

Minutes of Meeting held 31st January 2018

Present: Coun P Ridley (Chair), Coun A Moore, Coun O Poulter, Coun R Gouldthorpe, Coun J Sanderson, Cllr A Wilkinson (NYCC), Cllr B Phillips (HDC), R Dale (Clerk) PCSO Kim Laws & PCSO Danielle Kovacs (Northallerton Police) plus 16 members of the public

1) Apologies

None

2) Minutes of meeting held 29th November 2017

The minutes of the meeting held on 29th November 2017 were agreed a true record proposed by Coun. Sanderson and seconded by Coun. Moore. No dissensions. Signed off by Chair Ridley.

3) Public Questions and Statements

The Clerk introduced this new agenda item by explaining that, whilst members of the public were entitled to attend and observe official business meetings of the Parish Council, in the interests of transparency, contributions from the public during such meetings could nevertheless only be made at the invitation of the Chair – for example where the person had specialist knowledge or information of relevance to a specific agenda item. In keeping with the practice observed in a number of other local government authorities, the Council had decided to introduce a “public forum” session to allow parishioners the opportunity to be able to make direct contributions or to ask questions about topics that were not otherwise on the main agenda. Individual contributions should be restricted to a maximum of 3 minutes per item, with an overall limit of 10 minutes (subsequently changed to 15 minutes) to allow time for responses. Standing orders would be suspended during this session.

Mr Michael Fox had given due notice of his intention to speak on 4 subjects. These were:-

- Volunteer litter picking to be organised by the Parish Council
- Repair of white railings outside Jasmine Cottage
- Repair of main fence at end of snicket from Fountains way to main road
- Removal of some of the benches from play Park

The Clerk reported that he had previously suggested to Mr Fox that, since the Council already had plans in hand to deal with some of these issues, he might wish to withdraw his request to speak on these matters. He declined to do so.

The first community litter picking session had been organised by Ms Kirsty McGready on behalf of the Council for early March (later confirmed to be the second Saturday in March, and the second Saturday of every month thereafter). Mr Fox reported that he had been in touch with NYCC Highways department to complain about the litter on the road to Thrintoft, and that, as a result, this problem had now been dealt with by them. He is to be thanked and complimented for taking this initiative.

Council was well aware of the need to repair the white railings, and already had plans to deal with this. A volunteer had been identified who had the necessary licences to spray the weeds. The area would then be pressure-washed to clear the under-lying area, before the rails would then be repainted. It was noted that specialist advice had been given that spraying of the weeds would only be effective long-term when new growth started to appear (from March onwards) and that treatment was being delayed until then as a result of this advice.

The repair of the fence at the end of the snicket would be investigated.

The option to remove or relocate some of the picnic benches from the new play park was already under investigation. Offers to relocate some benches to the Cromwell Park village green and to the new Linden Homes village green were being considered. It was noted that a planned wider survey of residents regarding the impact of the Play Park was imminent, and that any further judgement on this and other related matters should probably await the findings of that survey.

4) Matters Arising from Previous Meeting

- 1) Mr Sedwick reported that Linden Homes had indicated that the work on the Village Green Open Space was expected to commence within the next two weeks.
- 2) The Clerk reported on the total costs of the Play Park Project, and identified the organisations that had provided sponsorship. This was in response to an unanswered request by a resident at the previous Council meeting. The Clerk apologised for the earlier oversight.
- 3) Property Marking Session – see agenda item 5
- 4) A meeting had been arranged with Gina Allen from the Safer Hambleton Project on 20th February.
- 5) Delivery of the Resident Survey questionnaire to all households in the village had begun, but it was noted that some residents had yet to receive their copy. The questionnaires were being distributed along with the monthly Parish newsletter, and there is no set timetable for this to be done as it relies entirely on voluntary effort. The Clerk refuted an allegation that there had been a “conspiracy” on the part of the Parish Council to be “selective” about which households should receive copies of the questionnaire. It was noted that an online version of the survey could also be completed via SurveyMonkey and the deadline for completion and return was in any case not until the beginning of March.
- 6) It was reported that the School management was reluctant to agree to a formalisation of the present arrangement whereby users of the Play Park are able to park their cars in the school car park in the evenings and weekends and

during holidays when the school is closed. As such, it was not appropriate for the Council to put up permanent parking signage regarding this arrangement, although the informal arrangement was not being withdrawn at this time.

- 7) It was noted that the problem of dog fouling in the section of Back Lane between the main road and the snickets seemed to have improved. However, this was not the case along the section beyond the snickets through the farm land, where the Dog Warden does not have jurisdiction since it is private land.
- 8) It was reported that the vandalised trampoline had been removed and the hole filled with topsoil by Counc. Sanderson and Poulter as soon as it had been realised that Image Playgrounds had failed to honour their promise to deal with this themselves. An allegation made by a resident at the close of the November Council meeting that the Parish Council had been remiss in failing to deal with this matter promptly was strongly denied.

5) Police Report

PCSO Danielle Kovacs reported that there had been two incidents of theft in the Parish since the previous Council meeting. There had been no other reported crimes. A Property Marking Session would be held in the Village Hall from 10-12 noon on 24th February.

6) Planning Matters

An application had been submitted for the construction of a conservatory at the rear of 3 Meadowfields, the deadline for responses to which was 31st January (ie today). Details had previously been circulated to Councillors for comment. None was received.

7) Finance

- 1) The Clerk reported on the current financial position which was satisfactory. Full income and expenditure details for the year to date had been submitted to all Councillors at the end of the third quarter.
- 2) A request for expenditure approval to replace the old Parish Noticeboards was deferred until the next meeting as the Clerk was still awaiting quotations from two companies.
- 3) A request for expenditure approval for a new dog litter bin for Meadowfields was deferred because the Clerk had been unable to contact the relevant officer at HDC.

8) Correspondence

- 1) An email letter from Mr Michael Fox dated 27th November, containing his own ideas as to the actions that he believed the Council should be taking with regard to the Play Park, had been received too late to be tabled at the November Council meeting. Mr Fox had therefore requested that it be tabled for consideration by the Council at this meeting instead. The Clerk asked Mr Fox if he wished him to read out the entire letter, which was some three pages long. Mr Fox declined. The Clerk therefore drew Council's attention to some of the more significant comments contained in the email in order that they would be enabled to take a view on these. These comments included opposition to a suggestion for improved signage regarding car parking in the streets in the immediate vicinity of the Play Park (even though the consensus among residents at the Open Meeting on 1st November had been for more and better car parking signs); opposition to the use of Portaloos even at peak holiday times; locking the park in the evenings; scaling back the park and removing much of the equipment (NB During the meeting, the Clerk wrongly reported that Mr Fox had proposed removing "half" of the equipment.). A heated debate continued until Chair Ridley accepted a proposal from Coun. Poulter to move to next business, which was approved unanimously.
- 2) The Clerk reported that he had received a quotation for cutting of the grass verges and the Play Park in 2018.

9) Tour de Yorkshire

A preliminary meeting had been held between interested parties (the Council, the Village Hall Committee, Ainderby School, Play Park Committee, Royal George PH – Dales School were unable to be represented) to discuss various ideas regarding catering, complementary activities, street decoration, car parking and marshalling etc, and to attempt to avoid duplication of effort. It was reported that Yorkshire Air Ambulance was designated by the tour organisers as the main charity for the event, and it was hoped that a proportion of any funds raised through the local initiatives would also be directed to YAA. It was hoped that efforts would be made to "spruce up" the village through such initiatives as litter picking, weeding, painting the white railings and so on, and the Council would set aside some money from its Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding received from HDC to help facilitate this. Mr Alan Weston had been "elected" as local coordinator for the village's Tour de Yorkshire initiatives. Further meetings would be held as required and anyone wishing to help or participate in any way will be welcome at those meetings.

It was noted that the main road would be subject to a "rolling road block" lasting between 45 minutes and an hour while the cyclists and their support teams passed through the village. This was provisionally expected to be around 1.00pm-2.00pm, and it was important to consider the implications of this especially for elderly or disabled residents normally dependent on visits by home carers during this part of the day. There would of course also be disruption to public transport.

10) Playing Field

- 1) Based on advice received, it had been decided not to replace the vandalised trampoline with similar equipment. Subject to the agreement of the sponsor who had originally funded the trampoline (Tesco/Groundwork), the money would be spent on more sensory items instead.
- 2) The remaining £3000 of sponsorship from Tesco/Groundwork had been received.
- 3) The remaining £1499 of sponsorship from Veolia had been received.
- 4) The sail shade damaged by recent high winds had been taken down. The second shade, which was undamaged, was also taken down as a precaution.

11) AOB

There was no other competent business.

12) Date of next meeting

Wednesday 28th March 2018

The meeting closed at 9.35pm