

## **Appleton Wiske Parish Council**

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall meeting room on Monday 9th February 2004, that commenced at 7.30PM.

### **Present**

Cllrs: Ken Blackwood (Chair), June Ferguson, Roy Ingleton, Derek Partington, Janet Pederson, Lena Taylor and Olwen Young. Emily Wren (Clerk). Approximately 50 members of the public attended the initial open meeting.

### **Proposed Closure of Black Swan Crossing on A19**

The Chairman welcomed a very full meeting room. He explained that the prearranged Appleton Wiske Parish Council meeting had been made available to a general question and answer session on the issue of the proposed closure of the A19 Black Swan Crossing which had just been communicated to the Rounton Parish Council. Mr Jon Cole from the Highways Agency and Cllr Derek Lawton, Chair of the Rountons PC, were invited to speak, before taking questions and points from members of the public.

Mr Cole advised that the proposed action was aimed at improving safety on a junction that has seen fatalities. There have been alterations to the signing of the junction, but there are still accidents. An experimental closure is proposed for up to 18 months to assess the impact elsewhere. There is no immediate intention to close all the gaps between Crathorne and the Tontine.

Mr Lawton pointed out the irony of aiming to improve safety when many local residents cross the A19 to use the doctors surgery at Hutton Rudby, which would take an additional 15 minutes to reach with this proposed closure. A further hazard is that the alternative route to the surrounding villages from Crathorne involves single road traffic. This experiment will cover a winter period when these single track roads become flooded and icy.

The meeting was informed that in the 5 year period prior to 2002 there were 8 accidents at this crossing, of which 5 were slight, 2 were serious, and there was 1 fatality. In the same period at the East Harsley crossing there were 5 accidents, of which 2 were slight and 3 were serious. The question was raised where will the traffic go which is not able to use the Black Swan crossing?

There followed a very lively debate with strongly held views expressed. Most, but not all, speakers were opposed to the closure, many preferring alternative solutions such as the provision of a bridge, or creating a staggered junction. Many made the point that the infrastructure on the proposed alternative routes was wholly inadequate at present and presented its own dangers. Many argued that proper safe alternatives should be in place before any experimental closure commenced. A number of speakers agreed that the junction was unsafe and that some further measures should be introduced. At 8.30pm the Chairman brought the general discussion to a close. Attendees were advised that points could be made to the Highways Agency, NYCC, or the Police, prior to the Hambleton Area Committee Meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2004. Most of the public left and the main meeting then commenced.

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### 1. Public Comment

None

### 2. Minutes of the January 2004 Meeting

The minutes of the January 2004 Meeting had been circulated. It was resolved that the minutes of this meeting be confirmed and were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

### 3. Matters arising

- a) **Village Newsletter** – It was proposed that anyone who wished to receive communication on village issues should send their email address to the Clerk. Cllr Pederson is awaiting a response from BT as to how many people need to express an interest in Broadband. Cllr Ferguson requested all items to be included should be submitted urgently.
- a) **Village Green Access** – Cllrs Blackwood and Partington met with Forth & Co of Yarm to explain the history of the severe delays and the need to progress urgently. It was formally agreed to change to this new solicitor. Further advice is needed from Forth & Co as to who should progress Mr R Atkinson's application, but the Council was advised that the current application is for the current agricultural use, and a further application would be necessary for commercial/developed use. Absolute clarity is essential. Cllrs Blackwood and Partington were advised that Punch Robson had breached the Solicitor's Code at least three times. It was reported that a cheque had been received from Punch Robson for money previously held by Punch Robson for the purchase of the allotments. It was noted that a letter had been received from Lime Tree House, disputing the need for an easement, which has been forwarded to the new solicitor.

### 4. Correspondence

- a) **Local Government Review** – Literature was presented from both HDC and NYCC outlining their case for their preferred option should a Regional Assembly be created. The Parish Council agreed they should make a submission to the Boundary Committee, and an additional meeting was agreed for 19<sup>th</sup> February to discuss the matter further.
- a) **Quality Status Seminar** – Cllrs Blackwood & Partington expressed an interest in this seminar on 30<sup>th</sup> March.
- a) **Newcastle/Gateshead Bridges Walk**- It was resolved that this sponsored walk for the Children's Society should be advertised on the noticeboard.
- a) **RoSPA Inspections** – It was a resolved that an extended inspection should be requested to cover the Skatepark and Playing Field, and to ensure that all facilities comply with all parts of the Disability Discrimination legislation coming into force in October 2004. It was agreed in principle that the Parish Council is willing to take on the nominal ownership of all playing facilities in order to qualify for reduced insurance premiums.
- a) **Village Hall** – A letter of thanks was received for including £500 for the resurfacing of the car park in their 2004/2005 budget discussions.

### 5. Circulars

Other circulars received were considered not urgent and were passed to councillors to read.

### 6. Planning Matters

None

## **7. Financial Matters**

- a) Agreed to pay E Wren £60.42 for salary as Clerk Feb 04 (8hrs x £7.553) (Ch 300450)
- b) Agreed to pay Village hall £6.80 for hire of meeting room Jan 04 (Ch. 300451)
- c) Agreed to pay Glasdon UK Ltd £195.07 for Icemaster grit spreader (Ch. 300452).
- d) Agreed to pay Aspery Joinery £294 for 2 noticeboards (Ch. 300453)
- e) Noted interest received on deposit account to December 2003 £27.73

## **8. Reports from Representatives**

Cllr Partington reported that AiB had looked at mowers costing £2,600 and £500 including VAT. Cllr Blackwood advised he had seen an ex-demonstration mower at Sam Turners for £125, which Cllr Partington agreed to examine. Cllr Ingleton reminded the Council that an alternative quote for grass cutting was required to satisfy best financial practice. Cllr Blackwood had attended a Community Transport Meeting. This highlighted some potential areas for improvement for the operation of the Minibus: specifically, drivers are not currently checked with the Criminal Records Bureau, drivers' records are not checked for possible points for dangerous driving, and driver training is not offered. An item will be included in the Newsletter to advise that Wheels for All are to provide training for village minibus drivers.

## **9. AOB**

None

## **11. Public Comment**

None.

The meeting closed at 10.00pm.

## **Appleton Wiske Parish Council**

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall meeting room on Thursday 19th February 2004, that commenced at 7.00PM.

### **Present**

Cllrs: Ken Blackwood (Chair), June Ferguson, Roy Ingleton, Derek Partington, Lena Taylor and Olwen Young. Emily Wren (Clerk). Apologies were received from Janet Pederson. No members of the public attended.

### **1. Public Comment**

None

### **2. Boundary Commission Review**

The Chairman opened the discussion on this agenda item by reminding Councillors that any decision should reflect not personal preferences but what would be best for the village. The point was also made that this was not about whether or not a regional assembly should be created which will be decided by referendum. Councillors made numerous points based on their own experiences:

- The Cleveland experience has been more expensive but provided better services
- Other Councillors were not convinced that things had improved post-Cleveland
- In Wales small and local has cost more money building new headquarters
- In considering the impact on employment of the centre of government NYCC would probably be best for Appleton Wiske
- NYCC is favoured because it is explicitly committed to devolving powers to Parish Councils
- NYCC is determined to maintain small schools, which is relevant to Appleton Wiske
- NYCC could have more power regionally because it is larger, established, and judged to be working well now.

For these reasons it was resolved that the Chairman would put in a submission from the Parish Council to support the 2 options to be presented at a ballot as firstly NYCC and secondly the largest possible east/west division of the Districts.

### **3. Financial Matters**

- a) Agreed to pay Appleton Electrical Services £48.52 for Christmas tree installation (Ch 300454)
- b) Agreed to pay D Partington £21.98 for stain for 2 noticeboards (Ch. 300455)
- c)** Agreed to pay Sam Turner £125 for replacement lawnmower (Ch. 300456).
- d) Agreed to pay SLCC £45 annual membership 2004 (Ch. 300457)

### **4. AOB**

None

### **5. Public Comment**

None

The meeting closed at 8.10pm