

SCORTON PARISH COUNCIL

The normal monthly meeting held on Wednesday 27th March 2024 at 7.30pm in the Scorton War Memorial Institute.

Present: - Cllrs Rafelt, Threlfall, Calvert, Richardson & Harper, 37 members of the public, Alan Coe (REMS) later

- 1) Apologies. North Yorkshire Cllr Les & PCSO Elliot Brown sent their apologies.
- 2) Declarations of interest. None
- 3) Approval of minutes dated 28th February. It was resolved to accept the minutes as a true record of the meeting.
- 4) Crime Report. Report for February read. Information regarding distraction burglary and vehicle security advice, clerk to post information on PC Facebook page.
- 5) Matters raised by the members of the public. A resident sent an email regarding the planning item, and asks if this could be brought forward in the meeting. Cllr Rafelt happy to do so. Also, a mention about the Speed Watch Team being reintroduced in Scorton, he will report back as soon as something is definite.
- 6) Planning items.
 - i. FPP for change of use of Unused Garage Workshop to tills, retail area of petrol filling station including alterations to front elevation (retrospective). Cllr Rafelt asks each member of the public individually for their comments. Lots of concerns raised with the most common being the potential loss of the Post Office. Cllr Rafelt states that this application has been called in to the Planning Committee meeting, he explains who can speak and for how long and the likely date for this is May. Clerk will post on the Facebook page and in the noticeboards when the PC are notified of the date. Two families sent emails with their concerns due to being unable to attend the meeting. Councillors noted many discrepancies and resolved to send the following comments:

“Scorton Parish Council would like to bring the following comments to the attention of the Officers and Planning Committee members.

Parish Councillors expressed concern that there have been two retrospective planning applications on this site and the approach that has been taken by the developer in relation to re-development of the site. Additionally, we were consulted by the Licensing Department months prior to receiving the change of use application. Councillors were unable to make a decision about the licensing application, as the area for selling alcohol currently isn't a retail premises.

Please note a number of discrepancies within the planning application:

- Over ground diesel storage tanks. These appear on the planning application as existing, however these are new and have not been on any planning applications.
- Car parking. The current on-site parking has been significantly reduced by the inclusion of the new diesel tanks.
- Signage (5.1 on Access Statement). This states that the exact details of the signage are not known, nevertheless there is a new sign above the existing retail shop and the canopy has new, illuminated, wrap-around signage, resulting in obtrusive, artificial light disturbance and pollution to adjacent properties and inappropriate in a rural setting. Furthermore, there have been changes to the illuminated prices sign within the site.
- Contamination. The application states that there is no contamination on site – can this be accurate? The site has been used as a bus garage and automotive garage since the 1950s.
- Foul sewage. The application indicates that this will be via the main sewers, however foul sewage is by septic tank and the application adds that there will be additional toilets. Councillors question the capacity of the septic tank.
- No changes to the rear and side (4.1 on Access Statement). Councillors dispute this.
- Retail refrigeration. We note the plans include extensive provision for freezers and chillers within the proposed retail space. We ask for clarification about the external cooling units, as these are not indicated on the plans.

- Possible separate let or storage space. Please can we seek more information about this, as this will impact on parking and pedestrian and vehicular access to an already busy junction.
- Pedestrian access. Councillors have major worries about pedestrians crossing the B6271. This is a difficult location to cross safely.

The Scorton Post Office & Shop has been serving customers for many decades. This is an established family business; Shailendra & Versha even provided a delivery service during COVID which was a lifeline for vulnerable people during lockdown.

Scorton Village Store is at the heart of our community, centrally located and where people meet and catch up. Scorton is a caring village with sheltered housing, care homes and many elderly and vulnerable residents who rely on the Post Office and Shop. Additionally, many residents and small local businesses rely on the banking and postal services provided, particularly those without access to private transport.

Due to the above technical concerns and the potential impact on the Scorton Village Store & Post Office, councillors are not in a position to support this application.”

Most residents leave.

7) Updates from North Yorkshire Councillor, Tarmac representative & SOS group.

Tarmac representative. Alan Coe gives his report: Cllr Kevin Foster (Green Party) attended a site visit. Community continues to report issues. Drainage work ongoing, scraping off Banks Lane, planting of PC nursery trees, opening up Y footpath leg. Cllr Harper asks about the proposed information board at the round houses area, Alan Coe replies that this board will include information about all the history including the cursum. Furthermore, there are documents about the history of the area and these can be shared. Species records: Dragonfly & Butterfly Conservation and RSPB have been contacted to update species records. Alan attended the Local Nature Recovery webinar; they want people to report species and anyone can report on this site. SOS Group are working on the next pamphlet. Alan Coe & SOS Group leave.

8) Updates from previous meetings. Proposed waiting restriction – Bolton on Swale Primary School, consultation. It was resolved to support this proposal. Proposed new VAS post – Hospital Road, it was resolved to accept this new post on the South side of Hospital Road, Footpath towards Gatherley Road, no funding available this financial year but a works order will be raised after April, also may acquire funding to surface the footpath. Legal Responsibility/Insurance/Volunteers. Clerk discussed with Zurich, they do not require PCs to advise them they are using a contractor, but equally important to check their insurance/documents. Spoke about cllrs and other volunteers doing work around the village. Both Cllrs and other volunteers are covered by Public Liability & Personal accident cover, however any volunteers other than cllrs require a lead member from the council and the appropriate risk assessments in place. Best Kept Village, asking for any guidance for judging. Cllr Rafelt suggests forwarding a map detailing all three greens.

9) Accounts

Balance at 27/03/24 £18,110.82

Incoming:

- Cemetery (Burial of cremated remains) £125.00

Outgoing:

- Tesco (Mobile phone contract) £7.50
- V Raven (Wages March) £594.54
- BT (Broadband) £40.74
- Wooden Bridge Company (Bridge) £3805.20
- Purple Creative (Annual Hosting & SSL certificate) £237.60

Financial Risk Assessment. It was resolved to adopt this document.

Financial standing orders review. Working through this document, clerk to bring to next meeting.

10) Feedback from meetings attended by Councillors/Clerk. None attended.

11) Safety review. Park inspection report not yet received. Cllrs Threlfall & Calvert attended to the items highlighted from last report, and some post winter tidying work in the parks.

- 12) Report relating to minor parish issues since last meeting. Cllr Harper has 4 buckthorn saplings; this is from a project to help sustain the Brimstone butterfly, to be planted in the new hedge at Jubilee Green. Resident reports the fence down on Bridge Green, resident took photos and PC going through insurance, this should be replaced soon.
- 13) Correspondence. NYC – Home to School Travel Policy Consultation, completed at meeting, Let’s Talk Food Campaign, personal consultation and cllrs have completed individually, Renewal of contracts for supported local bus services, very minor changes to times for service 55, clerk has posted on PC Facebook page, York & North Yorkshire Mayoral election 2nd May. Parish cllr vacancy, clerk to put in the next S&D Times, the two vacancies are already advertised on Scorton.com.
Scorton Methodist Chapel – resilience equipment storage. The external shed will be dismantled, and the PC shed will be re positioned.

14) Date of next meeting – 24th April

Meeting closed: 21.55