

ABERFORD & DISTRICT PARISH COUNCIL
ANNUAL MEETING MAY 2010

MINUTES of the annual meeting of the Parish Council held at 7.00pm. on Tuesday 18th May 2010 in the School.

PRESENT: Cllrs D. Howson (Chairman), R. Alderson, D. Gluck, P. Hancock, Mrs R. Reed, Mrs A. Roberts, D. Stainton

Apologies: Cllr I. Forster, Mrs G. Broadley

10/1 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

(a) The Chairman invited nominations for the position of Chairman for the forthcoming year. It was proposed by Cllr Stainton and seconded by Cllr Mrs Reed that Cllr Howson be invited to stand. He accepted the invitation and was elected unanimously.

(b) The Chairman invited nominations for the position of Vice Chairman for the forthcoming year. It was proposed by Cllr Mrs Reed and seconded by Cllr Mrs Roberts that Cllr Stainton be invited to stand. He accepted the invitation and was elected unanimously.

(c) The Chairman invited nominations for the position of Responsible Financial Officer for the forthcoming year. It was proposed by Cllr Stainton and seconded by Cllr Mrs Reed that Cllr Forster be invited to stand. Prior to the meeting Cllr Forster had indicated to the Clerk his willingness to do so and he was elected unanimously.

10/2 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman said he would first like to thank his fellow Councillors and the Clerk for all their hard work during the previous year. Mrs A. Roberts had joined the Council and she was very welcome, having already helped with the organising of the LeedsFest tickets. The exercise for this year, which was nearing completion, had gone well.

The new streetlights were nearing completion with just the painting to finish. Councillors had spent a lot of time liaising with the contractors and there had been various problems. There was just one light on the bridge in Main Street which was outstanding and agreement was to be sought from the owners of the land for a column to be erected, as the presence of utilities prevented it being sited on the bridge itself. It had been difficult to try to get the lights finished so that the village could have hanging baskets this year after missing out last year. The PC hoped to see a good floral show this year.

The Aberford in Bloom Group had been supported during the year and were to have a meeting shortly to further their efforts. Sadly some new planting near Priory Park had been stolen immediately after installation but it was hoped people would respect the efforts being made and that any abuse would be reported by residents.

It was unfortunate that the PC could not move forward in upgrading the School Field facilities but this was due to negotiations going on between LCC and the Parlington Park owners about various matters. LCC were doing a 'master plan' for the whole of the Leeds area at the moment so the PC could only wait to see the outcome. The aspirations of the PC for that area remained the same.

It was pleasing to report, however, that there had been fruitful negotiations recently between a resident and LCC Education about access for the children into School Field. It now seemed that agreement was near and the children would be able to again have easier access to the field.

It was good to be able to report that the Globe Youth Group was successful and in fact the provision for young people now in Aberford was the best in the Wetherby & Harewood Ward. Financial support had been given to the Group during the first year which had proved to be a good investment.

10/3 REVIEW OF SUB-COMMITTEES

The delegation arrangements were felt to be satisfactory and the allocation of Councillors to the Sub-committees was discussed.

(a) Master Plan Sub-committee – the Councillors designated to serve on this Sub-committee were D. Gluck, D. Stainton, R. Alderson, Mrs G. Broadley and Mrs R. Reed.

(b) LeedsFest Sub-committee – the Councillors designated to serve on this Sub-committee were Mrs G. Broadley, Mrs R. Reed and Mrs A. Roberts

10/4 STANDING ORDERS/FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

These were reviewed and re-adopted

10/5 ASSETS

Councillors reviewed the assets listed in the Asset Register and these remained the same. The Clerk would be adding the Noticeboard recently purchased and if extra Christmas Lights were purchased in due course they would be added.

10/6 INSURANCE COVER

Attention was drawn to the Fidelity Guarantee cover which was for £100,000 and the fact that this was below that recommended by the Auditors. However it was felt to be adequate as the Heritage Lights would shortly have to be paid for which should take the figure in line with the cover recommended.

10/7 MEMBERSHIP OF OTHER BODIES

(a) Councillors considered the membership of the Yorkshire Local Councils Association and felt this was of great benefit to the Parish Council. A great deal of experience and knowledge was available from this body and membership would be continued.

(b) Councillors considered the membership of the Rural Community Council. Again there were many benefits available from this body such as advice about community buildings and grants. Membership would be continued.

10/8 REQUESTS UNDER FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT & DATA PROTECTION ACT

There had not been any such requests but Councillors felt that the PC was complying with all the information required to be published by means of the website and Noticeboards in the village. Information about the Council could be obtained in writing from the Clerk on request.

10/9 PRESS/MEDIA

After discussion, Councillors felt that a policy should be established for dealing with the press and media and it was resolved that this would be formulated when Councillors had had time to think and discuss what this should be. If possible the Clerk would gather what information she could informally as to what the local press might like or want. At one time a local resident had placed items about the village in the Wetherby News but this had not been the case for quite some time.

10/10 ARRANGEMENTS FOR ORDINARY MEETINGS

Councillors resolved that the ordinary meetings would continue as before – once per month starting at 7.30pm and generally in the School, except during school holidays when the venue would generally be the Methodist Chapel.

10/11 ATTENDANCE RECORD

Out of a possible twelve meetings this was as follows: Cllr Howson 11, Cllr Gluck 7, Cllr Hancock 12, Cllr Stainton 9, Cllr Forster 12, Cllr Mrs Broadley 5, Cllr Alderson 3.

Out of a possible eight meetings Cllr Mrs Reed attended 7 and out of a possible two Cllr Mrs Roberts attended 2.

This concluded all the business of the Annual Meeting and the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.25pm.

The Parish Council complies with the Mandatory Publication Scheme under the Freedom of Information Act. Information about the Council can be obtained from their website at: www.aberfordonline.com or by contacting the Clerk.