

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting, 7.00pm, Tuesday 19th September 2023 at The Community Hub, The Rings, Ingleby Barwick

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

In attendance – J McGeeney Town Clerk, J Stevely, Sharon Cooney (Stockton Council's Enforcement Service), D Pryde, C & D Anson (Local Residents).

- 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** - None.
- 4. Declarations of Interest** - Cllr Barnes declared a personal/non prejudicial interest as a Borough Councillor of Stockton Borough Council, Cllr Fryer declared a personal/non prejudicial interest as an employee of Ingleby Manor School, 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** – Mr David Pryde, a local resident, who had attended previous Town Council meetings, wished to reiterate how he, and his family, were still suffering the same issues/problems with ball games being played outside of his home in the Hilden Park, Broomhill area. He felt the problem had escalated. He had a meeting with MP Matt Vickers but did not receive any tangible information/help. The land where ball games were being played belongs to Persimmon Homes. He felt Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council will not act to help rectify the problem by placing a 'No Ball Games' sign which would enable Enforcement Officers to take action. Cllr Strike posed the question as to whether Ingleby Barwick Town Council could pay for a sign? The information from the meeting with Matt Vickers will be sent to Sharon Cooney who said she would take a look at the issues to see what can be done.
- 6. Community Safety** – Sharon Cooney gave an overview of incidents during the school holidays and was pleased to report that incidents were low. Ingleby Barwick did not suffer a great amount of anti-social behaviour. The biggest concern was the recycling area near to Tesco. Councillor Strike had concerns about older teenagers selling vapes. Cllr Watson noted how school parking remains an issue and there were two advertising trailers on Blair Avenue. Sharon Cooney said she would look into this matter.

- 7. Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 18th July 2023.** One typing error to be amended - from Tow Clerk to Town Clerk. PROPOSED by Cllr Watson and SECONDED by Cllr Barnes.

Minutes of the Special Town Council Meeting held on 3rd August 2023 - PROPOSED by Cllr Strike and SECONDED by Cllr Rutland.

- 8. Clerk and Chairman's Report** – The Clerk informed Members about the sad death of Marcia Gray who was a member of the CPAD team and requested the Town Council send condolences to her family. AGREED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Clerk had received an enquiry from Andrew Duffell relating to the possibility of installing electric vehicle charging points at the Rings Community Hub car park. This would be discussed at the next Town and Hub Maintenance Committee prior to being presented at a future full Town Council meeting.

Town Council Website – Cllr Irwin gave an overview/explanation about the Town Council's new website whereby loading content will be required to comply with the law relating to accessibility regulations. Ongoing discussions had taken place between Coudy IT with Cornerstone as to a suitable migration date.

Ingleby Barwick Entrance sign - It was agreed last year that some work would be carried out to tidy up the entrance sign to Ingleby Barwick. The Town Clerk asked for volunteers to help with the task. Jacky said she would help along with several other Councillors. The Town Clerk would look at possible dates.

- 9. Wildflowers 2023 – Weeding** – Cllr Watson requested the opinions of other councillors due to the Fat Hen weeds appearing on the wildflower site. After discussion it was decided volunteer councillors would sort the area out. PROPOSED Cllr Watson and SECONDED Cllr Strike.
- 10. Sports and Activities Two Week Programme 2023** – The Town Clerk gave an overview/evaluation of the of the two-week summer holiday activity programme. (First week and last week). The 21 activities included 789 free places and had been well received. This year children with Special Educational Needs and babies enjoyed the activities. However, 70 children did not turn up for the second week of activities (no shows). This needed to be addressed for the future. Cllr Strike thanked the Town Clerk for her work on this project.
- 11. Christmas Programme 2023** – The Town Clerk had received information from Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council in relation to the Town Council's requirements for this year for the installation of the tree, fencing, lights and storage of the tree. It was decided to continue with the regular programme. The Town Clerk would check the date Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council were having their light switch-on. The Town Council's Five-Year plan would look at putting funding towards Christmas lights in the future.
- 12. Freedom of Information Requests** – The Town Clerk had received two Freedom of Information Requests relating to ANPR cameras and Facebook. Both had been responded to within the required timescale.

13. Committee Minutes and Committee Update Reports –

- i) Finance Committee – 11th September 2023. Councillor Barnes gave an overview of the work and scrutiny of the Finance Committee. PROPOSED Councillor Barnes and SECONDED by Councillor Rutland.
- ii) Policy Committee – 12th September 2023. Councillor Irwin gave an overview of the Policy Committee. PROPOSED Councillor Irwin and SECONDED by Councillor Watson.

14. Town Council Policies:-

- Social Media Policy - Deferred
- Health & Safety Policy - Deferred

15. Borough Councillors' Reports – Both North and South reports were submitted for Councillors' perusal.

North Ward

August/September 2023

Blair Avenue Roadworks

All North Ward Councillors had received complaints about the project to install a slip road from Blair Avenue to Myton Way towards Sandgate Junction. Due to unforeseen congestion as a result of lane changes at Tesco roundabout, this project was suspended, pending a design review. With the contractor already on site, work continued to install a raised platform at the road crossing and some road surfacing was completed.

North Ward Councillors would have a Teams meeting with the Highways Design Manager and members of his team on Wednesday 20th September to discuss this and issues at Sandgate Junction.

Hollybush Farm

North Ward Councillors continued to receive complaints about the work to construct a worker's bungalow and Market Garden that is being carried out behind the petrol station on Thornaby Road (11/0554/VARY). Issues raised included construction being conducted outside of the allotted hours stated within the granted planning permission, noise, mud on the surrounding roads, lack of safety signage, size of the property being constructed and the safe operation of machinery. The Planning Services Manager attended a site visit and has confirmed that several breaches had occurred. The owner had been advised that the condition controlling working hours must be adhered to and the breach of this condition must stop immediately. Further breaches were still under discussion.

Number 17 Bus Route

UPDATE: SBC had been operating a Community Bus to compensate for the loss of part of the Arriva No17 bus route linking Ingleby Barwick, Yarm and Allens West in Eaglescliffe. This had been gratefully received by residents. Stagecoach will commence their new replacement service (6/6a) from 21st September.

Parking Issues

Cllr Sally Ann Watson contacted Enforcement regarding parking issues in two areas in Broomhill.

Cllr Sally Ann Watson received complaints from residents regarding verge parking and blocked drives in the vicinity of Whinstone school. Enforcement were informed and possible solutions were being investigated.

Cllr Alan Watson had requested an update from SBC on potential solutions for parking on The Rings near Sandgate shops.

Selling Vapes

Cllr Ted Strike reported youths selling vapes to underage children at Sandgate shops. Enforcement and CCTV are monitoring any potential activity.

Broken Bridge

Cllr Sally Ann Watson reported a broken and unstable footbridge on a Public Right of Way in the Woods behind Lowfields Avenue. This was not on SBC land, but the PRow Officer had arranged for a contractor to attend, date to be confirmed. In the meantime, the bridge was under regular inspection for further damage.

Overgrown Bushes/Trees

Cllr Ted Strike reported overgrown trees and bushes between Bamburgh Court and The Rings, including along The Rings towards the roundabout at Apsley Way. This was still under the remit of Persimmon; they had been informed.

Cllrs Alan and Sally Ann Watson accompanied a resident on his dog walking route and had invited the Highways Technician to view the issues of overgrown bushes along Moresby Walk.

Utility Works

Cllr Sally Ann Watson reported issues with utility works on Trenholme Close and Campion Close. These were now resolved.

The Rings Area

Persimmon

It was extremely disappointing to note that the issues raised below to SBC prior to adoption of the area were still outstanding and Persimmon appear to have made no effort to rectify them. Cllr Sally Ann Watson wrote to Persimmon on 11th September, there had been no response to the email. A resident wrote to Persimmon on 11th September, there has been no response to his email. In the meantime, more issues continued to be reported to Sally Ann. The list of outstanding issues:

Tree Cages

Several damaged tree cages have been reported to Cllrs Alan and Sally Ann Watson. Stanegate Avenue was yet to be adopted by SBC.

UPDATE: No action had been taken.

Pennydarren Way

There were several deep delves in the tarmac on the footpaths near the exit to The Rings and the corner of Port Way. These were a tripping hazard.

UPDATE: No action taken to date.

Damage to Footbridge Handrails

UPDATE: Persimmon had now 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.

FURTHER UPDATE: Two months had passed by and still no railings.

Wrong Postcode

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

UPDATE: No action taken to date.

Lindum Way Road Sign

Persimmon had not put a road sign at either entrance to Lindum Way. They should have, at least, erected temporary signs once houses were occupied until such time that permanent ones could be erected.

UPDATE: No action taken to date.

South Ward

- The ongoing refurbishment of Romano Park continued
- Improvements to the efficiency of the leisure centre was in progress
- Numerous reports of overgrown shrubs in many areas
- Roadway repairs required in several locations
- Attempted break-in to a shed in the new community gardening area which had been dismantled and removed
- The Tesco recycling centre continued to cause concern with abuse by some residents fly tipping in the area, residents should note a CCTV does cover the area and abusers would be prosecuted

16. Annual Returns 2022/23 – The Town Clerk wished it to be minuted she had received no notification from Mazaars as yet. Once she did – the Annual Returns would be added to the Town Council's website.

17. Finance - Monthly Reports – The Town Clerk presented the Town Council's financial transactions for the General Account and the Hub Account from 1st to 31st July and 1st to 31st August 2023. In addition, the town Council's Bank Reconciliation from 1st to 31st July 2023 and 1st to 31st August 2023. These figures were checked against the Town Council's Bank Statements and signed by Cllr Fryer. RESOLVED all the financial transaction and bank reconciliation statements against the Bank Statements were Approved.

18. Planning Applications - Details of Planning Applications up to Week ending 10th September 2023 were submitted.

19. Matters of Concern to Councillors – In relation to the ANPR cameras Cllr Strike wished it to be known he was still awaiting a date for a meeting with the Police. In addition he wished give his heartfelt thanks Councillor Fryer for helping to find a school placement a local child.

Councillor Irwin noted how a Grant Application had been approved but no further action had been taken by the Blood Donor Service. Councillor Rutland explained that no-one had been to inspect the premises (Ingleby Barwick Community Centre) and this would now have to commence in January 2024.

20. Date of Next Town Council Meeting – The next Town Council Meeting will be held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 17th October 2023.

21. Public Participation Part 2 – None.

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

The meeting ended at 8.15pm