
Minutes of Grindleton Parish Council 8 June 2010,- St Ambrose Parish Room,Grindleton

Present:

Councillor J Cowling (Chair) (JC),
Councillor J Towler (JT)
Councillor P Entwistle (PE)
Councillor C Doherty (CD)
B Hilton (BH) – (RVBC)

Apologies:

M Ranson (MR)
ECSO S Hartley
Graham Cooper (GC)

Councillor J Pye (JP)
Councillor J Marshall (JM)

In attendance:

Carol Baird (CB) – Clerk to the Parish Council

- 1. To approve as correct the minutes of the previous meeting on 6 April 2010.**
The minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday 6 April 2010 were approved and signed as a correct record.
- 2. Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting:**

Historical Stile – raised at the AGM

JC raised the issue of the historical stile which is badly damaged. It is located at the South Western corner of the Millennium wood adjacent to the land owned by the Hanson Group. JC has received a quotation for fixing the stile of £900. JC provided a photograph. CB wrote to the Hanson Group to ask for a donation towards the cost of repair. A contribution of £300 was offered.

ACTION

CB to complete the necessary paperwork. A quotation may be needed which Cllr J Towler offered to provide if necessary.

Councillor Vacancy

Given the house move of one of the Councillors out of the village, there was a vacancy for a new Councillor. CB had drafted an advert for the notice-board which GC placed on the website. Two new prospective councillors responded to the advert. Keith Hutton, a previous Councillor wrote to express an interest in the vacancy. It was proposed and seconded that Keith Hutton takes up the position.

ACTION

CB to write to Keith Hutton to invite him to attend the next meeting to take up the position.

Hedge Cutting

JC had a meeting with Martin Charlesworth and Martin Nugent re the issues involved. This will be carried forward to the Autumn agenda.

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Foul Smelling Drains

There has been a complaint received concerning the foul smelling outlet of a septic tank which seems to be draining into the stream. The location of the house is Sunnymede, located at the side of the Church towards Field Head Farm. CB reported the matter to the Environmental Health officer, Matthew Ridings at RVBC, to investigate the matter further.

ACTION

Peter Entwistle had a meeting with RVBC to discuss the situation which has still not been resolved. This appears to have been a long standing problem and Environmental Health will be taking it further.

Historic Signposts

There is a proposal to have a historic signpost in the middle of the village by the Cherry Trees. The design of the post is a circle on top of the signpost with three fingers signposting off. The wording 'West Riding of Yorkshire' to be on the top of the signpost. There was a discussion re possible grants as LCC will probably contribute £700-£800.

ACTIONS

CB to investigate other quotations for the post as well as the one obtained from a firm in Pendleton. CB to enquire whether Mike Otter, the People's Champion might contribute too.

3. Matters Arising at this meeting:

Street Signs

Peter Entwistle raised the matter with RVBC. Cast iron letters are £9.50 each. Replacements can be done on a rolling programme. Match funding is needed. The most important signs are those without names on. The terraces were regarded as the most important. £625 approximate budget required.

ACTION

CB to write to Mike Otter requesting contribution to the signs..

4. Planning Applications:

Since the last meeting the following applications have been dealt with.

Bowland High School – no objection to all weather pitch

Conversion of former Methodist church – objections raised (contact Clerk for further details of objections if required)

The Spinney- office block – re application as it had expired (contact Clerk for further details of objections if required)

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Applications discussed at this meeting:

3/2010/0407 Bowland High School – new signage - no objections

3/2010/0435 4 Greendale View – no objections

3/2010/0381/ Rockmount, Main Street Grindleton – no objections

5. Financial Matters

Income:

The Precept for £7500 was paid into the Bank Account

Expenditure:

The following items were paid:

	£
Salary to CB for June and July 2010	183.35 (two months total)
Whalley invoice for lengthsman	802.60
Zurich Insurance	326.82
St Ambrose rent until the end of the year	50.00

Clerk update on current financial issues :

The Clerk updated the meeting on the current financial situation of the Council. It was noted that a large amount of time has been taken (approx 40 hours) in order to bring the accounts up to date, deal with outstanding issues, and put the accounts into an acceptable format.

- A four page report of issues raised by the Internal auditor was discussed with the Councillors.
- External audit and issues raised by BDO. The questions raised and how these were responded to were shown to the Councillors and discussed.
- Fidelity guarantee issue – this has been raised by the external auditors as being too low. The current insurance policy has increased the level to that required as acceptable by the external auditors.
- Governance statement requiring discussion and agreement – this was discussed and agreed by the Councillors
- VAT – the Councillors were updated as to the current situation. VAT return to be completed and refunds to be applied for.
- Concurrent Functions grant. This has been applied for on the same basis as last year. The Clerk expressed her concerns re the lack of transparency of the paperwork leading to this grant application. This was discussed and accepted by the Councillors.

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- Proposed new method of recording accounts - the Clerk presented to the meeting a spreadsheet system which could be used in future to accurately record the accounts on an on-going basis. It was agreed that the Clerk adopt this system for the Grindleton accounts. Each meeting will therefore have an accurate update on the current financial situation of the Council.

Cllr Peter Entwistle raised the issue of the substantial time it has taken the Clerk to get the Accounts through the Audit, and also in a correct state for moving forward. A short discussion took place around the remuneration given the level of work involved. The Clerk proposed that rather than discuss remuneration at this meeting, it could be on the Agenda for the next meeting. This proposal was agreed by the Councillors. The Clerk also thanked the Chair for the support and encouragement over the last two months whilst working on the accounts.

6. General Village matters

Dog Fouling

This is still a big issue and the Councillors still receive several complaints on this topic. CB wrote a piece for the notice-board and for the web-site highlighting the issue. GPC received a letter from RVBC re the provision of future dog waste bins

ACTION

CB to write to James Russell at RVBC requesting new dog bins. These were also highlighted on a map of Grindleton. Locations for proposed sites for future bins include:

1. Entrance to Greendale wood
2. Grindleton bridge – the entrance to the upstream leg of the Ribble Way on the North bank
3. On the lane leading to Field House Farm by the Parish Rooms

Reports from outside committees:

Parish Liaison meeting - JC attended the Parish Liaison meeting re grit bins. PE is to attend the next meeting in June.

Grindleton Consolidated charities – the roof of the building is now on and there is a new tenant for the land. The two cottages are going to be let. BH agreed to follow up several issues raised with RVBC re the development.

Playing Fields – J Towler updated the meeting on the changing room issues, the celebrations this weekend, and attempts to get grants towards the playing fields. The lengthsman was congratulated on the condition of the playing fields.

Allotments – J Towler updated the meeting on developments.

ACTION

The Clerk is to assess the allotment file and to propose a new method of invoicing the allotment holders. The contract may also be updated to make it more relevant.

Spiid Sign – BH to request signage from West Bradford at their next meeting in June.

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Reports from outside committees (continued):

Footpath to Chatburn - A handrail is being erected which will be welcomed by all pedestrians.

Foothpath to Bowland school – there is no verge for children if they walk the half mile to Bowland High. CD raised the issue and that it should be reviewed regularly to try to solve the problem. There was a discussion re who the landowners are. It was thought that the landowners include the Church, School, Colin Sutcliff and other landowners.

ACTION

PE/JC to organise a separate meeting to discuss further.

Main Street Grindleton – issue re road surface

LCC have a rolling programme of improvement.

ACTION

CB to investigate with LCC and apply for Main Street to be added to the waiting list for repair.

Revised Statement of Public Consultation from RVBC

This report was discussed and JC asked all Councillors to read the report and to discuss any concerns direct with RVBC by the end of the consultation date; 9 July.

Tenth Anniversary of Greendale Wood

CD to consult with the school re arrangements to celebrate the occasion.

Meeting Dates

The proposed meetings until the end of 2010 were confirmed as 17th August (a week later than usual), 12th October and 14th December.

ACTION

CB requested these dates for the meeting room from the church. Payment to be sent to St Ambrose.

A.O.B.

There was no other business and the meeting closed at 9.15pm.

**Please note that the date of the next meeting is
Tuesday 17 August 2010 at 7.30pm.
ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND.**

Approved: Signed:.....

Date: