

# *Tanfield Parish Council*

## MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

**DATE:** Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2012  
**TIME:** 19.30 hrs  
**LOCATION:** West Tanfield Memorial Hall  
**PRESENT:** Councillors David Parkinson (Chairman), Brian Smith (Vice-Chairman) and Jim Beadle.  
**IN ATTENDANCE:** Iona Taylor (Clerk)  
Steven Houston, Dick Lonsdale, John Moxon, Chris Pennock and Bob Trehitt.

### 1. WELCOME FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Councillor Parkinson welcomed all those present to this interim planning, the agenda for which had been expanded to incorporate other items of urgent business.

### 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA – None.

### 3. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor Middleton as he was on holiday.

### 4. RESIGNATION OF PETER ALMACK

It was noted that Peter Almack has tendered his resignation from the Parish Council. Hambleton District Council has been advised of this and the necessary notices have been displayed on the noticeboards in Thornborough, Nosterfield and West Tanfield. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to each household in East Tanfield (the ward to which the vacancy relates) to ensure that electors are aware of the vacancy and the process for filling it.

Councillor Parkinson briefed the meeting on a number of items of correspondence and communications relating to the ongoing concerns about land use at The Long Acre, Fore Lane, Thornborough (ref. item 18 of the January 2012 meeting minutes), which had culminated in Peter Almack's resignation from the Council.

Councillors expressed their disappointment at Peter Almack's resignation and it was agreed that Councillor Parkinson should write to Peter Almack to thank him for his considerable service to the Parish during his time as Councillor. Councillors also recorded their support for the Clerk and the work she carries out for the Council.

Councillor Parkinson advised that the matter of planning issues at the Long Acre, Fore Lane, Thornborough would be included for discussion on the agenda of the April meeting.

### 5. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

#### 5.1 11/02220/FUL – Proposed change of use of land to domestic garden and alterations and extensions to existing dwelling at Binsoe Hill Farmhouse.

It was agreed that the Parish Council has no objections to the principle of this development, subject to the building continuing to be used solely for domestic purposes. It was also agreed that the close proximity of the Scheduled Ancient Monument of \*\*\* should be brought to the planning authority's attention.

#### 5.2 Wath Mushroom Farm.

It was noted that Wath Mushroom Farm is either about to be, or has recently been bought out. This Council's support for a letter bringing a number of planning issues and concerns of local residents to the attention of the new owner is being requested. Councillors (who had been provided with a copy of the letter prior to this meeting) agreed their support for this document, subject to concerns being noted about any additional traffic along the back road between Wath and the B6267.

### 6. THE LOCALISM ACT

The Localism Bill, introduced in December 2010, received Royal Assent on 16 November 2011. The Act sets out plans it says will give communities and local government greater powers and freedom from Whitehall and will affect areas of work such as the Code of Conduct and local planning. The Government estimates that many of the measures will come into effect in April 2012.

The Clerk is hoping to arrange a local training session on this issue and *Councillors are strongly encouraged to attend.* Written guidance on the Localism Act will be provided prior to the training session.

### 7. INTERNAL AUDITOR

It was agreed that Mr Place of Mallorie Court, Ripon be appointed as the Council's Internal Auditor for 2011/12 at a cost of £40.

### 8. NEXT MEETINGS

The next meetings were confirmed as being on 12<sup>th</sup> March (planning) and 16<sup>th</sup> April 2012 (ordinary).

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**9. ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE NEXT MEETING – None.**

Meeting closed at 20.13 hrs.

These minutes were recorded and prepared by Iona Taylor, Clerk to the Parish Council.

**SIGNED:** ..... (Chairman)

**DATE:** .....