

THORNTON LE DALE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes for Parish Council Meeting No 9
Held Tuesday 3rd November 2015 at 7-30 pm in the Hill Memorial Institute

PRESENT

The meeting opened at 1930 hrs with Councillors J Garbutt (Chairman), G Acomb (Vice Chairman), S Crabtree, P Charles, M Sanderson, S Bell, D Porter, J Sanderson, M Boden (Clerk) and 11 members of the public.

1 NOTICE OF MEETING

Resolved. That notice of the meeting had been given in accordance with schedule 12 para 10(2) of the Local Government Act, 1972.

2 APOLOGIES

No apologies this month.

3 To receive report(s)/ presentation(s) of invited guests (if any)

Verbal report to Thornton Dale PC from Councillor J Sanderson 3rd November 2015

Pick up from residents questions
Nab farm drain is Yorkshire water drain not NYCC.

Grit running down Nab Gate. (Sorry forgot pick up on this but it had been noted at the EA meeting as a cause of silt in the river and highways will be contacted by Flood Authority to deal with this)

Traffic residents parking.
Link required to Work Group report - I have sent this separately.

Bollards on Whitbygate

During the summer I discussed with Highways the problem of cars driving on the pavement down Whitbygate. Melanie Farnham suggested we put bollards on the pavement to prevent this happening. I agreed to this but suggested it might be a courtesy to ask the PC for comments.

On 22nd September Melanie wrote to the PC asking for a response to the proposal. I would like to progress this matter whilst there is still momentum with the Highways to go ahead!

Thornton Beck / Environment Agency.

For several years now, I have had the frustration of chasing the EA regarding the condition of Thornton Beck. I know that the PC has shared the same problem as I have discussed this on many occasions with Geoff as joint District Councillor. Just when we feel we are getting somewhere, the staff changes and we go back to square one.

The government have made it quite clear that regarding issues around flooding, where there are several authorities involved and each one passes it off to another, then the lead Flood Authority takes responsibility. Our lead Flood Authority is NYCC.

After something of a battle, I managed to arrange a meeting with Kathy Stephenson our lead Officer for Flooding and senior members of the EA. We are addressing two issues, the siltation of the river above TD and the general lack of maintenance of the river through the village which I am concerned will contribute to a flooding event should it not be addressed.

It's the latter point that concerns the PC and these are the salient points brought out at that meeting -

Finance

This year the EA have been given a budget of £9k for maintenance of the beck through the village. Until there was a near disaster with the water levels during the spring and the PC called in for help, I have seen no evidence of how this budget has been spent by EA.

- The caretaker has spent a considerable amount of time clearing the beck, are the PC paying for work that should be undertaken by the EA?
- Ian Cook has offered to liaise with the PC caretaker regarding a work plan - there is obviously a management programme to debate and a need for clear financial accountability.
- Ian has agreed to replace the bottom slat on the old sluice gate by the Forge and monitor any change.
- Kathy Stephens (NYCC) has suggested the formation of a small residents group lead by a PC member to monitor issues surrounding the beck in the hope of preventing future flooding events. Is there any appetite for this?

Possible future work.

- Woody debris "Slow the Flow" type dams above Dalby.
- IDB can now be sub contracted by EA - they have small scale equipment used on ditches.
- Ian Cook is to organize an autumn walkover to discuss future work. When asked what his next maintenance job would be, he said it was to clear the water cress down Maltongate!

Finally, we were told that any flooding of the river by the Forge to the old Post Office would flood the road first. I have pictures that show this is clearly not the case and the shops would be flooded in the event that the beck came over its bank.

Fracking

I don't intend to get embroiled in a debate on the merits or otherwise of unconventional gas. However, I do know and have the scars from experience that it is better to ensure your safeguarding is put into the making of policy rather than the reaction to any kind of planning application - be that bricks and mortar, quarry's or gas.

With this in mind, we are nearing the final stages of the new Joint Minerals and Waste Plan (NYCC, Parks and York) the plan which includes policies for hydrocarbon is now out for public consultation and I have brought copies of the press statement which includes full details.

The plan can be found on the NYCC web site - it's a huge document too large to send. Anyone that needs help finding this please email me.

4 Minutes:

Resolved. That the minutes of the following meeting, as circulated and taken as read, be and are hereby accepted as a true record of the proceedings thereat:-

Full Council Meeting No 8 held in the Hill Memorial Institute on Tuesday 6th October 2015.

The minutes were proposed by Councillor Crabtree and seconded by Councillor Bell. All Councillors were in favour.

5 Matters Arising From the Minutes

An amendment was made to minute No 141/15. It now reads as follows:-

141/15 Councillor Acomb attended the Thornton Dale Ward Meeting on the 22nd September at Allerston. Various items were brought to the attention of Highways. These were the traffic problems in Whitbygate and the damaged bicycle racks near to the New Inn. These were duly noted by Sharon Fox and feedback will be forthcoming.

All Councillors were in favour.

6 Planning: - a) To consider plans submitted by NYMNPA & RDC for the Council's comment.

Applicant: Mr & Mrs Campbell NYM/2015/0640/FL
Address: Boxtree Cottage, Maltongate
Application: Variation of condition 2 (material amendment) and 23 of planning approval NYM/2015/0194/FL to allow re-siting of dwellings and revised garaging and access arrangements

All Councillors were in favour of the amendments to the planning application but had strong concerns regarding access to Maltongate and asked that Planning at Parks draw Highways attention to this.

Applicant: Mr & Mrs Wreglesworth NYM/2015/0744/CU
Address: High Dalby House, Dalby Forest
Application: Change of use from Guest House (Use Class C1) to Dwelling House
(Use Class C3). No external alterations.
All Councillors were in favour of this application

Applicant: Forestry Commission NYM/2015/0757/FL
Address: Dalby Bike Barn
Application: Re-roofing works including the installation of 5 velux windows
All Councillors were in favour of this application

b) To receive notification of outcomes of planning matters previously considered.

None this month.

7 Chairman's Report:

149/15 A suggestion had been put to the Council by Highways that pedestrian safety would be increased in Whitbygate by the installation of bollards to prevent vehicles mounting the pavement. This was put to the Councillors and six were in favour: Councillor Charles declared an interest therefore did not vote.

150/15 A "Risk Assessment" has been carried out in Thornton Le Dale by highways. Due to this specific areas have been cordoned off or warning cones placed in certain areas. Highways have stated that the work outstanding in the village regarding fencing, kerbs and damaged railings have been placed on their Agenda to be carried out; but this will be in order of priority.

151/15 The Council reported concerns regarding the access to toilets in the car park. RDC have closed the toilets in order to rectify the problems and work is now in progress.

152/15 A Planned Closure Order Hurrel Lane will be in place for a period of 158 days. The Road Closure and any associated Diversion Routes can be viewed on <http://roadworks.org/?tm42028> Resolved.

153/15 The Chairman explained that work was to be carried out in the Playing Fields to the tune of £19,000.00 to update and repair the skate board area and other equipment. Concerns had been voiced regarding some damaged fencing in this area. Councillor Garbutt pointed out that work, to rectify this, would be carried out during the intended refurbishment.

154/15 There is no formal complaint regarding the Clerk

8 Councillor / Working Party Reports

None this month

9 Clerks Report:

155/15 The Clerk put forward a proposition that the Council should adopt the recommendations of YLCA regarding the retention of emails and documents. This was proposed that it be accepted by Councillor Acomb and seconded by Councillor Crabtree. All Councillors were in favour. The Clerk will now place this on the website. Resolved.

10 Village Maintenance Issues:

a) Those able to be passed on to the relevant agency for action.

None this month

b) Those able to be dealt with by The Clerk under delegated powers e.g. prioritised for action by The Caretaker, or other contractors to the Council.

None this month

c) Those requiring budget allocation / Council approval – to be deferred to next Agenda.

None this month.

d) Items brought forward from previous meeting for debate / budget allocation / Council approval / action.

None brought forward this month.

11 Motions Proposed by Councillors: - Submitted in writing to The Clerk at least four working days prior to this meeting supported, (where possible / practical) by relevant documentation to inform the debate. All Councillors are to receive this information with the Agenda.

None this month

12 Correspondence:

156/15 Complaints had been received regarding the overgrown land owned by the Electric Board in Farmanby Close. The Clerk contacted the relevant authority and the area has now been cleared. Resolved.

157/15 The EA promised to clear the Beck of weed and silt at the back end of this year; this did not take place. Due to the concerns of the residents, regarding flooding, the Clerk arranged for the Caretaker to carry out part of this work. As a result the water level in the Beck was reduced by approximately one foot thus alleviating the possibility of flooding in the short term. The Council pointed out that this was not part of the Caretakers remit and should not be repeated. The Clerk said that he intended to try and recoup the cost of this work (£547) from the EA.

158/15 Councillor Porter pointed out that the sign in Lower Farmanby had now been removed. The Clerk contacted RDC and they were under the impression that it had been removed prior to its re-installation.

159/15 Councillor Porter raised the problem a villager had come across when applying for registration in the Low Cost Housing Project. Councillor Acomb said he would take this onboard and investigate this with RDC.

160/15 NYMNPA asked the opinion of the Council regarding the removal of a Yew Tree at Three Gables in Maltongate. The Council supported the removal of the tree. It was proposed by Councillor Charles and seconded by Councillor Porter.

Councillor Bell abstained from voting the remaining Councillors were in favour. Resolved.

161/15 It was decided that the Council would not ask for the Grit Bins, now the property of the Parish Council, to be filled this year as grit can be obtained at a lower cost than that supplied by NYCC but this can be reviewed in 2016. A grit bin has been ordered for Heron Close. Resolved.

162/15 Councillor Bell raised the subject of fracking and the unknown properties in relation to it. It was decided that prior to the Council making a statement regarding this it should seek further guidance/knowledge. It was suggested that the Clerk should contact Mr Mark Hill and see if he could attend one of our meetings and enlighten the Council regarding fracking and answer any of their concerns.

163/15 A letter was sent to NYMNPA regarding the concerns of a resident relating to non-compliance of conditions purporting to a planning application appertaining to Roxby Garage and also a sign erected without planning permission. The Planning Division have sent confirmation of receipt of this letter.

164/15 Councillor Garbutt will set a date for a meeting for the residents to put forward their concerns regarding the parking/traffic problems in the village.

13 Finance

1 The Clerk presented the six-monthly internal audit to the Council. This was proposed that it be accepted by Councillor Acomb and seconded by Councillor Bell. All Councillors were in favour. The Clerk will put the Bank Reconciliation on the web site.

2 The grass cutting situation was debated and it was decided that the Clerk would present a pro-forma application form, to the Council, prior to the tender being advertised. Councillor Acomb will try to have copies of the map made, indicating the areas where the grass cut will take place, so it may be shown to prospective interested parties.

3 The expenses for October were proposed to be accepted by Councillor Garbutt and seconded by Councillor Porter. All Councillors were in favour. The Chairman duly countersigned the cheques.

Date of next meeting.

Tuesday 1st December 2015 at 1930 hrs in the Hill Memorial Institute

The meeting closed at 2055 hrs.