

Skipwith Parish Council Meeting Minutes on Monday, 6th September 2021 at 8.00pm

Present: Councillors Jonathon Morgan (JM) (Chairman), Mike Ward (MW) Vice-Chairman, Claire Colthirst (CC), Kate Baxter (KB)

Parish Clerk: Isobel Greatrex (IG)

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

Item No.	Discussion	Action by	Due Date
041	To receive apologies and approve reasons for absence Apologies were received from Councillors Sharon Worrall (SW) and Trevor Britain (TB) and reasons for absence were approved.		
042	Declarations of interest not already declared under the council's Code of Conduct or members Register of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest None.		
043	Public Session Three members of the public were in attendance. They wished to clarify the minutes from the previous PC meeting regarding the Wildflower Meadow as they did not believe they were a true reflection of the public session. They raised a number of specific points which were largely countered by PC members but also voiced their overall concern about the omission of any reference to the offer made by the public to work with the PC going forward in developing the available area. The PC agreed to amend the minutes as drafted to recognise this. On behalf of the PC, JM wished to clarify the details of the lease and subsequent obligations and stated that at no time had the PC ignored its obligations on this matter. The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) officer from Selby District Council cannot enforce the PC to provide a play area. The CIL governance is to ensure that Charlie Forbes Adam (CFA) fulfilled his side of the S106 agreement i.e. to provide the land to the PC rather than a sum of money and hence, importantly, he discharged his responsibility. Moving forward and to clarify, JM explained that the PC consulted the village at the time on the preferred usage of the said land and subsequently requested to change the provisions of the lease from a play area to a wildflower meadow. This was agreed by CFA and this became a private transaction between the two parties. Looking to the future and upon any further consultation, any decisions will be agreed by the PC, who will then, if required, revert and seek permission from CFA. A member of the public asked if there would be a need to contact the Planning department should there be a further change of use. JM explained as part of any process going forward the PC would need to seek any and all subsequent planning / landlord approvals, if required. Another member of the public asked if the previous questionnaire was financially biased, which caused residents to have little or no interest in the play area. MW stated that at the time there were sufficient funds available to support it. He continued by suggesting that everyone should concentrate on going forward now rather than continuing to look back at what happened.		

	<p>JM explained that the PC had been granted permission to provide access to the land but there was only a 6 months' window to action this, so the PC would need to request this once again, subject to ascertaining what the majority of the village wanted.</p> <p>JM went on to say that as the new housing developments are not completed yet he believed that the PC should wait until everyone had moved in to ensure all residents could have their say about the land use.</p> <p>One member of the public said that Thorganby had a play area and there had been no issues with fencing there. She asked if the PC could obtain a grant for the fencing. She said it was disappointing that the PC was not going to progress the questionnaire until all the houses were full.</p> <p>RM thought it was brilliant that the PC had some land under S106 but it was up to the PC to decide its use and that it does not have to consult the village. The PC does its very best and ultimately has to make decisions, based on business cases and costings. It is very hard to reflect all opinions as often they are contradictory. RM said the PC had done a lot of good and had worked hard with Highways to introduce a traffic calming system and that play areas can be very expensive.</p> <p>A member of the public asked if a grant could be requested from the Skipwith and North Duffield Playing Association. MW believed the Association was currently struggling with funds and did not think a grant would be available. However, the member of public said that the Association's charitable purpose is to provide play areas.</p>		
044	<p>Minutes of 26th July 2021 meeting were approved by all members of the PC as a true and accurate record, subject to the agreed amendment ref item 032. MW proposed and CC seconded.</p>		
Not an item on the agenda	<p>RM provided an update regarding the local government review and explained there would be one single council for the whole of North Yorkshire from April 2023 and that Selby District Council would then cease to exist, although all its work will continue for the moment. There will be an election in 2022 as part of the transition.</p> <p>He informed the PC that District Councillor Neil Reader also had a Locality budget so there were now two budgets from which the PC could make requests for funding. He advised that the sooner the PC could make a request the better as RM's budget needed to be spent by the end of January, although it needed committing before that date. The Locality budget is for funding capital projects; it is not for revenue costs.</p>		
045 045.1	<p>Information on the following ongoing issues and to decide further action where necessary:</p> <p>Highway Safety <u>Skipwith/North Duffield Junction</u></p> <p>In SW's absence, JM provided an update. Highways are now committed to move the speed limit on the North Duffield road so an engineer will be submitting a works order to the contractor with the next couple of weeks to have works carried out, which will also include the road markings.</p> <p><u>Hedge Maintenance opposite Town End Pond</u></p> <p>IG had contacted York Landscapes, who confirmed that hedge cutting was in its remit. JM volunteered to provide an outline of the location of the requested hedge cutting to send to them to enable a quote for the work. TB was waiting to hear from another potential contractor. Quotes will be requested to cut the hedge from the grit box to the bus stop and also from the grit box to opposite the pub. It was suggested the PC ask the contractor to carry out a hard prune in Spring and a final cut in late Summer.</p>	JM/IG	Asap

	<p><u>Car Parking opposite Town End Pond</u> SW had asked Area 7, Highways for any suggestions to improve the situation in this location, especially on the bend. They had replied with the following information - the only way to manage parking to help traffic flow and prevent obstructions is to introduce parking restrictions, for example double yellow lines or a single yellow line with timed restrictions. They explained that yellow lines can only be provided in conjunction with a traffic regulation order. This can take up to six months if there are no objections or it could be longer, depending on consultations and objections. Requests for new yellow lines are then prioritised based on safety issues and the severity of the issues investigated. After some discussion, it was agreed to ask Highways if double yellow lines could be introduced just on the bend specifically.</p>	SW	Asap
045.2	<p>Asset Register This investigation is still ongoing. One of the members of public, who is a property solicitor, volunteered to help the PC with its quest. IG to contact her to provide details</p>	IG	Asap
045.3	<p>Pond Management KB updated the PC regarding the removal of vegetation from Town End Pond. The work had commenced that day and should be completed the following day by Hagraapat. Mark Headley had started to remove the waste. The work was being done as sympathetically as possible while still clearing a large amount of invasive plants. There is more water soldier left in the middle than hoped but it is beyond the excavator's reach. Some of the vegetation has been left to provide habitat for the moorhens. She explained that the pond may not look so good in the short term but its appearance should improve once the vegetation has settled down. IG had obtained a quote from Lewis Tree Surgery to remove the brambles surrounding Scarrow Green. The quote was £288.00 plus VAT, which was agreed. CC proposed and KB seconded.</p>	IG	October/ November
045.4	<p>Bench Repair JM thanked KB and Phil Ansell for the restoration of the Jubilee bench. JM and TB were planning to repair their respective benches in the next couple of weeks.</p>	TB/JM	Before Autumn
045.5	<p>Wildflower Meadow After further discussion the PC agreed it needed to do something with the land and whatever that was the land needed to be fenced and access provided. In order for the PC to request some funding from the Locality budget as soon as possible, it was agreed to obtain two quotes for of fencing. CC agreed to obtain costs/further information for fencing, potential levelling of the land and access, in conjunction with TB. JM would provide a drawing of the designated land to CC. CC would also draft a questionnaire to be issued to all residents. JM noted that the PC needs a working informative document that TB and CC had volunteered to produce.</p>	JM/CC/TB	By 1 st November
046	<p>Planning Nothing to report.</p>		

<p>047 047.1</p> <p>047.2</p>	<p>Matters Requested by Councillors: <u>Current Parish Councillor Vacancy (MW)</u> It was agreed to re-advertise the vacancy on the PC notice board, website and the village Facebook site. IG to provide the wording for CC to add on to a Facebook page.</p> <p><u>Tree Management on the Village Green (CC)</u> MW volunteered to prune the cherry trees on the Green.</p>	<p>IG/CC</p> <p>MW</p>	<p>Asap</p> <p>Asap</p>
<p>048 048.1 048.1.1 048.1.2</p> <p>048.2</p> <p>048.3</p>	<p>Financial Matters <u>The following accounts for payment were approved:</u> York Landscapes – grass cutting for July and August - £660.00 Clerk’s salary –confirmed by MW as the same as previously paid as no new salary awards had yet been negotiated for 2021/22 KB proposed and CC seconded the above payments.</p> <p><u>Outstanding Allotment Fee and Tenancy Agreements</u> MW confirmed he had received the one fee outstanding and the two outstanding Tenancy Agreements.</p> <p><u>Locality Budget</u> This item had already been discussed ref item 045.5. However, any other suggestions for grant requests from residents would be welcomed.</p>		
<p>049 049.1</p>	<p>Correspondence <u>Npower Electricity Charges</u> Npower had informed the PC that electricity charges were about to be increased under its current contract. It was agreed to contact them to enquire about switching to a fixed term contract.</p>	<p>IG</p>	<p>Asap</p>
<p>050</p>	<p>Matters for Inclusion on the Agenda for the Next Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highway Safety • Asset Register • Pond Management • Bench Repairs • Wildflower Meadow • Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Celebrations 2022 		
	<p>Meeting closed at 9.55pm. Next meeting will be held on Monday, 1st November at 8.00pm.</p>		