

SCORTON PARISH COUNCIL

The normal monthly meeting held on Wednesday 28th February 2024 at 7.30pm in the Scorton War Memorial Institute.

Present: - Cllrs Threlfall, Calvert, Richardson & Harper, a member of the public, Alan Coe (REMS) later

- 1) Apologies. Resignation received from Alan Bell 27/2/24, he added that the outstanding item on the agenda is the Christmas tree for Bridge Green and asks for this to be removed from the agenda. He sends his best wishes to all. Clerk to inform NYC to begin the recruiting process, and to send a thank you letter for attending meetings over the last year and assisting with a number of community projects.
Cllr Rafelt & North Yorkshire Cllr Les sent their apologies.
- 2) Declarations of interest. None
- 3) Approval of minutes dated 17th January. Cllr Threlfall reports an alteration is required in item 7 regarding parking and to change “residents” to “a resident”. Clerk has altered the minutes to include this change and it was resolved to accept the minutes as a true record of the meeting. Cllr Threlfall reminds that minutes are draft until agreed at the meeting and should be marked as such, clerk to action.
- 4) Resident in attendance about email sent. This is relating to Honeysuckle Cottage, Southside and their request to resurface their front garden. Cllr Threlfall explains that a number of gardens were included, inadvertently, when the village green was registered in the 1970’s.
Also discussed the reinstating of the grass verge outside The Lodge, this will be carried out in the next few weeks. Resident leaves.
- 5) Crime Report. Report for January read. Property marking morning was a success.
- 6) Matters raised by the members of the public. None.
- 7) Updates from North Yorkshire Councillor, Tarmac representative & SOS group.
Tarmac representative. Alan Coe gives his report: Lots of jobs pending. Community feedback. Iron work removed from South car park, lifebuoys had been moved around – new housing built and refitted, fly tipping on Swaleside lake which was removed. Dog attack in southside paddock, two sheep killed and two seriously injured, also dog attack on cows in parkland, one cow fled and broke through the fencing, no serious injuries.
Both of these cases have been reported to the Police. Report of a swan in the North car park, resolved, and young deer trapped near to the cemetery, RSPCA advises to leave, as usually resolves however this didn’t happen and so a section of fence was removed.
Actions taken. Removal of willows in Uckerby lake reed beds, removal of tree guards, felling of ash tree with ADD near railway, section of fence between Banks Lane and Willow Carr has been removed to allow free movement of wildlife.
Planned work: Bridleway through railway woods has been flooded for quite a while, planning to rectify, footpath work to aid restricted users, further drainage work on bridleway, south car park pot holes, ash tree coppice, remove areas of fencing, tree guard removals, habitat work in wetland link.
Species records. Results of bird and breeding bird survey from OS Ecology. 85 bird species sightings, 29 breeding birds species, 31 amber listed species, 17 red listed species. Habitat survey: significant area of value to biodiversity. The number of visitors is increasing which is great, and Cllr Foster (Green Party) is due to visit on Monday. Cllr Richardson adds that it’s fantastic to see such a diversity of species and how popular the area is. Alan Coe adds that they are introducing a herd of Hebridean sheep near the North car park, these will help with unwanted weeds. Cllr Threlfall states

that he had seen a horse in the lake on the southside, and that the area is moving forward positively. Alan Coe adds that the area has received an award from BHS for providing extra bridledways. Mark Hewitt has moved on but may be involved with the area but in a lesser active role. Alan Coe leaves.

- 8) Updates from previous meetings. Parking near to the school, clerk had a meeting with Mrs Dobson. At the Governors meeting, they decided on “Parking for school use only 7am – 7pm Term time only”, Highways had suggested that there should be a time limit to allow for enforcement. Discussed the practicalities for school and residents, resolved to ask for “8 – 9 (maximum wait 30 minutes), 3 – 4 (maximum wait 30 minutes), term time only, if this would be acceptable. Clerk to contact Highways with the request. Also request the white ‘H’ lines to the North of school to deter parking blocking in accesses. Mrs Dobson asked if the PC could request a 20mph outside school, Cllr Threlfall added that this had been asked for previously, all cllrs resolved to ask Highways to look at this change again. Bridge, haulage arranged, a generic risk assessment has been forwarded.

Hospital Road white posts quote, Highways have quoted £2500.00 to place white plastic verge markers at 3 metre intervals. Cllrs resolved to ask for a quote from Mac Plant. Cllr Calvert adds that there is a care worker parking on the verge, clerk to speak to St John of God.

Bridge green drainage quote, Mac Plant Drain for 36m, however the whole length may not be required £650, 5m stone filled drain to beck £100. It was resolved to go ahead with the work. Main green, add stone to the entrance onto the green and make good £300, utilities have carried out work in this area and waiting for them to reinstate.

- 9) Accounts

Balance at 28/02/24 £19,266.60

Incoming:

- Cemetery (Plot purchase) £750.00

Outgoing:

- Tesco (Mobile phone contract) £7.50
- V Raven (Wages February) £594.54
- BT (Broadband) £40.74
- NYC (S&D Times print) £38.00 & Annual grass cutting £7440.00
- Precision Cleaning (Pressure washing around the village) £600.00
- News Today (Tender advert) £54.00
- William Smith (New signs) £161.26

Grass cutting tender. 17 sets of tender documents sent out, 9 received back. Cllrs viewed documents and details transferred to spreadsheet for ease of evaluation. Some companies didn’t note whether they had insurance or a spraying licence. Quotes ranged from £23875 - £6160. It was resolved (unanimously) to accept the quote from North Yorkshire Council @ £6160.

- 10) Planning matters

None.

- 11) Feedback from meetings attended by Councillors/Clerk. Clerk attended the YLCA meeting on 1st February via Zoom. NYC Parish Portal discussed as some clerks are having problems with it, the Highways Communication Officer is dealing with this. Cllr Richardson asked if we could raise the overwhelming number of consultations from NYC lately. All agreed that there were many, and possibly due to the new unitary authority being in its early days. Interesting discussion about how PC’s complete consultations as a corporate body, many different ways. Councillors discussed this and Cllr Threlfall suggested that the clerk could forward the consultations a couple of weeks prior to the meeting and then formulate the responses for discussion at the meeting. Some issues noted, however it was resolved to trial both the School transport and Lets Talk Food consultations in March. New template contract of Employment, this may be the next document to review. Revised power following Levelling up 2023 Act states that PCs can now give financial assistance to the Church.

Internal Auditor to be appointed at Annual meeting, clerk to add to the agenda. Date of next meeting 13th June. Furthermore, information received from NALC about council email addresses and the benefits of using a gov.uk domain name.

Clerk attended Highways Clerks meeting on 2nd February. Main issues for Highways this year is flooding, and to only ask for gullies and drains to be cleared if a property is at risk of flooding or causing damage to the Highway. The Parish Portal licence ends in 2025 and IT working on new system, which should include much more. Clerks to report manhole covers to Utility directly if not urgent and if Utility works fail within 2 years, then they should reinstate and then the guarantee period restarts.

- 12) Safety review. Park inspection report, Clerk & Cllr Threlfall to review. Algae in various locations around the village is now resolved.
- 13) Report relating to minor parish issues since last meeting. Cllr Bell reported the salt bin half empty at The Havens. Clerk contacted NYC to fill. Metal post in the South car park entrance requires removal, also life buoys left unusable, Alan Coe actioned. Gas bottles left on Banks Lane, Cllr Bell removed. Cllr Calvert reported the streetlight on Hospital Road out, resolved. Also, a deer was trapped and unable to get out of fenced area, again Alan Coe resolved. Cllr Threlfall/resident reported that the area near to a telegraph pole was untidy following replacement. One of the VAS batteries is failing, clerk reported to Swarco. Resident reported the overgrown hedge at Stags Way, clerk contacted Highways who are contacting the landowners and making the area safe in the meantime. Telecom Contractors left area at the corner of the green near the Vicarage messy, clerk reported to contractors. Cllr Harper asks if the balance of the footpath to Gatherley crossroads will be completed soon, clerk to send an email to Highways. Cllr Calvert enquires about the Silver Birch saplings for Mollie Cail park, Cllr Threlfall adds that these are still too small for planting. VAS results outgoing Hospital Road: 7/12 – 19/2 85th percentile speed 31.6mph, with around 20% over 30mph. Cllr Threlfall felt that the siting of the VAS in this direction is too far down Hospital Road to encourage vehicles to slow, and suggests a new pole near to the Chapel end. It was resolved to talk to the Traffic management team. Cllr Richardson asks about the community speed gun team; clerk had briefly discussed with the Chair of the team and the equipment is not in the village at present. Clerk to make further enquiries. Cllr Bell queried about contracts and PC responsibility for contractors, YLCA asked to confirm. A contract should be in place between the council and the contractor with appropriate documents, however a contractor is not an employee of the council and should there be an accident/incident then this would be the contractor's responsibility. Nevertheless, it is good practice to inform the council's insurance company that works have been contracted out, clerk to discuss with the insurance company.
- 14) Correspondence. NYC – Urban Grasscutting decision, payment for 24 season £1135.05, it was resolved to undertake this work. Home to School Travel Policy Consultation, Lets Talk Food Campaign. Clerk to forward again mid-month, for comments and to discuss at March meeting. Rotary Club – Best Kept Village competition invitation, Scorton would like to enter. Feast AGM date – 20th March 8pm.
Financial Standing orders review. Changes made to the Financial Risk Assessment, clerk to alter and forward back to cllrs. Agenda March.

- 15) Date of next meeting – 27th March

Meeting closed: 21.45