

Redmarshall Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 12th May 2008 at 18:30 in the Methodist Chapel Schoolroom, Carlton.

Present	Mrs P. Bowker Mrs R. Dee Mrs L. Evans Mr J. Turnbull
Apologies	Mrs J. Stevens, Mr S. Bell
Attendance	Mr F. Salt (Ward Councillor), Mr E. Lambert, Mr A. Batie, Mr & Mrs F. Cook

Action

Election of Chair

Mrs P. Bowker was re-elected Chair with Mrs J. Stevens elected Vice Chair in her absence.

Cllr. Bowker told the meeting about the main issues dealt with by the Parish Council over the last year. The highlight was the purchase of The Green by the village and Trish thanked Mr Cook for all his help and negotiating skills. The low point was the complaints raised by a former Councillor which resulted in a massive audit fee. Due to the audit fee we had to raise a precept of £3000.00 this year and Trish apologised to the meeting for this but stated we had no other option. The full report is attached at the end of these minutes.

It was suggested by residents that village assets should be depreciated over a period of about 5 years rather than a longer period. John to modify the Asset Register. JT

Declarations of Interest

Cllr Dee declared an interest in the Stables Planning Application and took no part in the discussion.

Cllr Turnbull declared an interest in the vacancy for the Parish Clerk as he was a close friend of one of the applicants. He took no part in the discussion.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The date of the meeting was the 14th April and not the 14th March as written. Two people have expressed an interest in the position of Parish Clerk and not Parish Councillor.

With these changes the minutes of the 14th April 2008 were agreed and duly signed.

Matters Arising (1/05/08)

Finance (2/04/08) The cheques for the Parish Magazine and the petrol had not been sent as Trish didn't have the addresses. These would be sent straight away. JT

All other items were covered in the agenda.

Finance (2/05/08)

Petty Cash was checked - £5.51

Cheque	To	Amount	For
No cheques required			
Budget Monitoring			

We had not received confirmation from the Borough Council that the precept has been paid to us yet. John to check the account.

JT

Risk Assessment (3/05/08)

John had drawn up a new Risk Assessment document based on suggestions from BDO Stoy Hayward. There were a couple of other items to include and the new list would be circulated before the June meeting with a view to being accepted then.

JT

Village Green (4/05/08)

Cllr Bell had contacted Care for your Area (CFYA) and they had agreed to cut the Village Green at no cost to the Parish Council. It was felt that our mower could be used if there was any organised activity on the Green.

Initial discussions had taken place about a village celebration and the thoughts are around everyone catering for themselves. Hopefully a small committee will progress the event.

John reported that some horses had made deep potholes on the Green which could be dangerous for anyone playing there. The councillors like to see horses being ridden in the village but thought we should ask them to keep off the Green. Cllr Dee had already spoken to the riders concerned and said she would speak to them again.

RD

Planning (5/05/08)

The Stables This application was going to Committee on the 22nd May and John agreed to urgently write in objecting to the applicant's latest letter.

JT

At the April meeting it was agreed we should complain to Mr Garlick at Stockton Council about the Planning Officers recommending acceptance of Mr Holmes recent application. This despite it not conforming to many of the Planning Guidelines. A possible letter had been circulated and all were happy that this letter be sent in. John to print off for Trish.

JT/TB

Drovers Lane (6/05/08)

After we had complained to Stockton Council that we had not received a reply to our December letter Cllr Salt gave John a copy of a letter dated 14th January dealing with Drovers Lane. John had apologised to Stockton Council and also agreed to e-mail the letter to all Parish Councillors.

John was also informing the Borough Council whenever he heard of an accident.

JT

Darlington Bus Route (7/05/08)

Trish had attended a meeting at Sedberge Village Hall and reported that the Option 2 proposal seemed to be the most acceptable. This would give us an early morning bus into Darlington. If the decision is ratified by Darlington

Council we will advertise the new timetable on the notice boards and also on the website.

Parish News (8/05/08)

It was agreed to ask residents if they saw any accident on Drovers Lane they should let a Parish Councillor know.

The adverts for Parish Councillor and a Clerk be removed.

RD

Correspondence (9/05/08)

A list of correspondence was circulated.

Any Other Business (10/05/08)

No further business.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 19.55

Next meeting **9th June 2008**. Agenda items to John by Sunday 1st June 2008.

Open Meeting

No comments.

Signed

Date

Closed Meeting

As there were 3 applicants for the Parish Clerk it was agreed that we would need to set up interviews. Trish to co-ordinate with herself, Ronnie and Lyn being on the interview panel.

John to e-mail Mr Bond to find out the procedure for co-opting on a new Parish Councillor.

Annual Report of Redmarshall Parish Council 2007/08

Village Green Completed land purchase by October 2007 at a cost to the village of :-

1000.00	Community payment to Impetus
338.95	Solicitor's Fee
<u>423.00</u>	Valuation Office
£1,761.95	

Impetus paid the sum of £10,000.00 to the former owner.

The purchase of The Green was a fantastic step forward for the village as it ended more than 30 years of uncertainty over the status of The Green and whether we could use it. Unfortunately it was a very trying situation for the Parish Council as a former Councillor would not accept the democratic decision we took and complained to numerous bodies including Entrust, the Auditors, the Audit Commission etc.

None of the complaints he raised over purchase of The Green were upheld. The Parish Council are indebted to Mr F. Cook, Rydal Way for all his help and the negotiating he did on behalf of the village.

Planning Applications It seems we have spent the last year fighting applications on the Stables site. Unfortunately there seems to be no end in sight but we will carry on trying to stop any development that does not enhance the village or is outside the Development Zone.

Notice Board One of the former Councillor's complaints was that some of the notices couldn't be read as the pages overlapped. We therefore had to get a new one and we are indebted to Mr S. Bowker for his time and skills in making us a new oak board which the village can be proud of.

Accounts & Annual Audit The former Councillor choose to complain to the External Auditors rather than raising any concerns with the Parish Council. We were asked by the Auditors to consider five points which we considered quite minor i.e. Agendas had to be signed, we didn't have the purchase cost on the asset register, we need to minute that we have considered the accounts every month etc. Unfortunately it cost the Parish Council £885.00 for the audit fee instead of the usual £58.00!

2008/09 Precept Due to the Audit complaint we used all our money reserves to pay the audit fee and the extra costs for the Parish Clerk and meeting rooms. We therefore had to raise £3000.00 for the 2008/09 financial year. We are very unhappy about this but we had no option. We apologise to the residents who now have to pay an increased precept.

Parish Clerk & Councillor Vacancies We have two applications for the Parish Clerk but we still have a vacancy for a Parish Councillor. Four members of the Parish Council were reported by a resident to the Standards Board. The Board declined to investigate the accusations and stated "*we do not believe that a potential breach of the Code of Conduct is disclosed*".