

STOCKSBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Stocksbridge Town Council, held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, The ARC, Stocksbridge on Thursday, 11th February 2010

PRESENT : Cllr. Mrs A E Brelsford (Chair); Cllrs. Mrs W M Kaye, M C Brelsford, D L Lyons, A S Law, R Marsh-Smith, K Davis and J Clarkson

IN ATTENDANCE: Paul Tankard, Parks & Countryside, SCC – Item 239

234. To Receive Chairman's Remarks and Apologies for Absence
There were no apologies for absence.
235. Public Questions and Petitions
None.
237. To Approve as a True and Correct Record the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 14th January 2010
Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 14th January 2010, copies of which had been circulated prior to the meeting were taken as read.
Proposed by Cllr. Mrs W M Kaye, seconded by Cllr. R Marsh-Smith and
RESOLVED:- That the minutes be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.
238. To Receive Remarks from the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 14th January 2010
With reference to item 213 first paragraph – Dransfield Properties. Cllr. M C Brelsford reported that he had spoken to Les Sturch, SCC who had confirmed that the area in question was a flood plain and was designated as such in the Sheffield Development Framework and could not be changed.
- With reference to item 213 third paragraph – Bolsterstone Public Toilets. The Clerk reported that installation of the Wallgates had been completed mid-January and P Dawson had been given an explanation as to how the machines worked. A Beevers had also sent a copy of the details to the office for information. This correspondence was noted.
- With reference to item 224 b) Gritting. Cllr. M C Brelsford reported that the City Councillors had requested that Johnson Street be added as a primary route for gritting, it having the Medical Centre and chemist sited there.
- With reference to item 224 c) third paragraph – New Mill Bank/Race Lane. The Clerk reported that she had received correspondence from Les Sturch advising that he had requested Phil Abbott to investigate the Town Council's concerns and respond back on the resolution of the enforcement issue. The Clerk reported that subsequent correspondence had been received from Phil Abbott advising that the case will be given urgent attention and a report will be presented to the North and West Area Planning Board on 23rd February 2010 seeking authority to take action to remove the unauthorised structures. Copies of this correspondence had been previously circulated to Councillors.

With reference to item 226 – Planning Applications – 09/03939/FUL Bank Cottage, Bank Lane, Bolsterstone. The Clerk reported that she had been contacted by the developer with respect to the Town Council’s objections on this application advising that he would be happy to meet with Councillors to discuss the proposed works.

Councillors noted that their objections were being made due to the property being located in a greenbelt area.

239. Clock Tower Memorial Gardens

The Chairman welcomed Paul Tankard who had been invited to update Councillors on the current situation in respect of the Clock Tower Memorial Gardens.

P Tankard apologised for being late due to traffic congestion. He read details from the January maintenance report provided by Melvyn Riley on works undertaken in the Gardens and noted that officers had, of necessity, been transferred to gritting duties over the period, hence they were behind with work on the Gardens. The Clerk undertook to circulate the report to all Councillors.

P Tankard reported on works to be undertaken in 2010, the role of the new private contractor in conjunction with SCC and advised that new grass cutting machinery had been purchased, specifically for use on steep areas. He was also happy to report that a new Supervisor had recently been appointed and he was hopeful that he would have an impact. He undertook to request that a copy of this report be sent to the Clerk in order that she could forward it to Councillors.

Cllr. Mrs W M Kaye queried what exactly was expected of the In Bloom Group, noting that they were only a small voluntary group and had already taken over some flower beds and undertaken weeding in areas that SCC should have covered.

P Tankard accepted the criticism on these issues and undertook to address them. He provided his contact details and noted that he would be happy to meet on site with groups/organisations, together with the new Supervisor, in order to ascertain what was required and any assistance they could provide.

Cllr. R Marsh-Smith asked how regular the grass cutting would be undertaken with the contractor and if access issues had been resolved.

P Tankard advised that, weather permitting, the grass would have 28 cuts. With regard to access the issue was still not resolved, but they were managing at present to lift machinery in at the bus stop site on Manchester Road, however, this took valuable time which would otherwise have been spent undertaking gardening works.

Cllr. A S Law stated that the Gardens were the jewel in the crown of Stocksbridge and proposals made were continually not being met. He noted that the In Bloom Group put in a great deal of effort and the Gardens were denying them obtaining the Gold award. He appreciated the difficulties with the steep slopes but stated that the issue needed resolving.

P Tankard noted the difficulties of working within health and safety parameters.

Cllr. J Clarkson stated that the Town Council felt let down by SCC, particularly with respect to the In Bloom judging events. He requested that the Group be contacted two weeks prior to judging to ascertain what assistance could be provided.

Cllr. M C Brelsford noted that a year ago a master plan scoping study outlining options was proposed. He noted that if the Town Council had been in receipt of this information two weeks ago then funding for this could have been obtained.

Cllr. M C Brelsford requested a breakdown of costs obtained and the allocation of resources. He stated that he hoped that Parks Department were being proactive with regard to the planning of any potential application for flats at the top of the site adjacent to the Gardens and requested that communication lines be kept open between themselves and the Town Council.

Cllr. D L Lyons noted that the Clock Tower Gardens ranked bottom on most criterias and had historically suffered neglect. He stated that they were owed focus and prioritisation.

Cllr. Mrs A E Brelsford stated that she hoped M Riley was disputing the boundary access issue and thanked P Tankard for attending the meeting.

239. To Receive and Approve Balances and Comparison of Spending Against Budget The Clerk reported that the details of the Balances & Comparison of Spending Against Budget had been previously circulated.
Proposed by Cllr. M C Brelsford, seconded by Cllr. J Clarkson and
RESOLVED:- That the Town Council accept details of the balances and comparison of spending against budget for January 2010 as supplied by the Clerk.
- With respect to the forthcoming invoice for the works undertaken in the Clock Tower Memorial Gardens the Clerk was requested to obtain an itemised breakdown of costs in order that further discussion could be undertaken at the next Finance Committee meeting.
240. North Rural Neighbourhood Action Group The Clerk reported that she had received minutes of the North rural Neighbourhood Action Group Pt A (General) meeting held on 8th December 2009. This correspondence was noted.
241. Rural Action Yorkshire The Clerk reported that she had received from Rural Action Yorkshire a copy of Country Air, Issue 114, Winter 2010. This correspondence was noted.
242. The Planning Inspectorate The Clerk reported that she had received correspondence from The Planning Inspectorate advising that the Public Inquiry regarding the public footpath at Wind Hill Farm, postponed due to the weather, will now be held on 21st April 2010 in the Council Chamber. A notice to this effect has been placed on the Town Council Notice Board. This correspondence was noted.
243. Peak Park Parishes' Forum The Clerk reported that she had received correspondence from the Peak Park Parishes Forum asking that the Council consider its contents when considering the latest correspondence from the Peak District National Park Authority's request for comments on the preferred approach for its Core Strategy for the Local Development Framework. This correspondence was noted.
244. Yorkshire Local Councils Associations The Clerk reported that she had received from the Yorkshire Local Councils Associations minutes of the South Yorkshire YLCA Branch meeting held on 7th October 2009 and an agenda for the next meeting to be held on 20th February 2010 at Dalton Parish Hall, commencing at 2.00 p.m. This correspondence was noted.
245. Carols on the Quad The Clerk reported that she had received correspondence from Steel Valley Project thanking the Town Council for the grant assistance towards the Carols on the Quad event held in December 2009. This correspondence was noted.
246. Royd Nursery Infant School The Clerk reported that she had received correspondence and a DVD from Margaret Lee thanking the Town Council for the generous grant towards their film making project. M Lee noted that the film made last year has been nominated for an award by First Light Movies, one of three films nominated for the category of Best Film Made by Children 12 and Under. The award will take place on 2nd March 2010 and she undertook to keep the Town Council updated. This correspondence was noted.
247. Parks and Countryside The Clerk reported that she had received correspondence from Tim Shortland providing updates on the Stocksbridge Tree Planting event and the BBC Tree o'clock and also on tree planting undertaken within the Stocksbridge and Upper Don area. A copy of this correspondence had been previously circulated to Councillors.

248. Stocksbridge Leisure Centre The Clerk reported that she had received correspondence from Don Morton, advising that they are looking to re-engage with community groups in Stocksbridge and Deepcar to reform partnerships with a view to organising a meeting to ascertain what the community wants from the facility and who to contact to ensure this takes place. A copy of this correspondence had been previously circulated to Councillors.
The Clerk was requested to invite D Hemsall and Stacey Shaw to a future meeting to update Councillors on the current position.
249. South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Authority The Clerk reported that she had received from the South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Authority a copy of their monthly report for February 2010, copies of which had been previously circulated to members'. This correspondence was noted.
250. Thurcroft Cycling Club The Clerk reported that she had been contacted by Stuart Smith advising that following a political issue they would not be holding any events this year, however, Birdwell Cycling Club would be taking over organisation of the event and he was asking if the Town Council trophy could be passed over for this year.
Councillors were happy to let the trophy be handed over and were pleased that the event would still be held in the Valley.
251. To Receive Verbal Reports from Members'
a) Cllr. D L Lyons reported that he had attended the Standards Committee on 1st February. The Walkers are Welcome initiative is seeking accreditation and he was meeting with SVP tomorrow. He was helping the In Bloom with work being undertaken at Laburnum Grove. A meeting had been held at Bolsterstone with regard to the upkeep of the stocks. Cllr. Lyons had looked on the Planning Inspectorate website with regard to the Maples Garden Centre appeal and noted that a letter should be expected within the next 5 weeks. The Design Statement Group were currently awaiting feedback from Paul Gordon. Cllrs. M C Brelsford and J Clarkson undertook to speak to Les Sturch on this issue.
b) Cllr. M C Brelsford advised that he had items to raise in Part 2.
He reported that he had been contacted asking why the Town Council had turned down a grant application from WEA for Lip Reading classes. He confirmed with the Clerk that no such application had been received by the Town Council and noted that he had also contacted SCC who confirmed that they had not been approached either.
c) Cllr. J Clarkson reported that he had attended the Stocksbridge Community Forum meeting; Transport meeting and been involved in casework with respect to the pot holes and natural springs emerging following the recent bad weather conditions.
d) Cllr. K Davis advised that he had attended the Stocksbridge Community Forum and Northern Community Assembly meetings.
Cllr. K Davis reported that asbestos had been identified at Whitwell Community Centre which was a major health and safety issue. Cllr. M C Brelsford undertook to email Environmental Services immediately after the meeting.
e) Cllr. A S Law advised that he had attended the STEP Board meeting; Stocksbridge Advice Centre AGM; Dransfield Development meeting, which had been more positive and should move forward by the end of March/April.
f) Cllr. R Marsh-Smith reported that he had attended a meeting with local residents regarding Don Field who were in the process of setting up a F.R.I.E.N.D.S. Group to meet monthly. Cllr. Marsh-Smith had also Chaired the NCA Parish Panel meeting which had proved a very useful opportunity to meet and work together with other Parish/Town Council members.
g) Cllr. Mrs W M Kaye reported that she had attended the Stocksbridge Community Forum meeting and noted that an NHS Living Streets programme Training Day funding meeting would be held on 4th

March at The Venue from 9.30 a.m. to 2.30 p.m. which Councillors were invited to attend; the TARA Group meeting; Transport meeting and In Bloom meetings and was pleased to note new recruits would be joining them shortly.

252. To Receive a Verbal Report from the Mayor

The Mayor, Cllr. Mrs A E Brelsford reported that she had finally managed to deliver the second hamper to the winner of the Best Decorated House competition. She had also attended the Don Fields meeting; Stocksbridge Community Forum meeting and been on the Dragon Walk.

253. To Consider Planning Applications and Receive the Decisions of the Sheffield City Council North West Planning Board

Note: Cllrs. M C Brelsford and J Clarkson left the room for this item.

The Clerk reported that she had received correspondence from Legal Services advising that an appeal had been made to the Secretary of State with respect to the undermentioned planning application:-

Site: Land and Buildings including Corus and Outo Kumpu works off Ford Lane, Hunshelf Road, Stocksbridge, Sheffield

Proposed Development – 09/02819/FUL – use of unit within proposed development as pharmacy (application to vary condition no.2 of application 08/02703/FUL).

Any representation on the appeal should be with the Planning Inspectorate by 17th February 2010.

The Clerk was requested to submit to the Planning Inspectorate the original decision of the Town Council, previously sent to SCC, stating that any new development should not undermine the viability of the existing Town Centre.

Proposed by Cllr. D L Lyons, seconded by Cllr. R Marsh-Smith and

RESOLVED:- That no objection be made to the undermentioned planning applications:-

10/00068/FUL	Land to the rear of 23 – 27 Grove Road, Deepcar	Demolition of existing garage and erection of dwellinghouse.
10/00100/FUL	2 Broomfield Road, Stocksbridge	Two-storey front extension and single-storey side extension to dwellinghouse, alterations to existing detached garage including rear/side extension to form ancillary living accommodation.
10/00212/FUL	7 St Hilda Close, Deepcar	First-floor side extension and single-storey rear extension to dwellinghouse.
10/00293/FUL	5 Coal Pit Lane, Stocksbridge	Roof extension including construction of 3 dormers to create habitable room on first floor, repositioning of porch and erection of detached garage.
10/00295/FUL	Land to the rear of 1-35 Hollin Busk Lane, Stocksbridge	Siting of a metal container for storage of rugby equipment.

Proposed by Cllr. A S Law, seconded by Cllr. R Marsh-Smith and

RESOLVED:- That the Town Council instruct the Clerk to write to Planning Department with regard to the undermentioned planning application raising their objections due to it being a dwelling located in a greenbelt area, damaging the character of the area.

10/00064/FUL	Land adjoining agricultural building (known as Machin Bank Farm), Machin Lane, Stocksbridge	Erection of a temporary occupational dwelling.
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254. Planning Applications – Decisions

The undermentioned planning applications have been granted conditionally:-

09/03297/FUL	49 Fox Glen Road, Stocksbridge	Single-storey front extension and two-storey side extension to dwellinghouse.
09/03361/FUL	11 St David Road, Deepcar	Single-storey front extension to dwellinghouse.
09/03578/FUL	Peas Bloom Farm, Morehall Lane, Boslterstone	Retention and creation of access and driveway with associated landscaping works.
09/03255/FUL	Land adjacent 22 Belmont Drive, Stocksbridge	Erection of dwellinghouse with garage.

The undermentioned planning application has been Refused:-

09/02797/FUL	Land adjacent 6 Pheasant Lane, Opposite 1 and 2 Pheasant Lane, Ewden	Use of site compound as visitors parking area and retention of the reduced land levels.
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255. Recreation & Environment Committee Members discussed notes of the Meeting of the Recreation and Environment Committee of the Town Council, held on 2nd February 2010, copies of which had been previously circulated.

Proposed by Cllr. K Davis, seconded by Cllr. Mrs W M Kaye and

RESOLVED:- (i) That the report of the Recreation and Environment Committee be accepted.

With reference to item 4 Carols in the Quad. The Clerk reported that a meeting had been arranged with Mick Hood, at Corus on 4th March at 9.30 a.m. to discuss initial proposals for this year's event, which she would be attending together with Cllr. M C Brelsford.

Following discussion the Clerk was also requested to book a table for the Town Council at the forthcoming Community Day to be held at The Venue on 28th February 2010. Cllr. M C Brelsford stated that he would be happy to host the table on behalf of the Town Council, with other Councillors attending when commitments allowed.

256. Finance Committee Members discussed notes of the Meeting of the Finance Committee of the Town Council, held on 2nd February 2010, copies of which had been previously circulated.

Proposed by Cllr. K Davis, seconded by Cllr. D L Lyons and

RESOLVED:- (i) That the report of the Finance Committee be accepted.

(ii) That the Town Council approve a grant of £1000 to Stocksbridge rugby Club towards the provision of storage facilities.

(iii) That the Town Council approve a grant of £800 to Stocksbridge Pentaqua Swimming club for funding towards their Annual Spring sprints Gala 2010.

(iv) That the Town Council accept the risk assessment form, financial regulations and internal audit system forms as supplied by the Clerk and note that the Council have sufficient controls in place to accommodate the potential hazards faced by the Town Council.

(v) That the Town Council agree to appoint WPA Chartered Surveyors to carry out a facility management service for The ARC as per the recommendation from the ARC Management Committee, for an initial set up fee of £1500 and an hourly rate of £110 thereafter, as and when the service is required.

257. Quarterly Newsletter Sub Committee Members discussed notes of the Meeting of the Quarterly Newsletter Sub Committee of the Town Council, held on 2nd February 2010, copies of which had been previously circulated.

Proposed by Cllr. K Davis, seconded by Cllr. Mrs W M Kaye and

RESOLVED:- That the report of the Quarterly Newsletter Sub Committee be accepted.

258. Town Hall Lease

The Clerk updated members with respect to the Town Hall lease advising that the Town Council's solicitor was still not happy with the document. There were two issues outstanding which she hoped would be resolved in the near future.

259. Accounts

Proposed by Cllr. Mrs W M Kaye, seconded by Cllr. D L Lyons and

RESOLVED:- (i) That the cheques be paid in settlement of the under mentioned accounts.

			<u>Made Under Power</u>
Salaries/Tax/NI/Pensions		£2631.83	LGA72(S111)
ARC Management	Office rent for Jan 2010	£ 423.48	“
City Illuminations Ltd	Christmas Illuminations 2009	£24788.60	LGA72(S144)
T H Bisatt	Reimbursement for lights for Bolsterstone toilets	£ 35.65	PHA1936(S87)

(ii) That cheques be paid in settlement of the undermentioned accounts in respect of The ARC:-

Firths Window Cleaning Services	Window cleaning	£ 55.00	LGA72(S111)
Record 247	Repairs to entrance door	£ 170.38	“
Steel Valley Project	Furniture for The ARC	£ 235.00	“
PHS Group plc	Supply of 2 x mats for the entrance to The ARC	£ 152.00	“
NRC Services Ltd	Cleaning for Jan 2010	£ 430.83	“
Melissimo Picture Framers	Banner printing	£ 50.00	“
Micro Alarms Ltd	Site visits x 2	£ 248.63	“

(iii) That authority be given for Direct Debits payments made in February 2010:-

Sheffield City Council	Business Rates – Council Offices	£ 80.00	LGA72(S111)
Sheffield City Council	Business Rates - Boslterstone Toilets	£ 45.00	PHA1936(S87)
Sheffield City Council	Business Rates - Manchester Rd Toilets	£ 37.00	“

(iv) That approval be given for the cheques signed in January by the Clerk on the Petty Cash Account in settlement of the undermentioned accounts:-

Mudfords	Union Flag for Town Hall	£ 27.73
Post Office Ltd	Postage stamps	£ 54.20

Proposed by Cllr. MC Brelsford, seconded by Cllr. Mrs A E Brelsford and

RESOLVED:- That under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, members of the press and public are excluded for the following item(s) of business as the Council considers that the nature of the business to be transacted is prejudicial to the public interest.

260. STEP Development Trust

Cllr. M C Brelsford updated members on the STEP Board meeting and the lack of financial information supplied to the Clerk following the termination of the management agreement with STEP.

Proposed by Cllr. J Clarkson, seconded by Cllr. R Marsh-Smith and

RESOLVED:- That the Town Council instruct the Clerk to formally complain to the Board of STEP regarding the lack of financial information, both whilst undertaking the facilities management of The ARC building and since cessation of the contract, despite this information being requested on several occasions, noting that the Town Council is an accountable public body which needs to maintain a transparent service both for public and audit purposes.

Chairman