

# **Scagglethorpe Parish Council**

## **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2016**

### **1. Apologies for absence**

None. All Councillors were present: Ben Harris(BH), Linda Waslidge(LW), David Ackroyd(DA), Ann Smith(AS) Maureen Danby-Smith(MDS), Paul Prichard(PP), Paul Douthwaite(PD). No parish residents were present.

### **2. Minutes of the last meeting**

Approved and signed.

### **3. Matters arising from the minutes**

**3.1** Bushes at the Manor have been cut back, but they are still obscuring the speed sign and a hazard to pedestrians. PD will speak to the owner again. Volunteers could easily be arranged to help with the work if necessary. If the owner raised any objections, then the Clerk would write to the NYCC Highways Dept.

**3.2** The Pot holes were still evident in the road on Main Street near the junction with the road to the old village. NYCC had carried out some repair work, but as those remaining were less than 4" deep we would not expect them to be repaired at the current time.

**3.3** PD had obtained a price of £320 + VAT fro Acorn lighting for the supply and installation of another street light on the bend near Brow Farm. The Council agreed that this should go ahead.

### **4. Clerks report**

**4.1** Correspondence from YLCA, NAC and RDC. There was only one email outstanding regarding consultation period for Visually important under-developed areas. As the areas are not around here there was nothing to comment upon.

**4.2** The clerk had attended a the YLCA meeting on 4/10 and the RDC Liaison meeting on 19/10. He will circulate the minutes to the Councillors. The guest speakers at the RDC Liaison meeting were particularly interesting and he recommended everyone to attend the next one, depending on the published agenda.

### **5. Finances, Expense and Precept for the next year.**

**5.1** Current Position. The latest bank statement was presented. There had been a small increase in the bank balance since April this year . Our bank balance had been boosted this year by the reclaiming of £537 VAT, and we had spent only a little of the money we received from NYCC for Grass Cutting.

The Clerk reported that we were due to receive £785 from NYCC for grass cutting this year. It was important that those principle volunteers who cut the grass in the village should have their

expenses reimbursed, and three people were identified. **It was resolved** that PD would approach them to determine what was due. Precept. After much discussion **it was resolved** to increase our Precept application for 2017/2018 by 30% over the previous year. This represents a figure of only about £500 extra income. The increase was justified as it was now necessary to pay wages to the Clerk who was appointed earlier this year. Also, the Clerk warned the council of possible expenses passed down by RDC to cover election costs. RDC has not yet indicated any plans to charge us next year, providing PC elections are held at the same time as other elections. If they decide to do so, it may take us some years to save sufficient funds to cover costs even with a 30% year on year increase. Forthcoming legislation may put a cap on the percentage increase that Parishes may apply each year, although that proposal is still at the consultation stage. The YLCA (Yorkshire Local Councils Association) has recommended that parishes build "earmarked reserves" in their budgets to finance any future charges. It was noted that in recent years, no increase to the Parish Precept had been requested and Scagglethorpe had now one of the lowest Precepts in the area.

## **6. 2015/2016 External Audit.**

The external auditors, Littlejohns had reported no issues with the financial accounting. However they commented on the fact that the audit results were published later than originally requested. We were surprised by this comment as they had agreed to a time extension because we had to change our usual local auditor late in the process.

## **7. Village Risk Assessment**

The Clerk had updated the original risk assessment with control measures and circulated hard copies at the meeting. It was agreed that the risk assessment should only show entries over which the PC had control and had were responsible for, and should include a mention of the three very large "Jubilee" trees in the village. The Clerk will send DA an electronic copy of the risk assessment so that he can amend and circulate the final copy for approval.

## **8. Traffic Survey and Speed Measurement results**

The Traffic survey had gone well and we were grateful to volunteers from 15 homes, mainly on Main Street for there generous time in making the survey possible. Most of the high street residents had specifically mentioned the vibrations in the houses caused by the heavy quarry lorries and several had commented on the noise of the lorries breaking hard on their approach to the downhill bend on Main Street. The clerk had collected all the survey data in a spread sheet and circulated some simple bar charts taken from the data. The Councillors would like to see the data in the spread sheet before further discussions on how to carry this forward. **It was resolved** the Clerk would circulate the spreadsheet to all councillors in the first instance.

A speed monitoring camera had been in place on Main Street from 2<sup>nd</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> August. During that time over 14,500 cars, lorries and motorcycles had passed through. The results were reviewed by the N Yorks Road Safety Partnership Team, and showed an average speed of 20-23 MPH. The Partnership Team will not be taking the issue any further because of the low rate of speed infringement, and the fact that there had been no reports of any incidents in the last three years.

## **9. Fracking**

The Clerk had attended a Parish Liason meeting of several Ryedale PC representatives with Clrs Mike Potter and Mike Cleary of RDC Derwent Ward. One of the discussion points was fracking. Following this meeting Leavening PC have set up a Fracking working group and requested a representative from all parish councils to act as a link between the working group and the respective Parish Council. Having discussed this, it was resolved not to elect a representative for this group as it was felt that politically motivated pressure groups were not necessarily representative of the general concensus of individuals living in the area, who should make up their own mind about Fracking.

## **10. Planning Applications**

A Planning application had been submitted regarding demolition of barns and creation of new houses at Underbrow. The PC discussed the application and raised no objections. The Clerk will write to the RDC planning department stating that we did not wish to comment.

An application for a Lawful Development Certificate had been submitted by the current owner of Primrose Corner to live permanently in a caravan on the site. The PC reviewed the documentation and believed that the supporting documentation provided a reasonable account of the events leading up to the current situation. The Clerk will write to the planning department to that effect.

## **11. Tidy Village Matters**

One of the village residents had proposed to sponsor the provision of a new dog waste bin in the village. The Council was delighted with this action and fully supports it. There are lots of leaves gathering on the path around the sloping bend on Main Street. PD will remove these using a leaf blower.

## **12. Date of next meeting**

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2017

1. R. Sonley, Parish Clerk 01944 758755