

STRENSALL WITH TOWTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL
Rainbow Centre, Robert Wilkinson School, West End, Strensall, YORK YO32 5UH
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**Draft Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on
Tuesday 12th January 2010 at The Village Hall, Strensall at 19.00**

The meeting commenced at 19.05

1. Consultation with Members of the Public over Affordable Housing

In view of the fact that members of the public had attended the meeting to ask about affordable housing proposals, Members agreed to delay the formal start of the meeting and the Chair asked for questions and comments, to which the Parish Council would respond to the best of its ability.

The questions centred round the record of a report and discussion on affordable housing at Item 4 of the Minutes of Meeting of the Planning Committee held on 24/11/09.

Several residents expressed concern that a decision on affordable housing had already been made. The Chair pointed out that the Minutes were clear that it was the general principle of providing affordable housing in Strensall that was being supported and that no site was favoured or was being proposed by the Parish Council. No decision had been made and no support or opposition to any site had been expressed, because the Planning Committee would need to remain impartial if it were to be involved in any consultation with the Local Planning Authority over any planning application that may be submitted in future. An assurance was again given that the Planning Committee did not support any one of the options that had been mentioned in the Minutes. While land at 92-100 The Village had been identified by Yorkshire Housing and CoYC as being potentially suitable, there were no definite proposals to develop on that site at this stage and Members believed that there may well be legal problems if a development were to be proposed there.

The Chair also advised that the Parish Council wishes to protect the Green Belt and was in principle against building on Green Belt land. He again stressed that no decision had been taken and advised residents that they would be kept in touch with any developments.

10 members of the public left the room at the end of the discussion and the formal meeting commenced.

2. Present

Cllrs Jesse (Chair), Baxter, Blacklee, Chapman, Cuthbertson, Marquis, Plant, Scott, J Smith, N Smith, Young

3. In Attendance

13 members of the public initially (3 remained after the consultation session).

4. Apologies for Absence

Cllrs Chambers, Swales

5. Declarations of Interest

None

6. Minutes of Previous Meeting

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the previous meetings (held 8/12/09 and 15/12/09) be

approved as a true record.
The Chair signed both sets of Minutes

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7. Matters Arising

Minutes of the meeting held on 15/12/09:

- a. The Chair pointed out that some amendments to the Cemetery Rules would be needed to include changes of phone numbers etc.
- b. The Chair advised that an additional member of the Cemetery Committee would be needed.

8. Resignation of Cllr Nunn

The Chair reported that Cllr Nunn had resigned with effect from 19/12/09 and thanked her on behalf of Members for her contribution to the work of the Parish Council.

RESOLVED that Cllr Nunn's resignation be noted and that Cllr Marquis write to CoYC on behalf of the Parish Council to notify them of the vacancy.

9. Police Report

Cllr J Smith presented a written report (attached). NPT members were pleased that crime figures have reduced. The Chair asked Cllr Smith to let the NPT know that cigarette stubs had been found outside the Rainbow Centre and ask their help in stopping this. Cllr Marquis asked Cllr Smith to remind the NPT to ensure that all doors and windows at the Rainbow Centre were closed on leaving the building. It was noted that the tub at the end of Northfields had been up-ended and this would be reported to the NPT. Cllr Smith advised that she would be meeting PCSO Hannon monthly to discuss police matters.

RESOLVED that the police report be noted.

10. Planning Committee Report

Cllr Chapman presented a verbal report of the Planning Committee meeting held on 12/1/09. Three applications had been considered, of which one (21 Thompson Drive) had already been decided by CoYC. Members had made comments and suggested safeguards in connection with a re-submitted application for a changed car park at Robert Wilkinson School. Members would comment to the Planning Inspector on an appeal against the outcome of a planning application to site a mobile home at Manor Farm, Towthorpe. Several decision notices had been reported.

RESOLVED that the planning committee report be noted.

11. Proposed Ward Committee Grants for 2010/11

Cllr Marquis had circulated the list of proposed Ward Committee grants to Members earlier. Those which affect Strensall are:

- a. Continue to install and fill salt bins (4 are supported)
- b. Feasibility study for conversion of footpath from A1237 to Six Bells, jointly with Earswick PC
- c. Additional street light at Lords Moor Lane/Flaxton Road requested by the Parish Council
- d. Grassed area between Melcombe Avenue and level crossing to be planted with flowers (resident's suggestion)

RESOLVED that the proposed Ward Committee grants be noted.

12. Grant Application by Strensall Bowling Club

After discussion, Members agreed to support the Bowling Club's application for financial support towards the installation of improved security fencing. A progress report would be requested.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council provide financial support of £1000 to Strensall Bowling Club for security fencing improvements under s.19 of the LGA (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.

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13. Finance Committee Report, Precept for 2010-11 and Accounts for Payment

Cllr Marquis presented a verbal report and the draft Minutes of the Finance Committee held on 4th January 2010.

A request for support towards the work on replacing the central heating boiler had been received from St Mary's Church. After discussion, Members agreed to support the application.

Resolved that a grant of £1796-80 be made to St Mary's Church towards boiler repair work under s.137 of the LGA 1972

Approval was sought for payment of the following accounts:

Payee	Total	Excl Vat
Dean Landscapes Ltd - Grasscutting October	151.80	132.00
Cllr J Chapman – Fittings for post box	8.05	6.84
Cllr A K Marquis – Stationery	21.62	18.38
Zurich Insurance plc – Revised premium	453.63	453.63
CoYC - Lease payment (Leyfield Close)	10.00	10.00
CoYC - Licence payment (RWS) Jan-Mar 2010	288.46	288.46
K Marquis – Purchase of timber	54.37	46.27
St Mary's Church	1796.80	1796.80
Strensall Bowling Club – Grant	1000.00	1000.00

RESOLVED that the accounts listed be paid.

Cllr Marquis presented a verbal report on the proposed budget and precept. After discussion, the proposed amounts were agreed by Members.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council's precept for 2010-11 be set at £15,000.

Cllr Marquis also presented a review of the Parish Council's expenditure to date against budget, proposing that excess expenditure be set against reserves.

RESOLVED that excess expenditure be set against reserves.

14. Risk Assessment

Cllr Scott presented a draft of the Parish Council's Risk Assessment statement and thanked ex-Councillor Nunn for her work in preparing it. After discussion, Members agreed to approve the Statement with a review in 6 months time.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council's Risk Assessment Statement be approved and be reviewed from July 2010.

15. Recruitment Committee

Cllr Jesse reported that, following the recent unsuccessful recruitment process, the Recruitment Committee had now received an application for the position of Clerk to the Parish Council from Mrs Sue Nunn. The Chair advised that, because of the rules covering such appointments, an ex-Councillor could not carry out such work for payment for a period of 12 months after leaving office. Subject to advice from YLCA on the need to re-advertise and start the recruitment process all over again, the Committee recommended that arrangements be made to interview the applicant.

RESOLVED that the Recruitment Committee proceed with arrangements to interview the applicant for this post, subject to advice from YLCA about the need to re-advertise and on appropriate contract details.

16. Inbound Bus Stop at Strensall Park

It was reported that First York were proposing to move the inbound bus stop at Strensall Park about 80 metres nearer the village and a request had been received from CoYC

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that the shelter be moved at the Parish Council's own expense. The Chair advised that an estimate for this work was awaited. In the discussion, Members pointed out that, before action to move the bus stop was taken, residents in Strensall Park, York Road and Towthorpe would need to be consulted.

RESOLVED that the proposal to move the Strensall Park bus stop be taken up initially with First York and CoYC followed by a report to the next meeting.

17. Parish Council Newsletter

Members agreed that a meeting of the Newsletter team (Cllrs Scott, Plant, Marquis and Jesse) would be needed to agree content and publication.

RESOLVED that the Newsletter team meet on 19th February to agree content and publication details for the next Newsletter.

18. Correspondence

Cllr Marquis reported that letters had been received from CoYC notifying the council tax base for 2010-11, the cancellation of the original drop-in session on affordable housing and notifying a meeting of the Executive Member for City Strategy. A letter about the level of subs for 2010-11 had been received from YLCA. A copy of Voluntary Voice had been received from York CVS.

The Chair advised that he had received a letter from Philip Hogg about land at Jaywick Close.

Cllr Marquis advised that he had received a phone call from Beth Cooper of CoYC about progress on acquiring land for the PlayBuilder Scheme.

Cllr Jesse reported that he had received letters from CoYC advising that the next Ward Committee meeting would be on 25th January at Robert Wilkinson School and that there would be two training sessions for members about the Code of Conduct in the Guildhall on Wednesday 13th January at 15.00 and 18.00. A notification had also been received from YLCA about the next Branch meeting, which would be at 19.30 on 4th February at The Reading Rooms, Church Street, Dunnington.

RESOLVED that details of the correspondence be noted.

19. Reports

- a. York Pride – Cllr Marquis reported that Iain Dunn of CoYC had arranged for the picket fence opposite Leyfield Close to be erected, the overgrown verge between Strensall Park and Towthorpe to be cleared and the railway bridge to be power-washed and steps re-highlighted.
- b. Open Spaces – Cllr Chapman advised that he and Cllr Jesse would be meeting the Chief Executive of Shepherds about the covenant on land at Westfield Lane on Friday 15th January. A meeting re The Firs was due shortly.
- c. Highways – Cllr Young reported that the proposed new salt bins have been decided on (this would be reviewed in the Spring) and that Graham Kelly of CoYC has agreed to meet with Southfield Road residents about the proposed one-way system, though no date has yet been arranged.

RESOLVED that the reports be noted.

20. Date of Next Meeting

RESOLVED that, unless any matters requiring urgent consideration arise, the next meeting of the Parish Council be held on Tuesday 9th February 2010 at The Village Hall, Strensall at 19.00.

The meeting closed at 21.22

Signed.....

Date.....

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