



BRIERCLIFFE WITH EXTWISTLE PARISH COUNCIL
STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, 31st October 2011

Present: Councillors Frost (in the Chair), Bailey, Dack, Kelly, Meeks, Royle and Thomas.

Others: S. Watson (Clerk).

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Lishman and Prince.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd October 2011

The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 3rd October 2011 were approved as a correct record.

3. Actions arising from the minutes not covered elsewhere on the agenda

The Garage tenancy agreement has been circulated to all Councillors as agreed.

It was noted that the Parish Plan questionnaire has not yet been published on the website, an additional page has been requested but is not yet available.

RECOMMENDED: That the Clerk is to be given full access rights to the webpages.

The Duke Street bench still needs to be ordered, it was suggested that a quote is obtained for a bench plus installation.

Cllr Dack and Lishman have sent a letter with regards the Planning Application for the Wind Farm. It was noted that the application has not actually been withdrawn only put on hold. The Planning Officers are unhappy with aspects of the application and it will not progress unless all the requirements are met, this includes an environmental survey which will include bird flight paths. Any objectors will only be notified if there are any substantial changes.

The double yellow lines request for all side junctions has been forwarded to the County Councillor for consideration.

The Christmas Decorations, School Classroom and Public Works Loan Board are agenda items for this meeting and the Allotment Committee is to discuss drains across the allotments as Councillor Dack's proposal has been agreed.

It was noted that Councillor Dack has replaced Councillor Frost on the Allotment Committee and Councillor Frost was thanked for the multiple years of service he has given the Allotment Committee.

There were no further actions arising from the minutes.

4. Winter Maintenance

Councillor Dack put forward a proposal to end the Parish gritting scheme, it was considered to be costly with little benefit and only benefitted a few parishioners and that, in the current financial climate, the funds could be more productively used elsewhere. It was suggested that since the responsibility for gritting had returned to the County Council, gritting of the Parish had seriously deteriorated. It was also noted that the gritting equipment was provided with Ward Opportunities Fund and that the original concept for the precept had also included gritting by the Lengthsman. The Parish is currently paying £90 a ton for grit but does not have an area to store grit if large quantities are purchased. This cost was mainly due to the County running out of grit last winter. Suggested priorities included around the lollipop man outside the school, outside the shops frontages and outside Royal Court.

The proposal to cease all gritting activities this year was not carried by a 3 to 4 vote. The proposal to grit around the lollipop man was carried and the proposals to grit the shop frontages and Royal Court fell.

It was also suggested that the filling of grit bins is included as a Newsletter article and that a list of grit bins is acquired.

RECOMMENDED: That only the area around the lollipop man is gritted routinely, any other areas must be approved. That Councillor Lishman will issue an instruction of when to grit and agree any additional areas as an emergency for the Lengthsman. Councillor Lishman to agree the number of Lengthsman hours approved for gritting. The Clerk to provide a list of grit bin locations in the parish.

5. Queens Jubilee Celebrations and Beacon

It was noted that part of Bonfire Hill is called Beacon Hill and contains an official beacon site. It was suggested that the land owner would be likely to permit a Jubilee Beacon on the site if needed. It was suggested that a beacon would not be financially viable and it would be better to provide a local Jubilee event.

RECOMMENDED: That Duke Street gardens is trimmed for the Jubilee and planted with red, white and blue flowers. Flags and bunting will be provided and an article placed in the Spring Newsletter.

6. Christmas Decorations, Budget and 'Best Dressed' competitions

Following a site visit with Councillor Kelly, the Borough Engineer and the Borough Contractor it was noted that lamppost decorations would need a structural survey which would cost £800 every 3 years. The contractor had advised that L-E-D lights in a tree on Duke Street would be a viable option this year. Delemere Road and Lydgate would need an electricity supply installing at a cost of £1,600 - £2,000 before lights could be put in trees.

RECOMMENDED: That L-E-D lights are provided for Duke Street subject to costs and a piece is put in the newsletter explaining the costs.

The best dressed window competition was only opened to the main road last year.

RECOMMENDED: That a Best dressed shop competition is run with a winning prize of 2 free adverts if 2 adverts are purchased in the Newsletter and a certificate. The Best dressed window competition is open to residents of the main street again with a hamper for the winner.

The meeting moved to a discussion on the newsletter, it was proposed that the newsletter move to 8 pages from the new year and will include an article from the Briercliffe Residents Association, Planning, an historical item from Councillor Frost and the Community Centre's monthly information. Also the newsletter will include a 'What's on in Briercliffe' section that will include Haggate School. Each Councillor to encourage at least one new advert per edition.

RECOMMENDED: Councillor Kelly will provide a 'What's on' section, Councillor Dack will provide a footpath route per quarter and the Briercliffe Society will have 1 page per year.

7. School Room Rental

The school room is estimated to cost £800 per year to rent and it was noted that the Community Centre is owned by the Parish Council and as such should be supported.

RECOMMENDED: That the Parish Council continues to use the Community Centre for meetings and investigates the provision of a Lengthsman storage area on the

allotments as part of the Public Works Loan application.

RECOMMENDED: The Clerk will contact the Community Centre to see if additional storage is available for the Parish Council and the Clerk to check if electronic storage is acceptable.

8. Phase 2 Turning Circle Garage Colony

It was suggested that a large garage would be suitable for Lengthsman storage and the owner would be willing to sell the garage to the Parish Council for approximately £2,000. The garage could provide a log, chipping and compost store. It was agreed that consideration is given for an additional 6 garages to be provided subject to costs of the loan being covered. The purchase of the garage is considered subject to a survey and costs and that consideration is given to the provision of a purpose built bin and compost area, costs are to be provided by the Allotment Manager.

9. Meeting Paperwork

A suggestion was made that to reduce costs the Clerk would no longer provide additional copies of paperwork at meetings such as spare agendas and minutes. It was agreed that Councillors would provide their own copies of paperwork for all future meetings.

10. Any Other business

It was agreed that the offer from Community for Voluntary Services to provide a presentation would be taken up and the January meeting would be considered.

A request was made for additional Lengthsman jobs to be sent through to Councillors Bailey and Meeks.

It was noted that the Environment Agency are still seeking funding for the landslip and United Utilities have denied any responsibility. There has been a suggestion that planting trees may help the issue.

It was agreed that the Football Club would be written to and asked to generally tidy up around the club.

Pendle Council will be contacted and asked to tidy the land next to the Commercial and if they decline, the Parish would ask for permission to tidy the land without taking on any responsibility.

It was noted that Councillor Frost will provide cups and the wreaths for Remembrance Sunday, Councillor Kelly will provide tea cloths, cloths, tea, coffee, sugar and biscuits, the service is at 10am at the Church and the Union Jack flag will be flown.

The date of the next meeting will be agreed at a Parish Council meeting and will be held in January.