

SCORTON PARISH COUNCIL

The normal monthly meeting held on Wednesday 25th October 2023 at 7.30pm in the Scorton War Memorial Institute.

Present: - Cllrs Harper, Threlfall, Calvert, Richardson, Bell & Rafelt, Alan Coe (REMS), North Yorkshire Councillor Les, Frank Broughton (Save Our Swale), Members of the Public x 2

- 1) Apologies. PCSO Brown
- 2) Declarations of interest. None
- 3) Approval of minutes dated 27th September. It was resolved to accept the minutes as a true record of the meeting.
- 4) Speaker to inform Parish Council about the 'Save Our Swale' project. Frank Broughton presents information about the project. The group are increasingly concerned with deteriorating water quality, as fish and bird population reducing around the Swale and the colour of the water turbid. This is a Citizen Science Project and samples are drawn from 11 places every month from Richmond to Brompton. Yorkshire Water produce event duration figures where a discharge prior to processing occurs, last year 74 happened at Easby treatment plant and 174 at Colburn, this should only happen during periods of flood. These figures were 70% higher than in 2021. The sampling carried out measures: phosphates, nitrates, electrical conductivity, e-coli and water temperature. SOS are carrying out this sampling as Ofwat & Environment Agency don't have the resources. Bathing water status is being applied for from the falls to Mercury Bridge. The group has plenty of volunteers, and the project is entirely self-funded but need more sampling equipment, kits cost £250/each. Cllr Rafelt asks about the weather being significantly different between 2021 + 2022, Frank Broughton didn't have figures but 2022 was wetter. Also asks more about the historical data, the group hadn't researched this. Cllr Bell felt that the system is not coping with the increased requirements and that water sewage discharges aren't the only issue. Cllr Richardson asks if the group has contacted Ofwat, Yorkshire Water & Environment Agency, asks about the chemical costs and what is the group hoping to achieve. Frank Broughton will forward the costs of the chemicals; the group are aiming to upgrade local sewage works, educate people about the water quality and increase the water quality in the Swale. Cllr Calvert adds that this will help our argument for planning applications and shows that sewage works aren't fit for purpose. Cllr Threlfall agrees, this will give us the data and the proof of the problem. All Cllrs agreed to support and to agenda in November. A MOP suggests testing more frequently than monthly as this would allow data to be gained in a faster timescale. Frank Broughton leaves.
- 5) Crime Report. Report for September read. Current awareness around Halloween and property marking, clerk to put on Facebook.
- 6) Matters raised by the members of the public. MOP has a query about why Scorton PC hasn't replied to the Scotch Corner development. No consultation has been received as we are too far away. MOP has concerns that the villages may become a rat run, Cllr Rafelt stated that SPC will keep a watchful eye on the situation.
- 7) Updates from North Yorkshire Councillor, Tarmac representative & SOS group. Alan Coe in attendance and gives his report. Visitor numbers continue to increase. Noticeboard replaced, stumps removed in footpath, grass cutting around the paths, wooden bridge path filled with hardcore, installed a bin and old lifebuoys replaced in some areas. Orienteering & night walk to take place soon. Species recording: butterfly 20 different species confirmed, Birds: awaiting results from summer breeding bird survey, however local records show large populations of curlew and golden plover, with sighting of a bittern and peregrine falcon. Dragonflies: British Dragonfly Society recorded 13 different species. Work planned: footpath improvements, rest points, drainage work, south car park repairs, ash tree coppice as ash die back, tree guard removal and coppicing of willows. New document has been produced from Tarmac with information about Scorton. Cllr Rafelt asks if Alan would like an article in the next S&D Times. Looking at putting an owl box on site, and MOP adds that some solar lights still light up – Alan will look at this. Alan Coe leaves.
SOS group. No update.
North Yorkshire Councillor Les. Budget setting is going to consultation. Cllr Les will allocate some funding for Save our Swale group from the Locality budget and may help with further support with professional testing.

Cllr Les will also push for environmental organisations to be a statutory consultee for planning applications – this is going to the Secretary of State. He adds that water quality isn't a statutory requirement for Yorkshire Water and that DEFRA needs to be consulted. Water bills may increase. Cllr Threlfall adds that NALC are also putting pressure on the government to have a statutory water body within planning consultations.

- 8) Updates from previous meetings. Parking near to the school, emails received from MOP, who remains concerned about the parking around the school. Cllr Rafelt had met with Mrs Dobson about two issues, the brightness of a light (reported at the last meeting by a MOP) and parking. Mrs Dobson will action the light to be disconnected. Regarding the parking, some solutions were discussed: 20mph zone, extension to the layby and the layby to be used only for school business. Mrs Dobson will agenda this for the next Governor meeting and is speaking with Highways about possible solutions. Cllr Calvert suggests that Highways signs could be used on the layby and Cllr Bell adds that people do come from other areas and so need to come by car, he adds that if the layby was longer then this may help to alleviate the problem. Cllrs resolved to arrange a meeting with PC, School & Highways. Bus shelter, thanks to Cllrs Rafelt, Threlfall, Calvert, and the Clerk for preparing and painting the bus shelter, this voluntary work all helps to keep the village tidy. The week prior an incident happened in the bus shelter, due to lack of seating (Facebook message). Some boxes of donations were put in the bus shelter the day after and so a notice of "no donations" has been added. Cllr Calvert queries whether the phone box could be used. Book shelter buddies are happy to wait until Easter for the shelving and is bagging up some books for residents. To review in April. Company will charge 15% for the return of the shelving, Cllrs resolved to return the shelving. Cllrs to discuss with residents and note any comments. Cllr Harper suggests that the Chapel would be a good space for book swapping and maybe could be used during the lunch club. Speed enforcement. North Yorkshire Community messaging. Notification about speed enforcement checks to be taken in Scorton. Also, VAS data from 8th August to 23rd October. Data shows 4% of vehicles speeding over 30mph, with the 85% percentile speed 28.5 mph. Cllr Bell adds that the VAS wasn't working for some of the time, clerk to seek this data. Cllr Rafelt states that the signs are moved regularly. Surface water drainage near the cemetery, Highways replied that this part of the road does naturally fall away towards the cemetery car park, and that recent works to the gully may have helped with the flooding.

- 9) Accounts. Balance 25/10/2023 £32,133.38

Incoming:

- Cemetery £500.00

Outgoing:

- Tesco (Mobile phone contract) £7.50
- V Raven (Wages October & ink cartridges) £527.71
- Rotadex (Shelving) £704.18
- Glenwood Paint Supplies & Sam Turners (Paid I Threlfall – Paint & Chain links) £19.20
- British Legion (Donation) £120.00
- Citizens Advice (Donation) £200.00

Financial standing orders now under review, Cllrs will think about the contract limit which is currently £500.00 and the emergency limit which is currently £200.00.

Clerk asked Cllrs to think about possible projects for the coming year, as the precept setting meeting is November.

- 10) Planning matters

- FPP LBC for flue to single storey side extension, permeable black paving (matching courtyard) to the drive to replace existing gravel, small paved area to the south elevation for siting. The Lodge, Hospital Road. Cllrs were disappointed to note that this is clearly a retrospective planning application, however this is not stated in the application. Furthermore, the plans are inconsistent with the actual work that has been completed. The flue to the side extension doesn't enter the original chimney low down as plans state. The whole length of the black flue is attached to the exterior of the building, Cllrs felt that this is not respectful or appropriate for a Grade 2 listed property.

Granted: FPP for erection of 5 no residential dwellings, creation of access and landscaping at Station Road (East). Cllr Les asked for this to go to Planning Committee, Cllr Threlfall represented PC at planning site meeting and the committee meeting.

- 11) Remembrance Day representative & to consider British Legion donation decision. Cllr Harper will represent the PC this year and it was resolved to donate £120.00 to the British Legion.

- 12) Feedback from meetings attended by Councillors/Clerk. YLCA Branch meeting, Cllr Delf was presented with a Service Award following many years of being Chair and representative of the Executive Board. Rachel Joyce (Assistant Chief Executive, NYC) discussed local engagement with Parish Councils and Meetings. Community Partnership Groups are here to stay, with trials in certain locations taking place currently. Double devolution, some councils bid for this with Richmond Town Council bidding to take over Friary Gardens. The Parish Charter will be reviewed after 6 months. A consultation for the Statement of Community Involvement will begin in November. Clustering of councils was discussed; however, this is not necessarily formal or involve boundary changes but a useful working tool. Joint Executive Board meeting report: Code of Conduct was discussed with reference to NYC asking PCs to adopt theirs, this is the choice of the individual PC. Also, a request from the last branch meeting, that an Environment/Water Body should be a statutory body for planning application – NALC are going to further this. Some local issues discussed, electric car charging in respect to easements across the VG and also problems with some North Yorkshire Councillors not being contactable or available for meetings, suggestions made that North Yorkshire Cllrs should be accountable.
- 13) Safety review. Play park work completed on both Typhoon and Spitfire Court, wobble board now has new links, some pruning work (Mac Plant to take off overhanging limb and trim overhanging hedge), hopscotch swept. No new issues.
- 14) Report relating to minor parish issues since last meeting. Resident reported fence missing at packhorse bridge, Clerk to discuss with owner re: repair. Cllr Rafelt suggested this could be a future project. Cllr Bell reports faeces and toilet paper on Bridge Green. Streetscene cleared; Hospital Lane weedy/dog poo, this belongs to Abbey Care Village; fallen tree on Bridge Green, Landowners will remove. Cllr Rafelt reports rubbish along Bolton Road. Reported to Streetscene. Resident reports horse droppings on the footpath along Bolton Road. Resident reports the poor state of the verge outside The Lodge, clerk to bring to February meeting.
- 15) Correspondence. NYC – Housing Strategy & Budget setting consultation, Cllrs to complete individually. NYC Polling District Review, no changes for Scorton. CAB – update and donation request. Letter from CEO, stating that 20 people in Scorton had been helped by CAB in the last year. Cllrs resolved to donate £200.00 Rotary Club – Best Kept Village results. Scorton came 3rd.
New Bridge update, 3 weeks till delivery. Weather dependant, the new bridge may not be replaced until Spring. Cllrs Calvert & Threlfall have assessed the current bridge and both feel it safe for this winter. Cllr Threlfall reports the footpath narrowing between Scorton & Brompton, clerk to report to Highways. Also, clerk to agenda planting along Hospital Road for November.
- 16) Date of next meeting – 29th November

Meeting closed: 22.25