

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting, 7.00pm, Tuesday 18th July 2023 at The Community Hub, The Rings, Ingleby Barwick

Present: Cllrs Irwin, (Chairman), Barnes, Rutland, Strike and Watson.

In attendance – J McGeeney Town Clerk; Richard Bradford and Sharon Cooney from Stockton Council's Enforcement Service; S Fryer; D Gale; M Davey (CPAD).

- 1. Housekeeping** - The Chairman advised those present of the emergency escape procedures. It was requested that mobile phones be switched to silent. If a call was received and had to be taken Members were politely requested to leave the room.
- 2. Notice of Meeting** - Public Notice has been given in accordance Schedule 12 of the Local Government Act 1972. The Chairman noted the Notice of the Meeting had been published on the Town Council's website, the notice board at the Ingleby Barwick Community Hall, Beckfields and the Rings Community Hub.
- 3. Apologies for Absence** - Cllr Fryer.
- 4. Declarations of Interest** - Cllr Barnes declared a personal/non prejudicial interest as a Borough Councillor of Stockton Borough Council, Cllr Strike declared a personal/non-prejudicial interest as a Borough Councillor of Stockton Borough Council and as Chairman of the Ingleby Barwick Community Partnership. Cllr Watson declared a personal/non prejudicial interest as a Councillor of Stockton Borough Council and owner of Fix It DIY.
- 5. Public Participation Part 1.** – S. Fryer wished to thank the Town Council relating to his application in June where funding for NHS Blood and Transfusion Service had been agreed. Cllr Strike requested any publicity should make reference to the support from the Town Council.
- 6. Community Safety** – Richard Bradford addressed the meeting and reported generally that all calls were down on last month including anti-social behaviour calls where only two were recorded for the north and south. Vehicle issues remain the same. Work was still ongoing with off-road bikes. The former West ward was still the highest area for anti-social behaviour. The issue of fly-posting was still being dealt with. The Family Fun Weekend had passed without any incidents. Cllr Strike thanked the Town Council for the use of the Enforcement Officers at the event and the Enforcement team themselves. Cllr Watson asked if youngsters on the roof had been identified and Richard Bradford confirmed he would make further investigations on this matter and let Cllr Watson know. Sharon Cooney advised the meeting that the reporting of graffiti had clearly had an impact on the perpetrators.
- 7. Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 20th June 2023** - The minutes were presented to Councillors for approval. PROPOSED Cllr Barnes and SECONDED by Cllr Strike. RESOLVED the minutes are a true and accurate record of the meeting.

At this point in the meeting Cllr Irwin suggested Item 13 be brought forward AGREED.

- 13. Grant Application** – A grant application had been received from the CPAD IB Fund for the purchase of one defibrillator and one cabinet and two installations with associated costs. Finance Committee had scrutinised the application against grant criteria and happy for the application to be put forward. 68 deployments had taken place. AGREED this application be granted for £4,900. PROPOSED Cllr Barnes and SECONDED Cllr Watson.

8. Clerk and Chairman's Report -

- **Town Meeting** – Held on 27th June – representatives had attended from CPAD, Great North Air Ambulance, Cornerhouse Youth Project and Ward Councillors.
- **Air Ambulance Community Book Shelf and Clothing Collection** – The Town Clerk had liaised with the Air ambulance to bring a community Book Shelf to the Hub which is located in the foyer. The Town Clerk had spoken to GNAS to organise a Clothing Donation drop off at the Hub for GNAS to come and collect.
- **Bopping Bingo** – Current number at the time of the meeting was 31.
- **Sports Week 1** – All places on the main sports were booked. The Town Clerk gave an overview of all activities taking place as well as activities for children with Special Educational Needs. At the time of this meeting the number of allocated spaced stood at 285. Week Two had not been released at the time of this meeting. Priority for Week Two would be given to those who had not attended Week One due to the limited number of coaches available.
- **Fun Run** – Chris Walker and Ron Hall from Yarm Lions had worked tirelessly on the event which was fully booked with 300 participants. Stockton Council and ISAG (Independent Safety Advisory Group) had held a meeting where it confirmed that it was prohibited to place stakes in Council owned land. This would only affect the end of the race. Therefore cones would be used at the start and end of the race kindly loaned by Ingleby Barwick Community Partnership. There were some recommendations from the Events Committee detailed in their minutes. Cllr Strike suggested all the above items should be included in the next Community Newsletter.

- 9. Stockton-on-Tees (Electoral changes) (Amendment) Order 2023** – The Town Clerk informed the meeting she had received notification from Richard Otterway, from the Local Government Boundary Commission the Amendment Order had been put to Parliament on 11th July this was in order to correct their error. This was subject to the normal parliamentary scrutiny which must remain unchallenged for 40 sitting days. Parliament was closing for its summer recess. House of Lords' recess is 25th July to 5th September and 20th September to 10th October. The House of Commons' recess was 20th July to 4th September and 19th September to 16th October. This indicated the outcome would not be until possibly November 2023. Stockton Borough Council had confirmed they would be happy to attend future Town Council Meetings to inform the Town Council what future governance would entail and timescales. Cllr Irwin expressed a desire for Officers from Stockton Council to attend a future Town Council meeting once the Order has gone through Parliament.

10. Committee Minutes and Committee update reports –

Events Committee – 6th July 2023. Cllr Strike gave an overview of the Events Committee.
PROPOSED – Cllr Strike SECONDED by Cllr Rutland.

Finance Committee – 11th July 2023. Cllr Barnes gave an overview of the Finance
PROPOSED Cllr Barnes and SECONDED Cllr Rutland.

11. Freedom of Information Request – The Town Clerk had received two Freedom of Information requests relating to HikVision CCTV cameras and CCTV cameras within the Hub and correspondence between Councillors, Cleveland Police and Stockton Council relating to ANPR cameras. The Town Clerk responded to the Freedom of Information Requests within the appropriate timescale.

12. Borough Councillor Reports –

North Ward

Number 17 Bus Route

UPDATE: After much discussion between Arriva, SBC and the TVCA, Arriva had agreed to run the No17 bus twice a day to ensure Egglecliffe students were able to attend school. The service will finish with the end of term. A new operator would take over in September.

Police Surgery

Cllr Sally Ann Watson attended the Police Surgery on 6th July. She discussed the issue of off-road bikes, a masked youth with a baseball had allegedly demanded money from another youth in the vicinity of Shapwick Close and forwarded CCTV images of youths climbing over the wall to access the rear of Sandgate Shops.

3Rivers

Cllr Alan Watson received CCTV footage of youths climbing on to the roof at the 3Rivers. The footage was forwarded to the Police and Enforcement for possible identification. Local schools were to be visited to aid this.

Suspicious Behaviour

Cllr Ted Strike reported two men acting suspiciously outside our schools, when children were going home, to the Police and Enforcement.

Off-road Bikes

Earlier this month, the Police mounted a large-scale operation to locate the off-road bikes that had been driving illegally around Ingleby Barwick. They attended three addresses and confiscated three bikes from two of them. The bikes had been crushed.

Overgrown Bushes/Trees

The bushes on Aspley Way covering the road signs, reported by Cllr Sally Ann Watson last month, had been cut back. Cllr Ted Strike reported overgrown trees on Kenwood Crescent, however the land is not adopted by SBC. Officers are trying to find out who owns the land.

Cllr Strike also reported that the last tree on Hilden Park had been damaged.

Giant Hogweed

A resident had sent photos to Cllr Sally Ann Watson regarding sightings of Giant Hogweed in Bassleton Woods. Giant Hogweed causes severe blistering if touched but there are several plants that look very similar but are perfectly safe. The photos were forwarded to Grounds Maintenance for identification and, fortunately they are of Common Hogweed which can grow up to 5ft tall but is harmless.

Covid Signs

A request had been received by a resident for the removal of the remainder of the Covid signs to be removed from roundabouts and lampposts. This had been forwarded to CFYA.

The Rings Area

Fly Posters

Cllr James Irwin spotted fly posters on The Rings by the Golden Post-box, and near Sandgate shops, advertising caravan storage. Cllr Sally Ann Watson suspected that these wouldn't be the only locations and asked if Enforcement Officers could check for them whilst out on patrol. The Officers removed as many as they could and informed CFYA of the out of safe reach ones. Enforcement were attempting to contact the company concerned.

Tree Cages

Several damaged tree cages had been reported to Cllrs Alan and Sally Ann Watson. Stanegate Avenue had yet to be adopted by SBC; Persimmon had been informed. The Highways Technician was investigating the damage to two cages on Greensforge Drive. In addition, the PCSO's had been informed that the damage was being caused by speeding vehicles and youths swinging on them.

Pennydarren Way

The Police had reported to Cllrs Alan and Sally Ann Watson that they received reports of a cannabis farm on Pennydarren Way. Action had been taken.

Damage to Footbridge Handrails

UPDATE: Persimmon had received the new handrails for the footbridge between Port Way and Dere Walk, unfortunately it was taking some time to deliver them to the site.

Wrong Postcode

Persimmon had been notified of the wrong postcode on the Holme Rose Way, road sign. It states TS7 rather than TS17.

Bin Repositioning

A dog waste bin had been repositioned twice from Galava Walk to a location on Pennydarren Way. Certain reports on social media suggested that North Ward Councillors had wasted public money on this issue. This is untrue. We were unaware of the issue, as it was being dealt with by CFYA and the Management Company contracted to Persimmon, as a result of resident complaints. Unfortunately, the first and second location was preferred by the dog walkers who used the bin. CFYA did not want to move the bin a third time, but it is the Management Company who ultimately had the final say as the area was not adopted by SBC.

Shrubs on Roundabout

A resident has contacted Cllr James Irwin via Facebook regarding the removal of the shrubs in the centre of the roundabout at the entrance to Ingleby Barwick from Queen Elizabeth Way. Cllr Sally Ann Watson had contacted Horticultural Services. Unfortunately, the shrubs struggled to survive in this location as opposed to being removed. This would be inspected and any works that were felt to be required would be programmed in for autumn.

South Ward

Branklyn Gardens subway

The team had been and cleaned up the graffiti on the walls and Ward Councillors are meeting with enforcement in August regarding the CCTV in that location.

White lines / Cycle lanes

Many parts of the South Ward had new painted markings.

Romano Park Update

The main improvements to Romano Park in Ingleby Barwick will begin from Monday 24 July.

The improvements would take place in two phases following initial planting of trees and installation of extra CCTV cameras which began in the spring.

They would allow more accessible open space for residents and visitors and would include:

- improvement works to play area within the park, including repairs to existing equipment
- the installation of the new feature play 'Dragon Fort' in the existing play area
- accessible play equipment including three in-ground trampolines, basket swing and new sensory, musical play equipment
- improved accessibility and resurfacing of the platform area near Barwick Pond
- a new, secure community growing area
- new shrub and tree planting in the extended area of the park

Phase 1: w/c 24 July

Deep clean and re-marking of the MUGA

Improvement works to play area within the park, including repairs to existing equipment and installation of new features.

Extension of hard standing area around existing war memorial.

Community growing area to be constructed on the extended area of the site.

Improved accessibility and resurfacing of platform area near Barwick Pond.

Replacement litter bins.

Additional benches.

Two new CCTV cameras.

Phase 2: October 2023

Installation of new feature play "Dragon Fort" within the existing play area.

Repairs/installation of remaining items within play area.

Improved signage across the site.

Additional planting of shrubs and trees within the extended area, to be completed later this year/early next year, depending on the optimum point for this to be done.

Off-Road Bikes

Having received more emails and messages from concerned residents regarding the nuisance these are causing we had been informed that the police would be patrolling areas and hot spots around Ingleby Barwick

Missing Street Signs / Broken Street Signs

Several signs around Beckfields and Sober Hall had been reported due to being missing or damaged. Signs are on order to replace the missing signs / broken signs

Covid Signs

A private company would be removing the no longer required covid signs from around IB over the next few weeks.

- 14. Finance** – Monthly Reports – The Town Clerk presented the Town Council’s financial transactions for the General Account from 1st to 30th June 2023 and the Hub Account from 1st to 30th June 2023. In addition, the Town Council’s Bank Reconciliation from 1st to 30th June 2023. These figures were checked against the Town Council’s Bank Statements and signed by Cllr Strike. RESOLVED all the financial transaction and bank reconciliation statements against the Bank Statements were Approved.
- 15. Planning Applications** – Details of Planning Applications up to week ending 9th July 2023.
- 16. Matters of Concern to Councillors** – None.
- 17. Date of next Town Council Meeting** – The date of the next Town Council Meeting will be held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 19th September 2023 at The Rings Community Hub.
- 18. Public Participation** – Part 2 – None.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and participation and closed the meeting.

The meeting ended at 8.00pm