



## EASINGWOLD AND VILLAGES FORUM

7.30pm on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2009

The Council Chamber, Galtres Centre, Easingwold

### Minutes

#### Present

Mollie Haigh; Gerard Tubb; Cllr. Shirley Shepherd; Jean Richardson; Peter Cole; Cllr. Percy Featherstone; Janet Haw; Elaine Corden; Peter Davison; Betty Tyson; Liz Page; Allyson Moorey; Christine Cookman.

#### Apologies

Frank Johnston-Banks; Bill Frost; Brian Taylor; Anne Alderman; Micky Johnson; Alan England & Maggie Farey.

---

Mollie agreed to Chair the meeting in Frank's absence and welcomed Gerard Tubb (Easingwold Scout Group), Janet Haw (Huby Village Hall Committee), Elaine Corden (Huby Parish Council) and Liz Page (National Trust/Beningbrough Hall) to the meeting.

#### 1. Minutes of the Last Meeting held Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2009

Agreed as a true record thereof.

#### 2. Matters Arising:

- **The Community Plan: Easingwold Projects:** It was noted that Frank and Shirley have yet to meet to discuss how progress can be made towards the remaining Easingwold projects in the Easingwold & Villages Community Plan.
- **Traffic Calming Measures in Shipton by Beningbrough:** Peter confirmed that correspondence had been exchanged between Frank and Jayne Charlton regarding the prioritisation of a pedestrian crossing across the A19 in the village. In response to a letter from Jayne which explained that such a crossing 'does not make as strong a contribution to achieving the shared priorities (accessibility, safety, congestion & air quality) as others already on the Reserve list of schemes awaiting funding' Frank has requested further information as to how an appeal can be made and if, and when, a reassessment of the scheme will be undertaken. A reply to this letter, which also requests a copy of the NYCC Assessment Report for the pedestrian crossing in Shipton, has yet to be received.
- **Easingwold Memorial Park:** Shirley confirmed that the bid to secure Playbuilder funding had been successful and that £43k has been made available to purchase play equipment for children aged 8-13 years. This money must be spent by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010. A recent consultation event, facilitated by Lisa Wilson and Nicole Graham, was held at the Memorial Park which attracted 40 children. Tenders are out for four possible schemes. **Action:** Peter to ask Nicky Smith to contact Shirley regarding issues over the type of equipment to be purchased.
- **Thermal Imaging Cameras:** members supported Frank's suggestion, received in an email

received prior to the meeting, that thermal imaging cameras be made available to residents of Easingwold to determine domestic energy efficiency. It is understood such cameras may be purchased as a result of NYCC's Climate Change Strategy and distributed to residents through libraries across the county.

- **Easingwold TIC:** members congratulated Frank on his work to raise the profile of Easingwold and the surrounding villages as a tourist destination following a recent article in the Yorkshire Post.

### 3. The Dawnay Outdoor Centre

Gerard described plans to develop new outdoor activity centre for use by Scouts, schools and youth groups from across the region. On completion the proposed site will have four acres of woodland and grassland for camping, a cabin with disabled access, toilet and showers, a commercial kitchen and a dining and meeting room. It is hoped that the development of the new activity centre will encourage scouting and young people's groups from all over the country to visit the area offer children and young people a safe place to socialise and participate in a range of challenging activities. The centre will be fully accessible for young people with disabilities and enable them to experience the outdoors in a safe and stimulating environment. The project has been approved by the Hambleton Play Partnership as a priority project in the Hambleton Play Plan. It is anticipated that the facility will be open by Spring 2010. In response to concerns over sustainability and long term revenue streams Gerard explained that Extended Schools have expressed an interested in using the facility which may also be made available to adult outdoor groups or as a wedding venue.

Members considered Gerard's request for £4000 from the Regional Pledge Fund to enable the Group to purchase the additional land required to deliver this project and install a bridge to link the main area of woodland to the activity centre. Gerard confirmed that £5k has been secured from the NYCC Area Committee Funds and a further £5k has been allocated from the Scout's own reserves. It was agreed that given the number of apologies for absence that a copy of the application be circulated via email to members for consideration. **Action:** Peter to circulate a copy of the funding application to the group for comment.

### 4. Village Design Statements in the Howardian Hills AONB

In Maggie's absence Peter explained that a workshop is to be held early in the New Year for those Parishes and communities in and around the Howardian Hills AONB that are interested in writing a Village Design Statement. The workshop, hosted by Rural Action Yorkshire, will provide an opportunity to learn more about the process, what is involved and what help and support is available. It is hoped that Planning Officers will attend the meetings in order to address concerns over the level of influence Village Design Statements have when planning applications are considered. **Action:** Peter to circulate details of the workshop once the details are confirmed.

### 5. Telecommunications in Rural Areas:

- **Mobile Phone Coverage & Broadband:** Peter confirmed that the issue of mobile phone coverage and access to high speed broadband across Easingwold had been raised at the recent LSP Executive meeting and that the issue is to be considered at the next LSP Board meeting to be held on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December. It was noted that mobile signal strength is poor in parts of Coxwold, Alne and Huby.
- **BT's 'Adopt A Kiosk' Scheme:** Peter reported that BT British Telecommunications plc had recently announced proposals that will allow local communities to adopt red telephone kiosks. BT has identified 30 public payphones across Hambleton which are little used by consumers and has created a programme that allows Town or Parish Council to consider adopting the red kiosks on behalf of the local community for £1 before BT moves forward with any further requests for the removal of public call boxes in the future.

The District Council is not seeking to adopt any phone kiosks under the proposed scheme but

should a Town or Parish Council wish to adopt a kiosk the District Council will support this decision. Should Town or Parish Councils agree to adopt the kiosk BT will remove the telephony service. In order that the District Council can submit an informed response to the BT consultation it is gathering views from both the Parish Councils affected by the proposals and the LSP Area Groups and has asked for a response by Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2010.

## 6. Project Proposal: Huby Village Hall

Members discussed plans to develop the Village Hall in Huby which at present is well-used by local community groups but which it is generally agreed is in need of refurbishment. The Hall is currently used by the Moxby Moor Cub Scout Group, Huby Youth Club, Rainbows End Kindergarten, Huby Amateur Dramatics and also plays host to 'Carols Around the Tree', public meetings, birthday parties and furniture sales. It is understood that plans have been drawn up by Pro-Help to replace the existing building with a new purpose-built facility but that this project is dependant on funding including developer contributions from a proposed Whitfield Homes housing scheme in the village. It was noted that views differ amongst the local community as to the best way forward to ensure that the village retains a community facility which is both sustainable and fit for purpose. **Action:** Peter to meet with members of the Parish Council and Village Hall Committee to discuss ways in which funding can be secured to improve the existing facility and to seek a compromise between parties as to the future of the facility.

## 7. Any Other Business:

- **Community Cherry Picker:** members agreed in principal to the proposal that a District-wide 'community cherry picker' be purchased by HDC to support community led projects/events including the installation of Christmas lights/banners etc. It was suggested that issues over storage, transportation and how such equipment would be shared amongst the five market towns and surrounding villages would have to be resolved.
- **Engage in Easingwold:** Peter reminded members about the 'Engage' event being held at the Galtres Centre on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December between 10am and 1pm. The purpose of the event is to raise awareness of leisure activities across Easingwold and the surrounding villages for the over fifties. The event, hosted in partnership with Age Concern and Hambleton District Council, will also promote the work being undertaken by support organisations including the Easingwold & District Community Care Association, Broadacres, U3A and the police.
- **Channel 4 TV Programme:** Peter Davison confirmed that Hushwaite had expressed an interest in taking part in a Channel 4 series which will document the experience of people wanting to relocate from an urban to a rural area, and who want to connect with life in a close-knit community. Concerns were expressed as to a 'hidden agenda' for the TV company and any adverse publicity involvement in such a programme might attract. It was agreed that further discussion take place with the production company before any firm commitment is made.
- **The Coxwold Project:** Jean confirmed that work is underway to undertake a variety of village enhancement projects in Coxwold. Such projects include improvements to the 'Splash' and footpath to Shandy Hall, the restoration of a bridge and well, and the installation of interpretation signs. A wildlife area along the Coxwold/Hushwaite railway cutting has also been suggested as part of the village improvement scheme.

## 8. Dates and Venues for Meetings in 2010

It was agreed that Peter circulate details of the times, dates and venue for meetings to be held in 2010 once they have been confirmed.