

Sherburn Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on 20th February 2017 in the Methodist Chapel at 7pm

Attended by: Cllr Chris Miles (Chairman)
Cllr J Skelton
Cllr A Oulton
Cllr I Walker-Stabler
Cllr T Webborn
Cllr D Blyth
Cllr J Peel
Cllr C Cade
Miss S Lathwood (Clerk)

One member of the public, Mr Keith Usher, regarding grant applications

Cllr Miles stated that as there was going to be no report from the District or County Councillors he would be take the opportunity to discuss matters that have been raised with him by villagers.

1/17 Absent from meeting:

Cllr J Waller
District Cllr J Raper
County Cllr J Sanderson

2/17 Declarations of Interest:

Cllr Walker-Stabler declared his interest in the grant application from St Hilda's Church regarding their grass cutting.

3/17 Previous Minutes:

Minutes from meeting on 16th January 2017 were circulated and approved by Cllr Walker-Stabler and seconded by Cllr Oulton

4/17 Public Forum:

Mr Keith Usher from St Hilda's Church in attendance with regards to the grant application made.

5/17 Action Taken from 4: See Item 8

6/17 Reports:

- i) Police and neighbourhood watch meetings – The minutes from the last CAP meeting were included in the circulation folder for all Councillors attention, Cllr Miles stated that an unnamed local and two friends had been stopped on land outside Heslerton under the suspicion of hunting with dogs (they had permission to go on land to hunt with ferrets only). These individuals were later released without charge due to lack of evidence, although a deer was later found close to where they had been found mauled and with its antlers removed. It is noted that there has been an increase in poaching in the area, which is leading to destruction of land. Cllr Miles will keep the council updated on any further news.

PCSO Burkinshaw has expressed his concerns that the new PC for the Sherburn area and surrounding ward has not been seen since her appointment. He has agreed to query this and prompt her presence.

Approved:

Cllr Miles expressed that he is personally feeling let down by both district and county councils with regards to the recent dog fouling incident and the lack of prosecution against the offending individual. Other villagers have expressed the same disappointment and frustration.

The offender has been caught on a number of occasions since they were spoken to, allowing their dog to foul in the same place without any attempt being made to clear it up. Cllr Blyth queried if the individual would be approachable to discuss the matter and it was confirmed that this was unlikely as he had been quite abusive when originally approached by the dog warden. He has also been approached by residents when he has allowed his dog to foul on their lawns and has been found to be abusive on all occasions.

The Clerk has confirmed that she has been in touch with the Ryedale Council Dog Warden with regards to obtaining signage to be distributed throughout the village. Spray painted signs for the pavements throughout the village are also to be discussed. The Warden also expressed his disappointment that there had been no prosecution on this occasion and agreed that he was happy to work with the Parish Council to minimise these incidents in the future. It was noted the he was leaving the role at the end of March 2017 and it is unknown what would happen to his duties after that time.

Cllr Miles expressed his interest in pursuing the prosecution of the offending dog owner again and is to liaise with the Dog Warden to this end. Cllrs Walker-Stabler and Cade both agreed that they were happy for this matter to be revisited, as the CCTV clearly shows each event, which takes place close to the Village Hall gates. The Clerk is to pass Cllr Miles' contact details to the dog warden.

Residents have spoken to Cllr Miles at length regarding the poor condition of the roads throughout the village, both the flooding on the A64 and the potholes on the village streets and he raised the point that they are feeling 'fed up' and 'fobbed off' by the County Council with regards to the roads and any repairs.

On Friday 17th February 2017, an ambulance was witnessed, while running its blue lights, driving along the A64 from Scarborough and swerving around the puddle at the traffic lights into the path of oncoming traffic.

With more houses being planned in the village, these roads cannot be expected to continue in their current condition and cope with the additional volume of traffic expected.

Cllr Miles noted that the he has received a large number of quite abusive comments regarding the pot holes throughout the village and how they were being filled in with grit and 'stamped down' by the workmen's feet, or rolled over with their works vans, leading to an ineffective and temporary fix, which lead to repeat repairs, which in turn are not viewed favourably. On more than one occasion villagers have threatened to stop paying their Council Tax in an effort to have some sort of attention paid to their concerns and frustrations.

Cllr Webborn raised that it has been previously noted by County Councillor Sanderson that it is not the responsibility of the Parish Council to report potholes, but should be done by the individuals via the NYCC Portal. Cllr Miles confirmed that this had been attempted by villagers, who found the system to be ineffective and not user friendly.

Following a suggestion from Cllr Cade, the Clerk agreed that she would contact both Highway England regarding the A64 and North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) about the potholes and request meetings with both parties so these issues can be discussed further, with the aim of bringing them to their conclusion.

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Cllr Cade raised concerns over the volume of mud and sand along the side of the A64, near the bus stop, and how it is almost impossible to distinguish the road from the pathway. All of this debris is being washed into the drains, leading to further flooding. Cllr Cade is also able to provide camera footage of the road and its dangers.

It was discussed that the cause of the flooding and where the problems originate, Sked Dale and Whitegate, may not be under the remit of Highways England, but the results were affecting their area of the road and as such they may be able to assist in pushing forward with other agencies to get the problems identified and fixed once and for all.

Cllr Walker-Stabler queried why the small retention pond was filled in years ago and could this have had an effect on the flooding levels.

The last Highways England workers seen on site in February 2017, following the previous report of flooding, were witnessed around a drain cover pushing debris down it with a stick in a futile attempt to clear the immediate flooding.

Cllr Cade raised the point that members of the public should be made aware of the public forum at each Parish Council meeting, which would give them the opportunity to put their concerns across and possibly have more of an impact with NYCC when faced with more than just the parish councillors. The Clerk also stated that complaints could be made in writing via her and/or the website so it could be recorded and used as evidence going forward. Cllr Miles agreed that if NYCC and/or Highways England agreed to meet, he would make sure that the village were aware of this, so could attend.

Ganton have previously formed a pressure group with the aim of getting their roads fixed as they felt they were not getting any appropriate responses from Highways and NYCC. Members of the group sat on the A64 roadside in Hi-Vis jackets and attended parish council meetings to raise their complaints repeatedly. It is not clear if this group is still active, but they worked together for two years to reach the acceptable end. Forming a similar group in Sherburn will be discussed in more detail should the need arise.

Cllr Miles is to approach the owners of the house at the A64 traffic lights to discuss the water damage being caused by the ongoing flooding. There is visible damage to the exterior of the property, but the internal damage will need to be assessed and reported.

7/17 Clerks Report:

The Clerk confirmed that Ryedale Council had halted the adoption process of the BT phone box, so it is intended to remain as a phone box maintained and run by BT. It was raised that the phone currently doesn't work, so the Clerk is to contact BT to arrange for this to be fixed.

Mr Dobson from the Playing Fields Association has confirmed that he wants to proceed with changing the by-law relating to dogs on the playing fields and ban them completely, the main issue being the large volume of dog faeces that is left on the field. All councillors agreed that the Clerk could contact Ryedale Council's legal section to discuss making these changes. Cllr Cade raised concerns as to how this ban would be policed; Cllr Webborn confirmed that the Playing Field Committee members are happy to approach individuals who are in breach of this by-law.

Cllr Walker-Stabler asked if the Parish Council could make the changes without Ryedale Council, Cllr Miles confirmed that we could set and enforce by-laws, but the final approval would have to be with Ryedale.

The subject has been raised of re-routing of the right of way from the playing fields to the Kissing Gate on Water Lane, which runs across a farmer's field. Information has been obtained from Ryedale Council to confirm that while the new route is possible there is a cost involved, the Clerk confirmed that these costs would have to be met by the

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landowner and the Pathways Project. The new route would make the footpath more accessible to members of the public and benefit the landowner. Cllr Webborn is to work together with the landowners to discuss the best course of action. It is intended that the whole new path, whichever route it takes, is completed by August 2017.

The Clerk included information regarding the update from NYCC for the maintenance of public footpaths in the circulation folder.

Advertisements for the co-optable vacancy and the new casual vacancy, left by Cllr Kelly's leaving, were circulated to the councillors for their approval before being placed on the village notice board.

SLCC has organised a training day on 1 April 2017 for parish clerks, with topics including 'Responding to Planning Applications'. All in agreement that the Clerk can attend this training and the cost of £25.00 will be met by the Council's training budget.

The Clerk confirmed the Parish Council's involvement in the WW1 anniversary in 2018 and will provide more details closer to the time.

Feedback has been received from Ryedale Pest Control regarding the Blue Chip site. Bait has been placed on the site and the manhole cover replaced, so they are hopeful that this will solve the rat problem. The Clerk confirmed that she has been unable to contact the site owners regarding the damaged fence on site, but will continue to pursue them.

Sherburn Community and Sports Club have fitted a new defibrillator at the Sports Field.

8/17 Finances:

The Finance Committee were presented with the ledger for approval, along with bank reconciliation. It was confirmed that all accounts were balanced to the ledger.

Cash Book

Opening Balance £17077.03

Plus Income £0.00

Less Expenditure £1280.92 Cheque approved at 16/01/17 meeting

Closing Balance £15796.11

Bank Reconciliation Balance £15796.11

Bank Balance as at 19th February 2017

Current Account £1130.14

Business Account £14665.97

Bank Reconciliation Balance £15796.11

Cheques presented and approved for payment this month totalling: £ 889.50

101716 Julia Marley	£69.95
101717 D Wilson Electrical	£55.00
101718 I A Walker-Stabler	£489.70
101719 Miss S Lathwood	£274.85

Two grant applications have been received from St Hilda's Church and Sherburn Playschool. Cllr Miles also asked if a late application would be accepted from the Methodist Chapel with regards to their Christmas dinner, all councillors were in favour of the late application.

Approved:

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Copies of both applications were circulated to each of the councillors for their perusal, while the clerk held a copy of the provided accounts for circulation.

A number of concerns were raised regarding the application from the Playschool as it was felt that they have adequate funds available in their accounts and additional funding should be sought from NYCC, especially if, as suggested, it is an OFSTED required improvement.

Cllr Skelton does not support the application and requested that further information be provided by the playschool to support their claim and if the funding could be obtained from elsewhere and this request was supported by Cllrs Blyth and Miles. Cllrs Webborn and Peel both supported the application.

The applications from St Hilda's Church and the chapel were both approved in principal, but the amounts are to be considered at the next Parish Council meeting once the final application has been received.

9/17 Planning Applications:

No new planning applications have been received by the Clerk at this time

The works being carried out on Brewery Fields have been reported to Ryedale Planning Enforcement team, but as yet no update has been received.

Cllr Walker-Stabler confirmed that the residents of Walnut Grove have received a letter from Broadacres Housing Association stating their intention to apply to build a further two houses on the site. No official notification has been received as yet, but it was noted that previous similar applications have been received.

Cllr Miles attended a meeting on 2 February 2017 regarding the changes to the planning application for the Gladman's site. There have been concerns raised with regards to the soundproofing on the new builds. Ryedale Council have been asking for some extreme soundproofing on the properties, such as criteria to ensure that no sounds are heard through open windows. Cllr Miles confirmed that all the solutions provided by Gladman's were satisfactory and complied with the previously agreed criteria. These solutions are now under consideration.

10/17 Maintenance:

The notice board has been taken down and is in the process of being repainted.

The trees in the church yard are to be maintained this month.

11/17 Pathways

Letters have been written by Cllr Webborn to be distributed to the residents around the Wildwood regarding the trimming of trees and the work on the paths. Copies were distributed to the councillors and approved. The Clerk is to provide 20 copies of each letter to Cllr Webborn.

Information was approved for inclusion on the council's website and the Clerk is to pass the information onto the administrator.

The calendar of Pathways meetings was also approved for the website and display on the parish notice board.

A notice inviting members of the public to attend meetings in the future is to be placed in the next edition of the Wolds Warbler.

Approved:

12/17 Next Agenda:

The following items are to be added to the next meeting agenda;

- Final decision to be made on grant applications
- Update on flooding and drain blockages along A64
- Items to be included in an article for the Wolds Warbler regarding the A64
- Speed Prevention methods

13/17 Next Meeting:

To be held at Methodist Hall on Monday 20th March 2017 at 7pm

The meeting closed at 8:50pm

Signed..... Chairman

20th March 2017