

# SCORTON PARISH COUNCIL

The normal monthly meeting held on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at 7.30pm via Zoom.

**Present:** - Cllrs Rafelt, Aston, Newall, Harper, Hull & Maddison-Potts, Parish & District Cllr Threlfall, District Cllr Rowe, County Cllr Les

Cllr Threlfall is hosting this Zoom meeting.

- 1) Apologies. None
- 2) Declarations of interest. Cllr Threlfall declares an interest in item 8, SWMI donation as currently Chair of the Trustees to SWMI.
- 3) Approval of minutes dated 24<sup>th</sup> February. It was resolved to accept the minutes as a true record.
- 4) Matters raised by the members of the public. Cllr Aston queries about the progress of the gymkhana field development, we have had no further planning consultations as yet.
- 5) Updates from County/District Councillors.
  - Cllr Les – Unitary council, will hear more in July. COVID remains and need to stay vigilant. Virtual meetings, Secretary of State has supported the decision to continue with these if councils wish, await further notifications. Clerk has asked about Treescape funding but there may be better, smaller grants available. Police & Fire Commissioner elections soon, concerns about possible funding split.
  - Cllr Threlfall – DC have allocated 45K for streetlighting and 250K for play parks, both on a 1<sup>st</sup> come, 1<sup>st</sup> served and Scorton is moving forward with the park fund. 1.26 million allocated to renovate Richmond Pool. RDC likely to be in debt by the time unitary authority in place. RDC apprenticeship scheme to continue. Local planning working group – preferred options consultation soon. COVID grants 22.5 million has been distributed by RDC to local businesses
  - Cllr Rowe – RDC is helping local businesses by giving business rates a holiday until June. £500 self-isolate grants distributed. Bridge House Hotel, Cllr Rowe has spoken with Rishi Sunak about a possible project to renovate this building and it may be eligible for funding. Cllr Harper asks what the building could be used for other than a museum, Cllr Rowe suggests that it could be run by a charitable trust and then let the rest as a business. Cllr Aston has concerns about the derelict state of the building. Cllr Threlfall replies that the Bridge House Hotel is a concern for all of the local area, and has reported falling masonry to Highways, they have found the building to be safe from a Highways perspective. No virtual meetings can be held until after 6/5 as it stands presently.
- 6) Crime report. Fraud is the hot topic this month, as the team have received a number of fraud reports, they ask that residents continue to report these suspicious activities. Border Watch volunteers continue their good work with some fantastic results.
- 7) Updates from previous meetings.
  - New footway light. Now in place.
  - Open Spaces publication. Open Spaces have again requested our permission to use Jubilee Green as an example of good practice of registering new village greens. We have sent photos and a little write up about how easy it is to get your village green registered.
  - VAS project delay. Supplier is having long lead times on batteries and so it's unlikely that we will take delivery of these signs until early July. Clerk informed our funding source, Crime Commissioner AJ1 funding and the members of the syndicate.
  - RAF Black Widow bench wording. It was resolved to accept the following wording and review placement when plaques are completed. Clerk to order 2 stainless steel plaques

## Scorton Airfield 1939 – 1958

This bench is inspired by the tail section of a Black Widow aircraft flying out of Scorton.

Dedicated to all those who served in WW2

On this 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Britain

Scorton Parish Council 2020

8) Accounts.

Incoming: -

- North Yorkshire Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner (AJ1 funding) £6454.00
- RDC (Precept) £15500

Expenditure: -

- NYCC (Grass cutting) £6210.00
- Braithwaites (Trees supply & plant) £354.95
- Swarco (VAS signs 30% down payment) £2254.32
- (Glazing for Noticeboard) £484.00
- V Raven (Wages Jan, Feb & March) £1200.00
- PlusNet (Broadband supply) £84.00
- YLCA (Membership) £311.00
- ELS (Solar lamp) £1014.00
- I Threlfall (NY Timber, wood for noticeboard) £531.79
- SWMI (Donation) £850.00
- Zurich (Insurance) £901.72

Scorton War Memorial Institute Donation. Cllr Threlfall declares an interest as Chair of SWMI. Grateful to accept a donation as allows hire to be cheaper for local residents. Cllr Harper adds that the roof has required maintenance recently and Cllr Threlfall replies that NYCC Locality Funding had helped with this. Cllr Rafelt suggests increasing this in small increments annually, Cllr Aston agrees. It was resolved to increase by £50 to £850 with a promise of another £50 increase next year. Cllr Threlfall thanks the PC for their continued support on behalf of the trustees.

External audit – approval of annual governance statement. Cllrs had this emailed and it was resolved to accept all the points on the statement. Clerk to finalise internal and external audits.

Grasscutting quote for 2021. NYCC sent a quotation for the grass cutting as requested. Each cut will be £382.50/cut, this is a 2% increase from last year.

HSBC – As requested the clerk is applying for internet banking currently, and the HSBC bank in Richmond will close on 6<sup>th</sup> August.

9) Planning matters

- FPP for extension of existing annex into existing workshop and garage at Broadmead House, High Row. No objections.

10) Items for next edition of Scorton & District Times. Lots of information to go in but clerk to await final decision about summer village events before publishing.

11) Feedback from meetings attended by Councillors & Clerk. Clerk attended RDC CAP meeting attended with speakers from Hambleton Community Action, Wheels to Work, Dementia Forward, and Citizens Advice.

12) Safety review. RDC play park checks. Jubilee Green, wobbly pole on climbing ropes: Rep from Proludic has inspected and happy that the climbing net is safe, he has sent an email and clerk has forwarded to RDC Safety Inspector. The small entrance gate requires attention and a tree was hanging too close to the ball wall, on further inspection the whole tree was damaged and needed removing. Mollie Cail park – the twirly pole was reported as stiff but checked and turning very well, clerk has advised RDC of this.

13) Report relating to minor parish issues since last meeting. Cllr Threlfall reported that the accesses needed some work, Macplant will resolve. Clerk, Cllr Harper & Hull trimmed trees, removed suckers and ivy on Bridge Green. Clarence Road – pot holes, clerk reported to Highways and now resolved. Cllr Hull reported the Abbey Care sign was flapping in the wind and dangerous. Clerk reported and resolved quickly. Bus shelter bollard unlit, clerk reported and resolved. Jubilee Green, bushes and trees overhanging excessively from adjacent property, clerk has asked if they could trim them back. Wood broken off from Jubilee Green cycle trackway. Cllr Threlfall will repair. Resident reported Spitfire Court park bin overflowing and with lots of dog waste, clerk reported and resolved and Cllrs asked if this bin could be removed. Clerk to ask RDC. Resident reported that the Give Way sign on Hospital Road was unlit, clerk reported. Resident reported a bin bag full of dog waste left next to the dog bin on Banks Lane, clerk reported and resolved; also, that they had cleared the area of dog bags which had been thrown in hedges. Resident reported that road surface at the entrance to Blenheim was poor, this had already been discussed at our last meeting but due to

COVID restrictions we were unable to meet with Highways to discuss this and a few other issues. Clerk has replied to the resident and will arrange a meeting with Highways as soon as we are able.

- 14) Correspondence. RDC – Street light & park funding release. Lots of suggestions about the play park funding for Jubilee Green. Cllr Rafelt suggested a multiplay/climbing piece of equipment and extend the bike humps; Cllr Rowe suggested adult exercise equipment. Cllr Threlfall suggested a proper swing and multi play, as this is what the children put on their wish list when Cllr Harper, Threlfall and clerk discussed this project with the children playing on Jubilee Green. Cllr Maddison-Potts put forward a zip wire (Cllr Newall concurred) a slide, tree house, cricket pitch, obstacle track; she also added that there are some large holes in the grass which need filling. It was resolved to apply for a large climbing/slide piece of equipment, swings and a picnic bench. Clerk to get quotes and apply. BT – Phone box removal consultation. Scorton’s box is not due for removal. Clerk to reply with the same response as the last consultation, supporting the retention of phone boxes in this rural county where mobile/internet signal is unreliable. Richmond Rotary – Best Kept Village Competition. Clerk to enter Scorton into this competition. YLCA – New Model Code of Conduct & remote meeting. Waiting for YLCA to release training for the Model Code of Conduct and await further news about remote meetings which end on 6<sup>th</sup> presently.

- 15) Date of next meeting – 30<sup>th</sup> June

Meeting closed: 20.50