

**Skipwith Parish Council Meeting Minutes on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2019 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: District Councillor Richard Musgrave (RM), Councillor Neil Reader (NR)

Tango Fawcett (TF), Farm Conservation Adviser

**646. Apologies:** Trevor Britain (TB) and Sharon Worrall (SW). Reasons for absence approved.

**647. Declarations of interest not already declared under the council's code of conduct or members Register of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests:** None.

Item No.	Discussion	Action by	Due Date
648	<p><b>Public session</b></p> <p>A member of the public attended the meeting to raise his concerns about highway safety and to enquire about the progress being made regarding the installation of the proposed chicanes and to make some suggestions that there could be three half- moon shaped chicanes at either end of the village and one by The Drivers pub. JM explained that the PC would raise this proposal with Darren Griffiths from NYCC Highways department as he was the expert.</p> <p>RM requested an update also.</p> <p>JM explained that the PC had a number of questions and was waiting for further information from Darren regarding the installation of chicanes in Great Ouseburn, which was a very similar village to Skipwith. They were being installed on 18<sup>th</sup> November. The PC agreed to visit Great Ouseburn before January to view the chicanes.</p> <p>The PC was particularly concerned about farm vehicles being able to manoeuvre around the chicanes. It was decided to hold an extraordinary meeting in January (when all the information would have been obtained) to consult with parishioners before going ahead with the scheme. The PC realised that speeding through the village had been a concern for many years so it was important to have all the information to hand before making a final decision.</p> <p>All further information to be obtained prior to the next PC meeting in order to be prepared for the consultation.</p> <p>RM explained that he needed to use the budget he had set aside to support this project by January. He agreed to let IG know the budget deadline.</p> <p>The member of the public requested progress on the permissive pathway to which Charlie Forbes- Adam had kindly agreed as it was on his land.</p> <p>Since this meeting two new stiles have now been erected in order to allow people to walk safely from The School House out from the village. Many thanks to Charlie Forbes-Adam for his goodwill gesture.</p>	PC          SW   RM	Before January          By 6 <sup>th</sup> January  Asap

	JM thanked RM, NR and the member of public for attending before they then departed.		
649	<b>Minutes of 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2019 meeting</b> were approved by all members of the PC as a true and accurate record. CC proposed and KB seconded.		
650 650.1	<p><b>Information on the following ongoing issues and to decide further action where necessary:</b></p> <p><b>Wild Flower Meadow</b></p> <p>CC introduced Tango Fawcett who is a self- employed consultant who works 2 or 3 days per week for Escrick Estate. Tango is responsible for conservation issues on the Estate and advised that this meadow is already classed as a wild flower meadow and is under a stewardship. Tango explained that the meadow had been in the Countryside Stewardship Scheme since 2001, which is a scheme whereby farmers are paid a grant for assisting conservation on some of their land e.g. hedge planting, pond creation to encourage wild life. Should the PC want to continue to further enhance this meadow Tango said she would be happy to advise on the management of the meadow. It was particularly important for the field not to be ploughed as there were already 50 species in the field. However, should the PC go ahead with this project it would mean the land would have to come out of the stewardship and all the grants would have to be repaid by the Estate.</p> <p>MW explained that, historically, due to the new housing developments in the village and as part of the planning requirements the Estate had been required to donate to the PC an amount of money or provide some land which equated to it; hence this leased land had been provided.</p> <p>TF then provided some information about the moat in the field at the bottom of Main Street. It is a Grade 1 archaeological site, which she wants to return to its original shape, subject to English Heritage approval. They have already pollarded many of the willows surrounding the moat as they are damaging the moat.</p> <p>JM thanked TF for the information and advice she had provided before she departed.</p> <p>The PC agreed to review the lease before making a decision about next steps as they had not realised the meadow was in a stewardship scheme.</p> <p>As it had been previously been agreed the fencing which was originally bought for the meadow was no longer fit for purpose, JM volunteered to ask Swinglehirst's if they would take it back and if not, CC would look at selling it.</p>	PC  JM/CC	6 <sup>th</sup> January  Asap

<p><b>650.3</b> <b>(650.2 Highway Safety already discussed)</b></p>	<p><b>Streetlights</b> Since payment had been made to Npower to connect the five remaining streetlights which were currently not working, IG had chased Peter Richardson from their Wayleaves department on several occasions as there had been no progress.</p> <p>However, since this meeting IG has met with the engineer in charge of the works to discuss next steps. He has confirmed that the streetlight in the middle of Westfield will be connected before Christmas. He also hoped that the connection for the defibrillator in the telephone box would be activated, along with the street light diagonally opposite the bus shelter before Christmas. He explained that the further 3 lights needing connecting would not be done until January as there were some extenuating factors which needed resolving before then. Equally the Npower teams stopped working out in the field from 16<sup>th</sup> December, so work would not be able to commence until the new year, anyway.</p>		
<p><b>650.4</b></p>	<p><b>Town End Pond</b> IG provided 3 quotes from contractors regarding both Town End and Scarrow Green. After thorough consideration of all quotes MW proposed and KB seconded to go ahead with Lewis Tree Surgery as they offered both expertise and reasonable costings.</p> <p>After taking expert advice from tree surgeons and from Tango Fawcett it was unanimously agreed to completely remove the large willow tree overhanging the pond as it had now got fungus growing in it and was continuing to damage the pond. However, it was agreed that the PC would plant another tree away from the pond in due course.</p> <p>It was agreed to ask Lewis Trees Surgery to pollard the willow tree on the green as soon as possible.</p> <p>It was also agreed that the PC could ask the tree surgeon to help manage the trees on the village green as part of improving the appearance of the green going forward.</p> <p>JM explained that the debris removed from the pond in September was still piled up on the green as the ground had been too wet for any machinery to get on the green and remove it. It had originally been planned to leave it for 2 weeks in order for any aquatic creatures to return to the pond.</p> <p>Tango informed the PC that Charlie Forbes-Adam had kindly offered to get the silt and reeds removed, as much as possible, with a digger.</p> <p>JM volunteered to obtain 3 quotes (including one from J. Massey) for planned maintenance for the village green, Scarrow Green and various grass verges for the forthcoming year.</p> <p>On behalf of the PC, JM wished to thank all volunteers who had recently helped to clean up the pond, which now looks so much better.</p>	<p>IG</p> <p>JM</p>	<p>Asap</p> <p>Asap</p>

	Thanks go to: Graham, Helen, James, Glen, Wayne, Kate, David, Joe, Bill, Sheree, Ade and Tony and of course, Mavis for the brew and her excellent buns!		
<b>650.5</b>	<p><b>Scarrow Green</b></p> <p>JM informed the PC that he and IG had met with Charlie Forbes-Adam (CFA) to discuss the clearance and maintenance of Scarrow Green. CFA had offered to take back the land and take total responsibility for the management of it. After some discussion and consideration, the PC agreed to retain the land and put in a planned maintenance programme. However, the PC wanted to note their thanks to CFA for his offer.</p> <p>It was agreed to ask Lewis Tree Surgery to wait until February to start the clearance of Scarrow Green in order for the planned maintenance to be put in place thereafter. CC proposed and MW seconded.</p>	IG	Asap
<b>650.6</b>	<p><b>Christmas Event</b></p> <p>IG informed the PC that the Chairman of the Village Hall Committee had contacted her to explain that whilst they still wished for the PC to put up the Christmas lights on the village green and that Father Christmas would still be in attendance and there would be some carol singing they had decided to provide the food and drinks in the village hall.</p> <p>The PC would ask TB to assist with the lights and the crib and IG would contact the PC's insurers to inform them of the event.</p> <p>It was noted that in the Round Up magazine carol singing on the village green on Christmas Eve had been advertised. In future, the organiser of the event needs to notify the PC so its insurers can be notified.</p>	TB IG	Asap and before 7 <sup>th</sup> Dec
<b>650.7</b>	<p><b>Asset Register</b></p> <p>At the meeting JM and IG had with CFA, CFA offered to help the PC ascertain the land owned by it. IG to follow up.</p>	IG	Asap
<b>650.8</b>	<p><b>PC Meeting Dates and Times 2020.</b></p> <p>Further discussion was had regarding the Brownies request for the PC to start at 8pm instead of 7.30pm and whilst their holiday dates had been supplied when they didn't require the village hall unfortunately, it didn't help.</p> <p>As two of the Councillors were absent it was agreed to set the following dates only:</p> <p>6<sup>th</sup> January 13<sup>th</sup> January (extraordinary meeting to consult about the proposal to introduce chicanes) 10<sup>th</sup> February (to avoid bi- monthly meetings ending so late, this provisional meeting was proposed) 2<sup>nd</sup> March</p> <p>All the above meetings will commence at 8pm.</p> <p>IG to book the village hall.</p>	IG	Asap

651	<p><b>Planning</b> There were no further updates on any of the developments in the village.</p>		
<p>652</p> <p>652.1 (Not listed on the agenda but invoice presented late)</p>	<p><b>Financial Matters</b> The following account for payment was approved: 360 Internet Solutions for website hosting - £144.00 JM proposed and KB seconded.</p>		
653	<p><b>Correspondence</b> <u>Parking on Footpaths</u> IG read out an email from a resident regarding the volume of vehicles parking in Main Street opposite residential properties. The PC would like to remind everyone to be considerate in their parking and that of visiting guests and trades people. The PC would like to remind parishioners that it is illegal to park vehicles on pavements.</p> <p><u>Parking parallel to Town End Pond</u> Another resident had expressed concern about the number of cars parked on the bend which runs parallel to the pond as it makes it extremely difficult to see if another vehicle is coming in the opposite direction and may cause an accident. JM volunteered to ask Orchard Homes if they could park their cars in a safer place.</p>	JM	Asap
654	<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>• Street Lighting</li> <li>• Wild Flower Meadow</li> <li>• Town End Pond</li> <li>• Scarrow Green</li> <li>• Asset Register</li> </ul>		
	Meeting closed at 10.45pm.		
	<p>Next meeting date for 2020 is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6<sup>th</sup> January</li> </ul>		