

Skipwith Parish Council Meeting Minutes on Monday, 13th May 2024 at 8pm

Present: Councillors Mike Ward (MW) Chairman, Kate Baxter (KB), Jonathan Radway (JR), Andy Bushell (AB), Ian Hatton (IH), John Purcell (JP)
Isobel Greatrex (IG) Parish Clerk

Item No.	Discussion	Action by	Due Date
	<p>MW informed the PC that before they began the agenda he wished to say a few words about Geoff Eastwood who was laid to rest last Friday. He was born locally on his father's farm and farmed in Skipwith himself. MW believed Geoff had been a member of the Village Hall Committee and Parish Council for 40 years. On behalf of the Parish Council, MW expressed much sadness about Geoff's passing and wished to remind everyone of the significant contribution Geoff had made to the village.</p>		
001/24	<p>To receive apologies and approve reasons for absence None required.</p> <p>As Jeremy Gerken had recently resigned, MW wished to thank him for his contribution during his tenure.</p>		
002/24	<p>Declarations of interest not already declared under the council's Code of Conduct or members Register of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests None.</p>		
003/24	<p>Public Session 2 members of the public were present. Cheryl Westoby wished to make the PC aware that the Christmas tree planted last year had died. AB confirmed that he was already taking action about it but another tree could not be planted until September/October. Cheryl wished to personally thank Jeremy Gerken for progressing the contacts he had made regarding the speeding issue in the village and asked if one of the other councillors would continue with this.</p> <p>Deborah Barton asked for an update regarding progress with the recreation area. She issued copies of the survey she had previously conducted to all PC members. In addition, she commented that the grass was very long in the recreation area and asked what was planned to enable people to use it.</p>		

	She continued by expressing her opinion that the PC needed to encourage more involvement from village residents.		
004/24	To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 4th March 2024 The meeting minutes were approved. IH proposed and KB seconded.		
005/24	North Yorkshire Councillor Report John Cattnach, County Councillor, had reminded the PC that his Locality Grant was available again for projects which would benefit the community. AB volunteered to contact John Cattnach to gain a further insight into this and was mindful it could be used for the recreation area. JR suggested it could also be deployed for any speeding interventions, which may be decided upon.	AB	ASAP
006/24 006.7	PC Website As AB had to leave the meeting early, MW brought forward this item and item 006.8. AB provided an update regarding the progress made to source a specialised supplier for a new PC website. IG had previously circulated the details via email to the PC for any further comments. The PC was happy to progress with the recommendations. AB suggested that the new website should be the trigger for looking at the whole PC communication process to the community, including links from social media posts to the website, which would, hopefully, get more residents interested and involved. AB also informed the PC that it would be a good time to change to a gov.uk domain name, as recommended by the Government. The PC would be able to obtain a grant of £100 for the purchase of one, leaving the cost to the PC of c.£10 for the first year and £60 per year thereafter. IH proposed and KB seconded all the above.	AB/IG	ASAP
006/24 006.8	Laptop Purchase IG had previously circulated a proposal to the PC for the purchase of a laptop which the PC would exclusively own, rather than using her personal one. The purchase would also need to include security and Microsoft 365. This was unanimously agreed. JR proposed and JP seconded. IH mentioned that the Government may help to purchase the Microsoft package as it was for a council.	IG IH	ASAP ASAP
	AB left the meeting at 9.05pm.		

<p>006/24 006.1</p>	<p>Information on the following ongoing issues and to decide further action where necessary:</p> <p>Recreation Area</p> <p>JP provided an update regarding obtaining costing for the various options the PC had discussed at the last meeting. He had contacted 12 companies but many were not interested, although he had met with Toby Johnson who had explained that the land was going to be very difficult to level due to the ridge and furrow. In order to do this the fencing would need to be removed. JR suggested asking if the land could be levelled off as much as possible without removing the fencing. JP explained that the furrows were too deep even to install a level pathway.</p> <p>JP was expecting a quote from the company by the end of the week. He was also waiting for a call back from York Landscapes.</p> <p>JR asked JP to email the PC with some costings for a potential play area.</p> <p>It was agreed to ask York Landscapes to cut the grass in the recreation area and the grass between the village green and Mulberry Vale every 2 weeks, in line with the rest of the village schedule. JP suggested that the verge outside Mulberry Vale could become a wildflower area. JR proposed and MW seconded, with advice to be obtained from York Landscapes regarding the planting of wildflowers in said area.</p> <p>KB asked the PC to add the verge from The Drovers to School Farm to York Landscapes regular schedule. This was agreed.</p> <p>IH raised the email which Charlie Forbes Adam had sent the PC regarding the recreation area. MW agreed to respond via IG.</p>	<p>JP</p> <p>IG</p> <p>IG</p> <p>MW/IG</p>	<p>ASAP</p> <p>ASAP</p> <p>ASAP</p> <p>ASAP</p>
<p>006.2</p>	<p>Allotment Water Supply/Tree Inspections</p> <p>JR provided an update regarding the water supply, having now consulted with the allotment holders who had expressed an interest. A tank of water would cost £45, the cost of which would be shared with those interested, and who would contact the water supplier and arrange deliveries themselves. The PC would provide the pallets upon which the tank would stand and they would be placed near to the Common Road entrance. He suggested that the initiative should be trialled for one year and then reviewed.</p> <p>JP proposed and IH seconded.</p> <p>A very thorough arborist report from Enviroscope had been circulated to the PC prior to the meeting. It was apparent that 4 trees needed to be tended to within 3 months and another within 12 months. Enviroscope had recommended that a review of the trees should take place within 18 – 24 months.</p>	<p>JR</p>	<p>ASAP</p>

	The above recommendations were accepted by the PC, who asked JR to obtain some quotes from 3 tree surgeons to implement the actions.	JR	ASAP
006.3	Speeding KB agreed to contact Jeremy Gerken to obtain an update from him regarding outstanding actions. Cheryl Westoby committed to contacting the Community Speed Watch body again.	KB	ASAP
006.4	Village Pond Clearance/Village Green Moles/Scarrow Green IG informed the meeting that she was still waiting for a date from York Landscapes as to when they would start working on Scarrow Green. 5 moles had been caught on the land adjacent to the village green. KB had contacted Aquatic Maintenance Services, who could assist in clearing the village pond. She had circulated an email from them to the PC prior to the meeting. It was agreed she would contact a further 2 contractors to obtain additional costings with the view to start the work at the end of September/beginning of October.	IG KB	ASAP ASAP
006.5	Village and Pond Maintenance Strategy It was agreed to put together a maintenance strategy to improve and maintain the appearance of the village and, when implemented, may bring together the community. JR offered to kick start this by putting together a draft schedule to discuss at the next PC meeting.	JR	Before 4 th July
006.6	Village Signs Unfortunately, Highways had declined the PC's proposal to replace the directional signs on the village green. However, it was agreed to ask them to replace the signage in line with policy, as it was in a poor state of repair. JP was able to confirm that the Mulberry Vale sign would be restored.	IG	ASAP
006.9	Round Up Editorial /Facebook It was agreed to publish information about the 2 allotment vacant plots in Round Up and Facebook, along with information about work on the allotment trees, the new PC website and the new PC meeting dates and times. The deadline for Round Up is 14 th June.	KB	Before 14 th June
007/24	Planning The White House planning application had been approved.		

	MW wished to inform the PC that he believed that a planning application had been made to demolish the house at The Rowans, replacing it with 2 houses. IG had not received a notification in this regard and agreed to follow it up with the Planning Department.	IG	ASAP
008/24	Matters Requested by Councillors None		
009/24 009.1	Financial Matters <u>The following accounts for payment were approved:</u> 009.1.1 YLCA membership fee - £143. 009.1.2 Garry Dickinson mole control - £96.00 009.1.3 Enviroscope tree report – £660.00 009.1.4 York Landscapes – April grass cutting £264.00 009.1.5 Gallagher insurance premium - £844.59 009.1.6 Clerk’s expenses – stamps £15.15 Not on agenda - late invoice from St Helen’s PCC for church floodlighting - £103.38 In addition, it was agreed to provide a gift voucher to the internal auditor as appreciation for the work she had done. IH proposed and JR seconded all of the above. IG informed the PC that the £5,000 precept requested for this year had been received.	IG	ASAP
009.2	<u>New signatories</u> MW confirmed that Andy Bushell was now the new signatory on the Virgin account (replacing Jeremy Gerken). They had also visited Skipton Building Society to arrange for Andy Bushell to become the new signatory, replacing Jeremy Gerken. However, they required the meeting minutes confirming this before proceeding. The PC confirmed this was the case.	AB/MW	By 4 th July
010/24	Correspondence Please refer to item 006.1 regarding email from Charlie Forbes Adam.		

011/24	New Dates and Times for Parish Council Meetings The PC will now meet on the first Thursday every second month with a new starting time of 7pm. The dates for the remainder of this year are: 4 th July, 5 th September and 7 th November.		
012/24	To Notify the Clerk of Matters for Inclusion on the Agenda of the Next Meeting None		
	Meeting closed at 10.22pm.		

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