

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SLYNE WITH HEST PARISH COUNCIL
held on MONDAY 16 FEBRUARY 2004 in the MEMORIAL HALL

CLLrs present Mr P Millard -Chairman, Mr S Jones, Mr I Salisbury, Rev R Simper, Mr M Jackson

Clerk Mrs D Brookes

Also present (part of meeting and for Open Forum) Insp R Debicki, City Cllr M Thomas
-Police -Insp J Townley, Pc D Lowe; Youth and Community -S Patel and J Rose; youth
representatives -R Hartley, K Mackenzie, Danny; Tree Wardens -P Hicks and J Mowle;
J Stelfox, R Greaves

A minutes silence was held to respect the memory of the 20 Chinese cockle pickers who had died tragically in the Bay on 5 February 2004.

337 Apologies Mr C Blugrass

338 Inspector Debicki

was welcomed to the meeting; he introduced Inspector J Townley who is to be his successor. Inspector Debicki explained the on-going investigations into the deaths of the cockle pickers and the steps which would be taken to try to prevent further accidents. Police Community Support Officers (PCSO)- Insp. Debicki explained their role in the community. Over a period of time the police are looking to increase the number of Community Beat Managers and PCSOs so there is a greater presence of uniformed staff in the community. They are also trying to increase accessibility by holding police surgeries each month, the dates of which are advertised on the village notice boards. Insp Debicki brought to the Council's attention the existence of an Emergency Community Support Officer (ECSO) who's area includes Slyne with Hest. This is a multi-agency officer linked to fire, police and ambulance services.

Standing orders were suspended

Open Forum

Youth shelter; Ms Patel reported that the Youth & Community Service was still pursuing an artist and funding to improve the appearance of the youth shelter. There had been a problem of access when the recreation field was flooded but it was hoped that this would be resolved by improvements to drainage of the field. The young people requested the formation of a youth group/club to meet on Friday evenings. It was explained that although the Council was willing to consider this, the major difficulty was in finding adult volunteers who would give the commitment to run it. It was agreed to advertise for volunteers and the young people were urged to work out more details of their ideas and possibly publish them on the parish website.

Woodland management, M Jackson had previously suggested discussion of woodland management with the Tree Wardens, however he had not been able to prepare a report. It was agreed that management of ancient woodland and even individual trees was important.

J Stelfox brought to attention the damage which can be caused to the woodland ecosystem by the dumping of unwanted herbaceous plants.

The Tree Wardens have a number of saplings for planting where they are needed.

Crime report; Pc D Lowe reported that during the last month there had been five crimes notified, four instances of juvenile nuisance and two road traffic accidents.

Consideration is being given to the placing of double yellow lines on the road near the Hest Bank Lane-Peacock Lane junction to try to alleviate some of the traffic problems. This was given the general support of the Council.

City Cllr M Thomas reported that the lack of footpaths/pavements along some roads in the village had been brought to the attention of Lancaster City Council and had been referred to Lancashire County Council. This is linked with the 'Walking Bus' initiative which is being set up by St Luke's School and the desire for improved safety in the village.

Cllr Thomas also reported that there might be some funding available for village recreation fields and M Jackson is to make some enquiries.

The visitors left the meeting and standing orders were reinstated.

339 **Minutes of the previous meeting**

Proposal to accept these as a true record made by S Jones, seconded by I Salisbury and agreed.

340 **Matters arising from the minutes**

Vacancies on the Council (322); an election had not been requested and the Council had power to co-opt members. Vacancies to be advertised - deferred to April meeting.

Memorial for B Kingsman(322); Mrs kingsman had been consulted and the provision of a seat is to be considered; S Jones to look for details - deferred to next meeting.

Glass recycling bins(322); a letter had been sent to City Council but the bins had not been removed. Mr Lofthouse had written to the Council about the bins and he had been informed that their removal had been requested. Matter to be pursued with City Council.

Youth shelter (325); C Blugrass had not attended an arranged meeting; information still being sought; he has arranged to meet P Courtie from Lancaster City Council Arts & Leisure on 26 February and will then report back.

Recreation field drainage (326); M Jackson had contacted City Council - waiting for advice.

Burial Ground, resurfacing of entrance; work requested, no date fixed as yet, depends on ground conditions.

341 **Review of Standing Orders**

The chairman and clerk had discussed the draft Standing Orders for Local Councils. Some of the Standing Orders are compulsory but for the others suggestions of amendments to suit the Council had been suggested. Councillors to review these and approval deferred to April meeting.

342 **Financial Matters and Payment of Accounts**

A receipts and payments report was presented.

Current Account £2172.71, Savings Account £27180.54

Payment of accounts as listed below proposed by S Jones, seconded by P Millard and agreed.

Chq No.			
100582	Olympia Commercial Cleaning Service	20.97	cleaning bus shelters windows
100583	Wybone Limited	333.32	litter bin for foreshore
100584	BT	58.20	telephone bill
100585	Lancaster City Council	100.17	inspection play equipment
100586	Lancaster City Council	129.25	Bowling Club, green maintenance
100587	Mrs D Brookes	393.19	clerk's salary & expenses
100588	Petty cash	4.80	sundry items

343 **Foreshore**

Cockling; R Simper informed the Council that a memorial service for those who had died had been arranged for Sunday 29 February- Councillors will try to attend.

Before the tragedy an invitation to a meeting arranged by the Sea Fisheries Authority had been received; this is to discuss the on-going situation of the cockle-picking. The Chairman and clerk to attend this meeting

Councillors and the clerk continued to monitor the use of the foreshore; damage is being caused to the grassed areas and road by quad-bikes, tractors and larger vehicles. A request had been made to City Council for removal of rubbish and emptying of litter bins.

Additional safety measures; red flags already in place but agreed that more should be ordered, cost approx. £14 each from RLSS. New lifebelts on top of shore line; cost to be investigated, City Council to be contacted to see if they can be purchased through them. Tide timetable to be provided.

Reinstatement work; Bannister Bates Solicitors confirmed that they placed the Solicitors acting on behalf of Railtrack on notice on 18th November 2003 to arrange for an inspection and had not received any further communication. In accordance with the Schedule 5.2 of the Agreement dated 1st March 2002 they had one month from the date of formal notice to inspect. Provided that the Council confirmed that all work has been completed it is entitled to the release of the monies held. An invoice confirming the cost of the reinstatement work had been received from United Utilities, copy to be sent to Bannister Bates.

Proposal to confirm that the work has been completed and to request payment of the £4000 held by Bannister Bates made by S Jones, seconded by P Millard and agreed.

344 Youth Shelter

Electrical work; estimate from K-G-F still awaited.

Art Work -see above

345 Open Spaces

Recreation field; work required to comply with ROSPA recommendations for safety surface beneath swings; costs sought, nothing received from Bay View Landscapes, estimate of £420 +VAT received from City Contract Services. As this is a safety matter, it was resolved to accept this estimate and get the work done; proposal made by P Millard, seconded by M Jackson.

Monthly Inspection and Report on Play Equipment; it was resolved to accept the quotation of £367 +VAT from City Contract Services; proposal made by P Millard, seconded by R Simper.

Disability Discrimination Act; access plan for recreation field; this needs to include what has been done, what it is intended to do and what it is reasonable to carry out following policy guidelines but within constraints which might apply; a time scale needs to be decided and the plan needs to be constantly updated and developed. A draft proposal had been produced by M Jackson but it was thought that modification would be needed before it could be adopted.

Improvements to hedge at Bottomdale; a grant of £430 had been received from Lancashire County Council Green Partnership Awards towards cost of work on the hedge. This is a joint project involving the Countryside Agency, the parish lengthsman and the tree wardens.

345 Football

No progress had been made as there had not been a meeting of the Clubs. I Salisbury suggested that it was up to the Clubs but the Council still felt that the way forward was by cooperation.

346 Planning Applications

Application No

04/00031/FUL erection of a conservatory to the rear for Mr & Mrs Physick, 5 Lawson Gardens no objection

04/00065/FUL installation of a heat exchanger to existing equipment building for NTL, Lancaster Transmitting Station, Kellet Lane no objection

03/01485/CU change of use of land to site 5 static caravans- amendment to site 3 static caravans, provide amenity area with landscaping, provision of definitive car parking layout plan for Mr T K Hanley, Slyne Caravan Park, Bottomdale Road no change of view, comments as on original application

Notices of Appeal to Secretary of State made by Mr and Mrs P Melici

i) appeal lodged against an enforcement order served by Lancaster City Council -change of use as residential property to a mixed use of residential/hobby/business use.

Parish Council supports City Council

ii) appeal against refusal of planning permission 03/00575/FUL erection of a garage

Parish Council totally opposed to this and reiterates comments made on original application that this is an inappropriate development in this residential area and would have an impact on the green belt.

Permission granted

03/01514/FUL Mr S J Anderson, 41 Bay View Avenue

Refusal

03/01388/FUL Mr & Mrs Hawkins, 7 Slyne Woods, Kellet Lane

Tree Preservation Order 283(1998) trees within G2, consent granted for restricted pruning of 2 Horse Chestnut and 2 Sycamore trees at the Orchard, Lancaster Road.

347 Burial Ground

The fees charged at the Burial Ground were discussed and compared with those of surrounding authorities. The Council's scale of fees was considerably less than these.

Resolution passed to double all fees as from 1st April 2004, proposal made by P Millard, seconded by M Jackson. No charges will be made for burial of children under 14 years of age.

Fees from 1st April 2004

For residents within the boundary of Slyne with Hest

Purchase of plot & exclusive rights of burial; issue of deed for same	£120.00
1 st interment	80.00
2 nd interment	80.00
erection of headstone	20.00
added inscription	10.00
purchase of plot in Garden of Remembrance	30.00
placement of memorial plaque	10.00

For all residing outside the parish boundary the above fees will be doubled.

348 North West in Bloom and Best Kept Village Competitions

It was decided that the village should enter both of these competitions.

The clerk had attended a meeting concerning the North West in Bloom competition and provided some information but more is to be sought. The intention is to contact a range of bodies and organisations in the village and to urge them and residents to become more actively involved with the idea of generating a greater pride in the village and its environment; volunteers needed for help in organisation.

349 Highways

Damage by falling tree branch; a branch had fallen on to a car parked in Shady Lane close to St Luke's School; on investigation it was found that the tree was on private land. Trees on the grass verges on Shady Lane are the responsibility of Lancashire County Council and Lancaster City Council, however the Tree Wardens do keep a check on them.

Dog fouling; a complaint had been received from the After School Club about the amount of dog dirt encountered by the children while they are walking from school to the Memorial Hall. Lancaster City Council Dog Wardens to be asked if they can do something about this.

Lancaster Area Rural Road Safety Transport Committee; M Jackson had attended a meeting where a variety of safety issues were discussed; the ones particularly concerning the parish were speeding and inconsiderate parking and these were brought to attention.

350 **Correspondence**

Heysham News, 2 issues; Cumbria Nature; CPRE, Planning Update & TCG News; Lancashire Partnership for Road Safety, information and campaign posters; Lancashire Youth Association, Annual Report 2002-03; Clerks and Councils Direct; LAPTIC, minutes of Area Committee meeting on 24 November 2003 and minutes for meeting on 26 January 2004.

Lancaster City Council, invitation to mayoral reception on 29 March, councillors to attend.

Lancaster City Council, Village Land Use Survey, initial survey it is hoped will be completed by mid March - register interest in receiving information.

351 **Leases**

Tennis Club; information about trustees supplied to Bannister Bates Solicitors- no correspondence as yet received -deferred.

352 **Matters for Future Consideration**

Young people and youth club

353 **Date of Parish Assembly** Monday 10 May 2004 at 7.30pm

Date of Next Meeting Monday 15 March at 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 10.50pm