

Minutes of Meeting held 30th January 2019

Present: Coun P Ridley (Chair), Coun J Sanderson, Coun O Poulter, Cllr. A Wilkinson (NYCC), B Phillips (HDC), R Dale (Clerk) plus 8 members of the public

1. Apologies

Cllr. A. Moore (unwell).

2. Declarations of Interest

None.

3. Police Report

In the absence of a police representative (for the fifth consecutive meeting), the Clerk reported that he had received an emailed copy of the bi-monthly Police Report, which indicated that there has been just one incident during the preceding two months ("Other Crimes inc Drugs"). No further details were available. The Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner promised in the report to improve Neighbourhood Policing, and the report also drew attention to the "Op Vis" initiative that was intended to target drivers who speed in North Yorkshire communities.

4. Minutes of meetings held 28th November 2018

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

5. Matters Arising from Previous Meeting

1) Village Green Open Space

The continued failure by Linden Homes to carry out remedial action to improve the condition of the "paddock" and to plant new trees and shrubs along the edge of the Green had been referred to the Planning Authority's Enforcement Officer, since this lack of progress amounted to a breach on the developer's part of their Section 106 obligations.

2) Snicket between Meadowfields and St Helen's Close

The absence of a motor-cycle safety barrier, which was specified on the plans for the Meadowfield estate, had now been referred to the Planning Authority's Enforcement Officer. The Clerk had been unable so far to establish ownership/responsibility for the strip of land either side of the snicket bordering on the pavement at the end of St Helen's Close.

3) Vacancy on Parish Council

Following the resignation of Councillor Gouldthorpe, the Clerk had received a number of expressions of interest in the vacancy, which Council would have been empowered to fill by co-option. However, as the next full election was only a few months away, it was felt that it would be preferable to defer this matter and to leave it to the electorate to decide who should represent them. It was felt that the short-term co-option of any one of the interested parishioners could potentially be prejudicial to this process, and since there was no obligation to fill the vacancy as long as Council remained quorate in the meantime, it was agreed (nem con) not to co-opt anyone to fill the vacancy at this time.

4) Parking in front of Village Hall

The Clerk had reported the decision of Council and the Village Hall Trustees Committee to NYCC Highways Department, and it was understood that the latter had put on hold any plans to conduct a consultation exercise regarding the possible recategorization of the two bays immediately in front of the village hall. It was noted that there had been a considerable improvement in the situation in recent weeks, apparently through the voluntary cooperation of car drivers who were members of the Dales School's staff in avoiding parking their cars in these two bays and hence alleviating the problem of restricted visibility of oncoming traffic for cars exiting the school car park. However, the matter could be revisited if there was a recurrence of the previous problems.

5) Resumption of Community Litter Picking

The first litter picking session in 2019 will be on Saturday March 2nd at 11.00am starting from Village Hall.

6. Public Forum

1) Chair Ridley welcomed Sam Hutchinson, from the Office of the North Yorkshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner. A request had been received from Mr Hutchinson to meet with the Council in order to find out more about the following:

- The crime concerns of the residents of Morton-on-Swale (so that the OPCC can deliver relevant info to the area and correspond with local people on relevant topics)
- Identify prominent and active groups and organisations in the area who would want to be kept up-to-date with info from the Commissioner and NYP
- Shops and other places which could display posters/hold events for the Commissioner
- How they could improve their current engagement with the Parish Council (currently they send us emails and posters, but could also engage with us on Facebook/Twitter, or submit news articles for our website, for example, or the Community newsletter)

An "open" session followed during which there was a comprehensive discussion of speeding/traffic issues in the village, and the need for more monitoring by the Police Safety Camera van; the inadequacy of the 101 service was also discussed.

2) A formal email complaint had been received from a Parishioner concerning the increasing amount of dog excrement being left on the streets of Morton on Swale by "irresponsible dog owners". Council agreed that a more pro-active approach to dealing with the problem was needed. The Clerk was instructed to investigate the possibilities of more prominent warning notices,

installing complimentary pooh-bag dispensers and running a competition in conjunction with the school for children to design posters to remind dog owners to "bag it and bin it".

7. Planning Matters.

It was reported that the planning applications for Aviemore, Hatchend and Newstead had all been granted.

8. Finance

- 1) The Clerk reported that the balance of funds, including a sum of £25.41 in petty cash, was £10,507.05, including £3,723 remaining from the CIL funding and £1,925 "ring-fenced" from the refund received from Image Playgrounds following the removal of the trampoline.
- 2) The only outgoings during the preceding two months had been the payment of the quarterly clerk's remuneration and the associated payment of PAYE deducted from this remuneration to HMRC.

9. Proposal to purchase new seats for Village Hall

A request had been received from the Village Hall Trustees for the village to acquire some more comfortable seating for use in the Village Hall than was currently provided by the existing plastic folding/stacking chairs. This was partly as a result of the decision by the Trustees to run periodic "film nights" in the Hall, but it was accepted that any new seating could also be of benefit to other users of the Hall, including the Parish Council at its bi-monthly meetings. The Village Hall Trustees had suggested the acquisition of 25 new chairs, but, after a short discussion, Council agreed (nem con) to the purchase of 30 new padded, stacking chairs at a total cost of £958.20 inclusive of VAT (recoverable), to be paid for out of the balance of the CIL funding previously received from HDC. This would reduce the balance of CIL funding remaining (after reclaiming the VAT) to £2924.51. It was agreed not to dispose of the old folding chairs at this time, as these would still be of potential use when there were more than 30 people present at an event in the Hall. The new chairs would be added to the Parish Council's asset register.

10. Attendance by Councillors at other meetings

There had been no other meetings taking place which have been attended by Council members during the preceding two months.

11. Correspondence

There had been no correspondence of note during the preceding two months other than as dealt with under other agenda items.

12. AOB

There was no other competent business.

13. Date of next meeting

Wednesday 27th March 2019, commencing at 7.30pm
The meeting closed at 20.45pm