

RIBBLE BANKS PARISH COUNCIL
DRAFT
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
HELD AT CLARK'S OLD SCHOOL, WIGGLESWORTH
ON TUESDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER 2009 AT 1930

PRESENT.

Councillors - Dr.D.Clarke (Chair), Mr.R.Crabtree, Mr. I. Wright.

IN ATTENDANCE.

Mr. D. Abbott (Clerk), District Councillor David Heather, and 3 Members of the Public

09/40. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Cllrs. Higginson and Houghton

09/41. DECLARATION OF INTEREST.

Cllr. Crabtree indicated that he had an interest to declare, relating to the Rathmell Village Car Park agenda item .He has a tenant who uses the car park for parking their car, as there are no suitable alternative provisions in the village.

09/42. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

No items were regarded as confidential.

09/43. WASTE RECYCLING AND COLLECTION

See Appendix A for a summary of the presentation and discussions on this subject.

09/44. REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Cllr.Heather invited questions.

In response to concerns that there seemed to be an excessive number of consultation requests being received by the Parish Council, requiring the completion of numerous questionnaires, with apparently little feedback or action, he confirmed that much of this was driven by central Government. He shared the concerns that had been expressed. He was asked to indicate what progress was being made to identify, designate and control land for housing development within the CDC area. He replied that the project to establish such a policy was moving very slowly, due to lack of resources, and that he envisaged that the process could take another 18/24 months. In the meantime this lack of a core policy could present opportunities for developers to put forward their own personnel proposals.

He acknowledged the concerns expressed that there seemed to be less weight placed on local opinions regarding local development proposals, and that developers were more likely to appeal, if decisions went against them initially.

There was concern expressed that apparently GP doctors could no longer refer patients to the facilities of the Castleberg Hospital in Settle, and that any referrals had to come via Airedale Hospital now. He was not aware of this change, if it was true, and he would check the position out with the PCT.

ACTION CLLR.HEATHER

Concern was expressed about the closure, by the CDC, of the toilets in Settle's Ashfield Car Park. Cllr. Heather understood the complaint, and said that Settle Town Council was not prepared to pick up the annual running costs of £14,000 as it would require a

significant increase on Settle's precept, and they considered it a CDC responsibility. Cllr.Heather was thanked for his contributions, and he then left the meeting.

09/45. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No items were brought to the attention of the Parish Council.

09/46. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of a meeting held on 21st July 2009 were regarded as a true record, and signed by the Chair.

09/47. MATTERS ARISING.

09/47.1. Minute 09/05 - Archive storage space – the Clerk reported that the Rathmell Reading Room Committee had proposed that the Parish Council should pay an annual rental of £225 to cover the storage of the two recently purchased filing cabinets and one other existing cabinet that contained Rathmell Parish Meeting archives. It was understood that there was another existing filing cabinet, which would bring the total to four. There being no other alternative storage option available at the moment, it was **AGREED** to pay £225 for 12 months storage. **ACTION CLERK**

09/47.2. Minute 09/30.2 - Halton West Parish Meeting Minutes – the minutes of the Halton West Parish Meeting held on 31st March 2009 have been received.

09/47.3. Minute 09/30.5 - Proposed Electoral Cycle Reform – Councillors noted that the proposal by CDC to change the Electoral Cycle for Council and Parish Councils in the district, to one where all Councillors were elected in the same year, did not receive sufficient votes in the special Council Meeting held on 28th July 2009, were the proposal was discussed. As a result there are no changes to existing election cycles. Councillors were in receipt of a paper by Colin Iveson, Head of Democratic Services, dated 30th July 2009 summarising details of the debate and consultees comments.

09/47.4. Minute 09/32. - CDC Infrastructure Audit – in response to the Planning Department's invitation to the Parish Council to contribute comments towards the Audit currently being carried out into infrastructure provisions in the Craven area, draft proposals were tabled for discussion, before being forwarded to the Planning Department. Comments were invited on existing facilities, or the lack of facilities, in the Parish in such areas as transport provisions, leisure and recreational facilities, community facilities such as village halls, schools, shops, etc., green issues (eg. paths, cycle ways, parks, and woodlands).

Various points raised or emphasized during the discussions included:-

- the need for more public transport provisions for the villages, with one proposal stating that the Pennine Services Bus service Skipton to Long Preston could be re-routed to include the villages.
- the urgent need to establish a footpath, or other safe pedestrian access route, to the village school in Rathmell.
- the vital part that shop and post office facilities played in the life of the community. Councillors were informed that these facilities in Wigglesworth were to be closed down on 31st December 2009, as a buyer could not be found to take on the business. Efforts were being made to secure some alternative Post Office

facilities in the village.
The draft proposals would be amended in the light of the discussions, and forwarded to the Planning Department. **ACTION CHAIR/CLERK.**

09/48. FINANCE.

09/48.1. Current Bank Balances. The Clerk tabled a statement showing the movement of funds between 30th June and 31st August 2009, with the balances as at 31st August 2009 as follows:-

Deposit Account	£ 6334.01
Current Account	£ 1752.56
Total Funds	£ 8086.57

Current commitments/expenses totaled about £3500, including war memorial repairs, Clerking and Audit fees, and archive storage charges.

09/48.2. Payments to be Authorised. Cheques covering authorised payments were signed at the end of the meeting.

09/48.3. Annual Return 2008/09. The external auditors, Mazars, have concluded their audit of the Council's 2008/ 2009 Annual Accounts to their satisfaction. Copies of the Annual Return are available from the Clerk.

The Chair expressed his satisfaction at the prompt and efficient way that the year end accounts had been processed this year.

09/49. PLANNING MATTERS.

09/49.1. Minute 09/34.1 - Askews Barn, Rathmell – CDC Planning Department had visited the site again, as a result of the Parish Council's request to carry out further investigations into the use of the site. Their conclusion was that it was primarily being used for agricultural purposes, in line with the planning approval granted. Mr. Campbell would be informed of their decision. **ACTION CLERK**

09/49.2. Minute 09/34.4 - Appeal ref. app/c2708/a/09/2107843 Brightenber Hill, Gargrave – the appeal hearing for this application will be held at Craven District Council Offices, Granville Street, Skipton BD23 1PS, on 12th, 13th, 14th, 19th and 20th January 2010, at 10.00am. The Planning Inspectorate will have sight of any comments received on this planning request, and individuals/organizations may take part in the discussions at the discretion of the Inspector.

09/49.3. Application 59/2009/9746 – Holly Dene Farm, Rathmell – further amendments have been made to this previously approved planning application. The Parish Council had no comments to make.

09/49.4 Lane Side Farm, Wigglesworth – this application for a single story extension has been approved with a number of attaching conditions.

09/50. TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS SURVEYS

North Yorkshire County Council was seeking comments from the Parish Council on establishing local satisfaction levels with regard to the service that they provide on Highways and Transportation within the locality. Draft responses to the two

questionnaires were tabled for discussion, before being returned. One survey was concerned with Local Transport development issues and requested views on the priorities for investment in such areas as: – provision of facilities, protection, safety, minimizing impact on peoples lives of noise and pollution, maintenance of roads, etc. The second survey invited comments on satisfaction levels with the performance of the Highways and Transportation Service. The drafts were considered and it was **AGREED** that the proposed comments should be submitted to NYCC. **ACTION CLERK**

09/51. CDC REVIEW OF PAYING ALLOWANCES TO PARISH COUNCILLORS

Craven District Council was inviting comments on whether Parish Councillors should be paid a basic allowance for performing their duties as Parish Councillors. Following discussions the conclusion was that the position of Parish Councillor was viewed as a voluntary service to the community, and that no allowances should be paid. This decision should be relayed back to CDC. **ACTION CLERK**

09/52. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS AND COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

Halton West.

Nothing to report

Wigglesworth.

The Plough Inn has just reopened, following refurbishment by the new owners.

Rathmell.

Nothing to report

Clerk.

The Clerk has received notification from CDC/BT that the Public Call Boxes in each of the three villages are not being used sufficiently to justify the provision of on-going telephony services. As a result it is likely that BT will put forward a request for their removal. There is a consultation period in progress whereby objections to the removal of telephony services can be registered. BT has provided details of the number of calls made from the three Public Call Boxes over a 12 month period, and in general the figures are very low. They have indicated that as an alternative that the areas are sufficiently serviced by mobile phone networks.

It was **AGREED** that this information should be displayed in the three villages, and if any person wished to object to the withdrawal of these telephony services that they should convey their views to the Clerk by 14th October 2009, and the reason for their objection, so that the Clerk can complete the form registering objections **ACTION CLERK.**

09/53. VILLAGE ENVIRONMENTS, RIGHTS OF WAY AND HIGHWAYS.

09/53.1. Minute 09/30.3 – Highways correspondence – The Clerk had written again to the Highways department to take up with them the outstanding concerns. As a result an inspector from the department, Mr. Ian Jewitt, had met with David Clerk on 18th September 2009 to view the concerns on site. The outcome was as follows:-

- The concerns re Jack Daw Bridge were acknowledged, and later that day tarmac was inserted into the cracks in the road adjacent to the parapet. The Chair considered these repairs were not satisfactory and would be taking the matter up again with the Inspector.
- The adjacent lay-by to Jack Daw Bridge would have the chippings removed, some pathway reinstated, and a limited amount of landscaping would be carried out.

- Regarding the concerns about the speed of traffic in the vicinity of Town End, Wigglesworth the Inspector confirmed that the situation did not meet the criteria to qualify for a traffic mirror. He did, however, provide the name of a person who could be approached regarding traffic calming measures. The Chair would be following this up.
- The Inspector was also shown the area of road at Mount Pleasant that was repeatedly breaking down, as repairs were not effective. **ACTION CHAIR**

09/53.2. Minute 09/30.4 – War Memorials – The Clerk reported that the two War Memorials had been cleaned down Friday 18th September 2009, and that he was expecting the re-pointing to take place this coming Friday 25th September 2009. Comments regarding the cleaning were “that a good job has been done”.

ACTION CLERK

09/53.3. Rathmell Village Car Park – Councillors were given a copy of the lease that was drawn up in January 2000, between Rathmell Parish Meeting and M.r.C.Weston, regarding the use of some land belonging to Mr.Weston for the purposes of a village car park. The lease was for 10 years, and it expires in January 2010. Mr.Weston has indicated that he would consider a new lease arrangement, on an annual basis. The final year’s rent of £5 was outstanding, and it was **AGREED** that this should be paid forthwith.

ACTION CLERK

Following discussions it was **AGREED** that a legal view should be sought to clarify the Parish Council’s position, responsibilities and potential liabilities in such an arrangement, where they are not the owners of the land. **ACTION CLERK/CLLR.CRABTREE**

It was **AGREED** that there remained a need to have a car park in Rathmell, and the Clerk was asked to convey this interest to Mr. Weston. **ACTION CLERK**

09/54. CORRESPONDENCE.

The key items on the correspondence list were brought to the attention of Councillors, and it was **AGREED** that members of the public might be interested in sight of the CDC Parish Update newsletter, and so this would be placed on the Village notice boards.

ACTION CLERK

09.55. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

None

09/56. DATE OF NEXT MEETING.

The date of the next meeting is Tuesday 24th November 2009 at 1930 hours, and it will be held in Rathmell Reading Rooms.

The meeting closed at 2135.

Appendix A

WASTE RECYCLING AND COLLECTION SUMMARY OF PRESENTATION BY JOHN SUTCLIFFE, CDC WASTE MINIMISATION OFFICER TO RIBBLE BANKS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF 22nd SEPTEMBER 2009

Mr.Sutcliffe explained that Craven District Council has to increase its recycling of waste to comply with impending legislation, which requires each household to have two recyclable collection facilities by 2010, and to meet increasing Governmental targets for recycling and the reduction of residual waste going to landfill sites.

CDC is currently achieving a recycling rate of 35.8%, with a requirement to achieve a target of a 40% by 2010. This target is set to rise to 50% by 2020.

Existing landfill sites are rapidly filling up, and every ton of waste going to landfill currently cost £40 per ton landfill tax, and this tax is set to increase by £8 per ton per year up to 2013. In addition there is a gate fee of £22 per visit to landfill sites. There are, therefore, financial penalties for not achieving targets.

CDC is also facing difficulties in balancing its overall revenue budgets for 2009/2010.

These are the main drivers that had to be taken into account by the Council in determining the way forward.

Mr.Sutcliffe explained the current methods of collecting residual waste and waste for recycling. He also explained that there were inequities in the current collection systems, with 40% of households on one system and 60% on another.

The CDC decision is to move to a fortnightly collection of residual waste, alternating with fortnightly collections of some recyclables, and other recyclables and garden waste collected on a 4 weekly basis. It is intended to apply this approach to all households. This decision is expected to achieve savings of £200,000 per year by a combination of a reduction in labour and vehicle costs, and the increase in recycling of materials.

The intended collection system will be as follows:-

- Week 1 - Existing Green Bin with residual waste in it
 - Week 2 - New Blue Bag for cardboard and paper waste
 - Week 3 - Existing Green Bin with residual waste in it
 - Week 4 - Existing Blue Bin (without the pods) for glass, cans and plastic and
New Blue Bag for cardboard and paper
- No change to garden waste collection or commercial waste

The intention is to introduce the Alternative Weekly Collection system in early January 2010, provided all preparatory consultation work and communications have gone according to plan.

Mr.Sutcliffe then responded to a number of questions.

- 1 He confirmed that any Blue bins with pods would have them removed, and that the glass, tins and plastic collected in them would go to a sub-contractor for sorting. He confirmed that the Council has every confidence that this process would be handled correctly by the sub-contractor.
2. He confirmed that the existing central collection/ recycling facilities would remain in place, and their usage monitored.
3. He confirmed that households would not be required to have extra bins, the only extra being the bag for collection of paper and cardboard. He confirmed that this would be a strong bag, and that it would be reusable.
4. That consultations will take place with households that have difficult access or no/little storage space to agree the best solution.
5. He confirmed that existing landfill sites are expected to be full by 2012/2013, and that North Yorkshire County are in the process of identifying other potential landfill sites.
6. He confirmed that those people who will have difficulty lifting or wheeling their waste to the roadside for collection can request help through "The Assist Scheme".
7. In response to the comments that CDC had not presented its case very well, thus far, to the public on the necessity for changing the collection methods, he said that CDC were seeking to communicate through various channels with all members of the public and provide information pack, before the new system went live. He was asked to ensure that this information made it clear what could be recycled and how, and to give clear examples, in particular with regard to plastics.
8. Mr.Sutcliffe informed the meeting that NYCC were looking at alternative ways of disposing of waste, such as the use of incinerators and mechanical and biological forms of treatment.

A copy of Mr. Sutcliffe's notes are attached to these minutes