

Scagglethorpe Parish Council

Draft Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 17th May 2016

1. Appointment of Chairman

The Council re-elected Ben Harris as Chairman for the coming year

2. Apologies for absence/councillors present

All Councillors were present: Ben Harris, Linda Wasalage, David Ackroyd, Ann Smith Maureen Danby-Smith, Paul Prichard, Paul Douthwaite

17 parish residents were present and three others by invitation: Sharon Fox (NYCC Highways Dept), Linda Simpson (Gateway – Horton Housing charity), Jane Moss (Ethnic Minorities Education)

3. Introduction of new Parish Clerk

The chairman introduced David Sonley as the newly appointed Parish Clerk

4. Minutes of the last open meeting

The Clerk read out the minutes of the 2015 Annual Parish Meeting which were signed by the chairman as a true record.

5. Matters arising from the minutes

5.1 Discussion took place on the request from Settrington PC for a financial contribution to grass cutting in the cemetery. Some parishioners felt that we should contribute as some Scagglethorpe residents as relatives buried there. Others felt that individuals should be responsible for cutting round their own relatives graves. Council members felt that the approach should be to recruit volunteers to tend to the grass cutting. The Council agreed to discuss the matter at the Council meeting immediately following this one.

5.2 The council was asked why the moving of the kissing gate in the field next to the east section of the old A64 had not yet taken place. The reason given was that permission had only just been obtained and that the work would be carried out within the coming months.

5.3 Parishioners said that dogs were still running loose in the field next to the eastern branch of the old A64, despite notices having been fixed on gates. The Council agreed that a reminder to keep dogs on a lead will be put in the next newsletter.

5.4 Concern was expressed that in the past, there had been delays in publishing minutes of the meetings. The Council and Clerk agreed to keep on top of this in the future.

6. Chairman's report on the last year

The chairman said that there was little to add to the discussion that had already taken place, and that the main development had been the replacement of all street lights with brighter, energy saving bulbs. We should see a reduction in the electricity bills. There were still some black spots which were being looked at.

7. Financial Statement and presentation of accounts for annual audit

7.1 Copies of the financial statement were circulated to those present at the meeting. The largest items of expenditure were the replacement of the street lighting, the electricity bill, and the cost of inspections for insurance. We have taken out a ROSPA approved insurance policy which is primarily for insurance cover for the playing fields.

7.2 £547 of VAT had been claimed back. We usually submit a VAT claim every three years.

7.3 We have paid a subscription to the Yorkshire Local Councils Association which allows us to use their legal services for support and advice, should we need to do so.

7.4 We must follow the government transparency code disclosure of the Council's affairs and the financial report is posted on the Ryedale District Council web site. Notices are also placed in the village at the village hall and bus stop. The full set of accounts can be inspected between 6th June and 25th July 2016 by arrangement with the Clerk. Copies can be taken, but a charge will be made for these.

7.5 Up until 2 years ago The Parish tax precept was increased each year by the inflation index. Since then we have increased it by 2% to pay for the new street lights and the employment of a Clerk. The precept will be reviewed for next year.

8. Open Forum

8.1 Bus stop

Customers of the Ham and Cheese are parking cars at the bus stop and around the islands where the bus turns. This occurs most often on Monday and Wednesday evenings. As a result of the parking, the bus sometimes cannot turn and pull in at the bus stop and passengers have to alight onto the road which can be a struggle for some. The bus stop is not marked on the road. NYCC Highways will inform the Council what could be done to deter this practice.

8.2 Travellers and Gypsies parking on the old A64.

The caravans had been parked on the old road since January this year, although there was some disagreement as to when they had actually arrived. It was recognised that this particular family had visited every year for the last three years, but on this occasion, the duration was far longer than usual, the area was becoming very untidy, and the occupants appeared to be running a scrap business, evident by the piles of metal.

NYCC Highways department had not been notified of the arrival of the Travellers until March. In future, NYCC highways should be notified as soon as the Travellers arrive. The travellers had been served with an eviction notice, also preventing them returning in under three months. A date had been set for a magistrates hearing and assessment of the Traveller's circumstances (e.g. education and welfare needs) was under way. If the hearing goes ahead it would take 2 – 4 weeks for the eviction to take place, but usually, the travellers depart before this happens. NYCC Highways would keep the Parish Council informed of progress.

Linda Simpson (Gateway) who had spoken to the travellers, informed us of some of the personal issues surrounding the family. In response to other queries, she said that every Traveller family was obliged to register any business that they ran, and pay income tax.

There were parking restriction notices along that section of the road which prohibited overnight sleeping in vehicles. Sharon Fox said that she was unaware of any legal order applied to this road,

and that the restrictions could not be enforced. The Parish Council should check to see if any orders were in place.

Last year, prior to the Seamer fair, the eastern section of the old A64 had been completely blocked by a large number of Traveller's homes and equipment over a number of days. This caused a great deal of inconvenience by preventing access to adjoining fields and houses along that road. Sharon Fox said that NYCC Highways had not been made aware that there had been any such problems.

It is not usual policy that laybys created by old roads are returned to the original landowner

8.3 Repair of roads

The road through the old part of the village was in very poor repair. We were informed that deep pot holes would be given a temporary fix within 48 hours of reporting the issue to NYCC through the web site. Major repairs would only be carried out if capital funding is available for the category of road. As this village road is a low category it is unlikely that the work would be carried out soon. Claims for damages caused by poor roadways would only be upheld if not fixed within the timeframe corresponding to the type of fault.

Pot holes can be reported on line at the NYCC highways web site and this is likely to produce the fastest response.

8.4 Bush cutting on the A64

This has been a recurring problem. We should contact Highways England for A64 issues.

8.5 Heavy traffic through the village

One observer had counted 112 heavy vehicles passing through the village in just one day. Some residents have experienced their houses shaking when heavy vehicles come through. We believe that most of this traffic is from non-local firms, although Malton Bacon Factory and traffic from the local quarry accounts for a significant amount. "No HGVs" signs would have little effect as it only weight restriction orders that will deter drivers from using the road.

Haulage operators have an obligation to route traffic down the most suitable roads. We can approach the local haulage companies directly ourselves. NYCC highways department can take no action unless we can provide evidence of which Haulage companies are using the road and when.

Concern was also expressed about the speed of some vehicles passing through the village. We were advised that we should investigate the NYCC Speed Management Protocol which involves the Police and to assist us in determining what type of enforcement is appropriate. There is a website form to apply for this.

9. Chairman's closing remarks

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming, and in particular the three invited guests, and closed the meeting.