

SCORTON PARISH COUNCIL

The normal monthly meeting held on Wednesday 22nd February 2023 at 7.30pm in the Scorton War Memorial Institute.

Present: - Cllrs Rafelt, Harper, Calvert, Richardson & Bell, Parish & District Cllr Threlfall, County Cllr Les, Members of the Public x 2 (later)

- 1) Apologies. PCSO Brown & District Cllr Rowe
- 2) Declarations of interest. Cllr Threlfall declares that he is dual hatted as Parish Councillor and also representative of the District Council Planning Committee, and as such any conclusions/decisions will be solely from documents produced at this PC meeting. Cllr Harper declares an interest re: FPP for erection of 9 dwellings at land to the rear of The Lodge (west), Hospital Road.
- 3) Approval of minutes dated 25th January. It was resolved to accept the minutes as a true record of the meeting.
- 4) Crime Report. Small report for January. News about poaching and obscured registration plates. Advice given about equipment & tool safety, clerk to put on Facebook.
- 5) Matters raised by the members of the public. None.
- 6) Updates from County/District Councillors. County Cllr Les reports that we are now 5 weeks away from Unitary. The Council tax has been set for 23/24, 2.99% increase plus 2% increase for adult care levy, a pay rise has been budgeted and reserves will need to be used. Cllr Les asks SPC about the Parish Charter, some comments from the YLCA meeting about Parish Meetings concerns about amalgamation with larger councils; Cllr Les adds that this isn't the case and will report this back. Cllr Richardson adds that the Parish Charter meetings are in the day only, and this excludes working people. Clerk to agenda the Parish Charter in March. The Locality budget will remain for 23/24, there may be a funding source for Coronation celebrations. District Cllr Threlfall attended the last full council meeting yesterday, this looked at the positives of what had been achieved over the last 40+ years. There is a small amount from funding to be distributed to all PCs & PMs to help towards the Coronation celebrations.
- 7) Updates from previous meetings. Communitree project, trees now delivered, these are small whips and it was resolved to plant these in the autumn when they have grown on and the park is less busy. Clerk to agenda September. Plants for Hospital Road, Cllr Richardson suggests ceanothus & cotoneaster may be good varieties, Cllr Harper adds that rosemary may be a good species to plant. Clerk to ask Highways to survey area for services and Cllr Harper & Richardson to put a plan together, clerk to forward map of area. Cllr Harper suggests remediation work to the verges could be carried out at the same time. Land transfer Spitfire/Typhoon, reply from Solicitor "public play area" has to remain in the wording for the transfer. It was resolved to accept this and sign the documents. Community Garden funding, unfortunately Parish Councils aren't permitted to apply for this funding. Website update, clerk has applied for Lottery funding for the website, should hear by end of April. Charles III Coronation, 4 comments on Facebook. Cllr Richardson adds that this indicates the community are uninterested. Cllr Rafelt asks if the Feast or Buddies would like to be involved. Cllr Threlfall suggests a picnic on the green, with provision of toilets and insurance. General ideas about other activities discussed. Clerk to put a post on Facebook, picnic on the green (bring your own picnic and gazebo) to celebrate the coronation 7th May. Would you support coronation celebrations? Cemetery/park estimates, another quote received and awaiting the third.
- 8) Accounts. Balance 22/02/23 £24815.65
 - Incoming:
 - Cemetery fees £275.00
 - Outgoing:
 - NYCC (Grass cutting) £6792.00
 - RDC (Park inspections) £574.92
 - Plus Net (Broadband) £36.19
 - Tesco (Mobile phone contract) £7.50
 - YLCA (Training) £25.00

- 9) Planning matters
 - i) FPP for 9 dwellings, garages, landscaping and associated works at land to rear of Scorton Lodge (west), Hospital Road. Cllr Harper declares an interest. Letter received from resident objecting to the proposals. Cllr Harper explains about the altered position of housing, the area and that a Juliet balcony has been added to plot 9, this overlooks the garden to the south. It was resolved to reply: The Juliet balcony to the rear of plot 9; this would overlook the gardens to the South of the property and affect their privacy.
 - ii) LBC for replacement of sash window panes at The Lodge, Hospital Road. No objections, suggest heritage glazing is used.
- 10) Ideas for the decorations at Christmas. Tarmac currently donates the Christmas tree to Scorton and this will come to an end in the near future. Lighting the 4 lime trees on Southside has been suggested in the past, this would need loosening approximately every three years. Cllr Bell asks if there is any objection to planting a Christmas tree in the usual spot, Cllr Threlfall adds that we could plant a new lime tree and light that. Cllr Richardson agrees that a Christmas tree would be best placed in the centre of the village, Cllr Calvert adds that the tree doesn't need to be a Christmas tree. It was resolved to look at prices for lighting on trees.
- 11) Adoption of Standing Orders. Item no 15 requires a change as states the planning authority is RDC. Clerk to amend.
- 12) Discussion re: Model Councillor-Officer protocol (Civility & Respect project). Cllr Rafelt explains that this clarifies appropriate professional conduct, delineates roles and responsibilities and actions required in the event of any issues. Adopted, clerk to add to the Parish Councillor pack.
- 13) Feedback from meetings attended by Councillors/Clerk. Cllr Harper & clerk attended the planning meeting regarding the proposed Bolton Road development, the proposal was unanimously rejected by the planning committee. Cllr Threlfall & clerk attended the Richmondshire YLCA meeting, speaker was Tim Myatt from Yorkshire Water, this was mainly about waste water and new developments. Remote training is to continue but YLCA to restart Face to Face training sessions soon. Parish Charter discussed, with Parish meeting raising concerns about Parish Meetings being merged with Parish Councils. YLCA looking at reducing branch meetings to twice yearly, concerns raised by members, currently 3 meetings/year.
- 14) Safety review. Report received with no different observations.
- 15) Report relating to minor parish issues since last meeting. A resident reported that the streetlight is too bright following the replacement of the bulb. Clerk reported to DC and they will blacken the rear of the light. Resident reports fence at Jubilee Green, some areas require repair and some branches need cutting back. Cllr Rafelt adds that the bench on Jubilee Green would benefit from some new slats. Wind sock has split, on order. Resident reports circular flag stones around the cemetery bench are slippery, this will be power washed soon. Resident reports a small tree fallen in to the beck near the packhorse bridge, and debris is collecting around this and causing a blockage. Clerk reported to Environment Agency. Cllr Rafelt adds that the packhorse bridge would benefit from some work, clerk to discuss with Environment Agency. Green wall damage, volunteers are carrying out this work and should be fixed soon, also grass verge damage at that corner. Clerk to email Highways to repair. Request from Yorkshire Water to carry out work on verge near The Lodge, Hospital Road. Clerk to email response and that the area should be remediated appropriately.
- 16) Correspondence. NYCC – Parish Charter consultation & Urban Grasscutting. Charter liaison drop in 23rd Feb at Mercury House 2-5pm. It was resolved to accept the urban Grasscutting for another year, clerk to reply. Yorkshire & Humber Climate Commission – Zoom meeting 23/3. Royal British Legion – thank you letter for recent donation. Latimer Hinks – small play area at Blenheim Close, this land transfer has previously been settled. Clerk has discussed this with our Solicitor who is contacting Latimer Hinks.
- 17) Date of next meeting – 29th March
- 18) Meeting closed: 21.23