

Minutes of the meeting of Weaverthorpe Parish Council held in Weaverthorpe Village Hall at 7pm on 21st March 2016

Present: S Taylor, N Lattaway, M Mitchell, A Milner, J Mason, T Thomson, F Shellard (part time), M Rowland (Chair), J House (Clerk)

Members of the public: J Taylor

Apologies: G Perry, G Downes, J Fisher

1. Apologies and approval of reasons for absence:

Apologies for absence and approval of the reason for absence were accepted from those Councillors noted above.

2. Items to be raised by members of the public:

There was nothing to raise.

3. Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 18th March 2016

The minutes were approved and signed as a true record of the meeting.

4. Matters arising from the minutes:

Defibrillator: S Taylor reported that the machine had not yet been delivered. He has 11 names of volunteers for training, but he had not organised the training until the equipment arrives. He has identified a couple of paramedics who might be willing to run the training. M Rowland had a volunteer from Helperthorpe who also might be willing to run it also. St Johns have a training defibrillator which might be available. It was agreed that as we had been awarded the machine at no cost, then if we had to pay for the training, we were still better off.

Charity payment on behalf of C Howe: Chris had agreed that in lieu of the remainder of the grass cutting costs being paid to him, a donation could be made to the Village Hall. The Council agreed this would be £250.

Chris has agreed that he will cut the grass again this year for the amount that NYCC pay us.

Lay By at the West End of the village: The Clerk, as requested at the last meeting had written to R Marr at NYCC Highways to request consideration of "stopping up" the lay by. This was not acceptable to NYCC, but a suggestion was made that they would grant us a cultivation licence to plant a hedge at right angle to the road thus cutting the layby in two. This would allow small vehicles to park side by side but prevent HGVs taking up the whole layby. The Council agreed that this would be a good solution.

The Clerk had investigated the cost of mature hawthorn hedging and temporary fencing and it was agreed that we should carry out the work in a working party once the necessary permissions had been obtained. J Mason could provide access to a digger and A Milner had top soil available. If the PC carried out the work the estimated cost would be approx. £600. There are also grants available from NYCC and RDC, so the project is potentially a no cost to the taxpayer.

NYCC have said they will level out the layby once the work of planting the hedge is complete. On the same subject of HGV parking in the village, Tracy from Wolds Glamping had contacted the Clerk to say that she was having difficulties with HGVs visiting Vellco and

could she liaise with the PC on this. A suggestion was made that we could make provision for parking outside their site entrance by moving the gates back, or putting up a sign on their fence to say no overnight parking. Vellco already make it very clear in their delivery instructions that parking in the village is not an option but this is ignored by the drivers.

Missing Street Light: At the last meeting it had been highlighted that the street lamp on a telegraph pole opposite Broadholme may have been removed. The Clerk had got NYCC to check this out and it was reported that this lamp had been fixed to the pole by a metal junction box, as opposed to all the others which are fixed by a PVC box, and that the box had rusted and the light had either been knocked or fallen off.

NYCC had also updated the inventory and one more lamp had been identified out the Star.

The cost of replacing the lamp is £700 which is for an LED lamp guaranteed for 20 years, so with no maintenance costs.

The council decided that as there was a better concentration of light along that stretch of Main Road than elsewhere and that the light would not be replaced.

Cold Snaps Warm Homes: The thermal imaging is now complete. The event in the Village Hall at which all the sponsors will be, is to be held from 11 till 3 on 16th April 2016. We require some "gatekeepers" to welcome people and hand out the images, then there will be help available to interpret the images and also to inform the residents what they can do to improve their profile. There will be no selling, but there are some grants available for eligible people and details will be available. Help with refreshments would be much appreciated.

5. Approval of Financial matters:

Three payments were approved by the Council, these were:

YLCA Membership subscription: £121, (an increase of 4.3% on last year)

HMRC £62.40

Village hall £250.00

After these payments have been made the balances at the Bank, which will be the year end figures are:

Current Account £ 833.25

Reserve Account £4922.27

There will be an interest figure for the month of March to be added in.

Copies of the Accounts were distributed to all present.

Two letters had been received from NatWest to inform us of a change of statement dates all to be sent on 5th of the month and interest now paid without deduction of tax which does not affect us

It's the end of the year so after the above payments have been processed the Clerk will finalise the accounts and send them to the internal auditor..

The Council formally adopted Yorkshire Internal Audit Services as our auditor for 2015/16

The need for an additional signature has been an issue for while. The Council agreed to have three signatories to the bank account. M Rowland will be the third signatory.

6. Correspondence

Safer Ryedale statistics for January 2016 & police newsletter were reviewed.

Changes to External Audit Regime: Paperwork regarding this had been previously sent to Councillors. The Councillors agreed to be a part of Group 3 which is for opted in authorities with neither income nor expenditure exceeding £25K.

The Clerk had previously distributed a document from YLCA on the intricacies of agendas. As a result of the discussion on that subject the following was agreed:

The summons: We already use the legal summons and as for the signature, future agendas will be signed by the Clerk, and sent out / filed in a .pdf format.

Public session: All our meetings are public so there will be no change.

Members of the Press and The Public: Again our meetings are public so no change.

Apologies and approval of reasons for absence: Agreed that our heading for apologies will change to: "Apologies and approval of reasons for absence"

Declarations of interests and dispensations: The Council already do this.

Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting: Already do this.

Planning Applications: All planning applications must be listed on the Agenda. In order to accommodate late applications the issue of the agenda will be handled the same way as under the heading of AOB below.

Financial Matters: The Clerk's salary is agreed in advance so there is no need to record it at each meeting. It was agreed that the sending out of payslips each quarter would no longer happen. As the salary cannot be paid without the Chair notifying the bank, there is a security check there. As for a bank reconciliation each meeting, the balances are recorded at each meeting so it was agreed there is no need for formal bank reconciliation at each meeting and the Accounts will be reviewed in detail twice a year..

AOB: This means that agenda must contain anything to be discussed unless it's a previously discussed item, then it can be under matters arising. So, in future anything to be raised should be submitted to the Clerk, in writing, 5 days before the meeting, and the agenda will be issued three clear days before the meeting.

A letter from NYCC regarding irregularities in the way the planning process had taken place for the proposed fracking site at Kirby Misperton.

YLCA Have notified us of a revised model of Financial Regulations. We already have Financial Regulations in being in addition to our Code of Conduct and Standing Orders. The Clerk will update these for WPC. Once updated they will be sent out for perusal by Councillors and we can adopt them at the Annual Meeting in May.

Petition to give local councils the right to appeal planning decisions. Deadline 19 April 2016. It was agreed that WPC will be added to the names of Councils supporting this petition, and individual councillors can add their names if they so wish. A poster will be placed on the noticeboard. The link can be found by typing "online petition 110489" into Google.

E mail from Ben Worthy, Lecturer in Politics at University of London about research they did on FOI requests from Parish Councils last year. They complied a 58 page report which is available if anyone wants the link, the Clerk will send it to them

Change to bus services, Service 190 will not have any changes to the timetables but the 5.15 service from Foxholes to Malton will not be subsidised.

An email from NYCC had been received about our wheelie bin stickers, the Clerk had replied saying they had been a permitted by North Yorkshire Police.

7. Planning

Planning applications approved by RDC:

Spaniel Farm, new barn

6 Rarey Drive, extension

Planning applications considered since last meeting

3 Bed house adjacent to 8 East Bank

No objections raised, but in our reply to RDC we raised a point about the temporary caravan and construction amenities. We consider it sensible to stipulate a time scale for removal of these temporary facilities once the building works have been completed and the house occupied.

Additionally some increased tree protection measures were notified which no one objected to. RDC informed.

Additional Planning matters

Following a complaint from a member of the public the Clerk contacted RDC about the storage of cars at Carvills Pit and also a certain amount of tipping that has gone on there. RDC were scheduled to do a site visit on 21st March 2016.

North Yorkshire Police had also been informed.

Planning Appeal Dismissed

Appeal on Planning Application 13/0851/FUL for the erection of 1 no. 40 metre high (overall tip height 67m) 500 kw wind turbine on land to the north of Main Road, Weaverthorpe has been dismissed by the Planning Inspector. The main points of the Planning Inspector's Report, which is 7 pages long and can be found on RDC's website, are:

- While the application is made by a "community based group" I am aware from the large amount of submitted letters of objection from local residents that the proposal does not have the support of all the local community.
- While there are small villages close by, as well as sporadic farmstead and existing wind turbines, the area is still a predominantly open rural landscape that is largely unspoilt by modern development. Moreover the larger farmsteads and properties in the villages tend to be located close to roads and are often screened by the folds in the landscape, in longer distance views.
- By contrast the proposed turbine would be located away from any buildings or tall man-made structures, in an elevated position, in this rolling landscape. Introducing

a tall vertical structure into this hillside, exasperated by rotating blades with a diameter of some 54m would have an adverse impact on the key characteristics of the landscape.

- Within 5 kilometres of the appeal site there are a significant number of other turbines of differing height but all are smaller than this one. Many are a short distance from Weaverthorpe. So this sensitive landscape has already absorbed a great number of turbines which are readily apparent as you travel through this area. Consequently the landscape does not have the capacity to absorb this larger, more prominent turbine without it having a significant adverse effect on its character.
- This sensitive landscape has already absorbed a great number of turbines but it is reaching saturation point. This larger more prominent turbine would tip the balance and result in substantial harm to the character and appearance of the surrounding area for the reasons I have explained above. In summary this proposal would introduce a strident vertical structure, with rotating blades, which would detract from the open rural nature of this area of High Landscape Value and adversely impact upon its character and appearance.
- Historic England, describe Grade I listed buildings as being of exceptional interest, with only 2.5% of listed buildings falling into this highest category. St Andrews Church is a Norman church dating from the early 12th Century. It is situated in an isolated position above Weaverthorpe Village, where the mainly linear residential development follows the valley floor. As such, it appears prominent in many views from the surrounding area. Indeed, it was clearly designed to be a dominant feature that stood out in the landscape.
- The proposed turbine would be around 1km from the Church and clearly visible from the churchyard, after passing the eastern end of the Church. It would also be seen in conjunction with the Church in a number of wider views. In these views the turbine would overtake the church in terms of prominence in the landscape. Because of its overall size and the rotating nature of the blades, one's eyes would be automatically drawn away from the Church and its tall Norman tower to the modern turbine which would appear enormous in contrast.
- The Appellants have submitted a plan showing some boundary treatment and planting close to the rear churchyard boundary that would consist of wire mesh attached to timber posts and planting on the inside of the fence. The fencing would be about 1200mm high and the planting slightly higher. This would provide little screening to a turbine of the scale proposed here. Moreover, the boundary treatment in itself would appear contrived and out of place in this location since beyond the churchyard there are agricultural fields where such engineered boundary treatments do not exist.
- The impact on the setting of the Church would be major as would the effect of the proposal on its significance. It would conflict with LP Policy SP 18 insofar as it seeks to ensure that renewable energy development does not have an adverse impact on historical interests and Policy SP 12 which reflects the advice in the Framework on the historic environment, including the need to ensure that the historic environment is conserved and where appropriate enhanced.
- Since this is a community based project it is intended that profits from the operation of the turbine will be returned to the local community. It is proposed that some of the money be used for landscape enhancement works. The Appellants say they

would be prepared to improve around 14k of hedgerow during the 25 year operational lifetime of the proposed turbine and that this would enhance the Wolds landscape and provide longer term improvements to the area.

This would require the co-operation of local landowners. The necessary negotiations have not taken place and so exact details cannot be provided, but it is estimated that around £10,000 per annum would be the likely sum available for such works. Because the precise nature of the works is unknown and they will take place on third party land, they cannot be secured by a planning condition. No other mechanism to ensure that they occur has been suggested by either party. Consequently I can only contribute limited weight to this benefit.

- I have found that the proposal would substantially harm the character and appearance of the landscape which is in the Wolds Area of High Landscape Value. It would also have major impact on the significance and setting of a Grade I listed building and result in less than substantial harm to it.

8. **Police Business:** There was no Police Business to report and as this tends to get reported in other sections of the minutes, it was decided that it can be dropped from future agendas.

9. **Any other business:**

S Taylor reported on a presentation he attended on behalf of the PC at Highways HQ explaining the new software for reporting pot holes. He had told Highways that he did not find it user friendly. It is planned to issue a version for the sole use of PCs.

S Taylor also reported on a meeting he had attended on emergency planning which also covered flooding, which he had found very useful. At that meeting it had been explained that any parish that has a watercourse should have an emergency plan in place. Riparian rights were also explained. The group formed with other PCs along the valley is planning to look at this.

The Clerk also reported that as a result of our application to the Smaller Authorities Transparency Fund for computer equipment for the PC has been approved. The full sum requested of £560.58 will be in our bank account by the beginning of April.

The Clerk also reported that he had been informed by NYCC that resurfacing work will be carried out on Main Road between Rarey Drive and Green Lane, but it is not clear when.

The next meeting which is the Annual Meeting will take place on Monday 23rd May 2016 at 8pm, preceded by the parish meeting at 7pm.