

# SCORTON PARISH COUNCIL

The normal monthly meeting held on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020 at 7.30pm via Zoom.

**Present:** - Cllrs Rafelt, Newall, Aston, Harper, Hull & Maddison-Potts, Parish & District Cllr Threlfall, Cllr Rowe, 3 members of public, Cllr Les (later)

- 1) Apologies. County Cllr Les may be late. Cllr Threlfall is hosting this Zoom meeting, he welcomes everyone, explains the etiquette of this meeting, and everyone introduces themselves.
- 2) Declarations of interest. None
- 3) Approval of minutes dated 29<sup>th</sup> July 2020. Cllr Threlfall asked to amend the AGM minutes to alter the word sign to plaque in the Chairman's report, otherwise it was resolved to accept the minutes as a true record. Clerk to make amendment.
- 4) Matters raised by the members of the public. A member of the public raises a question relating to the beck and asks if the bull rushes are going to be cleared. Following the bridge collapse and repair, a pond area has developed and rubble from the bridge collapse remains at a narrow section near and under the original footbridge, he suggests the beck is cleared all the way along. Additionally, he proposes a suggestion for a solution re: the travellers by changing the fencing and placing a boulder in a strategic position to form a chicane, he offers to carry out this work free of charge. Cllr Threlfall states that we have already asked our contractors to complete this work regarding the fence and will be completed by the weekend. The MOP further states that the travellers left human waste and it was difficult to use the wooden bridge when the travellers were there. Cllr Rafelt adds his concerns about moving the issue to another area, and also may cause additional problems but the resident felt this was unlikely. District Cllr Threlfall states that this year visitors were generally handled better and more partnerships are developing but they are obviously restricted by legislation. Another resident adds that she was kept awake the first night, Cllr Threlfall states that both the Police and Neighbourhood team were there on the first night, he reiterates that this is a difficult problem to solve but was hoping that things were a bit better this time. Cllr Rafelt adds that Cllrs will think about the suggestions, thanks the residents and we will agenda in October, and that we need to keep these partnerships open with the RDC Neighbourhood team and the Police. District Cllr Rowe suggests that we write to our MP, Cllr Threlfall states that this has already been done.
- 5) Updates from County/District Councillors.
  - Cllr Rowe – The Local Government reorganisation appears to have slowed. RDC is looking at the possibility of a Climate Change Officer but await decision, however electric charging points will be installed in Richmond and Catterick Garrison. Business week is coming up and RDC have released their community grants.
  - Cllr Threlfall – RDC Officers still working from home predominately. A recent Corporate meeting highlighted that COVID is starting to affect RDC finances, however refuse, roads, groundworks, etc are still carrying on as usual, kerbside recycling has increased.
- 6) Crime report. Crime report sent in from PC Wood, a small report showing an increase in poaching activity. Information about checking security now that the dark nights are drawing in, clerk to include this in the next S&D Times.
- 7) Updates from previous meetings.
  - Station Road signage. Email from Ian Beighton (NYCC Highways) re: "Caution concealed entrance" sign, Highways are unable to provide a concealed entrance sign as not authorised for use at that location. Cllrs were disappointed with this response as seemed a sensible solution to the problem, however resolved to ask Highways for some enhancements to the current 'sharp bend' sign. Clerk to action.
  - Jubilee Green updates. Village green application decision nearing completion. The Open Spaces Society have asked if we would like to be involved in a press release to congratulate the PC on this initiative. Cllrs would like to be involved if the application approved.
  - Road safety fund update. Email received from Fire & Crime Commissioner stating that there has been a high volume of applications for this scheme, and suggesting alternative sources of funding, also that the

date for outcomes will be beginning of November. Clerk discussed syndicate with Cllrs and suggested a Zoom meeting with all the members and Darren Griffiths (NYCC), clerk to arrange.

- Wind vane/cemetery bench maintenance. Cllr Threlfall has purchased the paint, clerk to arrange date.

#### 8) Accounts.

Expenditure: -

- PlusNet (Broadband supply) £84.00
- V Raven (Wages July, August, September) £1200.00
- D&M Fabrications (Black Widow bench) £2190.00
- LCR (Magazine subscription) £17.00
- Mac Plant Hire (Remove tree from Jubilee Green) £180.00
- R & J Hill Engineering (Football posts) £1836.00

External audit –AGAR Certificate of Exemption approved. This is now required to be carried out as Littlejohn no longer needed PC to undertake the 5% intermediate checks. HSBC safeguarding need further checks, but clerk will discuss electronic banking with them also.

#### 9) Planning matters

- FPP for double glazed uPVC garden room to the rear and installation of 1 No uPVC argon filled double glazed window in side wall of integral garage at 23 Blenheim Close. No objections.
- Variation of condition 3 attached to planning permission 03/00535/FULL to allow occupation of annex as separate dwelling and creation of new access and parking spaces at 9 The Archers Green. No objections.
- FPP for demolition of existing dwelling and ancillary outbuilding and erection of a replacement dwelling together with landscaping and associated works at Greenbury Farm, Hospital Road to Blind Lane. No objections.

#### 10) Winter tree planting plan. Report by Cllr Harper

Dying cherries lining path over the Scorton Beck at Bridge Green. Leading from the village: 1st tree on both sides of the path (dying) to be replaced by apple trees. 2nd pair of trees are healthy and are to be left. 3rd pair of trees (dying) to be replaced by fruiting cherries. Last 3 trees on the approach to the bridge are healthy and are to be left. Once over the bridge, the 1st tree on both sides of the path are very suspect and not doing well at all, so are to be replaced by fruiting cherries.

The Horse Chestnut Tree. The top of the horse chestnut tree appears to be dead. There are several suckers coming up from the roots, this kind of growth will never grow into a tree, the best it can produce is a ragged bush. I would suggest taking it out and, as it is the second horse chestnut we have attempted to plant in this area, I would suggest that we change the species of tree. There are several magnificent walnut trees in the parish and, going along with the theme of planting fruiting trees elsewhere on the Green, I would suggest planting a walnut tree.

Lime trees. The lime tree outside The Farmers needs the stake and tree strap removing, and suckers removing from the ones on Southside.

Tree Replacement outside SWMI. A green beech tree needs purchasing and planting outside the SWMI in place of the removed flowering cherry.

Jubilee Green. The surviving beech tree in the middle of the narrow end of Jubilee park is very slow growing and slightly twisted but nevertheless looks healthy enough to persevere with. It was resolved to undertake this tree planting over the winter season, Cllr Rafelt thanked Cllr Harper.

#### 11) Ideas for October S&D Times. Plenty of ideas for this edition: Remembrance Sunday, Black Widow bench involving a drawing of the Black Widow competition (£15 book token), Football posts, Citizens Advice, Police – info about security in the dark nights, Surgery/Flu jabs, School, Parking on lower green, info about scams from recent YLCA meeting. Cllr Harper suggested that a thank you to the shop for providing our community with such great service during the pandemic could be included in the S&D Times, but it was felt that a letter would be preferable, clerk to action.

#### 12) Feedback from meetings attended by Councillors & Clerk. Cllrs Rafelt, Threlfall and clerk attended several Zoom meetings about the local government reorganisation, but these were quite generalised, and more details will be released when NYCC & RDC know more.

RDC has teamed with Ecoflex to help residents get help with insulation and efficient heating.

- 13) Safety review. RDC play park checks. Jubilee Green – hedge is now cut back but the gate needs adjustment following this work, Cllr Rafelt will action.
  - 14) Report relating to minor parish issues since last meeting. Cllr Threlfall reported that the fence on Bridge Green had been knocked down, Mac Plant to action. He also reported that a Cemetery memorial had been removed but the Masons left a hole without safety fence, clerk informed the Masons who resolved. Mrs Enevoldson reported that rabbit holes have been appearing in the cemetery, Cllr Threlfall filled holes and attached more mesh on the gate to deter, also suggests lifting the Cherry Tree to form an arch at the entrance of the Cemetery, it was resolved for Mac Plant will carry out this work. Resident has put in a request for an additional mountain ash tree near the Old Post Office, Cllrs resolved that this would be acceptable, clerk to notify resident. Lit bollard near Archers green triangle is out again, clerk reported. Cllr Rafelt reported the bench on Alan's Way is needing repairs, clerk left message for the owner. Cllr Rafelt reported that the chicane has been put back in the wrong place on the Beaufighter to Glebe Terrace snicket, Cllr Threlfall suggests asking Highways why they put it back in the wrong place. Cllr Madison Potts asked about the sign on Blenheim Close at the entrance, Mac Plant will prune this area. A resident reported that the grass cutting this season has improved this year and the hog weeds are almost gone.
  - 15) Correspondence. YLCA – Richmondshire Branch meeting 1/10. Clerk & Cllr Threlfall will attend. RDC – BT consultation on intended programme of public payphone removals. PC opposes the removal of payphones across the District due to poor mobile signals in some rural areas, clerk to reply. Tarmac – update. This was in place of a Tarmac liaison meeting and Cllrs found it very useful. Cllr Harpers asks about a footpath, Cllr Threlfall will enquire. Cllr Rafelt queries who will look after the lakes when Tarmac has finished. Cllr Threlfall replies that Tarmac are required to take care of the area for 25 years following completion but then it is likely that a committee will be formed.
- 16) Date of next meeting – 28th October

Meeting closed: 21.25