

SCORTON PARISH COUNCIL

The normal monthly meeting held on Wednesday 26th January 2022 at 7.30pm in the Scorton War Memorial Institute.

Present: - Cllrs Rafelt, Harper, Maddison-Potts, Aston, Parish & District Cllr Threlfall, District Cllr Rowe, County Cllr Les, Hilary Enevoldson (Chair to Cemetery Committee), Members of the Public x 8

- 1) Apologies. Cllrs Hull & Newall
- 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 & Cllr Threlfall declare an interest in item 10, SWMI donation as both currently Trustees to SWMI.
- 3) Approval of minutes dated 17th November. It was resolved to accept the minutes as a true record.
- 4) Changes to Cemetery regulations and administration. Hilary Enevoldson has been on a YLCA course 'Managing Burial Ground Memorials' and this has highlighted some actions needed to our cemetery procedures. Firstly, a permit needs issuing for all new memorials, previously Chair and Clerk checked these and replied back to Monumental Mason. This permit should conform to our regulations and highlight that the owner is responsible for the memorial; may need a 2nd NOK on this permit. A copy of this permit is sent to the Monumental Mason and owner. The new permit to be formulated and regulations need amendments. Another issue raised by this training was memorial safety, previously Mrs Enevoldson was completing checks, however this needs to be a certified person or contractor – this needs completing every 5 – 7 years. If dangerous lie down the gravestone, stake and tape the area. Approx. 160 people in the cemetery but some double depth. Cllr Rafelt feels that the owner shouldn't be responsible for the memorial in perpetuity, however the plots with exclusive rights have a 100 year limit. Mrs Enevoldson suggests that this could be completed in segments as quote from Murray Memorials = £7.50/grave. Cllr Threlfall will ask RDC about their procedures. Both Mrs Enevoldson and Cllr Threlfall felt that our fees need reviewing at the AGM in light of this additional expense. New noticeboard in progress to hold the regulations. Mrs Enevoldson adds that the training suggested taking over any old church yards could be a costly business. Letters to all plot holders, once the inspection is completed, with new regulations. Mrs Enevoldson leaves.
- 5) Crime Report. The hot topic this month was dark nights which can lead to a rise in burglary, advice given and may be a good topic for the October newsletter. Small report for the whole area. Cllrs disappointed that the Police haven't attended again, but appreciate that they can't attend every meeting, nevertheless Cllr Rafelt felt just once a year would be acceptable. Cllr Les will contact Inspector Gee to ask if anyone could attend next time.
- 6) Matters raised by the members of the public. Nothing raised.
- 7) Updates from County/District Councillors. District Cllr Threlfall. District Community Investment fund released and this year is equal across the whole district. 30K apprenticeship scheme. COVID grants – RDC administering these grants. Welcome to Yorkshire funding, does generate income and disappointed RDC didn't contribute this year. Currently no funding for new litter or dog bins, but RDC will continue to review. RDC play area funding, hopeful we will benefit from this fund in Typhoon Close. District Cllr Rowe. Welcome to Yorkshire, Cllr Rowe voted against this funding. Jubilee celebrations funding released. There is a call for development sites across the district. County Cllr Les. COVID Richmondshire highest rates in County presently, and County higher than Country average, however people aren't tending to get as ill. County is ahead of national average for vaccinations. There are problems with care provision, recruitment drive with bonus pay for new carers. Local Government reorganisation, legislation will be going through Parliament. Works to Darlington Road in Richmond and through to Scotch Corner will cause 11 weeks disruption. 2 diversions are in place. Cllr Harper asked about the Avian bird flu, Cllr Les reports that the issue seems to be easing. RDC will not charge for elections in May.
- 8) Updates from previous meetings.
 - Travellers update. Reply received from Rishi Sunak, stating that the central aim is to cut crime and build safe communities. In relation to the travellers the new bill will introduce a new criminal offence where a

person resides or intends to reside on any public or private land without permission and has caused , or is likely to cause significant harm, obstruction, harassment or distress. Also, the persons directed away must not return from 3 months to 12 months. This bill is in its report stage in the House of Lords <https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2839> link to keep up to date with its progress. MOP suggests that we shouldn't wait for this new legislation and act now using Section 77. Another MOP adds that Appleby Fair is on the 11th June, and asks why North Yorkshire wasn't represented in this joint meeting. Cllr Threlfall will check Richmondshire have local representation.

- Signage (Bridge Green, Jubilee Green, entrances/main green). Require some slight changes to wording/presentation, clerk to order following amendments. A resident has asked if any signs could be placed on Hospital Road, Cllrs resolved to evaluate the current project prior to making this decision. Cllr Rafelt noted the comments on social media about the problems with dog fouling on Jubilee Green, and fencing off the new equipment was discussed and not allow dogs in that area – future project. Cllr Threlfall suggests placing an article in the next S&D Times to help educate, Cllr Aston will forward.
- Jubilee Green fencing/hedging/Communitree project. The hedging and trees around Jubilee Green boundary require cutting back as encroaching into the grass area and generally the area needs some significant pruning works. Mac Plant asked for a quote, not yet received but clerk given permission to order works if under £2000. Cllr Rafelt & Threlfall will discuss works with neighbouring properties. Email from MOP about the new fence at Jubilee Green, explaining that they do not agree with the new fencing, as is their responsibility to maintain that section of fence. Communitree project – delivery of the hedging and trees should happen soon.

9) Planning items

- FPP for conversion of vacant care home (C2 use) to residential use (C3 use) comprising 23 townhouses and apartments at The Abbey Care Village, Hospital Road, Scorton. Scorton PC supports this application. We arranged a site visit on the 9th December and have a couple of concerns following this: The refuse collection point (this is to ensure the refuse wagon doesn't need to go into the whole development) appears too small for the amount of housing and bins. Councillors were disappointed that the two towers to the rear need to be removed, they appear structurally sound and aesthetically pleasing. MOP leave.
- FPP for an extension to the barn conversion to create one additional bedroom and also permission to replace an existing general purpose outbuilding with a new building with the same use at The Stables, Banks Lane. No objections under delegated authority – Cllrs Rafelt & Threlfall.
- LBC to fit secondary glazing to the windows at Manor House, Southside. No objections.

10) Accounts.

Incoming: -

- Zurich (Insurance claim for swing) £700
- NYCC (Locality funding for cemetery extension) £2000.00
- Bus Shelter Buddies (Jubilee Green play equipment) £1037.00

Expenditure: -

- NYCC (Scorton & District Times) £38.00
- Swarco (Additional battery) £354.00
- Mac Plant (Cemetery hedge) £90.00
- V Raven (Wages October, November, December) £1200.00
- Len Porter (Fencing Jubilee Green) £2544.00
- PlusNet (Broadband supply) £87.96
- YLCA (Cemetery training) £22.50
- NYCC (Grass cutting) £6333.00
- Richmondshire Today (Advert for grass tender) £45.00
- SWMI (Donation) £850.00

Unity bank application. Barclays remain unable to take new banking applications currently. It was resolved to apply to Unity bank as comes highly recommended from other clerks. Charges £6/month.

SWMI annual donation. Cllrs Harper and Threlfall declare an interest as Trustees to SWMI. Cllr Rafelt suggests that as the precept hasn't increased, so the donation should remain the same as last year. Cllr Les leaves.

- 11) Broadband provision. Clerk had received notification about price change, checked with PlusNet and they can provide a phone line and internet for £25.20 which is a reduction for Broadband only (£43.98). This could allow for a community internet hotspot in and around the SWMI, this could be free access for both residents and visitors alike. Cllr Threlfall adds that some new equipment may be needed and signage to notify. Cllrs emails discussed and most are using the new system but it was felt that all Cllrs need numbers rather than titles as then can easily swap to new Cllr. Website problems, clerk unable to gain access to the website to make changes currently. The website designer is working on this problem.
- 12) Jubilee celebrations & RDC funding relating. RDC have released funding for the Jubilee up to £2000. It was resolved to speak to other local committees in the first instance, with the possibility of a meeting on 16th February if suitable for all.
- 13) Festive lighting. Tarmac has historically provided the Xmas tree, but have now completed their work at Scorton. Cllr Threlfall suggests lighting the lime trees on Southside, these lights could be left in place for a number of years. Cllr Harper suggests white lights and these could be switched on for any celebration in the village. Cllr Aston suggests planting a tree on the site of the Xmas tree. Cllr Threlfall will look at costing.
- 14) Ideas for next edition of Scorton & District Times. Internet hotspot, Dog fouling, parking on village green/pavements, new recycling bin, school, Jubilee celebrations, puzzle, cemetery expansion, end of quarry/bird spotting I spy type page, University of 3rd age.
- 15) Feedback from meetings attended by Councillors & Clerk. None.
- 16) Safety review. Report from RDC play park inspection: some concern about the new goal posts on Jubilee Green and that they could be moved up against play equipment and compromise safety. PC to observe and review. Football net damage. Clerk sent pictures of the damage to the supplier, this damage is caused by rabbits, they suggested taking the nets off when not in use but this isn't practicable. Cllrs resolved to change these nets every couple of years and repair as required if possible.
- 17) Report relating to minor parish issues since last meeting. Yorkshire Water requested permission for a water leak at 1 Monksgarth prior to Xmas. Clerk okayed and checked they had gained Highways consent. Cllr Hull reported that the dog bins around the quarry were full. Clerk reported to Quarry. Bolton Road solar lamp, supplier has provided PC with an additional solar panel. Clerk to arrange fitment. MOP reported a tree on Bridge Green encroaching onto the access way. Mac Plant will action.
- 18) Correspondence. NYCC – Locality Grant funding & Enhanced Partnership Consultation. Locality funding received for the fencing and pruning works at Jubilee Green £1400, the consultation is relating to future bus provision. Cllr Harper has reviewed document and noted that simpler ticketing and payment options were being looked at, she suggested online ticketing. The plan is to develop zero emission buses, Cllr Harper suggests that the ability to take bikes on buses may be relevant, particularly in tourist areas. Connectivity mentioned in relation to the x34 which stops at Darlington Railway Station. Clerk to reply. Bus Shelter Buddies – Donation for Jubilee Green play equipment. Lots of ideas, as stated previously by a MOP – contour play and adding/renovating the current bike track. Land Rover style bouncy seesaw. Obstacle course. Cllr Harper suggests equipment for younger children but all agreed that the park at Typhoon may be better placed for this age group. YLCA – Branch meeting dates and Cllr email consent
- 19) Date of next meeting – 23rd February

Meeting closed: 22.15