

**MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF POTTO PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON MONDAY, 16 APRIL 2007 FOLLOWING  
THE ANNUAL MEETING FOR ELECTORS**

Meeting open to the public for 15 minutes.

No comments.

Present: Councillor Mrs A Mazingham (Chairwoman) Councillors Mrs J Williams, Messrs. A Wilde, I Shimwell and G Woodhouse

County Councillor Mr T Swales  
District Councillors Mrs B Fortune and Mr S Dickins

2 members of the public

1. There were no apologies for absence.
2. The minutes of last month's meeting had been circulated. Councillor Williams proposed that they be accepted as a true record, Councillor Woodhouse seconded and all agreed. They were then signed by the Chairwoman.

**3. Police Report and Neighbourhood Watch**

No reports were received.

**4. Planning Decisions of Hambleton District Council**

- a. Porch extension to Woodside, 57 Cooper Lane and construction of replacement boundary wall, pillars and gates for Mr & Mrs R Hill. 07/00327/FUL. Approved, subject to conditions.

**5. Planning Applications**

- a. Alterations and extensions to 56 Cooper Lane for Mr D Richardson & Mrs J Spuhler. 07/0086/FUL. Recommended for approval.
- b. Alterations and extension to Brook House, Goulton Lane for Mr G Hill. 07/00933/FUL. Recommended for approval.
- c. 9 replacement windows at Flat 1, Potto Hall for Dr R Cree. 07/00399/FUL. Recommended for approval.

**6. Matters Arising from Last Month's Meeting**

- a. Footpaths An e mail was received from Footpaths Section, County Council giving the up to date position with regard to the Potto Slack footpath.
- b. Parish Plan Councillor Woodhouse said the Parish Plan meeting will be held on Wednesday so there is no report. The report of the meeting held on 7 February had been circulated to

Councillors. Councillor Wilde said at the last Parish Council meeting we did talk about funding. Councillor Woodhouse said the funds have not been transferred into the Parish Council account. Councillor Wilde said a decision was taken at the January meeting of the Council and reinforced at the last meeting by a vote of 4 for and 1 abstention that the grant should be paid into the Parish Council account. Councillor Woodhouse had gone against the decision of the Council. Councillor Woodhouse asked why the Council wanted control of the funds. Councillor Wilde said the Parish Council accounts are externally audited. Councillor Woodhouse said the Parish Plan Group has two signatories for their account, Mr L Bailey and Mr R Longbotham. Councillor Wilde said he would like to draw the Parish Council's attention to the Code of Conduct. Councillor Woodhouse by his blatant disregard for the resolutions passed by this Parish Council has repeatedly breached the Statutory Instrument 2001 No. 3576 "The Parish Councils (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2001. Councillor Woodhouse was asked to withdraw from the meeting and he complied.

Councillor Wilde read some relevant points from the Code of Conduct. He said that following last month's meeting he had taken advice from YLCA, District Council and the Standards Board on how the Council should deal with the situation. All Councillors had agreed to abide by the Code of Conduct which states that you must take part in meetings ..... and then abide by the majority decision. It also states that a member must, if he becomes aware of any conduct by another member which he reasonably believes involves a failure to comply with the Code of Conduct, make a written allegation to that effect to the Standards Board of England. He proposed that the Council had no choice but to report Councillor Woodhouse to the Standards Board for England. Councillor Williams queried whether it had any bearing on the issue that Councillor Woodhouse was not a signatory for the Parish Plan group account. Councillor Wilde said that the grant was not the issue now it is the disregard of the Council's decision. The Chairwoman said a vote had been taken on the decision and this should not be disregarded. Councillor Wilde proposed that Councillor Woodhouse is reported to the Standards Board for his behaviour and it is then up to them to make the decision, Councillor Shimwell seconded and this was agreed unanimously.

The Chairwoman opened the meeting to the public

Mr Grieve queried whether the matter should go through the District Council's Standard Committee first. Councillor Wilde said according to the explanatory booklet it goes straight to the Standards Board.

The Chairwoman closed the meeting to the public.

Councillor Woodhouse returned to the meeting. County Councillor Swales suggested that Councillor Woodhouse be allowed to make a statement but it does not affect what has been said. Councillor Woodhouse asked if the Chairwoman understood what "jurisdiction" meant. He then gave a definition from the Oxford English Dictionary. He confirmed that the Parish Council has no authority over the Parish Plan Steering Group or its funds. He then quoted a sentence from an e mail from Jo Buffey of YRCC – "I can confirm that a parish council has no jurisdiction over the grants which are paid out by Yorkshire Rural Community Council to undertake parish plans". He thought everything that had been discussed was entirely superfluous and a waste of time.

Councillor Woodhouse explained that all of Jo Buffey's e mail, including the sentence quoted, was forwarded for comment to Mr M Richards, Head of Legal and Democratic Services at the District Council together with an explanatory letter. Mr Richards sent an e mail reply to Councillor Woodhouse and he read out the following pertinent phrase which he thought was clear to understand even though a double negative was used – "I would not however disagree with what Jo Buffey has said"..

- c. Web Site. Councillor Woodhouse said it is continuing its development and extra information is being added as agreed by the Council.
- d. Standing Orders and Financial Regulations. This will be discussed at the next meeting after Councillors have had time to look at advice from YLCA.

## **7. Reports From County and District Councillors**

County Councillor Swales and District Councillor Fortune had nothing further to add.

District Councillor Dickins said the Council will be aware of the bid in North Yorkshire for the County to have a unitary council. The only way the public can give their view is through the Parish Council. He recommended that Parish Councils should be talking to their parishioners about this. He suggested a survey asking for views so that this can be fed back to the liaison meetings. County Councillor Swales said he did vote for a unitary council. The County Council has put in a bid for unitary status. The seven District Councils could not come to an agreement. The Chairwoman opened the meeting to the public.

Mr Mason said any survey would have to include all the pros and cons. Mr Grieve wondered how a balanced view would be achieved.

The Chairwoman closed the meeting to the public.

County Councillor Swales thought it could not go on as it is now and this was a way forward. Area Committee would take over the duties of the District Councils. Each area would have its own budget. The Council agreed to discuss the matter next month.

## **8. Finance**

A letter was received from the Audit Commission appointing Mazars as external auditor for the financial year 2006/7. Notice of the audit of accounts for the financial year ended 31 March 2007 was received from Mazars. The balances in the Council's accounts were as follows:

Community Account	£17.47 (10 April 2007)
Business Premium Account	£1,366.66 (9 March 2007)

## **9. Village Hall**

A copy of the minutes of the meeting held on 28 March was received and will be circulated to Councillors. Councillor Wilde said there is a strong programme of events planning running through to next year. A letter was received from Allied Westminster Insurance inviting an application for a quote. This will be passed to the Management Committee.

## **10. Seat near Church**

Councillor Williams wanted an up date on what was happening as it was 8 months since the Council had discussed it. Councillor Wilde agreed to have a look and report back to the next meeting.

## **11. Correspondence**

- a. Invitation from Cornhill Allianz to renew premium at a cost of £268.80, the same as last year. The Council unanimously agreed to renewal.
- b. Renewal of subscription to YLCA at a cost of £92.00. Last year it was £89. The Council unanimously agreed to renew the subscription.
- c. Draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan for North Yorkshire from NYCC. This was given to Councillor Williams and will be discussed at the next meeting.

- d. Letters from the District and County Council re street lighting in Potto. The District Council is unable to recommend the installation of further public lighting. The County Council has arranged for an assessment and inspection of existing street lighting, including a night time inspection and will inform us of the options available once a report has been received. The Chairwoman and County Councillor Swales had met with County Council representative and thought at least 1 extra light would be provided.
- e. Note from County Council on a new council for North Yorkshire. Copies were given to Councillors.
- f. Notification from NYCC of County Committee for Hambleton meeting which had been held this afternoon in Hutton Rudby Village Hall. A poster had been displayed on the notice board.
- g. An e mail from YLCA on how to download the Hedgerow Survey handbook. Copies had been given to Councillors.
- h. E mail from YLCA on Freedom of Information Act and Environmental Information Regulations. A copy had been forwarded to Councillors.
- i. E mail from YLCA on the NALC response to the Lyons Inquiry. A copy had been forwarded to Councillors.
- j. Information from NYCC on Local Bus Service Contracts. Passed to Councillor Williams and will be discussed next month.
- k. Note from Hambleton District Council on Personal and Prejudicial Interests at Parish Council meetings. Received.
- l. Minutes of District/Parish Liaison meeting held on 26 March from District Council. Passed to Councillor Williams.
- m. Posters from Hambleton District Council for Flavours of Hambleton 2007 Awards. A poster will be displayed on the notice board and in the Village Hall.
- n. Local Councils Update. Circulate to Councillors.
- o. Country Air magazine. Circulate to Councillors.
- p. Assembly Digest from YLCA. Circulate to Councillors.
- q. Community News from Hambleton Local Development Agencies. Circulate to Councillors.
- r. Information from SMP on a seminar on play & leisure provision for Parish and Community Councils. Received.
- s. Information from District Council on the Local Government Review and Parish Liaison Meetings. One will be held on 22 May at 7.00 pm in Stokesley Town Hall. Circulate to Councillors and then display on notice board.
- t. LDF Core Strategy received from District Council. Circulate to Councillors.
- u. Poster from Northallerton & District Voluntary Services Association advertising the “Wheels to Work”. This will be displayed on the notice board.
- v. Information from District Council giving names of those nominated for election on 3 May. As there are only 4 nominations it will be an uncontested election. There is one vacancy which will be advertised.
- w. Newsletter from York & North Yorkshire Playing Fields Association. Circulate to Councillors.

The Chairwoman declared the meeting closed at 8.40 pm.