

**WARMSFIELD CUM HEATH PARISH COUNCIL
EXTRACTS FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 16 JANUARY 2008**

Public Participation – District Councillor David Dagger reported that the Community Chest application for repairs to the War Memorial has now been signed by all 3 Ward Councillors. He also informed the meeting of a proposal by METRO to remove the bus shelter situated opposite the “Horse & Groom”. Accordingly, it was agreed that the shelter should be re-sited to a position on the same side of the road as the “Horse & Groom”, and Cllr Dagger agreed to inform METRO of this view.

Several Parishioners present made complaints about the site at the top of Marshall Hill which has been named as “Pineapple Farm”. A vehicular access has been formed and caravans placed on the site which appear to be lived in, all without the benefit of planning permission. As a result, Cllr Dagger agreed to take this matter up with WMDC Planning Enforcement Officers and report back.

John Columbine asked whether the proposed position for the Millenium Bench , on the green outside his property, could be re-considered. After some discussion, it was agreed to retain the seat near to the Children’s Play Area, but with a solid concrete base.

Laurie Goodchild, informed the meeting of his plans for a 50k Summer Solstice Charity Walk, on 21 June 2008, which will start and finish at the Community Centre. There will also be a mini-trek of 10km. He thanked the Parish Council for their support and made an early appeal for help and assistance on the day.

Muriel Sharpe expressed concern over the sudden closure of the Post Office, a feeling shared by all present. The Clerk stated that the Parish Council had written to the Minister for Postal Services, and has been informed that the status of the Kirkthorpe Post Office will be considered as part of the consultation process for the West Yorkshire area plan, due to take place in the Spring.

Clerk’s Progress Report – A letter has been sent to WMDC Highways accepting the fact that no improvements will be made to Footpath No 4 associated with the proposed Experimental Closure Order.

The issues associated with the Community Chest grant application for the War Memorial , the re-siting of the Millenium Bench and the closure of the Post Office were all discussed during the Public Participation session.

In the absence of Cllr Barrie Smith there was no report on the potential for a Christmas Tree at Heath in future years.

The Clerk reported that it as hoped to meet with Ed Balls MP, on 25 January 2008, to discuss the issue of illegal camping by Gypsies/Travellers.

In terms of the “Coalfield Heathland Project”, it was agreed that a working party would be difficult to organise, and that a Contractor would be required.

A letter has been sent to WMDC Highways regarding the lack of street lighting on Crossley Street over Sharlston Common, with a response indicating that the request will be considered.

Finance – The Clerk provided a projection of expected expenditure to 31 March 2008, together with the anticipated requirement for 2008/2009. Accordingly, it was resolved unanimously to leave the Precept figure unchanged at £9000.00.

Planning Matters

The following Applications were discussed:

Heath Hall Stables, Heath – Barn to Residential – Decision Pending.

Rose Cottage, Heath – Boundary Wall & Verge to Residential – Decision Pending.

The “Kings Arms”, Heath – Smoking Shelter (Retrospective) – Approved by WMDC.

55 Warmfield Lane, Warmfield – 2 Storey Extension to Rear – Approved by WMDC.

NEW APPLICATIONS

Heath House, Heath – Tree Felling & Crown Cleaning – No Objections from PC.

Warmfield Lane, Warmfield (Adj No 3) – Detached Bungalow – No Objections from PC if not in Green Belt.

COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

Commons Liaison Committee – Cllr Fisher reported on the WMDC cutbacks which may affect the Countryside Service. Support is given to an Experimental Closure Order on Footpath No 4, and the blocked gullies have been cleaned out.

Road Safety Committee – The next meeting is fixed for 21 January 2008, in the Community Centre, Kirkthorpe. This is now the venue for these meetings in future.

Welbeck liaison Committee – Cllr Wilby reported on the proposals to connect the methane gas outlets to the Grid, and confirmed the intention to close the site in 2017.

Sharlston Colliery Redevelopment Liaison Committee – Cllr Crowther confirmed that he had reported the dirty conditions of the cones etc at the new site entrance off the Normanton By-Pass. He would bring this matter up formally at the next meeting of the Liaison Committee.

Kirkthorpe Playing Fields – The Clerk reported that the Security Lighting has been installed on the Community Centre building.

Local Area Partnerships/Engagement – It was resolved that Cllr Fisher and the Clerk should arrange for the siting and planting-up of the 5 Planters provided by the Neighbourhood Development Fund.

Future Speakers – It was agreed that Alison Webb, from the Wakefield Home Energy Team, should be re-invited to attend a future meeting.

Community Centre – Cllr Fisher thanked Jean & John Tingle for all the work they had done in bringing about the present Community Centre, and appreciated that they now wished to retire. It was resolved, therefore, that the Community Centre Committee should now become a Sub-Committee of the Parish Council, with a membership including Parish Councillors and Parishioners. Jean Tingle agreed to pass details of the financial situation and a copy of the Constitution to the Clerk.

Correspondence

The following items of correspondence were reported upon:

- WMDC – LDF Consultation.
- YLCA – Information Sheet.
- CE Electric UK – “Preparing to go Green” posters.
- YLCA – Power to Appoint Additional Councillors – Consultation.
- YLCA – Consultation on “Historic Pubs” – Agreed to nominate the “Kings Arms”.

Additional Matters/Items for Next Agenda

- Cllr Maiden expressed concern over horses being tethered on the “Cultivated” areas of the Common. She agreed to supply the Clerk with details.
- Cllr Smith reported on a recent incident on Heath Common which has resulted damage to “Betty’s Bench”.

Date/Time of Next Meeting

It was confirmed that the next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on **20 February 2008** in the Community Centre, Kirkthorpe at 7.00 pm.