



**Heysham
Neighbourhood
Council**

Bringing The Community Together

www.heyshamonline.co.uk

**Quarterly Public Meeting
Wednesday 27th January 2010
Heysham Youth & Community Centre**

Start 19.30

In The Chair: Mr Peter Whaley - Chairman
Secretary: Mrs Allison Thomas

Members Present:

**David Wilcock, Graeme Austin, Paul Mallett, Janice Whaley, Sue Illingworth,
Brian Reeves, Jean Yates, Sheila Hindson**

Number of Public Present: 29

Others: PCSO Linda Willis

Mr Richard Martin – Secretary to Geraldine Smith

1. Apologies

Kath McVernon, Mr Coffey, Councillor Brown, Councillor Farrow, Councillor Greenall, Councillor Sands

2 Minutes of the meeting held on 28th October 2009

At Heysham Youth & Community Centre were accepted as a true record, and were proposed by Mr Graeme Austin and seconded by Mr Brian Reeves.

3. Matters arising from the minutes 28th October 2009

Item 5b

The trees bordering Heysham Cricket Club have been attended to and where necessary felled.

4. Community Policing

PCSO Linda Willis reported that the recent crime figures for Heysham were low - there had been one attempted break in at Heysham Youth & Community Centre.

Bikes have been purchased by the Police to help officers get to local jobs quicker – these bikes have been funded by local businesses and Heysham Neighbourhood Council.

PCSO Willis advised that there will be no ‘cuts’ to policing in the Heysham area and the current amount of three PCSOs will remain the same.

It was reported at the meeting that there had been recent damage to St Peters Church and graveyard – PCSO Willis advised that Rev Tickner should ensure that this damage is reported on every occasion so that the Police can create a log, and then this will help to ensure that the Police can keep a closer watch on the area.

5. Heysham Village Toilets

The Chairman gave the background information on Lancaster City Councils decision to close the toilets.

A letter from Mr Mark Davies Head of City Contract Direct Services (LCC) dated 30th December was read out detailing the ‘Convenience Provision, which outlined the closure procedure for the toilets.

The three options for the toilets are:

Option 1.

The toilets remain closed and are then at some future date Lancaster City Council will then demolish the toilet block.

Option 2.

A new toilet block relocated close to the recycling centre on the car park. This proposal would mean that the existing toilet block would remain closed and funding would have to be found for the new building.

Option 3.

Heysham Neighbourhood Council (HNC) would take over the toilet block and operate them, with the assurance that if the financial implications became too much in the future, HNC could ‘hand’ the building back to Lancaster City Council.

A public vote took place and Option 3 was chosen unanimously

The Chairman talked through a costing sheet for the project to include rates, water, electricity, supplies, maintenance, insurance, transport and wages.

Lancaster City Council is prepared to fund 50% of the operating costs which totals £6,150.

The project is entitled to an 80% reduction on rates with a discretionary further 20% possibly available.

The Chairman talked through a refurbishment costing sheet (materials only) to include CCTV, security gates, electrical wiring, paint, replacement toilets, replacement urinals, replacement dispensers, store construction, rendering entrances, pressure washers, roof timbers, roof finish and replacement doors.

Fundraising ideas were discussed to help support the project and the option of a 'coin in the slot' on each toilet door was mentioned, but it was felt that this might encourage vandalism as money would be on the premises.

Heysham Blue Stars have been consulted on the project and they are willing to pay £520.00 per annum if a storage facility could be created as part of the toilet block.

The meeting felt that it was un-acceptable that there were no City Councillors present to take questions of the toilet block proposed closure. A petition with 134 names had been given to the Chairman to object against the closure, this will be forwarded to Mr Mark Davies Head of City Contract Direct Services (LCC).

The Chairman explained to the meeting that this project required the support of the local community both with practical help (e.g. painting the building) to ensuring that a 'close watch' was kept on the building with regard to security and vandalism issues.

Mrs Jean Yates advised that she would investigate the possibility of an item of capital funding through the 'Repairs for Buildings' budget.

Mrs Kathleen Gregson, representing Heysham Heritage Centre and a local business owner read out a letter outlining the concerns of the proposed closure.

Mrs Gregson informed the meeting that the Heritage Centre has had over 116,000 visitors since opening, and the loss of the toilets would be detrimental to both businesses and tourism to the area.

The Chairman advised that he had received letters of support from Geraldine Smith MP, Rev David Tickner, The Heaton and Oxcliffe Parish Council and the Chamber of Trade and Commerce.

Mr Brian Reeves asked if Lancaster City Council could be persuaded to keep the toilet block open – the Chairman explained that he felt everything had been done to try and avert the closure but the decision was purely budget-led.

In addition the Chairman advised that even if the toilet block had been 'saved' from closure this time – the threat of closure would be around for years to come as Lancaster City Council look to make large savings over the next few years.

6. Mossgate Development

An application showing a variation on the bowling green proposal has been received:

Application No: 10/00007/VCN

Proposal: Variation of condition no. 39 on application 09/00668/FUL to allow the use of bowling greens from April 2010

For: Rushcliffe (Heysham) Ltd

Site Address: Land at Mossgate Park, Mossgate Park, Heysham, Lancashire

Work on the development has started and is due to be completed by the end of 2010. The new Bowling Green area has been turfed.

7. Planning

The Chairman read out the statement from Lancaster City Council regarding the community pools at Hornby, Carnforth and Heysham, outlining the Council's plans to end its partnership with Lancashire County Council by 'handing back' the three pools.

Mrs Jean Yates advised that City Councillor Janice Hanson was looking at possibilities of keeping Heysham pool fully operational, possibly through a working partnership between Heysham High School, Lancaster City and Lancashire County Council.

8. Correspondence

As item 7

9. Finance

The Treasurer, Mr Paul Mallett read out details from his latest financial report advising that as at the 29/12/09 the statement showed a current balance of £1761.34 and a reserve amount of £1111.00 amounting to a cash value of £2872.34.

A full version of the accounts can be found on www.heyshamonline.co.uk

The Chairman thanked Mr Mallett for all his hard work in preparing the report.

10. Events.

The Chairman advised dates of the 2010 car boot dates.

The Xmas Lights Switch-On 2009 resulted in a deficit of £425.00 due partly to poor weather and a low amount collected in the donation buckets.

Plans for the 2010 Xmas Lights Switch –On will need to be discussed further to decide the future of the event.

11. A.O.B

A notice about a coffee morning at St Peters Church Hall, on Saturday 30th January to raise money for the Haiti Earthquake Disaster Appeal.

A newsletter produced by H.N.C the ‘Heysham Herald’ will be produced on a quarterly basis highlighting local issues.

The Heysham Village Institute will be holding its AGM on Monday 1st February.

H.N.C can have up to 15 executive committee members at anytime – new members always welcome.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 20.50pm

Signed: _____ **Date:** _____