

SCORTON PARISH COUNCIL

The normal monthly meeting held on Wednesday 17th November 2021 at 7.30pm in the Scorton War Memorial Institute.

Present: - Cllrs Rafelt, Harper & Maddison-Potts, Members of the Public x 11, District Cllr Rowe, Cllr Hull & County Cllr Les (later)

- 1) Apologies. Cllr Aston & Threlfall, PC Luker, PCSO Wilkinson & Mattison, Cllr Les will attend late.
- 2) Declarations of interest. None.
- 3) Approval of minutes dated 17th November. It was resolved to accept the minutes as a true record.
- 4) Crime Report. Feedback from PC Luker re: questions raised last meeting. He and his colleagues had to give their apologies for this meeting due to not fitting with their off duty, but Clerk gave date for January meeting and he is hopeful a member of the team can attend then. Clerk asked why things were missed off the crime report and PC Luker asked for specifics, the arson involving the swing was discussed. He checked this on the system and the call handler mistakenly presumed it was RDC calling to report the damage and so put on the Richmond report. Fraud, Border watch and poaching were the hot topics this month.
- 5) Matters raised by the members of the public. Nothing raised.
- 6) Updates from County/District Councillors. District Cllr Rowe. Community Investment funds being released on 30th November. Recycling review has been halted currently. Grants available for households earning under £30K for heating and insulation, with further council tax reductions being offered for those on low incomes. New Community recycling bins in place but these shouldn't be used for household waste. £100,000 is being allocated for community events, relocated from Tour de Yorkshire event.
- 7) Updates from previous meetings.
 - Travellers update. Replies received from Callum McKeon RDC & Jayne Applegarth NYCC. Mr McKeon replied that section 77 & 78 would require a magistrates court-based process and would make no difference whether the PC acted or the RDC as to the time delay for action. Ms Applegarth (Commons Registration Officer) gave a detailed email with lots of links, stating that village green was slightly more protected compared to Common Land, and that the Common land at Bridge Green is considered Open Access Land, the guidance suggests that signage is useful for these areas. Some residents have asked if we can attach the email to the minutes. Clerk to action. Members of the public raised several points, such as discussing with Hipswell & Hunton PCs, talking to NYCC legal department as they are custodians of the common land register and gives information from Stockton Council. Residents also suggest alternative use for the area such as allotments, community garden, woodland. Explained that allotments wouldn't be allowed as common land requires access by all. Concerns about campervans parking on the area discussed. DC Rowe will query again with RDC legal services for clarification. Clerk to write to Mr Sunak asking for an update re: the new law relating. Resident asks Cllr Les about section 77 & 78 and will NYCC use this. Cllr Les replies that NYCC will only action on CC land, which this isn't but this still has to go to a magistrates court and thus the time delay. Resident concerned that we may still be in the same situation after the new law is passed. Cllr Les will contact NYCC legal team, asking for further clarification. Email request from resident suggesting purchasing some of the land at Bridge Green, explained that this is not possible as Common land is for the use of all and cannot be fenced off.
 - Signage (Bridge Green, Jubilee Green, entrances/main green). Cllr Harper suggests that signage could be useful on Bridge Green, especially no parking. Others added suggestions of no overnight parking, and no fires. Residents passed on some suggestions, however Cllrs felt that the pictorial signs may work better. Estimate received and the cost is likely to be around £220.00/sign and would require 2 on Bridge Green. Jubilee Green signs, all Cllrs agreed that the sign should be similar to the one at Mollie Cail park. To include the no littering pictorial sign, and words for Please pick up after your dog. Discussion around whether signs about not parking on the grass should be at the entrances to the village, but decided that this would be too far away from the problem areas. Cllr Rafelt suggests placing a sign on all 3 main triangles around the green with wording "Thank you for not parking on the grass Scorton Parish Council". Clerk to request quotes and forward details onto Cllrs prior to final signs being printed.

- Road markings (Glebe Terrace, High Row). This will be carried out as soon as practicable but may now be in the Spring.
 - Heavy Traffic (Bridge Green). Reply received from Highways, suggesting that the road surface is sound but we may notice which lorries are causing the problem and as such we could write to the company. Clerk has emailed Greenfords asking for their help to try and alleviate the noise.
 - Advertisements – Hospital Road. Reply received from Abbey Care Village; the adverts are unlikely to be removed until after the new year as have a good response.
 - Communitree project. Following meeting with various members from RDC & PC, hedging with some specimen trees in between, following on from the current hedging. This will be native species and RDC will fund this project. Some residents leave.
- 8) Planning items
- Outline application for erection of 13 No. residential dwellings at land to the north of Hospital Road, Scorton. All view plans on overhead projector, residents raised concerns about surface water, listed buildings adjacent to new road, archaeology reports not back from site 1 and validity of plot 1 (query whether the planning portal is up to date), sewerage capacity, ecology of the field, access, building noise, access of building vehicles, egress of additional vehicles. Councillors resolved to reply. In principle Scorton Parish Council generally supports this proposal, nevertheless please note councillors' concerns: Density of the housing. The outline plans show that the area will be overdeveloped, with little availability for car parking and gardens. Furthermore, that the affordable housing is all together, please could this be mixed within the development. Proximity of the development to present housing. Concerns were raised about the proximity of the housing and roadway to the current dwellings, notably the gable end walls of The Lodge and Rose Cottage, both listed buildings. Access and egress of this new road. Will the road infrastructure be able to cope with this additional traffic?
 - FPP for retention of timber cabin as summerhouse/hobby space at 8 Beaufighter Close. Scorton PC has no objections.
- 9) Accounts.
- Incoming: -
- HMRC (VAT reclaim) £2470.14
- Expenditure: -
- Streetscape (Replacement for arson damaged swing) £960.00
 - Mac Plant (Clear boulders from beck, soil and seed patches on Bridge Green and near SWMI) £864.00
 - V Raven (Lightfoot Jewellers, engraving for RAF seat) £40.00
 - PlusNet (Broadband supply) £87.96
- Forecast and Precept decision. Forecast distributed to all Cllrs. Cllr Rafelt reported that he would be unwilling to add to the tax burden due to the difficulty COVID is placing on residents' finances. All Cllrs agreed, and it was resolved that the precept will remain at £15500. Clerk adds that it is likely that the precept will need to rise for the financial year 23/24. Clerk to inform RDC that the precept will remain at £15500 for the third year running.
- HSBC – introduction of charges. HSBC has introduced charges for banking at £8/month. Clerk has tried to swap to Barclays but they are putting new applications on hold until the new year. Clerk to action in the new year.
- Estimate for fencing at Jubilee Green. Len Porter £2120.00 for 85 metres of post and 3 rail with stock net. It was resolved to order this work asap. Letter received from MOP regarding this fence and requiring adequate space to repair their fence, with a suggestion of 1 metre. The fence will be placed adjacent to the current wire fence which will allow for such repair work to be carried out from the lane. Jubilee Green is registered village green and as such land must be used for the benefit all the local inhabitations. Clerk to reply.
- Cllr Les gives his report. He will check about the legal advice he has been given about using Section 77 & 78 in relation to land other than belonging to NYCC. Avian flu in Leeming, thus 3km and 10km restrictions.
- Local Unitary Authority meeting at beginning of December. Cllr Harper asks about the local COVID figures for North Yorkshire, Cllr Les states they are higher than the England average, but hospitalisation figures down. Cllr Les leaves.
- 10) Broadband provision. To be reagendaed in January.
- 11) Feedback from meetings attended by Councillors & Clerk. None.

- 12) Safety review. Report from RDC play park inspection: small entrance gate at Jubilee Green requires adjustment, this should be resolved very soon. One of the hand holds on the climbing wall loose, Cllr Hull has tightened.
- 13) Report relating to minor parish issues since last meeting. MOP reported the area near the entrance to Stags Close untidy. Cllrs Rafelt & Threlfall have tidied and this will be added to the Grasscutting contract next year. Query about whether Stags Close is now adopted and when will the street sign be placed. Clerk has queried this with Highways and Cllr Threlfall will discuss with RDC. Also query about the owners (Trinity Medical) of the grounds/hedge at Scorton Medical Centre, no action was needed currently. Cllr Aston reported the telephone box roof flapping in the wind. Open Reach contacted and resolved promptly. MOP reports leaves around the entrance to Blenheim Close. Resident already reported to DC and has tidied the area. Clerk responded and thanked resident for tidying the area. Cllr Maddison-Potts. Football nets on Jubilee Green are breaking, and seem not strong enough for their purpose. Clerk to discuss with supplier. MOP reported to Cllr Maddison Potts that some trees around the village need trimming. Clerk and Cllr Harper will evaluate the list.
- 14) Correspondence. NYCC – Unitary Council for North Yorkshire briefing dates & Locality Grant funding. Unitary meeting 1&3 December via Teams. Locality funding received for the extension to the cemetery - £2000. Resident – Suggestion for Jubilee Green. Re: the request in the Scorton & District Times, resident suggests extending the humps and bumps to improve the childrens cycling skills on Jubilee Green. Clerk has thanked for his suggestion and will respond again when we are certain of the donation amount from Scorton Bus Shelter Buddies in January. PC emails to be discussed again in January.
- 15) Date of next meeting – 26th January

Meeting closed: 21.55