

**Skipwith Parish Council Meeting Minutes on Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021 at 8.00pm**

**Present:** Councillors Mike Ward (MW) Vice-Chairman, Claire Colthirst (CC), Kate Baxter (KB), Trevor Britain (TB), Sharon Worrall (SW)

Parish Clerk: Isobel Greatrex (IG)

**Guests:** County Councillor, Richard Musgrave (RM), District Councillor, Neil Reader (NR)

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Action by</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
<b>050</b>	<b>To receive apologies and approve reasons for absence</b> Apologies were received from Councillor Jonathon Morgan and reasons for absence were approved.		
<b>051</b>	<b>Declarations of interest not already declared under the council's Code of Conduct or members Register of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest</b> None.		
<b>052</b>	<b>Public Session</b> Four members of the public were in attendance. A resident asked for an update regarding the Skipwith/North Duffield junction as she believed that speed levels in this area were increasing and she was worried about potential fatalities. MW expressed his disappointment that no action had been taken by Area 7. SW explained that her contact in Area 7 who was facilitating the actions was out of the office until December. RM informed the PC that the Highways service had recently been brought back inhouse so there was a backlog of work. However, he provided SW the name of a contact within the department, who should be able to progress the required work in the absence of her colleague. In addition, RM stated that slow down signs can now be bought by the PC but they can't be placed in a permanent position. His personal opinion was they only work for a certain period of time as local drivers get used to them so they are only partially effective. He continued by suggesting that speed data could be collected outside the pub and North Duffield junction. MW responded saying that whilst the speed data had been previously collected and it did show speeding had occurred, it was not sufficiently high enough and therefore it was outside police parameters for action. The three other residents wished for an update regarding the leased piece of land. One of the residents stated that she did not believe issuing a questionnaire to all the villagers was valid as the planning framework suggests schemes for new dwellings need to provide open space and this overrides the need for a questionnaire and undermines planning policy. She continued by saying that planning law states it should be a play area. RM responded by saying that a recreational area doesn't necessarily mean a play area. MW confirmed the PC does want to do something with the land. The resident suggested that the land should be provided to residents now and the specific use could evolve thereafter.		
<b>053</b>	<b>Minutes of 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021 meeting</b> were approved by all members of the PC as a true and accurate record. CC proposed and KB seconded.		

054	<p><b>County and District Councillor Reports</b></p> <p>RM informed the PC that the local government reorganisation was ongoing and reminded the Councillors that they had been invited to a meeting in this regard.</p> <p>He also suggested the PC request funding from the Locality Budget before the next PC meeting to ensure there were sufficient funds within the budget for their request to be considered.</p>		
055 055.1	<p><b>Information on the following ongoing issues and to decide further action where necessary:</b></p> <p><b>Highway Safety</b></p> <p><u>Skipwith/North Duffield Junction</u> Previously discussed in item 052.</p> <p><u>Hedge Maintenance opposite Town End Pond</u> IG confirmed that just one tender application had been received, although TB explained that his contact had decided not to progress with the application as hedges should not be cut back in April due to nesting birds, as stated in the tender document. It was agreed that TB should ask his contact to reconsider applying with the new agreed times of February and September.</p> <p><u>Car Parking opposite Town End Pond</u> As SW's contact in Area 7 was now out of the office until December, SW will contact his colleague, as suggested by RM.</p> <p><u>Chicane Damage</u> SW updated the PC regarding the recent damage to the chicanes. Area 7 had visited to check them and to ensure cones were put in place until reflective tape and cats eyes are replaced. Highways had suggested that the PC obtain and store some roundels should an accident occur again. It was agreed that SW should purchase some in advance of any further incidents.</p>	TB  SW  SW	By 12 <sup>th</sup> November  Asap  Asap
055.2	<p><b>Asset Register</b></p> <p>This investigation is still ongoing.</p>	IG	Asap
055.3	<p><b>Pond Management</b></p> <p>KB updated the PC regarding the removal of vegetation from Town End Pond. She explained that one third of the surface area remained, in line with the ecology report. She wished to thank a number of people for facilitating the project: Simon Hall from Hagraapat for his patience with various delays, Jamie the excavator driver and Becky the tractor driver for being careful not to damage the village green, local farmer Mark Headley for supplying the tractor and disposing of the waste and only charging for one day's work rather than two as a goodwill gesture to the village, and Pete Meadows, Escrick Estate Manager for facilitating some of the work.</p> <p>MW wished to thank KB for the time and effort she had put into the project.</p> <p>In JM's absence, IG said that JM wished to suggest that the PC engages with Hagraapat to maintain Town End Pond on a yearly basis. It was agreed to review the state of the pond in the Summer to decide if it was needed.</p> <p>IG had clarified the quote from Lewis Tree Surgery regarding the flailing of brambles around Scarrow Green Pond and the cost was going to be £688 rather than £288. A further quote had been obtained from York Landscapes with a quote for £400 so it was agreed to engage them to do the work. SW proposed and KB seconded.</p>	IG	Asap

<b>055.4</b>	<b>Bench Repair</b> MW thanked KB, JM and TB for their respective restoration of the benches. TB confirmed he had yet to refurbish the electricity box door on the village green.	TB	Asap
<b>055.5</b>	<b>Wildflower Meadow</b> CC had obtained three quotes for fencing the land and they had ranged from £3,500 to £6,800, subject to the type of fencing required. CC informed the PC that one of the contractors who had visited the site believed that the land only needed fencing on two sides as the other two sides were enclosed by the hedges. TB corroborated this. It was agreed to apply to RM and NR for funding from their respective Locality Budgets.	CC	Asap
<b>055.6</b>	<b>Parish Councillor Vacancy</b> IG confirmed that no applications had been received. However, she would retain the vacancy advert on the notice board.	IG	Asap
<b>055.7</b>	<b>Tree Management on Village Green</b> MW confirmed he would be pruning back the cherry trees very soon.	MW	Asap
<b>056</b> <b>056.1</b>	<b>Planning</b> <b>Installation of Renewable Energy Generating Station, Osgodby</b> The PC agreed they had no comments to make to the Planning department in this regard.		
<b>057</b> <b>057.1</b>	<b>Matters Requested by Councillors:</b> <b>Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations 2022 (MW)</b> It was agreed to carry this item forward for the next PC meeting.	MW	January
<b>057.2</b>	<b>Fencing Aesthetics in Daniel Gath Housing Development (JM)</b> It was agreed to carry this item forward for the next PC meeting.	JM	January
<b>057.3</b>	<b>Grass Verge on Main Street, outside Yorvik Homes Housing Development (JM)</b> It was agreed to carry this item forward for the next PC meeting.	JM	January

<b>058</b>	<b>Financial Matters</b>		
<b>058.1</b>	<u>The following accounts for payment were approved:</u>		
<b>058.1.1</b>	York Landscapes – grass cutting for September and October - £528		
<b>058.1.2</b>	Hagrapat – pond maintenance - £1,068 TB proposed and CC seconded the above payments.		
<b>058.2</b>	<b>Budget for 2022/23</b> After consideration of the accounts, the PC agreed there would be no need to raise a precept for the forthcoming year.		
<b>058.3</b>	<b>Review Grass Cutting Contract for 2022/23</b> It was agreed the PC would put out for tenders to its existing contractor and another.	JM/IG	January
<b>058.4</b>	<b>Npower Electricity Charges</b> IG had contacted Npower to investigate a cheaper tariff but was informed that due to the level of usage it could not offer anything less at the moment and to contact them again in the Spring. However, since then, IG had been informed that Npower was no longer dealing with Unmetered Supplies so the account would be passed to Eon.		
<b>058.5</b>	<b>Closure of Account Holding Virgin Bank Branch, Selby</b> IG explained that the nearest branch would now be in Coney Street, York. JM had suggested they transfer the account to Lloyds bank in Selby as it would be easier to access. This item to be carried forward to the next meeting.	All Councillors	January
<b>059</b>	<b>Correspondence</b>		
<b>059.1</b>	<u>Christmas Light Switch On (Village Hall Committee Member)</u> The PC agreed to switch on the lights on Saturday, 4 <sup>th</sup> December and that the village hall committee could serve mulled wine and mince pies on the village green. CC volunteered to check that the Christmas lights were in working order in advance of the switch on.	IG CC	Asap Asap
<b>059.2</b>	<u>Notice Board Backings (Resident)</u> It was agreed to obtain new backings.	IG	Asap
<b>059.3</b>	<u>Remembrance Sunday PC Representation (St. Helen's Church Warden)</u> MW suggested that the Chairman usually represents the PC on this occasion. However, JM was unable to attend MW may be able to attend in his place.	JM/MW/IG	Before 14 <sup>th</sup> Nov
<b>059.4</b>	<u>Village Green New Year's Day Service (Methodist Church, Church Secretary)</u> It was agreed that the service could be held on the Green from 11.30 – 12.00.	IG	Asap
<b>059.5</b>	<u>Request to Erect a Storage Shed on Allotment Land (Friends of Skipwith Common)</u> After some discussion and as Allotment Officer, MW volunteered to meet with their representative to discuss further. CC proposed and MW seconded.	MW	Asap
<b>Late Request</b>	<u>Grant Request from PCC</u> In line with previous years, the PC agreed to donate £550 to the PCC towards the upkeep of the churchyard and towards the printing of RoundUp. TB proposed and KB seconded.	IG	Asap

060	<p><b>PC Meeting Dates for 2022</b></p> <p>The following dates were agreed:</p> <p>10<sup>th</sup> January  7<sup>th</sup> March  9<sup>th</sup> May  4<sup>th</sup> July  5<sup>th</sup> September  7<sup>th</sup> November</p>		
061	<p><b>Matters for Inclusion on the Agenda for the Next Meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highway Safety</li> <li>• Asset Register</li> <li>• Scarrow Green Pond Management</li> <li>• Wildflower Meadow</li> <li>• Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations 2022</li> <li>• Fencing Aesthetics in Daniel Gath Housing Development</li> <li>• Grass Verge on Main Street, outside Yorvik Homes Housing Development</li> <li>• Closure of Account Holding Branch</li> <li>• Notice Board Backings</li> <li>• Storage Shed on Allotment Land</li> </ul>		
	<p>Meeting closed at 10.10pm.  <b>Next meeting will be held on Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> January at 8.00pm.</b></p>		