

Minutes of Meeting held 30th May 2018

Present: Coun P Ridley (Chair), Coun A Moore, Coun O Poulter, Coun. J Sanderson, Coun R Gouldthorpe, Cllr A Wilkinson (NYCC), Cllr B Phillips (HDC), R Dale (Clerk) PCSO 3758 D Beveridge (NY Police) plus 10 members of the public

1. Apologies

None.

2. Declarations of Interest

None

3. Annual General Meeting

- 1) Election of Chairperson. Coun. Ridley was nominated by Coun. Moore and seconded by Coun. Gouldthorpe. There being no other nominations, Coun. Ridley was duly appointed as Chairperson for the coming year.
- 2) Coun. Ridley signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, witnessed by the Parish Clerk.
- 3) The unaudited accounts for 2017/18, copies of which had previously been circulated, were unanimously approved. A copy of these will now be placed on the Parish Council website.

4. Police Report

PC Beveridge reported that one crime had been reported during the preceding two months: an instance of anti-social behaviour on a school bus, in which the children's parents had subsequently become involved. He also reported on the recently launched 'Take Five North Yorkshire' fraud awareness campaign, which will see a team of dedicated Officers, PCSOs and Volunteers visit each of 16 neighbourhood policing areas before the end of the year to deliver a roadshow of fraud prevention talks and events. As part of the roadshow North Yorkshire Police is extending the invitation to community groups, services and other organisations, in particularly those that support the elderly and vulnerable, to request for a representative from the force to visit and deliver a fraud prevention session and answer any questions.

5. Minutes of meeting held 28th March 2018

The minutes of the meeting held on 28th March 2018, having previously been circulated to Council Members, were agreed a true record proposed by Coun. Moore and seconded by Coun. Gouldthorpe. No dissensions. Signed off by Chair Ridley.

6. Matters Arising from Previous Meeting

- 1) Mr Sedgwick reported on his continuing correspondence with Linden Homes in which he complained about the state of the Village Green Open Space. A meeting was to be held on site with the company's technical director.
- 2) Notice was given that, following the Council's initiatives in conjunction with Gina Allen from the Safer Hambleton Project, the first Community meeting would be held on Saturday 9th June on the topic of traffic and speeding, which was the top item of concern revealed by the recent Residents Survey. Gina would act as facilitator for the meeting, and was hoping to bring with her representatives of the Police and NYCC Highways Department which are the two agencies primarily concerned with enforcement of traffic issues.
- 3) Because of the Community meeting, the date of the next Litter Picking session had been postponed to the following day, Sunday 10th June.
- 4) Work on the repainting of the white railings near the Royal George had been completed. It was noted with some disappointment that an earlier offer from HDC to power wash the area under the railings had subsequently been withdrawn. The area was subsequently cleared thanks to the efforts of Coun. Ridley and Mr Chambers.
- 5) We are still waiting to hear from Linden regarding the suggested transfer of two of the older picnic benches (previously donated by Sam Turner's) from the Play Park to the new Village Green at Meadowfields. The offer of another bench to be located on the green in Cromwell had been declined. As an interim measure, three of the new benches were moved from their original position close to the entrance and spread out around the green. Thanks to Couns. Sanderson, Poulter and Gouldthorpe for expediting this.
- 6) A new Code Of Conduct and a Complaints Procedure, together with an updated Standing Orders document, were published on the Parish Council website on 29th March.
- 7) Two new village notice boards had been installed at a total cost, including installation, of £1700 plus VAT.
- 8) No reply had been received from Ainderby Steeple regarding their proposed joint Defibrillator Awareness Course. It was understood that the chair of Ainderby's Village Meeting had recently passed away, and that the village's priorities naturally lay elsewhere at this time.

7. Public Forum

A parishioner had previously indicated that he wished to speak in this section on the subject of kerbside weed encroachment and that he would be asking the Council what plans it had for dealing this. Unfortunately the parishioner in question did not subsequently attend the meeting to make his remarks himself, but it was nevertheless felt that the subject was of sufficient importance to warrant a general discussion anyway.

The matter actually raises two separate questions. The first question concerns the risks of using chemicals for weed control in public areas – risks especially to children and animals (eg need for professional licence etc). We have already recently used the services of a resident who has this licence in connection with the work on the white railings and for some other areas in the village such as the snicket between Back Lane and Greenacres. Most weedkillers available through garden centres and so on are designated as being for domestic use only, and properly should not be used in public areas. Of course, even if the weeds are killed, the dead leaves and debris still need to be cleared away.

However, street gutter-clearing is the responsibility of the District Council, although arguably they don't do this often enough or rigorously enough, and in any case this doesn't deal with weeds on the pathways. However a Community gutter-clearing programme similar to the Community litter-picking initiative, assuming that this is what the original parishioner had in mind, would be far more hazardous prospect because it would mean working in the public highway with all the added risks that this entails.

Councillor Phillips (HDC) undertook to speak with the relevant department about our concerns regarding gutter clearing. Councillor Wilkinson (NYCC) indicated that the Highways department would normally deal with spraying of weeds on pathways alongside adopted roads, and she too undertook to follow this up with them.

8. Planning Matters.

The Council has continued to express its disappointment over the plans for a new dwelling to the rear of Swaledale Court, following the submission of an amended Planning Application for this development.

9. Finance

- 1) The Clerk reported that the balance of funds, including a small sum in petty cash, was £11,679.19, with cheques totalling £594.88, that had not yet been presented, leaving a nett balance carried forward of £11,084.31. The first tranche of the Parish Precept (£3000) had been received, and a donation of £52.50 had been received from the Easter Egg Hunt.
- 2) Payments totalling £741 had been made in respect of the Tour de Yorkshire event, and this sum was fully covered by grants received from HDC (£500) and Linden Homes (£250, promised but not yet received). General expenses in the year to date amounted to £1981, of which £1620 was in respect of the third of four contracted instalments for the Vehicle Activated Signs, and £211 was for grass cutting. £2696 has been spent on the new village noticeboards, village signs, white railing repairs and the acquisition of the Council's first computer. Approximately £400 of expenditure to date is accounted for by VAT, which will be reclaimed at the end of the quarter.

Detailed summaries of the accounts to date had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting.

10. Tour de Yorkshire

A sum of £577 had been sent to Yorkshire Air Ambulance, and a further £40 from late collections will be added to this sum. This does not include any monies collected by the pub, butcher or the Dales School, who, it is assumed, will have sent their donations directly. A commemoration plaque has been given to the village and is affixed to the wall of the Village Hall near the main entrance. Council and parishioners wished to extend their thanks and appreciation for all involved in ensuring a successful day for the village, but especially to Ms Kirsty McGready and Mr Alan Weston

11. Community Newsletter

The first issue of the Community newsletter, costing £185, had been paid for as part of the TdY expenses, and therefore covered by the grant aid received from HDC. It was understood that future issues, which it was proposed should be quarterly, would cost around £100 for Morton-on-Swale only. If additional copies were required for Ainderby, this would add a further £25, but it was hoped that Ainderby Steeple Parish Meeting would fund this part themselves if they wished the newsletter to be distributed there as well. As there was no budget provision for this item, it was agreed that the Parish Council would meet the £100 cost of the next three issues of the newsletter out of reserves, and that it would then look to build in a specific provision into next year's budget if publication was to continue beyond that. Efforts should ideally be made to seek advertising sponsorship from local businesses in order to defray this cost.

12. Weed encroachment on the Play Park mulch pathways.

Attention was drawn to the continuing encroachment of weeds on the mulch paths in the Play Park. This is not a new issue, and there has been discussion in the past with Image Playgrounds as to whether this is due to over-seeding from the surrounding grassed areas or to the incorrect installation of the membrane. Image had advised that we should contact their sub-contractors who had laid the path, but there had been problems organising a site meeting with the contractor. It was agreed that renewed efforts should be made to get them on site to see the problem for themselves.

13. Attendance by Councillors at other meetings

Coun. Moore and the Parish Clerk had attended the Parish Liaison Meeting at Stone Cross at which the main topic was a presentation by Veritau (HDC's auditors) regarding the new GDPR legislation. Other topics covered included presentations on new bin collection arrangements, fly-tipping and fraud prevention (the Take Five initiative).

14. Impact of new General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)

The Parish Clerk has received from YLCA a GDPR "Toolkit" – a comprehensive guide to the various measures that the Parish Council will need to adopt to comply with the new Regulations: ie the redevelopment and publication of Data Privacy Policy, prepare procedures to deal with Parishioner requests to view any personal data held (including devising associated pro formas) and conduct an audit of what personal data is currently being held, including in all printed archives. The GDPR legislation (finally passed shortly before the meeting) does not, as had previously been anticipated, include a requirement for Parish Councils to appoint their own Data Protection Officer (DPO).

15. Changes to Bin Collection Arrangements

HDC have announced changes in their bin collection arrangements. Householders should look out for a post card being delivered within the next few days setting out how these changes may affect them. In fact it was understood that the collection days in Morton-on-Swale were not changing but timings may change. Also, the crews may not always be the ones who have been collecting in the past, so those households that benefit from assisted collection should be aware that the new crews may not be familiar with where their bins are stored.

16. Correspondence

All households should have received a copy of a letter from Gina Hambleton from the Safer Hambleton Hub.

Except as dealt with elsewhere on this agenda, Council had received no other items of correspondence of any note, apart from various newsletters and bulletins from YLCA.

17. Resolution to exclude the press and public from remaining agenda items

This was approved nem con.

18. Internal Audit Assurance and Risk Assessment

The Clerk reported that, since the agenda had been prepared, he had received a communication from Veritau, advising him that they would be unable to conduct an Internal Audit Review for Morton-on-Swale, as they were not geared up for working with smaller authorities. However, they identified a former employee, now retired, who did provide this service to a number of other local Parishes. He had therefore been in touch with Ian Smithson (a retired chartered accountant and former audit manager with Veritau) and the latter had advised that he was able to carry out the required review the following morning (31st May) for a fee of £90. It was agreed to proceed with this and therefore to defer further consideration of this item and of the remaining agenda items until the Audit report was available. Arrangements were made to reconvene at 7.30pm on Monday 4th June to complete the agenda.

19. Date of next meeting

Wednesday 25th July 2018

The meeting closed at 21.45pm