

SCARISBRICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held at NATIONAL SERVICES CLUB, BULLENS LANE at 7.30pm on Monday 4th December 2023.

PRESENT:

Councillor A Blundell (in the Chair)
Councillor N Makin
Councillor J Marshall
Councillor A Pickersgill (arrived 7:35pm)
Councillor S Roberts

Mrs J Smith (Clerk) in attendance

There were no members of the public in attendance.

23/184 APOLOGIES:

Apologies were received from Cllr C Marshall.

23/185 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

There were no declarations of interest.

23/186 MINUTES:

It was resolved that:

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

23/187 ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING:

The meeting was not adjourned.

23/188 PLANNING (CLLR J MARSHALL TOOK THE CHAIR):

Councillor Blundell did listen to the planning deliberations but did not vote on any planning application due to his membership of the WLBC Planning Committee.

a) The following applications were considered, and resolutions taken as shown:

Reference	Details	Applicant	Address	Resolution
2023/0984/FUL Response date: 08/12/23	Demolish existing detached garage and replace with new detached garage and new drop kerb	See Agent	21 Bescar Lane, Scarisbrick, Ormskirk, Lancashire, L40 9QN.	<i>No comment</i>
2023/0991/FUL Response date: 08/12/23	Variation of conditions 5_6 of planning permission 2021/0915/FUL relating to drainage plans	Mr Carl Melia	11 Bescar Lane, Scarisbrick, Ormskirk, Lancashire, L40 9QN.	<i>No comment</i>
2023/0968/OUT Response date: 15/12/23	Outline application proposal for 2no. Residential Dwellings (Some matters reserved)	Mr Justin Grice	Land Adj to Old Vicarage, Southport Road, Scarisbrick, Lancashire.	<i>Objection. The Council objects to this application as follows (summary): The proposal is not limited infilling and Pinfold is not a village. Therefore this is inappropriate development</i>

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				<p><i>in the green belt for which no very special circumstances have been demonstrated.</i></p> <p><i>The concept of infilling is at odds with the scattered nature of development within the conservation area.</i></p> <p><i>The area is also of regional landscape history importance where there is a requirement to give a significant level of protection to historic sites.</i></p> <p><i>Full details submitted to WLBC</i></p>
2023/0983/FUL Response date: 15/12/23	Change of use of dwellinghouse (C3) to Children's Care Home (C2) with all associated facilities.	Mr Martin Bone	2C Moorfield Lane, Scarisbrick, Ormskirk, Lancashire, L40 8JD	<p><i>Objection. The Council objects to this application as follows:</i></p> <p><i>The application is for a children's home for 7 to 17 year olds with behavioural issues. There are already a number of these homes throughout the Parish and there have been issues with children absconding, the ability of staff to control the children, and the upset this causes to residents.</i></p> <p><i>It is acknowledged by LCC that there are already sufficient children's homes in Lancashire (more than any other LA in England) to meet local demand.</i></p> <p><i>It is acknowledged by Police that the home will be very close to a canal, marina, caravan parks and a very fast road with heavy vehicles travelling on it.</i></p> <p><i>The Parish Council is aware that there is no CCTV provision and the Police have acknowledged that if a child absconds (as has been the case at other local children's homes) their safety could be at risk due to the availability of transient accommodation for an abuser to follow them and for offences to be committed.</i></p>

- a. the additional information relating to planning application 2023/0968/OUT was considered as part of the above planning resolutions.

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- b) The planning appeal by Smithy Mushrooms Ltd was considered.

It was resolved that:

The response agreed at September 2023 meeting be forwarded by the deadline of 27th December 2023.

23/189 NJC 2022/23 PAY AGREEMENT (CLLR BLUNDELL RETURNED TO CHAIR):

Councillor Blundell confirmed that he had verified the accuracy of the payroll calculations for the increase to the Clerk's salary.

It was resolved to:

Adopt the NJC 2023/24 pay agreement and approve the increase to the Clerk's salary from 1st April 2023 with relating backpay.

23/190 FINANCE:

It was resolved to approve the following accounts for payment:

	Payee	Detail	Amount Payable £ (inc VAT where applicable)	Authority	Payment Type
1	J Smith	The scheduled payment of the Clerk's salary as per contract of employment for December 23 and backpay due.		LGA 1972, s112 (2)	Electronic (due 29 th Dec 2023)
2	HMRC	PAYE/NI Oct to Dec	859.97	LGA 1972, s112 (2)	Electronic
3	Microsoft	MS365 2 nd Nov to 1 st Dec. Due 2 nd Dec. Inv	21.72	LGA 1972, s111 (1)	Credit Card
4	M Winnard	2023 Grass Cutting Contract. Inv 184	3150.00	Open Spaces Act 1906, s10	Electronic
5	M Halsall	Millennium Wood hedge cutting Inv 27 th Nov	96.00	Open Spaces Act 1906, s10	Electronic
6	Yates Playgrounds	SPID moving Nov 23. Inv 2219	264.00	LGA 1972, s111 (1)	Electronic
7	Scarisbrick Village Hall	Hire of Hall for Remembrance Sunday Service Inv 1081	60.00	LGA 1972, s111(1)	Electronic

23/191 PARISH COUNCIL NOTICEBOARDS:

There was a discussion regarding the damage to the SPC noticeboard in the ground of the Village Hall and the locations and condition of other SPC noticeboards around the Parish.

It was resolved to:

Defer further discussion to the January SPC Meeting

23/192 SPC WEBSITE:

- a) the current issues with the SPC website were discussed.

It was resolved that:

The Clerk should arrange updating/repairs to the website as a matter of urgency.

- b) the proposal to move to fully managed webhosting and website services during 2024/25 was discussed.

It was resolved that:

The Clerk should obtain 3 quotations to inform 2024/25 budget setting.

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23/193 SPIDS (Cllr Berks):

Cllr Berks was not present at the meeting. The Clerk gave a brief overview of the current situation. Due to SPIDS not functioning correctly the technical assistance of Elan City has been requested and a hopefully there should be a solution shortly.

It was resolved to:

Defer further discussion to the January SPC Meeting

23/194 PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS:

- a) the draft planning protocol, to assist in Council planning decision making, was discussed.

It was resolved to:

Adopt the SPC Planning Protocol

- b) Cllr Makin's proposal to set up a Planning Working Group to assist in the planning decisions made by the Council was discussed.

It was resolved to:

Defer further discussion, and the membership of the group, to the January SPC Meeting

23/195 BUDGET SETTING 2024/25:

There was a discussion regarding the budget setting strategy for 2024/25.

It was resolved to:

- a) *The assumed rate of inflation for budget setting would be 10%.*
b) *The precept would not be linked to the assumed rate of inflation.*
c) *Potential projects for 2024/25 could include: refurbishment of the Morris Dancers phone box, new SPC noticeboards, additional planting in Millennium Wood, new SPC website and management.*

23/196 COUNCILLOR VACANCIES:

There are currently 2 Councillor vacancies for co-option for which no applications have been received.

It was resolved to:

Place the vacancy notice on the SPC Facebook page and on other Scarisbrick social media pages. Clerk to send notice to Cllr A Blundell.

23/197 MILLENNIUM WOOD (Cllr Roberts):

There are several small trees in Millennium Wood that are suffering from ash dieback. There was a discussion about the removal of these and replanting with alternative varieties.

It was resolved that:

The Clerk should obtain quotations for this work to be carried out.

23/198 CLERKS REPORT: FOR INFORMATION

The Clerk's report was noted.

23/199 COUNCILLORS REPORTS AND ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS:

There were no reports.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8:40pm