

Minutes of the Meeting of Weaverthorpe Parish Council held on 20th January 2014, at 7pm in Weaverthorpe Village Hall

Present: M Rowland, J Fisher, C Howe, A Milner, J Mason, G Downes, F Shellard (Chair), J House (Clerk).

Members of the Public: S Taylor, J Taylor, J Willis, J Wilson.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Apologies were received from T Thomson.
2. **Any Items to be raised by members of the public:** S Taylor enquired about the state of the white lines which had been installed late in 2013 and now were breaking up.
The Clerk had been in contact with NYCC highways regarding the speed reduction measures; the white lines on the side of the road indicating a 30mph limit. After much correspondence, a communication had been received from the contractor to say the work will be done after the winter, as damp and salt affect the paint when it is laid.
3. **Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 18th November 2013:**
The Minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.
4. **Matters arising:** The Clerk has contacted NYCC highways for an update on the Traffic Regulation Order for the lay by opposite the Village Hall and was informed that it is being progressed but no completion date is available.
The Clerk has not looked into providing benches to restrict access to the lay by HGVs as this would make it difficult for the Mobile Library to access the parking space.
There was no update from Velco on what they were doing to reduce the obstructions caused by vehicles visiting their premises.
J Fisher asked if a communication could be sent to Velco as a recent incident where an HGV was parked overnight on the carriageway between the Blue Bell and The Star was a safety hazard to traffic exiting from both establishments.
The Clerk agreed to draft a letter to the Manager at Velco, for Council approval.
5. **Financial:** One invoice was due on 19th January to HMRC for £56.40, The signatories signed the cheque and it was sent off to meet the deadline.
One other invoice was approved by the Council from YLCA for “ Local Councils Explained” – the purchase of which agreed at last meeting, at a cost of £49.60.

When these two amounts have been paid the Bank balances are:

Current Account: £2610.32

Reserve Account: £2417.57

The Precept for 2014 / 15 was discussed. A cost prediction, through to 2017, was provided with the agenda. Last year the Parish Grant of £446 was taken by the Council. This year the Parish Grant is being reduced by 50% to £223 and further reduced to zero next year. It was noted that this reduction is not in compliance with HMG's intention for the Grant and Ryedale District Council, along with other local authorities, are being reported to HMG for not passing this government grant to Parish and Town Councils.

As per the cost predictions, if the reduced Grant is taken this year and the Precept is kept at £3500, we will receive £3723. If we do this we will increase our surplus at the end of 14/15, as will be the case if we maintain the Precept at £3500. Other factors taken into account were that we have a higher than normal VAT refund to claim back from HMRC in April 2014. There are also moves by some MP's to limit future increases of the parish Precepts. The decision made was to maintain the Precept at £3500. The Request Form was completed by the Chair and the Clerk.

The draft of the Financial Regulations were discussed and adopted by the Council. The Clerk is recognised as the Responsible Financial Officer in these Regulations.

A letter had been received from the Treasurer of The Village Hall Committee requesting an increase of the annual charge for use of the village hall by 50%. A. Milner as Chair of the Committee, noted that rising costs had made this necessary and that other organisations that used the hall had been approached for similar increases.

It was pointed out that the Council is a taxpayer funded organisation and should be regarded as such and are different from other organisations who are funded differently. The level of the increase is significant even if the sum requested was affordable within the budget.

A vote was taken which was in favour of the increase, but the Clerk was asked to write to the Village Hall Committee and point out that in future we would request that the way the pricing structure is proposed takes note of the need to get value from the taxpayer and that future projects should be commercially bid, which had not been the case in the past. The latter approach would hopefully give the village hall a sounder economic basis.

An approach had been made by Chris Adnitt to carry out the Internal Audit at a cost of £50 which would represent a saving of £80 pa on our current provider. The Council asked the Clerk to enquire about the qualifications that are held by Mr Adnitt and some references as to his past performance in this field.

Notification had been received from ROSPA that the playground Inspection Fee will reduce from £78 to £65.

Autela Payroll have written to say that they have a problem with their software and can only provide monthly payroll for 2014/15, and possibly beyond, instead of the present quarterly payments. This is at a cost of £10 per month, with a 50% discount less loyalty discounts. So the cost will be approaching £60 p.a. We currently pay £58 p.a., but there will have to be a monthly payment to HMRC which will increase our administration and postage costs. The council agreed to the Clerk seeking alternative providers for a quarterly payroll.

6. Standing Orders

The Standing Orders are a requirement under the Local Government Act. The model provided by YLCA, has been amended where necessary to suit how we do our business.

Clarification was sought from the Council on specific points, namely:

Section 1 t (page 3), the length of time a councillor can speak on a motion shall not exceed how many minutes? 5 minutes was agreed.

Section 3 f and 3 g, maximum time a member of the public can speak for? 3 minutes was agreed.

Section 3 maximum length of meeting? 2 hours was agreed.

No other comments were raised and the Standing Orders were adopted by the Council.

7. Correspondence:

Safer Ryedale statistics for November and December 2013 which indicated no cause for concern.

Central Ryedale Children's Centre Programme for January to April 2014 had been received and were placed on the Village Hall Noticeboard.

An email had been received from Helen Gundry, of "Raising Cycling in Ryedale and Kirkbymoorside Group", about a Ryedale Trail for walkers, cyclists, dogs, etc. As we already have the Wolds Valley Heritage Trail it was agreed that the existence of the trail would be highlighted in a reply to this group and the email copied to Andy Macdonald.

YLCA have emailed highlighting a 51 page document on weekly rubbish collections, which has been produced by the Department for Communities in HM Government . The link to the document can be found at:
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/269295/BinBible-2-NT.pdf

Ryedale Ramblers have carried out a survey of the "footpaths" in our parish. It lists six paths which when these are checked on the OS map turn out to be the bridleway / footpath from the kennels, through Rosemount up to Pasture Farm. Each section is given a separate identity. Basically they are saying that some sections are overgrown. The Clerk has replied to them and thanked them.

Correspondence had been received from Rural Action Yorkshire on funding for Winter Weather Agents. The Council declined to take the matter further.

Correspondence had been from Cloverleaf Advocacy who have been appointed by NYCC as a provider of NHS Complaints Advocacy Support under the Health and Social Care Act 2012. They provide free and independent help for people who need to complain about NHS services. Poster will be placed on the noticeboard and leaflets are available.

An email had been received on the day of the meeting from the office of the Police and Crime Commissioner asking the Parish Council to publicise a survey which is available at
<http://www.northyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk/news/commissioner-proposes-1-99-launch-in-council-tax-precept-to-pay-for-more-police-officers/>

The request is that the Council let Parishioners now. It will be publicised in the Warbler but the closing date is 31st January 2014 which is after the Warbler may be distributed. The Clerk will contact the sender to inform him of this. The survey is concerning an increase to the Police Precept of 1.99%, equating to £4.07 per annum or 8p per week to enable North Yorkshire Police to maintain police officer numbers whilst other forces are reducing them.

8. Planning

Complaint to RDC regarding the planning committee decision on the land behind Rarey Farm. The complaints procedure says that the complaint is sent to the Business Support Manager, suggesting some independent review of the complaint. This is not the case. The complaint was forwarded to Gary Housden, Head of Planning and Housing who was the person who presented the Council's case at the Planning Committee Meeting. Mr Housden says that the publicity notices are prescribed by the legislation (the Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995). The Clerk has reviewed the legislation and does not agree, but has sought a second opinion from YLCA. When an answer is received from YLCA and if they agree with the Clerk's interpretation, the complaint will be raised again.

Cottam Wind Farm; The Clerk received a call from Cottam Parish Council regarding an application by RWE Innogy to site an 80 meter high weather mast on Cottam airfield.

The Council was consulted by email with a result that 4 councillors said that they wanted to object, three did not want to, one did not reply. Therefore a letter of objection was sent to East Riding Council. This has been acknowledged.

9. Police Business

C Howe reported that there have been many reports on Ringmaster regarding theft from various locations in the area but not in the Parish, The Clerk reported that there had been thefts from an empty property in the village, NY Police are investigating.

10. Any other business

The Clerk requested that the Annual and Parish meetings be moved to 12th May 2014. This was agreed by the Council.

The meeting closed at 8.00.

Next meeting will be held on 17th May 2014.