

MINUTES OF GISBURN PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 09 MAY 2013
AT 7.30 PM

Present: John Falshaw (Chair), Colin Corlett, Peter Ryde, Clerk,
Borough Cllr Richard Sherras and one member of the public

APOLOGIES

Darren Jackson, Mary Kirby

MINUTES OF MEETING OF 18 APRIL 2013

The Minutes of the meeting of 18 April 2013 were accepted as a true record of proceedings at that meeting and duly signed.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Deposit Account	£1,188
Current Account	£3,856

It was noted that monies had not been transferred into the Deposit Account as it had been decided to let several cheques clear first in order to get a better view of what was left in the Current Account.

ACCOUNTS FOR APPROVAL

Mrs J Parkington	£163.10
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The Clerk advised that she had been obliged to register with HMRC real time payment scheme and that payment bi-monthly was not one of the options available. The Clerk would therefore be paid quarterly from June 2013 onwards.

YEAR END MATTERS

The Clerk advised that it was necessary for the meeting to approve the accounts for the period ended 31 March 2013. The Clerk briefly outlined the entries on Section 1 of the accounts and the accounts were duly approved and signed by Mr Falshaw and Mrs Holmes as Chairman and Clerk respectively. The Clerk explained that the accounts and supporting paperwork would be subject to an internal audit. The Clerk confirmed that a replacement internal auditor had been found. It was noted that a review of the effectiveness of the internal audit would need to take place following the audit.

The meeting proceeded to consider the Annual Governance Statement and agreed that the following summarised matters could all be answered in the affirmative for the year under review, namely

1. the statement of accounts was prepared in accordance with appropriate regulations

2. an adequate system of internal control was maintained
3. there are no matters of actual or potential non-compliance which could have a significant effect on the ability of the council to conduct its affairs
4. there was proper opportunity during the year for the exercise of electors' rights under appropriate regulations
5. a risk assessment has been undertaken
6. an adequate system of internal audit of the council's records was maintained
7. appropriate action has been taken on matters raised in internal and external audit reports
8. the council has considered whether any litigation, liabilities or commitments could have a financial impact on the council

The Annual Governance Statement was accordingly approved by the meeting and Mr Falshaw and Mrs Holmes proceeded to sign the Statement as Chair and Clerk respectively.

RECREATION GROUND

The Chair reported that he had received more documentation regarding renewal of the lease and the documents were duly signed ready for return to the landlord's solicitors. It was confirmed that the tree survey, to be undertaken on behalf of RVBC, had taken place shortly after the previous meeting and a formal report was therefore awaited. It was confirmed that RVBC had started to cut the grass on the field and had, to date, been twice.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND MATTERS

Ramp at Sycamore Bungalows

It was noted that the above application had been circulated and the Parish Council had no objections.

Dudland Croft Boutique Hotel – Appeal Hearing

It was noted that a Decision following the Appeal Hearing in early April 2013 was still awaited but that the result should be known by early June as this would be the expiry date of the seven weeks timescale.

Strawberry Fields Phases II and III

It was confirmed that the above applications were to be considered by the June 2013 meeting of Ribble Valley BC's Planning & Development Committee.

COMMUNITY RIGHT TO BID

The Clerk advised that she had started to complete the forms in respect of the Recreation Ground, the Children's Play Park and the White Bull but required assistance with some of the

detail. It was noted that maps of the land covered by the applications were required in order to show the boundaries.

PARISH LENGTHSMAN

A summary of the lengthsmen's jobs covered by their most recent invoice was tabled. It was noted that the lengthsmen had been able to start strimming and had advised that, due to recent weather conditions, they would need to attend the village again next week as the grass would be growing fast. The lengthsmen had advised that they had not strimmed the verges opposite the Auction Mart as these were still full of daffodils. It was noted that the County Council had started strimming verges along the A59 near Whalley and would ultimately make their way along the road to Gisburn. The lengthsmen had reported that, during the growing season, they were likely to fill the green wheelie bin very quickly and had wondered if another green wheelie could be obtained for their use.

A quote submitted by the existing lengthsmen was considered and compared to a quote previously obtained from another contractor. The lengthsmen had submitted their quote on an hourly basis and included estimates of how long each job usually took them to complete. It was agreed that the quote previously obtained required clarification in certain areas before a decision could be made. It was also agreed that the Parish lengthsmen needed to have gardening skills, so as to be able to look after the Cenotaph Gardens appropriately, as if this area was not tended properly there would soon be complaints.

It was suggested, going forward, that a written list of jobs should be provided to the lengthsmen after each Parish Council meeting to make sure that all areas requiring attention were dealt with.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk advised that she had received a reply from Diane Rice, Head of Legal at RVBC, on the subject of A boards and advertising signs. The letter had explained that, apart from in exceptional circumstances, planning permission was required for a sign which was displayed in a location other than at the place of business itself. The letter had also advised that RVBC and Lancs CC would take enforcement action against the owners of signs and A boards which were displayed without the applicable consents as the matter was becoming a problem across the Borough. It was agreed that a list of signs and A boards in and around Gisburn should be submitted to RVBC for further action.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

It was noted that Dr Keith Kirby had examined the SpID and reported that there was no corrosion or damage to the pcbs and the batteries were fine and fully charged. Dr Kirby had suggested that there might be a fault in the circuit which only the manufacturers could track with any certainty.

It was reported that, prior to the meeting, the Cub Leader had voiced her concerns over the amount of dog dirt around the Festival Hall. It was also reported that dog fouling on the Recreation Ground had increased again. It was agreed that the most effective way to tackle the situation would be to invite the dog wardens to the village in the hope that they may catch and fine the culprits. It was also suggested that if dog fouling on the Recreation Ground did not stop

then the Parish Council should exercise their right to ban dogs from the area completely. The Clerk was asked to contact RVBC regarding the dog wardens and to place a short note in the Parish Mag advising of the measures to be taken.

An offer had been received from a senior policeman in Blackburn to attend a Parish Council meeting and discuss rural policing issues. It was agreed that it may be better for such a meeting to involve more than one village and Borough Cllr Sherras offered to raise the matter in Rimington and Bolton-by-Bowland.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Parish Council Meeting Thursday 20 June 2013 at 7.30 pm