

**Minutes of a meeting of Scarning Parish Council
held in the Village Hall on 17 November 2008.**

Present All councillors except Mrs H Hudson & Mr P Wadsworth

In attendance Mr N Hartley
Eleven members of the public

1. Welcome

The chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. He noted that apologies had been received from Mrs H Hudson, who had a prior engagement and Mr P Wadsworth, who was working nights. It was noted that Mr Wadsworth has not attended a meeting of the council since May 2008. It was agreed to write to him, asking him to contact either the chairman or the clerk with regard to how the Parish Council could support him in his attendance.

2. Outdoor Sports Equipment

John Reeder of Norfolk Games & Frames of Gressenhall had been invited to attend the meeting as the local representative for Fresh Air Fitness. He said the equipment is aimed at all age groups. All the equipment is attached to the ground. The equipment might be put near, but not in a play area. The equipment comes with a five year guarantee on most of the parts. Norfolk Games & Frames will install the equipment. Mr Reeder's letter regarding the discount he is prepared to offer was circulated to councillors before the meeting. He will offer a 15% discount for five pieces of equipment or more.

Concerns were raised about health and safety. Mr Reeder said that the Parish Council could install the equipment in its own fenced off area and clearly mark that the equipment is for adults/people over a certain age. The equipment, he said, is not play equipment. The clerk had written to Allianz Cornhill. Allianz Cornhill will require the equipment to be approved by ROSPA prior to purchase and to meet EU standards. Mr Reeder said it meets all the relevant EU standards for fitness equipment, not play equipment.

3. Declarations of Interest

Mr Glister noted that not all Declarations of Interest had been made of late. For the planning applications of Mr M Steward and R J Eagle & Sons, all councillors should have declared a personal interest. All councillors declared their interest en bloc. Regarding T Brown's cheque, Mrs Brown should have declared a personal interest. Regarding the cheque to A Hudson, Mrs Hudson should have declared a personal interest.

Mr Glister said he will be declaring a personal interest in all items on the agenda from now on in order to protect himself.

Mrs Brown declared a personal interest in the payment of the cheque to Mr T Brown, her husband.

Mr N Eagle declared an interest as a member of the Playing Field Committee, in the payment of the cheque to Richard Eagle (contracting) as Richard Eagle is his nephew and in the quotes supplied to the meeting by Richard Eagle (contracting).

Mr C Farnham declared an interest as a member of the Playing Field Committee.

4. Minutes

The minutes of the meetings held on 15 September 2008 & 20 October 2008 were confirmed and signed.

5. Matters arising from the minutes

The clerk was asked about the proposed footpath between Cooper Terrace and the Drayton Hall Lane estate. Norfolk County Council is considering. The clerk will chase.

6 Finance

The clerk informed the meeting that the current balances are as follows:-

Current Account, £18,751.01 Scottish Widows £12,141.36

Payments made and approved in accordance with budget

Cq 100908 Scarning Parish Council (Scottish Widows Account) transfer of funds, £14,500
Cq 100909 Richard Eagle (Contracting) work to Water Meadows play area, £104.58
Cq 100910 N Hartley, backdated pay in line with National Salary increase, £76.55
Cq 100911 Eastern Office Equipment, photocopier ink cartridges and office sundries, £38.95
Cq 100912 L F Everett & Son, newsletter printing, £79
Cq 100913 T Brown, newsletter delivery, £40
Cq 100914 R B Allsop, grass & hedge cutting, £1,139.75

Payment Received

R B Allsop, rent in respect of Broadway Allotments, £283
Reconciliation of Accounts and Councillor Review

The clerk confirmed that the accounts balance to 30 September 2008 and that the invoices and cheque stubs had been independently checked by Councillor Brown.

Clerk's Salary

The clerk noted that in line with the National Salary Award for Local Council Clerks his salary has been increased to an hourly rate of £8.805 from 1 April 2008. This is in accordance with Minute 618. A letter was signed regarding the Standing Order for the revised payment to take effect from 1 December 2008. A payment of £76.55 (cheque 100910) was made to reflect the increase in salary from 1 April 2008.

7. External Audit

The clerk noted that the External Audit had been successfully completed.

8. Broadway Allotments

The clerk had written again to the Secretary of State's office. A copy of the letter had been circulated to councillors before the meeting. The letter of 1 October 2008 was read at the meeting. It was noted that the Seckar Trust is not prepared to sell the Parish Council land for allotments. It was noted that the land does not fall within the settlement boundary. It was agreed to hold the matter in abeyance.

9. Outdoor Sports Equipment

Costs for outdoor sports equipment had been received from Wicksteed, Playquip Leisure and Norfolk Games & Frames. It was agreed to proceed with Norfolk Games & Frames. It was agreed to allocate £10,000 within the financial year to 31 March 2008 for the purchase of 5 or 6 pieces. Mr Reeder to advise on which pieces to purchase and to install the equipment.

10. Water Meadows

The clerk noted that he had asked for the wire mesh behind the goalposts to be removed as these were forming a safety hazard. Adventure Playgrounds Ltd quoted £4,800 for 2 steel goal rebound units and £703 for weld mesh with 50 x 200mm pencil rounded timbers. Richard Eagle (contracting) quoted £569.60 for 2 timber goal backs. It was agreed to use Richard Eagle (contracting).

11. Scarning Pre School

A request for funding had been received from Scarning Pre School. A copy of the letter was circulated to councillors before the meeting. The pre school is seeking £2,000 for an outdoor play frame. It was acknowledged that the pre school has not asked for funds for some time. It was agreed to give £2,000 within the financial year to 31 March 2008.

12. Budget

Mr Glister declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the funds to the Village Hall and the PCC. He declared that he is a member of the Bowls Club. He left the room. Mr Steward took over as chairman.

The clerk had submitted a pre budget report (copy attached) to councillors in advance of the meeting.

The Village Hall Trust had confirmed in writing that it required no funds for the next financial year. Mrs Long confirmed that the Trust will be using this financial year's grant to fund the works outside the Village Hall.

A copy of a letter on behalf of Scarning PCC noted that its request for £3,000 to remove and replace the wooden flooring, to treat damp and to purchase rush carpeting. Mr Steward of the PCC confirmed where the monies were to be spent. It was agreed to give the PCC £3,000.

Mr Ken Steward noted that the Playing Field Committee will need funds toward rebuilding the pavilion and Bowls Club. It was agreed to give £4,000 within the financial year to 31 March 2008 and to allocate £6,000 in the budget for next year.

It was agreed to give £1,900 for the maintenance of the closed part of the churchyard.

It was agreed to budget £2,500 toward hedge and grass cutting and £1,500 towards insurance. The Chairman's Allowance was agreed at £450. It was agreed to budget £350 towards maintenance of the parish website and £1,000 for maintenance of the Water Meadows play area. It was agreed to increase the payment to the Citizens Advice Bureau to £250.

It was agreed to budget £2,000 for picnic tables and benches for the Water Meadows Play Area and the Village Hall.

Quotes for a second youth shelter on the Water Meadows had been received as per the attached pre budget report. It was agreed to proceed with Richard Eagle (contracting).

The noticeboard at Cooper Terrace needs replacing. Quotes were received as per the attached pre budget report. It was agreed to use Richard Eagle (contracting).

The precept was set at £30,000.

13. Scarning Fuel Allotment

Two requests for funds had been received in response to the piece in the newsletter. It was agreed to give each a cheque for £100.

14. Planning

a. Parish Council comments sent to Breckland Council

R Woodget & Son, land adjacent to Westholme, Chapel Lane Proposed erection of a pair of two bedroom houses	No objection
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b. Breckland Council Decisions

Mr M Steward, Broadway Barns, The Broadway Change of use of redundant farm buildings to light industrial and storage	Approved
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Mr & Mrs I Green, Lawrence Cottages, Daffy Green Extension to outbuilding to form ancillary accommodation	Approved
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R J Eagle & sons, Brookside Farm, Chapel Lane Conversion of redundant farm buildings to a dwelling	Approved
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R Woodget & son, land adjacent to Westholme, Chapel Lane Proposed erection of a pair of two bedroom houses	Approved
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Planning Applications Considered

Scarning Playing Field Committee, Shipdham Lane
Rebuild playing field pavilion & bowls clubhouse, incorporating existing wc's

All councillors declared a personal interest en bloc as owners of the playing field.

No objection.

Gorgate Ltd, Riverside Garden Centre, Swaffham Road

Provision of 615 sq m retail/commercial space with 14 flats above (over two floors)& 14 car parking space to rear

Letters had been received from the residents of Nos 4 & 5 Riverside Close. These were read to the meeting.

An objection was raised on the grounds of over development of the site. The council did not approve of the 3 storey buildings, favouring one storey.

Caring Homes, Oak Manor, Dereham Road

Addition of 3 single storey extensions to create day spaces, with landscaping to provide enclosed garden space

No objection.

Mr & Mrs A Sneddon, Brook Farm, Podmore Lane

Extension to existing house

Mr Glister declared an interest as Mr & Mrs Sneddon are his neighbours. He left the room and Mr Steward took over as Chairman.

No objection.

15. Freedom of Information Act

The clerk noted that the Parish Council must make a commitment to produce and publish the method by which specific information will be available to the public. This was agreed.

16. Website Advertising

The idea of charging was agreed in principle. The amount to be discussed at the next meeting.

17. NCC & Breckland Matters

A letter from Norfolk County Council notes that it is investigating construction of a new footway/cycleway linking the existing National Cycle Network route 13 to Scarning Primary School. The parish council supported the study.

Norfolk County Council has confirmed that the Village Hall Trust needs planning permission re access to the hall. The tree on Chapel Lane has been lopped. The County Council is monitoring the fencing by the old Riverside Garden site. A more visible depth gauge will be installed at Podmore Ford.

An appeal inquiry is to be heard regarding the proposed wind turbine generators at Bradenham on 9 December 2008.

Breckland Council has confirmed that Mr Walpole will not need planning permission regarding the sewage tank on the Common at Fen Road.

18. Correspondence

None.

19. Any other Business

Mr Perkins, secretary to the Bowls Club requested a grant of £2,000. He will put his request in writing. The matter will be discussed at the next meeting.

The road from the A47 to Bushy Common needs repairs/investigation into heavy vehicles use.

There are potholes on Podmore Lane from CT Barnes Autos to the ford.

The ditch in the layby near the church is blocked.

The slippery road surface sign near the junction of Dale Road and the A47 impairs visibility to drivers in lorries and tractors.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 10.50pm.