

MINUTES OF GISBURN PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 19 DECEMBER 2013
AT 7.30 PM

Present: John Falshaw (Chair), Colin Corlett, Darren Jackson, Mary Kirby, Peter Ryde,
Borough Cllr Richard Sherras, Clerk and five members of the public

APOLOGIES

None

MINUTES OF MEETING OF 21 NOVEMBER 2013

The Minutes of the meeting of 21 November 2013 were accepted as a true record of proceedings at that meeting and duly signed.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Deposit Account	£818
Current Account	£1,190

It was noted that a £1,000 grant in respect of the Parish Lengthsman had been received from Ribble Valley BC.

ACCOUNTS FOR APPROVAL

Mrs C A Holmes	£180.00
Post Office Ltd (Clerk's PAYE)	£45.00
Dr K Kirby (Cable)	£113.92

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a) *Dwelling in grounds of St Mary's Vicarage*

(Colin Corlett declared an interest in this application and took no part in the discussion thereon)

It was agreed that an objection to this application be lodged with RVBC based on dangerous access, inappropriate design for the site, visual impairment of the whole village and potential detriment to the sale/development of the existing Vicarage.

b) *Earth Bank Lagoon, Watt Close Farm*

(John Falshaw declared an interest in this application and took no part in the discussion thereon. The Vice Chair, Peter Ryde, took the Chair for discussion of this application)

It was agreed that there would be no objection to the proposed site of the lagoon but that concerns should be expressed to RVBC regarding the increase in heavy agricultural vehicles travelling through the village and the potential damage to Coal Pit Lane caused by heavy vehicular traffic.

PARISH LENGTHSMEN

As the end of the financial year was approaching the possibility of putting the lengthsman's contract out to tender was considered. It was agreed that an appropriate job description be devised which could be sent to interested parties. It was then suggested that the lengthsman's job could be split into two distinct parts – maintenance of the Cenotaph area and responsibility for all other areas of the village so that interested parties could apply for one or both of the contracts if they wished. It was agreed that appropriate job descriptions would be devised for distribution in the New Year.

GRITTING WINTER 2013/14

The Clerk advised that she had contacted Lancs CC at the end of November with a request that they fill both the grit bins in the village. Information regarding RVBC's Snow Angel's scheme had already been circulated to Parish Councillors prior to the meeting. It was explained that the Festival Hall Committee had discussed the same scheme and that a co-ordinator for the village had been suggested at that meeting. The Clerk was asked to contact RVBC and enquire about insurance arrangements for the scheme. It was noted that the parish lengthsman usually cleared Bentlea Road of snow and ice if the need arose.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk advised that she had been in contact with Dave Hewitt, RVBC's Countryside Officer regarding the trees adjacent to Ribblesdale Court and had subsequently received a copy of an e-mail that Mr Hewitt had sent to the landowner. Mrs Oldroyd advised of the problems her family had experienced with the trees with branches falling into their garden on occasion and stated that her children had been very frightened of what could happen during recent stormy weather. Mrs Oldroyd advised that she had been in contact with Mr Hewitt on more than one occasion and he had been very helpful. However, it was noted that, to the knowledge of those present, no assessment had yet been carried out on the trees. Borough Cllr Sherras advised he would discuss the matter further with Dave Hewitt and the Clerk was asked to contact the landowner to advise of the Parish Council's concerns.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a) August 2013 Minutes

(John Falshaw declared an interest in this item and Peter Ryde took the Chair)

The meeting was advised that the accuracy of the August 2013 Minutes relating to the Shuttleworth Hall wind turbine planning application had been challenged by a member of the public. Questions relating to voting procedure at that meeting, the subsequent approval of the Minutes by the Parish Council and action the Parish Council intended to take had also been raised. Peter Ryde advised that advice had been received from two organisations that approved Minutes could not be amended but that clarification could be included in subsequent Minutes if the Parish Council members agreed. Mr Ryde proposed and the Parish Council members agreed that this course of action should be followed. The member of the public who had made the initial complaint expressed his dissatisfaction with this decision and a subsequent exchange of views became heated, during the course of which a serious allegation regarding the production of the August 2013 Minutes was made by the member of the public.

(John Falshaw, who had taken no part in the discussion, asked for permission to speak which was granted)

Mr Falshaw expressed his concern and anger at the comments directed at the Parish Council, stating that all members of the Council had served the community selflessly on a voluntary basis for several, if not many, years and that the comments now being made against them were appalling.

(Mr Falshaw announced he was withdrawing from the meeting and left the building)

Colin Corlett stated that he believed the integrity of the Parish Council had been attacked and advised the meeting of his knowledge of the Parish Councillors. Mr Corlett explained he had moved to Gisburn in 1974 and had served as the village policeman from that time until 2000. Mr Corlett advised he had known both John Falshaw and Darren Jackson since 1974 and had known Peter Ryde and Mary Kirby for 26 and 15 years respectively. Mr Corlett stated he was prepared to vouch for the Councillors' integrity totally and that matters were discussed at Parish Council meetings openly, objectively and honestly. Mr Corlett commended the Clerk for her work and efficiency. Mr Corlett specifically requested that his remarks about the Parish Councillors and Clerk be minuted.

Peter Ryde declared that the Parish Council would produce clarification of the appropriate part of the August 2013 Minutes and that would conclude the matter as far as the Parish Council was concerned but if the member of the public wished to pursue the matter further he would need to contact the Monitoring Officer at Ribble Valley BC.

b) Clarification of August 2013 Minutes

At the August 2013 Parish Council meeting there was discussion of a planning application for a wind turbine at Shuttleworth Hall Farm. John Falshaw declared an interest in this item and relinquished the Chair to Peter Ryde. Mr Falshaw took no part in the discussion of this application but remained in the room. The Parish Council is consulted by RVBC on planning applications and is asked for its comments/opinions but there is no need for Parish Councils to have a formal vote on an application. There was therefore no vote taken at the August 2013 meeting and the reference to Mr Falshaw being unable to have a casting vote was terminology intended purely to show that he was unable to offer an opinion which would have enabled a majority decision to have been reached as it was his own application.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Parish Council Meeting To Be Advised

