

Minutes of Meeting held 27th March 2019

Present: Coun P Ridley (Chair), Coun J Sanderson, Coun O Poulter, R Dale (Clerk) plus 8 members of the public

1. Apologies

Cllr. A Wilkinson (NYCC) - illness, Cllr B Phillips (HDC) – diary conflict

2. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Sanderson declared an interest in the planning application that had been submitted for the construction of 2 pig buildings at Morton Grange (agenda item 7.2).

3. Police Report

In the absence of a police representative (for the sixth consecutive meeting), the Clerk reported that he had received an emailed copy of the bi-monthly Police Report, which indicated that there has been a single logged incident of "Other Crimes" during the preceding two months – no details provided. The Clerk was asked to contact North Yorkshire Police to express Council's continuing disappointment that there had been no police representation at Council meetings for the past year. Whilst it is understood that operational issues must always take precedence, the Clerk had previously been given to understand by Sergeant Simon Wilson that he would be endeavouring to send an officer to at least one meeting in three if at all possible.

It was noted that PCSO Kim Laws (our local Community Police Support Officer) would be holding a "surgery" at the Village Hall on 11th May from 10.30 until 12.30, at which parishioners would be able to discuss any concerns that they may have regarding home security, fraud, anti-social behaviour and other general advice about the services that are offered by the police, and would be able to take along items to be security marked.

4. Minutes of meetings held 30th January 2019

The minutes of the meeting held on 30th January 2019, having previously been circulated to Council Members, were agreed as a true record proposed by Coun. Sanderson 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 Clerk had been advised that his previous contact within the HDC Planning Enforcement section had left the Authority shortly after their latest email exchange, and that a replacement had not yet been appointed. As a consequence, the promised actions to remedy the state of the paddock area had still not been commenced. A new officer had now been assigned to the matter, but it was now improbable that the originally specified enforcement deadline of end of March would be achieved.

2) Dog Waste

Coun. Poulter had been in contact with the Dog Warden regarding possible initiatives to reduce dog fouling in the Parish, and following this had arranged for a supply of leaflets to be provided (in exchange for a "donation" of £50) which were delivered to every household along with the monthly Church newsletter. The Clerk reported that one of the other ideas that had been suggested (of spray painting "Bag It, Bin It" stencils onto pavements in the worst-affected areas) was rejected by NYCC Highways department because of concerns that it would create an unwanted precedent resulting in other parties adding markings to the footpaths and roads. The idea of a poster campaign with posters being affixed to lamp-posts also received luke-warm approval from Highways - in general they have no objection to this suggestion but before they could grant approval for any 'no littering' posters to be attached to lighting columns they would need to know the size of the signs and the planned method of attachment to the columns.

The Clerk reported that he had donated two dog waste bag dispensers to be erected on a trial basis in two of the areas where dog fouling was thought to be worse. These would be monitored to see whether the availability of "free" bags was being abused. Two additional "Dogs Not Allowed" signs had also been acquired and prominently displayed on the entrance gates to the Play Park.

A parishioner raised concerns about dog fouling in St Helen's Close, and, in particular the open grassed area in front of the CRC, which is not public land.

3) Snicket Safety Barrier – Meadowfields/St Helen's

It was reported that the HDC Planning Enforcement office had reminded Linden Homes, who had then contacted NYCC Highways for clarification on the motor cycle barrier details and position. Installation was expected within the very near future.

6. Public Forum

No prior notification had been received from parishioners wishing to make a statement or ask a question on any matters not included elsewhere on the agenda.

However, a parishioner raised a concern about a possible Environmental Health issue arising from a leakage of raw sewage from a drain in front of one of the houses on the Meadowfields estate. It was noted that the problem had already been reported to Yorkshire Water, who it is understood had in turn referred the matter to Broadacres. The

problem was apparently being created as a result of the depositing of soiled nappies and baby wipes into the WC by the occupants of the house in question, which was managed by Broadacres. As the matter was apparently already in hand, no further action was believed to be required.

7. Planning Matters

Notification of Planning Applications had been received in respect of an extension at 4 Station Lane: construction of two purpose-built pig buildings at Morton Grange; and alterations and an extension at 5 Dales View. Council members indicated that they had no comments to make regarding any of these applications. As there was no discussion regarding the two pig buildings at Morton Grange, Coun. Sanderson was not asked to leave the meeting for this agenda item.

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 sensory equipment for Play Park

Following the removal of the sunken trampoline at the Play Park, a sum of £1925 had been reimbursed to the Council by Image Playgrounds as the equipment supplied by them had been deemed "not fit for purpose". This item had originally been purchased using sponsorship funds received from Tesco/Groundwork, and the purchase of alternative equipment of equivalent cost was therefore necessary to avoid having to refund this amount to the sponsor. Agreement had been reached with Groundwork, that, even though the removed trampoline was not classified as "sensory equipment", it was acceptable to them for the replacement item to be sensory equipment. A quotation had been received from Streetscape for the provision of a Light and Colour Sensory Panel, at a cost of £1750, to include the costs of installation in, and making good of, the location where the trampoline had previously been installed. The balance of the reimbursed money would be used for refreshing the planters. Council agreed unanimously to proceed with this proposal.

10. Parking Bays in front of Village Hall

A letter had been received from the Administrator of the Dales School on behalf expressing the disappointment of the Governors that the Village Hall Committee had, with the support of the Parish Council, indicated that it was unwilling to support any proposals to alter the current status of the two parking bays in front of the Village Hall. The School Governors felt that there was a "considerable risk" of serious accident occurring (by implication if the status of these bays remained unchanged), and it was further pointed out that the NYCC Health and Safety Advisor had suggested to the School that it should display disclaimer notices for anyone using the car park. Further, it was intimated that the School may consider it necessary to restrict access to their car park if the frequency of "near misses" was to increase.

Council was, in its turn, disappointed to receive this response, and in particular by the implied threat to withdraw parking facilities for Village Hall users and other members of the public in the main school car park (presumably in the event that the Council was unwilling to concede its stance on this matter). It was agreed that the advice of the Health and Safety Advisor to display disclaimer notices was entirely appropriate - irrespective of whether there was considered to be a problem regarding the specific issue of exiting the car park - ie in a car park used by members of the public. Council recognised that there was a problem of restricted visibility to the west along the A684 for vehicles exiting the school car park, but that this was largely created by the fixed structure of the wall and fencing at the front of the Village Hall and that the additional problem caused by vehicles parked in front of the Village Hall was marginal.

It was commented that, in the latter part of 2018 (following a meeting that had been held at the School in October) there had been a marked improvement in the situation (based on the observations of the Village Hall Trustees and of Parish Council members) in that certain vehicles which had been identified as belonging to School staff, and that had previously regularly been seen as being parked throughout the school day in the spaces in front of the Village Hall, were apparently now being parked elsewhere. It was understood that, following the meeting, the School's Headteacher had made her staff aware of the issue and that this improvement in the situation was believed to be a consequence of this.

However, since the beginning of 2019, monitoring activity by the Council and Village Hall Committee had identified one particular vehicle (a red Vauxhall) which has regularly been seen to be parked in the outer of the two bays in front of the Village Hall (ie the one nearer to the car park exit) - even when the inner of the two bays was vacant, and also when there were empty spaces available in the bay in front of the school. It was evident, from the timing and the duration of the stay, that the owner of this particular vehicle was a member of, or regular visitor to, the school staff, and that he/she was presumably therefore not "on message"!

It was fully understood that the head-teacher of the school had no legal authority to dictate to her staff where they should park their cars during the school day, but it was not unreasonable to assume that a "word to the wise" might possibly nevertheless have been helpful and consequently respected. It was considered that the practice of parking in the "outer" of the two bays, especially even when the other bay was empty and there were spaces in front of the school, was an unnecessary and thoughtless.

It was noted that the overflow parking area on the school grounds was invariably full during the school day, but there was no information as to whether the "overflow" area that had been arranged at Ainderby School was also being fully utilised.

Council concluded that there was no legitimate reason to agree to the imposition of any parking restrictions on the two bays that would disadvantage users of the Village Hall. There was no evidence to suggest that car owners using the Village Hall were contributing to the problem experienced by drivers of vehicles exiting the school car park at the start

and end of school times, and that the “voluntary” effort that had previously produced a satisfactory outcome during the latter part of 2018 could not easily be reproduced with the co-operation of members of the School’s staff. and without the need for NYCC Highways to conduct a costly and time-consuming consultation process.

The Clerk was instructed to write an appropriate response addressed to the Headteacher and Governors of the School rather than to the School Administrator.

11. Parish Council Elections

The Clerk reported that elections were to be held for all five seats on the Parish Council on Thursday 2nd May. The deadline for nominations was 4.00pm on Wednesday 3rd April. An election for the ward representative to Hambleton District Council would take place on the same date.

12. 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.

13. Correspondence

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

14. AOB

There was no other competent business.

15. Date of next meeting

Wednesday 29th May 2019, commencing at 7.30pm. This meeting will include the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.

NOTE: It was subsequently discovered that, due to statutory regulations, in an election year the Annual Matter meeting must be held within 14 days of the date on which the new Council came into office (on 7th May) – so by no later than 21st May 2019. The Annual Meeting was therefore rescheduled to be held on 8th May (the only date when the Village Hall was available for hire and when all elected Councillors were able to attend). The first Ordinary Council Meeting was rescheduled for Wednesday 5th June commencing at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 20.30pm