

MINUTES OF GISBURN PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 10 MAY 2011
AT 7.30 PM

Present: John Falshaw (Chair), Colin Corlett, Peter Ryde, Barrie Tyrer
Clerk and Borough Cllr Richard Sherras
21 members of the public

APOLOGIES

Mary Kirby

MINUTES OF MEETING OF 10 MARCH 2011

The Minutes of the meeting of 10 March 2011 were accepted as a true record of proceedings at that meeting and duly signed. There was no Parish Council meeting in April 2011.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Deposit Account	£2,184.31
Current Account	£6,369.83

The Clerk advised that the precept from Ribble Valley BC of £4,000 in respect of the 2011/12 year had been received as well as a grant of £1,000 for the Parish Lengthsman for 2011/12.

ACCOUNTS FOR APPROVAL

Ribble Valley BC	(grass cutting)	£717.23
Bryan Cornthwaite	(wall repair)	£468.00
LALC	(annual sub)	£86.76
Aon Ltd	(insurances)	£363.20
Mrs J Parkington	(Parish Lengthsman)	£202.50
Mrs C Holmes	(Parish Clerk)	£100.00

YEAR END MATTERS 2010/11

The Clerk advised that it was necessary for the meeting to approve the accounts for the period ended 31 March 2011. 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 had been subject to an internal audit from which no issues had arisen.

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.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Clerk advised that a letter had been submitted, as a neighbouring Parish Council, objecting to the construction of a wind turbine at Westby Hall Farm.

Plans by Gisburne Park Hospital to erect new internal and external signage in a variety of locations in and around the hospital were approved.

It was explained that an application for outline permission to construct a country house hotel and spa on land adjacent to Dudlands Croft had been submitted to Ribble Valley BC and that the applicants, Mr and Mrs Myerscough and their agents were at the meeting to present their application. Mrs Myerscough accordingly gave a brief presentation on the plans for a boutique country house hotel and spa intended to cater for the luxury market and comments were invited from the floor, resulting in considerable debate. It was noted that residents of adjacent properties were unhappy at the 21 days timescale permitted for comments. Borough Cllr Sherras advised that this was an initial statutory timescale and that due to the size and complexity of the application it could take many months to reach Committee during which time interested parties could fully consider and comment on the plans.

(The applicants, agents and members of the public left the meeting)

The Parish Council agreed that there were a number of concerns relating to the application and that an letter of objection should be lodged with RVBC within the 21 day timescale. It was agreed that the principal concerns were as follows:

Road Safety – the proposed entrance to the hotel is on a busy and dangerous arterial route where there have been several fatalities and accidents in recent years in the vicinity. As well as heavy trans-Pennine traffic flow on the road at all times there is also considerable local traffic resulting from the presence of the nearby abattoir and, on summer weekends, there is a well-attended car boot sale in the fields opposite.

Visual and Noise impact – the hotel would be visible to residents of nearby properties as well as to certain properties in Rimington. The hotel would be a wedding and party venue and there would therefore be noise affecting those same properties and the nearby village.

Effect on local employment – although jobs will be created as a result of the venture there is concern that jobs will also be lost from other competing establishments in the area.

Sustainability of the project – the venture is presented as catering for the luxury family market. Several years ago Mr Guy Hindley, having obtained advice from a plethora of consultants, developed Ribblesdale Park for the exclusive “luxury market” but this market did not materialise and the Park is now open to the general holidaymaker. There is a danger of the same scenario being repeated with the boutique hotel and the project will become a totally different venture from that originally proposed. There is also concern about the long-term commitment of the applicants to the venture, despite their assurances. By their own admission the applicants’ main business is property development and they may only commit to the hotel in the short-term leaving a future owner to change the whole ethos of the development.

Effect on local water supply – the water pressure in several neighbouring properties is on the low side principally due to the presence of the abattoir and its use of the majority of the available water supply. The construction of another large development and its consequent use of the water supply will have a further adverse effect on supply and pressure.

Suitability of location – although the applicant is not concerned about the proximity of the proposed luxury hotel to the adjacent abattoir potential guests could well be upset, having paid a considerable sum of money only to find themselves subject to the unpleasant smells and sights of a large meat-processing plant. In the days of modern communication it will not take long for word to spread of the location of the abattoir next to the hotel and this could have a negative impact upon trade. There are more suitable locations within the Ribble Valley for a luxury hotel.

GISBURN PLAYING FIELDS ASSOCIATION (“GPFA”)

Mr Giles Bridge apologised for the recent cutting of the hawthorns surrounding the car park by probationers and explained that he accepted responsibility as he had not made it clear that this was not within their remit. Mr Bridge offered to pay for new hawthorns if required.

Mr Bridge explained that a bid for funding to complete the top end of the play park had been submitted and that work was about to be undertaken on fencing the access ramp to the park.

Mr Bridge requested financial assistance from the Parish Council towards the upkeep of the play park, in particular towards the cost of grass cutting. It was agreed that a donation of £400.00 should be made for the financial year 2011/12 to GPFA.

Mr Bridge and advised that the GPFA would like the Parish Council to consider taking over overall responsibility for the play park when it was completed as it was felt that the current GPFA Committee had been in situ several years and their children were now older and not using the play park to the same extent as previously. The Parish Council complimented the GPFA on their work in developing the play park which was considered a great asset to the village and agreed that different people needed to become involved with running the park. It was felt, however, that members of the Parish Council did not have sufficient connection with

children who would use the park and that the GPFA Committee should include residents whose children would be likely to use the facility. It was noted that the Parish Council's insurance costs would increase significantly if the Council assumed responsibility for the play park and this would have a corresponding effect upon the precept. It was agreed that, if the Parish Council did agree to assume responsibility for the play park, there should be a managing Committee who would run the park on behalf of the Council. Mr Bridge accepted this was a sensible suggestion and advised that the existing GPFA would try and recruit new members onto the GPFA Committee.

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

The Clerk explained that following the Parish Council elections on 05 May 2011 all Parish Councillors were required to complete Acceptance of Office forms and, in time, Declaration of Interest forms. The forms were required even though the elections had been uncontested in Gisburn and all serving Councillors had been re-elected. Forms were duly issued and completed for return to Ribble Valley BC.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk advised that a letter had been received from Lancs CC advising that the Little Green Bus service would continue on its existing basis for 3 months from 01 April 2011 pending a review of its future.

A letter had been received from Royal Mail advising that provision of a post office in the village was still being considered.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Renewal of Insurances

The Clerk advised that insurance renewal documentation had been received from Aon Ltd and that the total overall cost of renewal for 2011/12 was £363.20, an increase of £29 on last year's total. It was agreed that this sum was acceptable.

Part II

PARISH LENGTHSMAN

It was explained that the new Parish Lengthsmen had submitted their first timesheet and the work they had undertaken was noted. It was confirmed that the lengthsmen would be attending the village more in the summer to keep on top of the vegetation but that it had been made clear that their services would be required far less often in the winter months.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Parish Council Meeting Thursday 09 June 2011 at 7.30 pm

