

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SLYNE WITH HEST PARISH COUNCIL
held on MONDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 2004 in the MEMORIAL HALL**

Cllrs present Mr Peter Millard (PM) –Chairman, Mr Stephen Jones (SJ), Mr Ian Salisbury (IS)
Mr Michael Jackson (MJ), Rev Rachel Simper (RS), Mrs Andrea Johnson (AJ)
Miss June Cohen-Kingsley (JC-K)

Clerk Mrs Doreen Brookes (DB)

Also present (for Open Forum) Mr J Stelfox, Mr R Greaves, Mr C Blugrass, Miss S Patel, Mrs J Higham,
Mr R Atkins, PC D Lowe, Cllr M Thomas, Cllr S Rogerson, G Taylor, J Madden, R Hartley, D Atingstoll

449 **Apologies** none

Standing orders were suspended

Open Forum

Tennis Club; Mrs Higham and Mr Atkins confirmed that the Tennis Club (TC) had received notice of the termination of the lease. The situation regarding the rent has been that the TC paid 25% of its membership fees as rent, although this was waived for a number of years; the Parish Council holds monies in reserve and from time to time has contributed to the cost of major works. A suggestion had been put forward that a 5 year lease was offered with a review and option to renew for a further 5 years and with a rent of £500, equitable with what the Council will expect from other clubs. The TC representatives indicated that they would be looking for a longer term lease to help them plan ahead for developments and a much lower rent if the Club was to become wholly responsible for the maintenance of the courts and pavilion. The Council asked the TC to come back with a proposition.

At present the use of the tennis courts is restricted to members and their guests only and while ideally the club would like them to be accessible to all this is not practical due to problems with damage and vandalism.

Youth Shelter; Mr Blugrass, Miss Patel and the young people were congratulated on the art project carried out on the shelter and boards surrounding the hardplay area; there had been local and national press coverage and it was thought that Geraldine Smith MP intended to nominate the group for an award. It is hoped that the young people will now feel that it is their shelter and take some responsibility for its proper maintenance. The young people had been upset by damage to some of the painted boards by people from the village or elsewhere and this had been reported to PC Lowe and ECSO Gwilliam. Boards to be looked at to see if the ones which are not too badly damaged can be put back in place.

Skate Park; Miss Patel reported that the youth workers had spoken to some young people and there seemed to be divided opinion about the desire for this facility; however discussions would be ongoing and the Council promised to look at any suggestions made by the young people.

Parish Plan; Mr J Stelfox reported that work was continuing and it was hoped to arrange a meeting towards the end of October and from there get organisations and groups within the village involved. The Council had just received the news that it has been awarded a grant to develop the Parish Plan.

Reanes Wood; Mr J Stelfox - a blanket TPO had been granted and as far as he was aware an appeal against this had not been made. The Woodland Trust had given support to the application and the responsibility for preservation of ancient woodland.

PC D Lowe reported that there had been twelve crimes during the preceding month, 10 of them car crimes. Two incidents of juvenile nuisance had been reported, a decrease on the same period last year. Operation Sea View which had been run during the summer months was reported to have been successful. The Police and Communities Together (PACT) initiative was continuing and because PC Lowe regularly attended Parish Council meetings they were designated as PACT meetings to discuss policing issues. The monthly Saturday morning police surgeries were also continuing.

Mr R Greaves expressed his concern about the safety of the A6/Manor Lane/Bottomdale Road junction and made suggestions to improve the junction including using some of the space from the wide pavement on the corner of Manor Lane to provide a mini-roundabout. The Council promised to look at this suggestion and make contact with the County Council.

City Councillor S Rogerson reported that the application for a 'cypress' tree mast at Marine Drive had been refused by the Lancaster City Council Planning Committee. Other more suitable sites for masts need to be considered.

Plans for the Heysham Bypass were also discussed, the County Council is now favouring the northern route and although not in full agreement because of the issue of a Lune bridge, it would seem that the City Council views this as the only option, either this or nothing. The northern route would have an impact on the village.

Visitors left the meeting, standing orders were reinstated.

450 **Minutes of the previous meeting**

Proposal to accept these as a true record made by IS seconded by J C-K and agreed.

451 **Matters arising from the minutes**

North West in Bloom Competition; the village had not been successful; a full judges report was promised at a later date. Lancashire's Best Kept Village Competition; the village had not been successful. Elm tree in Hanging Green Wood; permission to remove it had been granted and the work had been carried out.

PreSchool's proposals for a play area for the children on the Memorial Hall field; discussions are to be held with the Slyne with Hest Memorial Hall committee.

Youth Shelter; some work had been carried out on the installation of lights in the shelter and bollards along the path but had not been fully completed. Steel-clad cable had been used and this had been strung along the nearby fence. It was decided that this was unsatisfactory and the contractor is to be asked to lay the cable in the ground; Also to provide fully protected lights in the shelter.

Weeds in gutters and pavement edges, limited work done by County Council; need for this to be kept under review.

Rev Rachel Simper handed in her letter of resignation from the Council and this was formally accepted. She was thanked for all the work that she has done during her time as a councillor and best wishes were expressed for her marriage and new appointment.

452 **Financial Matters**

A monthly receipts and payments report was presented.

Current Account £4933.75 Savings Account £39640.54

Annual Audit; notice had been received of the conclusion of the audit. The auditors did not have any comments to make on it. Proposal to accept the completion of the audit made by MJ, seconded by AJ and agreed.

Payment of Chairman's allowance deferred to next meeting. More information required for discussion about the level of payment and also the various options to pay councillors' allowances and travel costs.

LAPTC subscription; a letter had been received pointing out that the subscription had still not been paid and that the constitution requires that members may only leave the Association at the beginning of the financial year having given at least three months notice. The clerk had replied (with the Chairman's approval) to say that LAPTC had already been informed of the Council's decision not to continue with its membership, that they were unaware that three months notice was needed and as the invoice was only issued in March and considered in April it would not have been possible to give three months notice before the beginning of the financial year. Action approved and to wait for any further comments.

Painting of exterior of Memorial Hall; it had already been agreed that the Council would pay the cost of painting estimated at £4000 (422/434). The Slyne with Hest Memorial Hall (SHMH) committee had decided to ask Community Service to paint the hall thus resulting in a considerable saving on the cost. The Council is happy to go along with this as it is keen to save money and to obtain best value; if the cost of the painting is under £4000 it will listen to any other ideas for fabric improvements. SHMH to be asked to produce a list of suggestions.

452 **Payment of Accounts**

Proposal to pay accounts as listed made by SJ, seconded by AJ and agreed.

No transfer from Savings to Current Account required

Cheque No.

100640	United Utilities	5.30	burial ground water rate
100641	P Walton	250.00	felling of tree
100642	Lancaster City Council	606.15	grass cutting & play equip inspection
100643	Lancaster City Council	423.00	purchase of three dog waste bins
100644	HLB AV Audit	293.75	auditor's fee
100645	Mrs D Brookes	559.14	clerk's salary & expenses
100646	Petty cash	37.44	sundry items
100647	Inland Revenue	720.18	PAYE & NICs

453 **Tennis Club**

Actions discussed in Open Forum endorsed.

454 **Football**

PM had been in contact with Mr Knowles, Chairman of the Football Club who reported that matters were proceeding steadily. Land requirements had been measured and consist of the existing plots, plus the 'paddock' alongside the senior pitch and an area which is an extension of the junior pitch through to the next hedge to the east.

Bannister Bates, Solicitors issued the Club with a Section 25 notice concerning the termination of the lease but apparently they used the wrong forms. The two sides' solicitors are now in discussions.

The Club had had difficulty recruiting managers and helpers and only had U12s and U14s teams. IS reported that in these teams there were very few players from the village.

Slyne with Hest FC junior teams; request by the U12 and U14 teams to use the hard play area on the recreation field for winter training sessions on Wednesday evenings. This was agreed, the Council is keen to promote junior football

455 **Open Spaces**

Village maintenance projects-employment of a handyman/woman or contractor- the clerk had produced a list of work required to maintain the Council's property. This to be considered by councillors and amendments and additions made. It was suggested that the extra work was offered to Mike Ashton, the lengthsman, in addition to the hours already worked under the scheme – clerk to speak to him. Next year the negotiation of extra hours under the lengthsman's scheme may have to be considered. –deferred to next meeting.

Play equipment inspection report; flat swing chains require shortening, tree bark low under swings and multi-unit, slide run off overgrown with grass and holding mud and water. City Contract Services to be asked for quotation for work on swings and to top up bark; lengthsman to be asked to clear area round slide.

Recreation field drainage; still waiting for Mr Cowperthwaite to return to make further investigations, he still thinks that there could be a problem in the vicinity of the tennis courts.

Improvement to stocks and pound and provision of a plaque; Mr Stephen Gardner, Lancaster City Council Senior Conservation Officer had visited the site and reported as follows:- there is some wet rot in the wood boards of the stocks which should be removed and repaired by splicing in new clear preservative treated wood: there is extensive ivy growth of the wall and an iron column that in my opinion detracts from the appearance of the pound walls and should be removed; the gate into the pound should be redecorated with a preservative stain finish; ideally the cobble surfacing around the stocks should be repaired and renewed where necessary. Mr Gardner supplied the design for a plaque and the name of a firm of manufacturers.

He also asked for consideration being given to the repainting of the cast iron plaque on the standard milestone at Slyne with Hest.

Council will consider above but left in abeyance until decision has been made on employment of handyperson for such jobs.

Provision of skateboard park; see Open Forum- as yet not much support for it- age group of children who would use it not known but being investigated.

Recreation field disability access, RS still looking at report produced by the clerk, following her comments this will then be circulated to members; unfortunately little progress can be made until the drainage problem is solved.

456 **Foreshore**

Fence and boulders; in response to the Council's request, Mr J Robson, Head of Engineering Services, Lancaster City Council explained the background to the removal of the fence as a result of cockle picking activities and the placement of boulders as a cost-effective means of restoring the status quo that was previously enjoyed. If the Council was unhappy he offered to remove the boulders and restore the fence but felt that the Council would be plagued with vandalism to the fence for some time to come. After some discussion a vote was taken and the result was 4 to 2 in favour of the boulders being left. Mr Robson to be informed.

Land to park tractors; Mr J Graham had requested approx 30 feet of land on the foreshore for his tractors; it was decided to grant the request provided that the land was used for only two tractors and Mr Graham removed his third tractor as soon as possible; the area is to be beyond the boulders at the north end of the foreshore in the corner close to the hedge/fence. It was agreed that the area could be fenced off for protection but no gravel or the like is to be placed on the ground. The rent suggested is £100 per annum, formal agreement will need to be drawn up.

Following a Government Directive the Council has reviewed use of its land; Dr & Mrs Pearson of West Cairn have a garage on Council land on the foreshore and it was proposed that a rent of £100 per annum should be charged commencing from 1 October 2004. Proposal made by SJ, seconded by JC-K and agreed. Dr & Mrs Pearson to be informed of the decision and their comments invited. A formal agreement will need to be drawn up.

Access and Management – SJ had produced a list of suggestions – to be considered- deferred

457 **Planning Applications**

Application No.

04/00945/FUL

erection of a stable block comprising seven stables tack room and food store for Eric Dixon, land off Powderhouse Lane

no comments

04/01212/FUL

extension to existing roof and erection of a porch, car port and conservatory for Mr & Mrs D Hutton, 2 Throstle walk

to raise roof elevation would make this dominant over surrounding property, it would be out of character and detract from general appearance of

04/01180/FUL erection of a two storey side and rear extension for S Whiley, 10 Prospect Drive
some concern and asks that consideration is given to the large size of the extension and how massive the house will become in relation to its 1920s context, otherwise little comment on impact on the village as a whole.

Permission granted

04/00991/FUL Mr & Mrs Rowlands, 11 Station Road
04/01082/FUL Mr & Mrs Hawkins, 7 Slyne Woods, Kellet Lane
04/01023/FUL Mr & Mrs M H Stainton, Foley Barn., Folly Lane
04/01027/FUL Miss M Modley, 1 Marine Drive
04/01068/FUL Mr S A Hill, land north of Beaumont Grange, off Green Lane, Bottomdale Road
04/01109/FUL Mr Collins, 14 Hest Bank Lane

458 **Highways**

Lancashire County Council, Parish Partnership on Highway Issues; Mr Jopson, Senior Traffic & Development Engineer had acknowledged receipt of the Council's plan but requested that four issues were prioritised. It was decided to give priority to the following locations; i. Marine Drive and Coastal Road, ii. Hest Bank Lane/A6 junction, Slyne, iii. A6/Manor Road/Bottomdale Road junction, iv. Hest Bank Lane/Throstle Grove/Hasty Brow. Other areas of concern may be included in future plans.

IS left the meeting having handed in his letter of resignation from the Council; there was disappointment that he had taken this decision and it was decided to ask him to reconsider before officially accepting it.

459 **Correspondence**

CPRE, Countrywise newsletter & Fieldwork, information; English Nature, SiteLines; Clerks and Councils Direct; Connexions, newsletter; Council for Voluntary Service, Streetwise, newsletter and road safety information; Lancashire Police Authority, request for any issues to be brought to attention of Divisional Commander; Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service, information and Best Value Performance Plan; Lancashire Combined Fire Authority, draft Two Year Action Plan; Office of Deputy Prime Minister, The Model Code of Conduct for Local Government Employees, a consultation paper; ODPM, Review of the Regulatory Framework Governing the Political Activities of Local Government Employees, a consultation paper; NALC, Employment updates-clerks; Countryside Agency, research consultation, Land between Lake District and Yorkshire Dales National Parks; Morecambe Bay Partnership, notice of AGM and conference, 21 October; Lancaster District LA21 Partnership, Lancaster District Sustainable Transport Forum, notice of meeting on 22 September; all above circulated.
Lancaster City Council, Lancaster Urban Capacity for Housing Study 2004, consultation; no immediate comments, decided to wait for draft report.

460 **Parish Plan**

Notification had been received from the Countryside Agency that a grant of up to a maximum of £4825 or 75% of cost of production of a Plan (whichever is the lesser) had been awarded. The development of a Plan can now move forward (see above)

461 **Matters for future consideration**

MJ- Heysham/M6 link, northern bypass; request to be made to Lancashire County Council for copy of up to date plans
RS- problem of parking at burial ground especially at funerals, lack of footpath, safety issues

462 **Date of next meeting** Monday 18 October 2004 at 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 11.06pm.

