
OSWALDTWISTLE AREA COUNCIL

TUESDAY, 7TH DECEMBER, 2004

PRESENT

Area Council Members:

Councillor Walmsley (Chairman), Councillors Mrs. Haworth, Mrs. Lockwood and Roberts.

Co-optees: Inspector Platt, P. Trickett and M. Porter.

Officers: S. Watson, S. Gardner, D. Peacock, J. Simpson (L.C.C.) and L. Slater.

Residents: J. Addison, R. Bolton, N. Booth, B. Cottam, D. Cragg, J. Cunliffe, R. Cunliffe, S. Dalton, C. Gorton, B. Greene, D. Haworth, P. Kay, P. Spiller, Mr. & Mrs. Townson. (No. of residents: 15)

Police: P.C. Finn

Press: M. McKenna - The Accrington Observer & L. Cummings – Lancashire Evening Telegraph

WELCOME

Councillor Walmsley, acting as Chairman for the meeting, welcomed all residents to the Oswaldtwistle Area Council.

FORMAL BUSINESS

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Britcliffe, Hayes and Mrs. Hayes, County Councillor Mrs. Westell and Canon Michael Ratcliffe.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 28TH SEPTEMBER 2004

The minutes of the Oswaldtwistle Area Council meeting held on 28th September 2004 were submitted to the Area Council (Paper A).

Resolved - **That the minutes be approved and accepted.**

MATTERS ARISING

Councillor Mrs. Haworth requested an update on the problems at the Archways in Union Road. Inspector Platt reported that the Police had identified the problems and were looking at different methods to resolve the problems in the long term.

NEWS ITEMS AND WHAT'S HAPPENING ABOUT

Steve Watson referred residents to Paper B of the agenda and gave details of the following:-

Moss Lane – Councillor Mrs. Haworth reported that a meeting had been held between Officers of the Council and local residents to determine an agreed scheme. She reported that the residents still wanted to block the lane off from through traffic and as such the Council had agreed to revisit the plans to the scheme. However, she pointed out that the residents had also agreed that the lane should become a one way system with chicanes, if the first option was not possible.

Rhyddings Street Verges

Councillor Walmsley reported that a virtual agreement had been made with residents of Rhyddings Street and the situation would be resolved within the next few weeks. He reported that funding had been obtained, the materials had been purchased and gave details of the works to take place.

Peel Court

David Cragg, owner of Peel Court, reported that they were considering many uses for Peel Court and would be submitting a planning application in January. He reported that they would have a greater idea of what they wanted to do by that time.

In response to a request for the land to be made into a car park, the Chairman pointed out that this would not be possible due to the cost and that the use of the site would be up to the owner.

Co-op Site & Jubilee Gardens

The meeting organised for November had been postponed and was due to be rescheduled for early in the New Year. The funding for the scheme had been secured.

Rhyddings Park Lights

The Chairman reported that a planning application had been submitted for lights in Rhyddings Park and would be considered at the Planning Committee in the near future.

Belthorn Recreation Ground

Councillor Mrs. Haworth updated residents on the possibility of a Recreation Ground in Belthorn. She reported that a meeting had been held with residents in the village at which proposals were put forward for a capital program bid for a play area. She pointed out that the meeting had promised that a management plan for the site would be drawn up in order to assist a residents' group in bidding for external funding. She indicated that discussions for the type of equipment would take place in 2005.

Merlin Brook Drive

Steve Watson referred to the flash floods and subsequent damage that had occurred. He indicated that there was no secure area for fencing and consequently, they were waiting for the Environment Agency to complete repair works to the banking.

OPEN FORUM

Steve Watson reported that one open forum question and a petition had been received for the meeting from:-

Mr. Yousaf, Ossy General Store – he reported on an increase in the level of youth nuisance and crime and suggested that a CCTV camera should be erected in the area to act as a deterrent and to assist in helping to catch the perpetrators. Steve Watson reported that this had been previously suggested at an Area Council but had not been supported by residents or the Police. He indicated that the supply of a CCTV camera would be very costly and because there was a limited number of cameras that the control centre could monitor it would also have resulted in a camera from another location being used. The Police and Officers had considered that they could not support a move of location for another CCTV camera, however, the Area Council indicated that they would investigate this request.

A resident suggested that web-cams should be used as an alternative source of monitoring but the Police pointed out that regulations had to be adhered to and consequently, web-cams could not be used.

John Crowdsdale – requested information on the row of mature Cottonwoods behind Rhoden Pub, footpath, fly-tipping, fires and chopping down trees at various locations and a notice under the arch at Commercial Street. Steve Watson reported that the Council was working with the Environment Agency to target areas of fly-tipping but had cleared Cobbs Lane on a number of occasions. He indicated that the Council had powers to prosecute but required the help of residents to identify those responsible.

The trees at the rear of Rhoden Pub were not under the jurisdiction of the Council as they were located on private land, however, some trees at Jackhouse were removed some months ago as they were leaning dangerously. He reported that Groundworks were also looking for suitable training opportunities to train students in chainsaw use and therefore, the dangerous trees were removed at no cost to the Council. The area would be inspected soon and consequently, reports of campers who set fires and removed trees would be investigated further.

In relation to the notice for the arch-way, residents were informed that a ‘No Loitering’ sign had been requested.

A resident also requested a form of vandal proof lighting under the arches.

Wordsworth Close – a resident reported that lorries travelling through Wordsworth Close were constantly creating muddy roads from mud on their wheels. The resident also requested that information be brought back to the next meeting of the Area Council to clarify what would happen to the grassed area.

Steve Watson reported that the developers had responsibility for ensuring that the wagons had wheel washing facilities before they left the site.

Trinity Street Bus Shelter – a resident requested that the bus shelter was replaced at its original location. Councillor Mrs. Lockwood reported that residents had informed her that they would even pay for the return of the bus shelter. The Chairman suggested that an informal meeting be held on the issue. A resident suggested that the shelter be placed on Rowan Avenue and another that pressure was placed on the bus operator to introduce a hail and ride service by the Council. Councillor Roberts indicated that the Council could not make the bus operator provide a hail and ride service and because there were few bus operators who wanted that route, the Council would be unwilling to place pressure on the operator or this could result in the service being stopped altogether.

Blackburn Road – a resident requested that the road be monitored for traffic calming measures to reduce the amount of speeding. Inspector Platt reported that the location of speed cameras were determined by Lancashire Partnership for road safety. He pointed out that cameras were sited dependent on statistics and measures would only be put in place to monitor traffic once areas had been identified. He indicated that he would request that the Policing Unit asked the Highways Authority to monitor this area for a camera.

Gun Shop – a resident expressed that there had been concern in the community regarding the display of firearms in the shop windows. Inspector Platt reported that the Gun Shop had been inspected and no laws had been contravened. He pointed out the shop only sold replica guns

and informed the meeting that the Gun Shop was looking at signs for the shop and would be submitting an application to the planning section.

POLICE UPDATE

Inspector Platt reported that crimes across Hyndburn were reducing and detection rates increasing. He explained how every reported incident was taken seriously and discussed during the morning brief. He informed residents that if they made an appointment he would show them the meetings in process. Inspector Platt gave details of the types of crimes that Oswaldtwistle had to contend with and referred to the role residents could play in creating solutions to the problems. He indicated that the Community Beat Team had been successful in several operations, such as the joint initiative to reduce the amount of fireworks injuries during October/November.

Michael Porter, representative of Victim Support, Blackburn, reported on the reduced number of burglaries throughout Blackburn and Darwen and that figures in Hyndburn would be similar.

GRANTS & BUDGET UPDATE

Steve Watson referred to the Council's financial difficulties and the budgets for Oswaldtwistle Area Council, as outlined in the Paper C of the report. He reported that funding had been secured for two applications from the Central Bidding Fund, including a Green Enforcement Officer. He pointed out that the Area Council still currently had £1,350 and that two grant applications had been received from Oswaldtwistle Prospects Panel and the 109 Loyola Scout Group.

- Resolved**
- (1) That the Area Council noted the report;**
 - (2) That Oswaldtwistle Prospects Panel be approved £800.00 towards a scheme to create a disabled accessible nature trail and pond dipping platform at the community tree nursery for use by local residents and local schools as a learning resource; and**
 - (3) That the 109 Loyola Scout Group be approved £500.00 towards a scheme to replace tents for use on Beavers, Cubs and Scouts camps and the replacement of old cooking equipment.**

NEXT OSWALDTWISTLE AREA COUNCIL MEETING

The Chairman thanked residents for attending the Area Council and reported that the next meeting would be held on Thursday, 27th January, 2005 at the Civic Theatre, Oswaldtwistle.