

**Minutes of Skipwith Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2015 at the Village Hall, Skipwith commencing at 7.30pm.**

**Present:** Councillors Anthony Cole, Tom Hill, Glynnis Smith, Mike Ward

**188. Apologies** – Andrew Faulkes and Sue Kotek

**Declarations of interest:** None

**189. Public Session**

No members of the public present

**190. Park Farm – Recreational Open Space Provision**

The clerk advised of correspondence received from Louise Milnes – Principle Planning Officer (SDC) advising of the options available to the Parish Council and it was agreed that the preferred option is that the Parish Council are provided with 896m<sup>2</sup> of land on a long term (99 year) lease.

The clerk was asked to contact Jennifer Hubbard (Park Farm Planning Consultant) and ask for a map clarifying the area of land offered and the lease proposal for consideration.

**191. Co-option for the vacancy of Councillor**

It was agreed that the vacancy would be advertised on the Parish Council noticeboard & website and that it will be included on a flyer to be distributed throughout the village.

**192. Reports SDC**

No District/County Councillor was present

**193. Minutes of meeting held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2015**

The minutes of the meeting were approved as an accurate record, proposer Councillor Tom Hill and seconder Councillor Mike Ward.

**194. Matters Arising - None**

**195. Village Greens/Pond**

It was noted that Marcus Taperell Tree Surgery had removed the two dead Cherry Trees on the pond and had also carried out work on the damaged Willow Tree.

Councillor Anthony Cole advised that although the Willow had been trimmed this may need to be removed at a later date.

Councillor Glynnis Smith gave an update on the information sought regarding the replacement trees and it was agreed that she would compile a shortlist of suitable species.

It was agreed that a clean-up of Town End Pond would be arranged for Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October and a request would be made for volunteers.

Clerk to speak to Jeremy Massey with regards to lending the equipment required.

It was also agreed that a clean-up of Scarrow Green Pond would be arranged in the New Year.

#### **196. Traffic Calming**

The clerk presented the Parish Council with the Vehicle Activated Sign agreement received from NYCC and it was agreed that this would be checked over and returned as soon as possible. The clerk advised that she had chased Gary Lumb (Highways) but that no further response had been received regarding the traffic calming measures that it was agreed would be funded by North Yorkshire County Council. Agreed that the clerk would contact County/District Councillor Liz Casling for assistance.

#### **197. Allotments – No Update**

#### **198. Children’s Play Area**

The clerk advised that the Parish Council have received two expressions of interest in being involved in a Play Area Committee and it was agreed that Councillor Tom Hill would take the lead on this.

#### **199. Street Lighting**

The clerk advised that she had received a report of a street light out on Common Road and it was agreed that this would be reported to L.A.W Electrical. Councillors Anthony Cole and Tom Hill to carry out a visual check of all the street lights and any other faults will also be reported by the clerk. It was agreed that L.A.W Electrical will be asked to carry a cable repair required on the green due to the recent tree work.

Councillor Tom Hill to source more Christmas lights as some of these were unavoidably damaged when the tree work was carried out.

#### **200. Correspondence**

a) Escrick Park Estate – Letter advising of Skipwith Hall Wedding Dates for 2016 was noted (9<sup>th</sup> July, 20<sup>th</sup> August and 10<sup>th</sup> September)

#### **201. Planning**

Planning Applications Received: -  
(2015/0967/FUL) – Solar farm and associated development on land at **Redmoor Farm, Skipwith Common Road, Skipwith.** Object

##### 1) The scale of the proposal

The scale of the proposal, is substantial. As a rural area of small villages this development is out of place. We believe the development will be one of the largest of its kind in the north of England. It is an ‘industrial scale’ development and inappropriate.

##### 2) The impact on the immediate environment in particular Skipwith Common, considered by the Parish Council to be significant and adverse

The proposed development is adjacent to Skipwith Common, a site of special scientific interest (SSSI). The Common deserves a degree of protection through the Selby District planning process. Described as a ‘jewel in the crown’ by Rural England the area is frequented by walkers and enjoyed

by the local population. As the proposal will require high fencing, despite the proposed screening, this will impact on the visual amenity of the local area. There is likely to be an impact on the wildlife and we urge SDC to request a full ornithological survey.

### 3) The application overstates the benefits of the development

A solar panel farm can only operate during the daytime and only when there is sufficient sunlight. We are aware that the data submitted on the application suggests that the installed capacity will be, on average, only 9% effective. There will be financial benefits to the developer from government subsidies and to North Duffield Council. However, land that has in the past been used for growing crops will be lost. There will be little or no benefit to Skipwith or its residents from a large scale development that sits on its boundary.

The Parish Council believe that by applying for a smaller scale development, during the appeal for the refusal of the larger scheme, has misled the original objectors and as a consequence they are unaware that this application has been submitted. Should this development be approved, we see it as a pre-cursor to the larger scheme being applied for again.

Skipwith Parish Council urges SDC to take this proposal before a full planning committee.

#### Planning Permission Granted:-

2015/0446/HPA) Proposed erection of single storey rear extension and rear dormer extension at **Mole End, Blackwood Road, Skipwith.**

#### Notification of Appeal lodges with the Secretary of State following Refusal of Planning Permission:-

(2014/1150/FUL) Proposed solar farm and associated development on land at **Redmoor Farm, Skipwith Common, North Duffield.**

### **202. Finance**

Clerk's Salary £ As Agreed

HMRC £46.12

Selby District Council (Charge for Non Contested Election) £44.32

M Taperell (Tree Work) £480.00

#### North Duffield and Skipwith Luncheon Club Donation Request

The request for a donation towards the running costs of the Luncheon Club was discussed and the Parish Council agreed to a contribution of £100.00.

**203. Clerk's Report** – No report given

**204. Representatives Reports** – No reports given

### **205. Agenda items for the next meeting**

Parish Council meeting dates for 2016

The clerk was asked to report an overgrown hedge belonging to Escrick Park Estate

### **206. Agree date for next meeting**

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2015 commencing at 7.30pm