence - for information:

*Communities and Local Government – The making and enforcement of byelaws – consultation document – *circulated. The consultation deadline is 20th November.*

*Judith Rosten CPRE – on request, advice on housing development policies had been sent by email. Mrs Rosten advised that there are a number of questions that need to be asked when considering whether a local planning authority can carry out reviews on development of green belt land. For example, is the land within the greenbelt brownfield land? If it is and it has been previously developed then it may be able to be developed again. Are there any exceptional circumstances? Also, she advised that local authorities can carry out reviews of the green belt and it can be changed in local development plans which may then enable land that was previously protected to be developed. *The council was aware of this and noted the advice.*

*Residents email about anti-social behaviour on Saunters Way – *this was noted and the PCSO's were informed.*

*Residents email about overgrown hedges – this was noted. *The Clerk had already asked for some of the hedges to be trimmed back.*

6c) Late correspondence – to note only.

Myra Allitt – Riccall P.C.C – thank you for the grant received this year for grass cutting in the churchyard. Is it possible to have a similar grant for 2009? *This will be discussed at the November meeting.*

Rural Action for Yorkshire – general information – *circulated.*

7 Accounts and Budget Update

A total expenditure of £3064.05 was agreed.

The current budget position was considered and the clerk provided a bank reconciliation report.

The members of the council had offered their respects to Barbara Taylor and family, following the death of Ted Taylor. Ted had been involved in many community activities over the years including the production of the Village Design Statement and in recent years had acted as an internal auditor for the council. It was agreed that flowers should be sent to Barbara Taylor and that two cheques should be raised for £25 each to support Ted's chosen charities.

It was agreed that due to the loss of Ted Taylor as the council's internal auditor, the clerk should begin to advertise the vacancy on the web-site, on the village notice boards and in the Beacon, as necessary.

8 Planning

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

Application for consent to fell tree T1 and works to crown tree T2 of TPO 9/1977 at 11A Manor Garth, Riccall

8c) Other planning matters

The Clerk and Chairman reported on a letter received from Selby DC regarding planning permission for developing junior football facilities on Westfield. The letter states that planning permission is necessary for the site and outlines some considerations that planners would need to see. A copy of the letter was given to each councillor at the

meeting. The Clerk will progress the application with Paddy Hodgkiss of Riccall Lands Charity.

The Clerk will chase up Selby DC about the Station Road development of 56 dwellings, as there has been no information received for some time and no official decision letter regarding the planning permission.

9 Reports and Consultation

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

The Clerk reported back from the YLCA conference that had been held in Scarborough on the 26th, 27th and 28th September 2008. Various workshops had been available and the Clerk had chosen to attend the following;

- *The new Mandatory Publication Scheme.
- *Working towards Quality Council status.
- *The new power of well being for Parish Councils.
- *Agenda building.
- *Climate change and what influence Parish Councils can have within the community.

The Clerk talked about the workshops and also about the big debate that took place about whether training should be mandatory for all parish councillors. The evening speaker had focused on how Parish Councils are moving forwards.

Following on from the clerk's report, it was agreed that;

The Administration and Finance Committee will develop a working group, in order to take forwards the 'Quality Council' application portfolio.

It would be interesting to find out more about the powers that Parish Councils have to deal with climate change. This can be looked at early in the new year and will be put onto an agenda for discussion.

Cllr Adamson reported back from the course that he attended on 'youth consultation.' It focused on developing skills in involving young people in policies, decision making and community decisions where appropriate. *Information was put into the circulation folder.*

Cllr Keen reported back from the most recent Neighbourhood Watch meeting and would report further under item 18.

10 Co-option of new Councillors

The Clerk has produced posters to advertise the two vacancies for councillors. These have been displayed around the village, with a deadline of October 31st for applications. An item has also been added to the website.

It was agreed that available members of the Administration Committee would interview potential councillors along with the Clerk.

The Clerk will carry out induction training for the new councillors, prior to their first meeting.

Cllr Tibbett advised members that he may be working away in London for a significant amount of time and if this does go ahead, he may re-consider his position on the council.

11 Parish Plan Action Groups

Cllr Keen spoke about the future remit of the action groups and reported that the traffic group has now completed its aims and closed.

Cllr Wilson spoke about the Environmental action group, where a walk is being looked at in detail and the emergency plan is being updated.

After discussion, it was agreed that the members of the action groups should be asked to become part of a general focus group. The idea of the focus group would be that when the council is looking at a large project / new concept or when an issue of local relevance is controversial, the group could be consulted as a sample of local residents.

12 Traffic matters

The response letter received from Richard Flinton at NYCC regarding the A19 congestion and safety study had been circulated before the meeting and was considered;

Mr Flinton states that the roundabout proposal for the A19 southern Riccall junction is currently on the reserve list. Its priority rating is low as the personal accident history up to June this year for the past five years indicates no recorded personal injury accidents have occurred. The accident occurring on June 21st occurred due to driver error. The provision of a roundabout at the junction will increase the minor injury accident rate, due to rear end shunts, generally on entry to the roundabout. The installation of a speed limit and traffic signals on this section of the A19 would be inappropriate and the police would object if that proposal was countenanced. Traffic signals would not speed up the egress of vehicles out of Riccall as the priority would have to be the A19. The County Council has undertaken additional road safety measures through the southern Riccall junction. There is no justification for considering any further options at this junction. Any additional substantive development in the village that will impact on the A19 will be considered through the planning process.

The response of Mr Flinton was considered and it was agreed that a copy would be sent to John Grogan MP, before his meeting with Riccall PC in November.

The Clerk had chased up James Malcolm at NYCC regarding various traffic management schemes discussed during on-site meetings (including a potential vehicle activated sign for Main Street). An email had been sent from Paul Sheppard on the day of the meeting and this was considered.

Mr Sheppard stated that the County Council's Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) policy is that VAS's are only considered as a last resort when all other forms of traffic calming / traffic management have been utilised and have been found to be ineffective in reducing vehicle speeds. If a VAS were to be sited here, it would need to be an absolute minimum of 45m from the hazard to allow drivers to react and drivers would also require sufficient forward visibility to observe the sign. Vehicles heading northbound on the A19 and then turning in to Main Street would not see the sign until too late and will react to the sign being activated, without being aware of the reason why. This will reduce road safety by increasing the risk to all highway users. The most appropriate measure to improve road safety is to encourage pedestrians to cross Main Street further away from the junction. This can be achieved using a formalised crossing point using dropped kerb crossings with a priority build out. Conventional warning signs would be used and drivers of vehicles will then have time to react. Therefore if Riccall PC is looking to finance the improvement of road safety for pedestrians using the Recreation Ground, NYCC will support the provision of a formalised crossing point.

It was agreed that further details are required in order to consider this suggestion fully. For example what exactly is a formalised crossing point, is it a zebra crossing, a small crossing island etc? What are the advantages of it? How much will it cost to put in? James Malcolm will be invited to a meeting to discuss this further.

13 Administration & Finance Committee

The clerk outlined recommendations that had been made at the Administration & Finance Committee held on 22nd September 2008, with the exception of the budget proposals which will be discussed at the budget meeting in November.

The committee had recommended the following with regard to the 'Community Grants Scheme';

Applicant	<i>Riccall & District Community Archive</i>
Reason for funding	<i>Stationery materials and computer consumables.</i>
Amount granted	<i>£100</i>
Applicant	<i>1st Riccall Scout Group</i>
Reason for funding	<i>Purchase of 2 folding tables and 4 folding benches</i>
Amount granted	<i>£386.18</i>
Applicant	<i>St Mary's Church</i>
Reason for funding	<i>To remove four fixed pews, install extra lighting and fit a carpet to create an area for use primarily by children during church services and functions</i>

Amount requested £500

Decision *The council felt unable to take a decision, due to the fact that the costs were not broken down and justified. The clerk will ask for a break-down so that the application can be re-considered at the December committee meeting or at full council before then.*

These recommendations were agreed by the full council.

The committee had also recommended that the council should employ a warden to oversee recreational areas and other areas of land and assets that the council owns.

Cllr Dawson, who had not been present at the committee meeting, outlined a number of reasons why a warden position is unnecessary.

After discussion, it was agreed that a warden position was probably not necessary, but that advice will be taken on whether members of councils should be taking part in play equipment and other health and safety checks. An item will be placed on the November agenda for discussion and, if necessary, a vote can be taken on the matter, before budgets are agreed.

14 Recreational projects

It was resolved that a recreational equipment maintenance contract should be taken out with Playdale ASAP. The Silver package was agreed upon, which includes an annual inspection, along with three quarterly inspections at an annual cost of £630. It was further agreed that the annual RoSPA inspection should be continued.

The Clerk provided an update on the pre-school area project for the Recreation ground, showing members the final designs that had been agreed by the Recreation Development Group, to tie in with the consultation results. An application for £15,000 has been accepted at stage 1 by 'Community Spaces.' The Clerk is meeting with the facilitator of the funding organisation to progress the application through to stage 2. If the group are fortunate enough to receive the funding, the project should go ahead early next year. Members were happy with the designs and progress.

15 Village of the Year

Cllrs Keen and Adamson reported back from the 'Village of the Year' presentation evening, where the winner had been announced as Oswaldkirk. Riccall had been commended as a finalist and had received a framed certificate, which will be displayed at the Regen Centre. Feedback had been received from the judges and this was discussed.

16 Quote for street lighting work

A quote for £487.77 was considered to remove a streetlight from a BT pole on Station Road and erect a new column. There will be further costs to connect the electricity supply. It was agreed to go ahead on this basis and that the clerk should attempt to get the new light near to the recreation ground connected at the same time.

17 Fly Posting

The position with fly posting was clarified, based on advice from Selby DC. It was agreed that this advice would be publicised in the next Beacon along with a policy from Riccall PC explaining that the council will consider allowing posting on its property if permission is requested and if the material is taken down immediately after the event.

18 Crime Prevention

The Clerk reported back from the mobile police unit crime prevention morning in Riccall. She had attended the morning along with Gordon Neal who represented Riccall Neighbourhood Watch and the local PCSO's. There had not been that much interest in the unit on the day, with a flurry of queries towards the end of the session, mostly concerning house, garage and caravan crime prevention. The police are planning future sessions to reduce the current fear of crime which is significant in light of the recent garage and shed burglaries. These sessions will hopefully be on Saturdays so that more residents will have the opportunity to take part.

19 Minor items and items for the next Agenda

None

The chairman thanked members and closed the meeting at 10.35pm

Circulated;

Shaws – reference books available
Selby District Youth Council – minutes of the last meeting
NY Fire & Rescue Service – corporate report
Selby DC - The Parish Perspective
Selby DC – Parish and Town Council Forum minutes