

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SLYNE WITH HEST PARISH COUNCIL held on MONDAY 17 SEPTEMBER 2007 in the MEMORIAL HALL

Cllrs present Mr Stephen Jones (SJ) -Chairman, Mrs Andrea Johnson(AJ), Mr Stewart Scothern (SS), Miss June Cohen-Kingsley (JC-K), Mr Carl Willett (CW), Mr Peter Millard (PM), Mr Julian Newbold (JN)

Clerk Mrs Doreen Brookes (DB)

Also present for Open Forum Pc D Lowe, City Cllr M Thomas, Mr D Mowle

982 **Apologies** City Cllr S Rogerson

Standing orders were suspended

Open Forum

Police and Communities Together (PACT) meeting; Pc Lowe reported 1 crime (compared with 7 in the same period of the previous year) and 4 instances of anti-social behaviour (2 youth related). Plans are going ahead to put double yellow lines on Hest Bank Lane in the Hest Bank Hotel area to prevent parking and hopefully alleviate some of the problems in this area. Double white lines on Marine Road near to the Station Road junction had overcome some of the problems there and Pc Lowe confirmed this would continue to be monitored

CW reported the residents' concern about nocturnal visits of cars to the foreshore and few police patrols. It was reported from the Lancaster Local meeting that 20mph zones near to schools had been less effective than hoped and seems unlikely to be expanded but the ad hoc presence of police patrols near to schools to check parking and enforce regulations is to be encouraged. Also schools are to be encouraged to put on presentations with the children to enforce the road safety message.

City Cllr M Thomas; again the route for the proposed cycle link to Morecambe promenade was discussed, either the seaward-side footpath along Marine Drive or the path via the shore are thought to be most appropriate. It was accepted, however, that there could be access problems along the beach. Cllr Thomas gave some further information about the Lancaster City Council Task Group which will look at issues relating to Lancaster canal and will be collecting evidence from stakeholders; the Council agreed that it would wish to have an input.

JN -comments from residents at the community coffee morning; marking of parking spaces on the Memorial Hall car park -it was explained that it is the intention of the Memorial Hall committee to improve the car park as part of the next development project when funds become available.

Pc Lowe and Cllr M Thomas left the meeting. Standing orders were reinstated.

983 **Minutes of the previous meeting**

It was resolved to accept these as a true record and they were duly signed by the Chairman; proposal made by CW and seconded by AJ.

984 **Matters arising from the minutes**

New foreshore sign near VVV; Mr Robinson of Lancaster City Council is aware that it has been moved and will attend to it.

Canal Bridges; the repair of the damage to the bridge at Hasty Brow has been made a priority by Lancashire County Council, also Mr Fazakerley of LCC will take a further look at signage relating to the bridges to see if improvements can be made to deter inappropriate use by large/long vehicles.

Mr Fish's letter regarding the TPO on Reanes Wood- it was decided to make no further comment.

985 **Model Code of Conduct and Declaration of Members' Interests**

Members were given information from a training session run by Lancaster City Council with emphasis on regulations regarding register of personal interest. The completed declarations are to be sent to the Monitoring Officer at Lancaster City Council

986 **Financial matters**

The clerk presented the monthly receipts and expenditure report.

Current Account, £4357.23, Savings Account, £28,458.78

The Audit for 2006-07 has been completed and on the basis of the review, in the opinion of the auditor the information contained in the annual return is in accordance with the Audit Commission's requirements and no matters have come to attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met. It was resolved to approve and accept the Annual Return, proposed by AJ and seconded by CW. The notice of Conclusion of Audit is to be displayed as required.

In his report the Auditor identified one issue to bring to the attention of the Council and that is the level of fidelity guarantee. He recommends that it be reviewed. The present fidelity guarantee is £25,000. It was agreed that enquiries should be made regarding increasing the insurance premium to cover a higher guarantee.

Review of the effectiveness of the system of internal audit ; PM and AJ agreed to look at information received and report to the next meeting.

North West in Bloom Competition –attendance at awards ceremony, Thursday 18 October 2007; the Arden Close Residents Group is to receive an award and an invitation to the event has been received. There is one free place and an option to have a n additional place for which there is a charge of £25. It was agreed that Mrs Smirk, as Arden Close's representative, should attend to receive the award along with the clerk to represent the Council. It was resolved that the Council will cover the cost; proposal made by JC-K and seconded by PM.

986 **Payment of accounts**

It was resolved to pay the accounts as listed; proposed by SS, seconded by AJ

DD	Lancaster City Council	14.00	burial ground rates, 5 th instalment
Chq No.			
100982	Lancaster City Council	29.96	monthly play equipment inspection
100983	Lancaster City Council	358.08	grass cutting
100984	Mrs D Brookes	905.29	clerk's salary and expenses
100985	Petty Cash	7.65	sundry items
100986	Mr F Foster (for Hostway)	79.50	hosting charges for website
100987	United Utilities Water	7.11	water charges at Burial Ground
100988	BDO Stoy Hayward	334.88	annual audit fee

987 **Foreshore**

Claim on Foreshore land; notification had been received from Bannister Bates Solicitors that they had heard from the solicitors representing Dr and Mrs Pearson with their representations. In response the Council agreed to accept a transfer of the land but to investigate a valuation of the land; not to grant a licence or legal right to use the grass verge for parking; to accept the offer to remove the fence and to enquire what other form of defence they may wish to negotiate; to grant a legal easement over the access way leading to the property. It was agreed to arrange a meeting with the solicitor to go through these points –DB and JC-K to attend.

Dyke adjacent to Shorefield Caravan Park; response to letter received from Mr Gallacher was agreed as 1. Boundary of Land; the Council will be interested to see the Chartered Surveyor's report and is prepared to give consideration to and discuss the findings, 2. Non-existent Dyke; a dyke, sometimes called a drain, appears on many maps including the Ordnance Survey dated June 2006, map included in the Parish Plan and on the map linked to the parish website.

Invitation to a planned emergency exercise being organised by Lancaster City Council on Tuesday 18 September 2007, part of a training course for local authority officers learning how to deal with coastal pollution incidents –noted and members will try to attend.

988 **Burial Ground**

Improvements to entrance; it was understood that Mr Gill, the architect, had forwarded an amended version of the scheme to the Planning Officer following the on-site discussions but, to date, no information regarding a planning application had been received.

Disability access; an on-site meeting had been held with Mr R Bracewell, Lancaster City Council Disability Access Officer on 24th August 2007 and the following suggestions had been made;

1. prepare an action plan for the next 3-5 years; 2. make the top access gate for pedestrians and wheelchairs only, carrying out modifications to the gate as necessary, place appropriate signage on gate, 3. make the lower access gate for vehicles and pedestrians, slope the land as proposed in the architect's plan, lower the level of the car parking space, initially, at least, don't mark out the parking spaces, put signage on gate, 4. improve the paths as and when possible, particularly removing any trip hazards, 5. provide seats/perches along paths to enable persons with reduced mobility to rest, 6. erect signs-no dogs except assistance dogs.

Mr Bracewell had promised to send a full report.

Consideration of a request to place a memorial seat at the burial ground; it was thought that the whole matter should be given very careful consideration before making any decision on this request and a report is to be prepared to include specification of benches, limit on number of benches, responsibility for maintenance of benches, terms and conditions for placing a bench including a limit on the number of years it can be in place, charges to be levied, form of agreement

It was noted that there are fewer than 20 grave spaces available in the Church of England section and consideration needs to be given to extending the burial ground.

989 Highways

Lancashire County Council-suggestions for Pedestrian Priority Schemes-improved safety; the following had been put forward -footpath on Hest Bank Lane, Highfield Drive-The Drive section; Hasty Brow footpath; Hatlex Lane, canal to Hanging Green Lane, improved pedestrian awareness.

Community Safety Partnership-bids for improved street lighting- no suggestions put forward

Alternative route for cycle link to Morecambe promenade -see Open Forum

Improvement of sight lines on Hanging Green Lane and safety of pedestrians; following a request to Lancashire County Council, Mr Fazakerley of the Highways Section had made an inspection and suggested that improvements could be made by the cutting back of some of the bushes and vegetation along the verge near to the entrances of the recreation field. It was agreed to ask Mr P Walton to carry out this work alongside the work on trees which was already planned. Apparently there are no prescribed road signs which could be used in this situation.

990 Memorial Hall

The lease held by the Slyne with Hest Memorial Hall (SHMH) charity is due for renewal in April 2008. It has come to light that there could be some complications regarding the trusteeship of the building and this will need to be resolved with the SHMH committee. The Council has no objections to the committee having a working lease and of this being for an extended term. e.g. 21 years.

991 Leases

Slyne with Hest Football Club; the deeds and documents required by the solicitor to enable the land to be registered at the Land Registry have been unearthed and will be forwarded to the solicitor. Agreement has been reached on the terms of the lease and once the registration has been completed the lease can be finalised.

Slyne with Hest Tennis Club; no response has been received from the Club or its solicitors. As with the Football Club, because the term of the lease is more than seven years, it would seem that the land will need to be registered with the Land Registry. The Council's solicitor is to be consulted about this.

Slyne with Hest Bowling Club; an amended draft of the lease is still awaited from the solicitor and she will be reminded about sending this.

992 Planning Applications

Application No.

07/01231/FUL

retrospective for the retention of the erection of stables for domestic use for Mr P Rogerson, 25 Hest Bank Lane, LA2 6DG

the Council has concerns about retrospective applications and would like to see this refused. This is because of the nature of the development and the issues raised by it, also prior to the work there has been no consultation and the Council

and neighbours have not been given the opportunity to comment on it. Regarding the application itself; despite restrictions the main old main gate is being used to access the stables and yard, water is draining through the wall onto Hest Bank Lane with possible environmental consequences, the ménage has floodlights which could lead to light disturbance problems, the development in this location is thought to be contrary to the aspirations of the Village Design Statement.

07/01201/FUL erection of a single storey extension to the side, with canopy over front entrance for Mr Parkinson, 49 Hest Bank Lane, LA2 6DB no comments

07/01192/FUL erection of a single storey extension and replacement of existing windows
07/001193/LB listed Building consent for above
for Dr & Mrs Ingham, Little Grange, Main Road. LA2 6AU no comments

Notification of a Public Inquiry on 24th October 2007 with regards to the appeal by Mr & Mrs D Casson, Geiranger, Beaumont Gate Farm, Lancaster Road, Slyne.

Confirmation of Tree Preservation Order No. 406(2007) at Brantholme, Hest Bank.

Developments along the canal bank adjacent to Ashworth Drive; the enforcement officer has requested photographs before making comments on this.

993 **Quality Parish Council**

The Council fulfils many of the criteria required to move towards Quality Parish Council status and it is intended to pursue this. However it is a requirement that the clerk holds formal qualifications and that a newsletter or similar parish information is published at least quarterly. It was agreed to fund training for the clerk (cost £150); proposal made by PM and seconded by SS. Mr Foster who edits the present Village Newsletter that is published twice a year is to be consulted about producing further newsletters. The means of distribution of the newsletters to a wider section of the community was also discussed but no decisions taken.

994 **Logo for Council**

Several designs had been produced, JN and CW were thanked for this. It was decided, through the Village Newsletter, to appeal to the residents for their ideas on a suitable design for a logo.

995 **Open Spaces**

Recreation field; Community Service have begun some work to clear vegetation prior to improvements to the play area and to the wooded area in the north east corner of the field. It was agreed that to deter dogs and reduce health hazards the play area should be fenced; it was agreed that on receipt of quotations for the materials and having sought the agreement of the Chairman and Deputy Chairman that the clerk should be empowered to make the arrangements to have the work carried out; proposed by PM, seconded by JN.

New football pitch; it had been noted that a thick layer of grass cuttings had been left on the pitch making it difficult to play on; the possibility of raking off some of the cuttings will be looked into.

996 **Correspondence**

CPRE, Fieldwork; Lancashire Police Authority, Dialogue; Clerks and Councils Direct; University of Manchester, Stakeholder Involvement in North West Regional Spatial Strategy -questionnaire; Lancaster City Council Priorities Consultation; Lancaster City Council Polling Places and Polling Station Review 2007 -all above circulated.

997 **Matters suggested by members for future consideration**

None

998 **Date of next meeting**

Monday 15 October 2007 at 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 9.45pm

