

SCORTON PARISH COUNCIL

The normal monthly meeting held on Wednesday 3rd July 2024 at 7.30pm in the Scorton War Memorial Institute.

Present: - Cllrs Rafelt, Threlfall, Harper & Calvert, North Yorkshire Cllr Les, 4 MOP

- 1) Apologies. Cllr Richardson
- 2) Declarations of interest. None
- 3) Approval of minutes dated 22nd May. It was resolved to accept the minutes as a true record of the meeting.
- 4) Crime Report. PCSO Brown sent the Crime report for April. Police awareness this month is a checklist for securing your home when you leave it, clerk to post on PC Facebook page and on noticeboards.
- 5) Matters raised by the members of the public. None
- 6) Updates from North Yorkshire Councillor, Tarmac representative & SOS group.

Tarmac representative. Alan Coe informed Cllr Threlfall that he would be unable to attend, no report received as yet.

North Yorkshire Cllr Les. The planning department is undergoing restructure, Cllr Les will forward an organisation chart as soon as completed. The garage planning went to committee in June but was deferred, next committee meeting 11/7. Cllr Les highlights that the proposal is to recommend this application, nevertheless more planning applications will be required: to include plant machinery, loading, parking, lighting, diesel tanks and signage. Correspondence discussed, email forwarded from MOP from Fiona Hunter (Planning Team leader), stating that other applications are required and that it is not their intention to start formal enforcement until all the planning applications have been submitted. Email read from MOP (present at meeting), detailing his disappointment that the PC didn't attend the Committee meeting relating to the garage, also that the PC may have known about the deferment and not forwarded on the information. PC were not aware of this information. Cllr Rafelt replies that there are no material objections and that the letter we sent to the planning department covered ours and the public comments. Cllr Les highlights that the committee planning document is well represented by the PC letter. Cllr Rafelt explains that the PC are disappointed with the application, both that it was retrospective and incomplete. One MOP leaves.

SOS Group. Two representatives give a report, SOS continue to spread the word about Scorton Lakes, and pass the new leaflet around to Cllrs. This is for tourist information and distributed via the local tourist information centres. Local Nature Recovery Strategy are an important contact and will carry out a public consultation early 2025. Tarmac is doing an amazing job with the seating and dog watering point.

- 7) Updates from previous meetings. Drain between Bolton & Scorton. Highways reply, gully has been cleaned 10/23, so Highways will check the manhole chamber adjacent to check for other issues. Bridge completion, thank you letters to be sent to all who helped with this project. Also, article for Darlington & Stockton Times to be forwarded. Cllr Calvert adds a special thank you to Cllr Les & Cllr Threlfall.

- 8) Accounts

Balance at 03/07/24 £16653.68 (Internal controls checked by Cllrs)

Incoming:

- Northern Powergrid (Wayleave) £26.45

Outgoing:

- Tesco (Mobile phone contract) £7.50
- V Raven (Wages June) £546.00
- BT (Broadband) £45.19
- I Threlfall (Glenwood, Screwfix, YIBS, JT Atkinson, Sam Turners – Wood treatment, flags, matting, grass seed, top soil, fixing, etc) £509.21
- M J Ramsey (Equipment and operator to remove and fix new bridge) £240.00
- YLCA (Training) £26.30

Internal audit findings: Asset register, date of purchase would be useful as well as cost. Claiming VAT – suggestion made to add suppliers VAT number to excel spreadsheet, rather than complete the VAT claim form.

9) Planning items

- Full Planning Permission for replacement conservatory at 8 Beaufigther Close. No objections.
- Full Planning Permission for construction of greenhouse and sunroom within the garden of a Grade II listed detached dwelling. The Lodge, Hospital Road.

Granted: LBC to form two new openings to outbuilding. Virginia House, Northside

Committee meeting re: FPP for change of use of unused garage workshop to tills/retail area of petrol filling station including alterations to front elevation. Penny Petroleum, Brompton Road. Rescheduled to 11/7

10) Feedback from meetings attended by Councillors/Clerk. Healthwatch representative attended as the speaker, this led to passionate discussions about the inequalities of health and how rurality is detrimental to health, the group resolved to send a letter to Healthwatch highlighting the concerns raised. Cllr Threlfall had asked for merging of PC/PM's to be discussed, this led to a discussion more about clustering rather than grouped councils. Clerk highlighted that the new system for the White Rose newsletter makes it more difficult for Cllrs to read the White Rose newsletter, clerk to download and forward to Cllrs.

11) Safety review. Jubilee Green, cable ties to the top of the pod swing removed, replaced by Cllr Rafelt. Cllr Threlfall asks if PC could look into fencing around the larger area of play equipment, all agreed, clerk to action.

12) Report relating to minor parish issues since last meeting. Resident reports a dead deer rotting on Bridge Green. Clerk contacted NYC, resolved. Cllr Threlfall reports damaged nets on Jubilee Green. It was resolved to order some new ones and also replace the nets on the green. Clerk to order new ones, it was resolved to spend under £150.00. Tree on Bridge Green, limb has fallen away and tree now needs to be removed. Two requests for the use of the green from Buddies and a resident for charity, clerk checked with Cllrs and explained that the green must be used for all and no-one can be excluded. NYC are now not providing dog bins but litter bins with stickers explaining that the litter bin can be used for dog waste. Query to move the dog bin from Bridge Green (as adjacent to litter bin) to Brompton Road (becoming rusty and damaged). Some concerns about capacity, however it was felt by Cllrs that bin doesn't usually get full. Clerk to ask for stickers and to review prior to moving. Some work needed on Bridge Green, chipping of brash, willow branches and two branches are dead on the spreading maple to be removed. Mac Plant have quoted £395 +VAT. It was resolved to action.

13) Correspondence. NYC – Potential illegal works, Hospital Road. Email received from Niall Paterson (NYC) asking for information relating to works carried out on Bridge Green 9th May. Clerk forwarded information requested. Cllr Les adds that he believes that the duty of care rests with the contractor and he will arrange a meeting with the Director of NYC Highways in August for clarification for PC's. If things have changed then all PC's, charities or anyone who uses a contractor will need notifying. Bolton on Swale PM – Potential merge. Email received from Bolton on Swale Parish meeting 20/6, asking if PC would be open to joining up with Bolton on Swale Parish Meeting. Clerk has discussed with the Standards Officer and forwarded her email to Cllrs. She stated that a Community Governance review would need to be carried out, however The Local Boundary Commission for England has indicated that a review of divisions will commence in 2024, and anticipated that this review will be completed by 2025 and for implementation by 2027. Cllrs gave their concerns about their thoughts to this potential merge: positives and negatives with the negative being that BOS precept would increase, hope that BOS PM would continue to function until boundary review as this would assist a smoother merge, and concerns that there would be no representation from BOS if no-one came forward to be a Cllr at Scorton. Cllr Harper adds that 2027 is a long time without representation. The Governance review has cost implications, clerk to find out more, also this will be on the agenda at the next YLCA meeting. All agreed that more information was required, waiting for update from BOS PM, who held their meeting on 26th June. Anti littering campaign, posters to be forwarded and Cllr Rafelt will write a piece for their press release as requested. MOP makes an official complaint about the clerk, misleading public and Cllrs. Clerk to forward Complaints Policy to MOP.

14) Date of next meeting – 31st July

Meeting closed: 20.55