

SCARISBRICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held in the St Marks Parish Hall at 7.30pm on Monday 3rd April 2023.

PRESENT:

Councillor J Herbert (in the Chair)
Councillor N Makin
Councillor M Wood
Councillor S Roberts
Councillor C Marshall
Councillor A Pickersgill
Councillor A Blundell

6 members of the public were in attendance.

23/062 APOLOGIES:

Apologies were received from Cllr J Marshall

23/063 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Cllr Herbert declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 23/066c.

23/064 MINUTES:

It was resolved that:

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 6th March 2023 were a true record and should be signed by the Chairman.

23/065 ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:32pm.

A representative from the West Lancashire Heritage Association gave a short presentation about the work of the Association and presented a grant cheque for £500 for the purchase of flood equipment and bird boxes to Cllr Herbert. Councillors thanked the Association for the funding which is much appreciated.

A member of the public raised his concerns regarding the number of HGVs using the B5242 and the dangers caused to pedestrians when pavements are mounted by them. This problem seems to be worse than speeding and has worsened since the Yew Tree Farm development at Burscough. It seems likely to worsen further when the Mushroom Factory starts production.

Cllr Herbert advised that speeding is by far the largest complaint received from residents. Scarisbrick is a rural agricultural parish so there is a need to move produce which means that HGVs will be used. This is a difficult problem to solve and SPC has no Highways powers and so the only action available to SPC is to lobby Lancashire County Council.

Two members of public highlighted ongoing flooding concerns at the Mushroom Factory development. Existing watercourses have been obstructed raising the risk that upstream dwellings will be flooded, along with agricultural fields which will become waterlogged and unsuitable for growing crops. There is a current planning application to amend the previous application from steel framed buildings to polytunnels. The current application was deferred by WLBC for further assessment but it appears that the polytunnels are currently under construction, without planning permission.

The meeting was resumed at 8:15pm.

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23/066 PLANNING:

- a) The following application was considered, and the decision taken as shown:

Reference	Details	Applicant	Address	Resolution
2022/1134/FUL Response Date: 31/03/23 Extension agreed to asap after SPC meeting.	Demolition of a UPVC conservatory and replaced with Oak Frame Canopy	Mr Nick Doran	Wheelwrights House, Southport Road, Scarisbrick, Ormskirk, Lancashire	<i>No objection</i>
2023/0115/FUL Response Date: 07/04/23	Erection of a storage shed to replace existing chicken shed to left hand side of the Scarisbrick Village Hall site.	Mr Stephen Knowles	Scarisbrick Village Hall, Smithy Lane, Scarisbrick, Ormskirk, Lancashire.	<i>No comment</i>

- b) Cllr Herbert provided an update on the Mushroom Factory situation following the last WLBC Planning Committee meeting.

The current planning application is to replace the steel framed buildings with polytunnels. This is due to the increase in metal costs. This has been deferred for further information eg lighting. The polytunnels are currently being erected without planning permission. There is some frustration at the WLBC Planning Committee as the contractors appear to be doing as they please (such as diverting and damming watercourses etc)

The Lead Local Flood Authority have been contacted with regard to the blocking of the watercourse. However, any enforcement is required to be expedient due to it being funded from public money, and would only include farmland, they are unwilling to act.

The application for planning permission for the temporary access has been retracted and this has now been fenced off.

Due to his declaration of pecuniary interest Cllr Herbert left the meeting at this point. The Chair was taken by Cllr Blundell.

- c) There was a discussion about writing to the Mushroom Factory developer, on behalf of Scarisbrick residents, to highlight the many concerns and complaints received about the continuing obstruction to the ordinary watercourse which crosses the site.

It was resolved that:

Scarisbrick Parish Council will write to the Mushroom Factory developer on behalf of the affected Scarisbrick residents.

Cllr Herbert returned to the meeting and resumed the Chair.

23/067 DATA PROTECTION ANNUAL LICENCE FEE:

It was resolved to:

Pay the annual licence fee from April 2023.

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23/068 FINANCE:

It was resolved to approve the following accounts for payment:

	Payee	Detail	Amount Payable £ (inc VAT where applicable)	Authority	Payment Type
1 See Note 1	J Smith	The scheduled payment of the Clerk's salary as per contract of employment for April 23.		LGA 1972, s112 (2)	Electronic (due 28 th April 2023)
2	Microsoft	MS365 2 nd Feb to 1st Mar. Payment due 02/03/23 E0200M9TL5	19.92	LGA 1972, s111 (1)	Credit Card
3	Information Commissioner	Annual GDPR/DP fee renewal	40.00	LGA 1972, s111 (1)	Electronic (due 9/4/23)
4	St Marks Church	Hire of Parish Hall for Meeting 3 rd April 2023. Pro forma invoice attached	30.00	LGA 1972, s111 (1)	Electronic
5	SLCC	Annual Subscription (Membership and Joining Fee). Inv MEM243832-1	189.00	LGA 1972, s111 (1)	Electronic
6	Zurich Insurance	Additional premium for Millennium Wood Fencing, SPID kit and posts, and Flood Cupboards to 31/05/23	85.12	LGA 1972, s111 (1)	Electronic
7	Replica Printing	SPC Newsletter printing and delivery. Inv SPC476290323	152.02	LGA 1972, s142	Electronic

1. The Clerk's salary from 1st April 2023 includes increase agreed at appraisal. Gross pay calculations have been formally verified by Cllr Herbert.
2. SLCC subscription was an agreed outcome from the Clerk's appraisal.
3. This has been notified by Zurich due to additional items to be insured. Clerk had been previously advised that these would be covered under existing premium until renewal. Clerk has queried with Zurich and will provide update at the meeting.

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23/069 SPIDS:

The proposal and costing were considered. There is a consultation to be carried out with a neighbouring property which will be completed as soon as possible.

It was resolved to:

Approve the quotations and costings.

Install SPID posts at the agreed locations (subject to completing the consultation with the neighbouring property).

Approve the use of CIL monies to fund this phase of the SPID project.

23/070 WEST LANCASHIRE HERITAGE GRANT:

Noted – the grant will be used to purchase flood equipment and bird nesting boxes.

23/071 FLOOD EQUIPMENT:

Flood equipment will be supplied as a service to residents on a “self-help” basis. The cabinets will be kept locked until such time as there was a flood warning or forecast of heavy rain (Environment Agency/Met Office). They will then be unlocked in order to give instant access at times of emergency, without the need for residents to make any prior contact.

It was resolved to:

Purchase non-electrical/non-battery flood equipment to the total value of £1,000 to stock the flood cupboards – Clerk to action.

Purchase additional keys as and when required.

23/072 GO DADDY WEB HOSTING PROPOSAL:

Go Daddy have advised that current Linux hosting does not include a security certificate which means data is not encrypted/secured, and this can negatively affect Search Engine rankings. Visitors see this each time they visit our website, in the address bar (as a red or unlocked padlock).

They have recommended switching our current hosting to their Managed WordPress hosting because 1) it includes a security certificate (called an SSL) for the duration of the hosting subscription, and 2) it is actually a lower cost per year than our current package even after the introductory offer expires.

However, the current paid package runs to September 2024 and, if the proposal was to be accepted, Go Daddy will not provide a refund of the amount already paid.

It was resolved to:

Decline the Go Daddy proposal.

Obtain quotes for a replacement website so that accessibility and security requirements can be met – Clerk to action (closer to the expiry date of the current Go Daddy arrangements)

23/073 SCARISBRICK GARDENING COMPETITION 2023 & PROPOSED SCARECROW COMPETITION 2023:

The judging date for the 2023 Gardening Competition will be during late July. It was proposed that an extra category of ‘Best Vegetable Plot’ be included in the competition and that a potential sponsor would be approached to purchase a trophy.

A lot of work has already been completed for a Scarecrow competition to potentially be held in September.

Cllr Makin and Cllr Berks will bring further information and proposals to SPC May meeting.

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It was resolved to:

Defer to SPC May meeting for further consideration.

At 9:30pm it was resolved to continue the meeting for a further 10 minutes.

23/074 ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY (9th MAY):

It was resolved to:

Hold the Annual Parish Assembly at 7pm on Tuesday 9th May immediately before the Annual Parish Council. Chair to provide agenda and report.

23/075 COMMUNITY HUB:

This is at a very early stage. Establishing the current ownership of the building is the first task, and details have been found on HM Land Registry website. However, the required document is copy filed” in Part C of the register and refers to a conveyance dated 10th June 1907 between the Marquis and various others. This is a restrictive covenant which may control disposal of the land/building should it cease to be used for worship. The Council need the precise details of any restrictions applicable to disposal and therefore need sight of the copy held by the Land Registry. A nominal fee will be involved. I think we should minute that it was agreed to obtain this document.

It was resolved to:

Obtain copies of the Part C of the register from HM Land Registry.

23/076 ST ELIZABETH’S FOOTPATH:

Residents have advised of road safety issues caused by pedestrians (adults and children) avoiding the metal footpath barriers and crossing diagonally across the road near St Elizabeth’s church.

It was resolved to:

Write to the Headteacher of St Mary’s School and request this issue is mentioned in a school newsletter – Clerk to action.

23/077 CLERKS REPORT: FOR INFORMATION

The Clerk’s report was noted.

23/078 COUNCILLORS REPORTS AND ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS:

Cllr Pickersgill reported that the newsletter is an excellent publication.

Cllr Herbert requested that the Civic Service 2023 be included on SPC May agenda.

CLOSURE OF MEETING: The Chair closed the meeting at 9:40pm.