

## Minutes of the meeting of WPC held on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2021 at 7pm in Weaverthorpe Village Hall.

**Present: F Shellard (Chair), T Thomson, G Downes, A Milner, J Mason, S Taylor, J House (Clerk)**

**Apologies: G Perry**

There were five members of the Public present.

- 1. Village green proposals:** A discussion took place about the proposal that had been presented at the last meeting.

The group that had presented their proposals had subsequently provided a Google map of the green, with the additional pieces of equipment on that map. It was pointed out that to submit a planning application a lot more detail would be required.

The results of the survey that had been conducted earlier in the year by the group were provided. They had received 27 responses, 1 person had no preferences, 1 would like to see the present play equipment retained with no opposition to additional pieces of equipment but did not want a fence around the area, 2 were happy to see additional equipment, 1 would like to see an exercise area including dogs, the remaining 22 were supportive of additional equipment and it being fenced off as a separate area.

A number of Councillors expressed their opinion that they were not in agreement with fencing off half of the village green as it is just that and it is for the use of the whole community. It was noted that there are approximately 120 dwellings in the village so the above views do not take everyone into account.

We have established that Planning Permission will be required from RDC at a discounted cost of £231

There is a process called a preplanning application which costs £60 which gives an indication of whether the application will succeed or not.

We have an indication from our insurers that the additional cost of insuring the equipment is £105 pa. So based on a 20 year life span of the additional equipment including inflation at 5%, the additional cost to the PC would be just under £3500. We would need that covering by the money raised to ensure that all residents are not paying the increased insurance cost. The Parish Council agreed that it would fund the £60 fee for the pre application, to establish whether Planning Permission would be given and that extra information would be provided to the Clerk to enable this to happen.

The group have had talks with Vellco and they had asked that a gate be put across the footway which leads from Main Road onto Ropery Lane to stop children running across the road. It was noted that NYCC Highways would have to give permission for that, and it was unlikely to be approved.

The RoSPA report was discussed, which had been commissioned following the moving of the equipment earlier in the year. All the aspects were low risk, with two soft surfaces put under the two pieces of equipment that had a fall risk. The inspector had suggested additional wooden supports to the vertical wooden posts, but that aspect rated low.

Both the inspector and our grass cutting contractor had asked that the seat be moved, the former to make the seat available for the parents of children playing, the latter to allow access for his mower. This will be reviewed.

- 2. Apologies absence :** Apologies and the reason for absence were noted for G Perry.
- 3. Matters to be raised by members of the public:** A question was raised on the upkeep of the vegetation on the Gypsy Race, not from an obstruction of flow of the race but from a tidiness point of view. It was explained that the various riparian owners, kept the ditch

either strimmed or let it grow to encourage wild flowers and wild life. In this particular case the riparian owner of the land opposite East Bank was identified.

**4. Minutes of the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021:** The minutes were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

**5. Matters arising from those minutes:** The Clerk reported that the RDC Enforcement Officer had provided some new posters about dog fouling and these had been put up around the village. The Clerk is meet the Enforcement Officer on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2021. It was pointed out that dog fouling now occurs regularly at East Bank, and on the footpath at the rear of East Bank.

**6. Finance and Governance:** Invoices paid since last meeting because of their closing dates being before this meeting, are as follows:

NYCC Lighting, (Removal of box on post in Back Lane)	£55.31
Accessibility Audit	£99.99
RoSPA Play equipment inspection	£474.00
HMRC	£68.80

Two invoices required authorisation at the meeting:

Invoice to pay from Autela for payroll costs	£30.00
Invoice for rectifying the errors on the website	£120.00

All the above invoices were approved by the Council.

Money Received

NYCC Grass cutting	£255.04
LPC (contribution to Accessibility audit)	£119.99

After the above invoices have been paid the balances at the bank are:

Current Account	£5730.91
Deposit Account	£1544.75

Cheque for £313.12 not cashed, that validity of the cheque has expired, the payee has been contacted and they no longer required to be paid, so that money will be transferred back into the accounts with the provisor that if they change their mind we will pay.

We have received confirmation from the External Auditor that they have received and logged our exemption from external audit statement, and that unless they receive any complaints from the public during the exercising of public rights (which ends on 23<sup>rd</sup> July) we will not hear from them again until planning for the 2021/22 audit begins.

## **7. Correspondence**

Letter from Corporate Director of NYCC outlining the launch of NY Highways was noted.

email from RDC on the Ryedale Plan and Call for Sites, this was noted

email from YLCA regarding the Queens Platinum Jubilee Beacons on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2022. Info already circulated. It was agreed that there were no plans to carry out any events for this

Anonymous letter addressed to and received by the Parish Council complaining about noise from the Village Hall and reply from the VH user. That was passed on to the VH Committee.

email from Nick Wilson at NYCC street lighting regarding putting up a shield on the street light on Peter Liberty House. The cost is £43, the Clerk asked if we could back charge the resident and we have received a reply to say we could but they cannot remember it being done before. If we do not then all the residents are contributing towards the cost. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact the owner and ask for a contribution.

email from YLCA passing on the HM Land Registry survey of the difficulties associated with registering land. Probably a lot of the content is relevant to Weaverthorpe in terms of the Village Green, War Memorial site and the Methodist car park.

In an email from YLCA they are recommending that we should have a complaints policy. They have attached a pro forma, the Clerk will prepare a draft policy, for adoption at a later date.

## **8. Planning**

The Kia Nor proposed plans were reviewed by the Council and it was agreed that no objections would be raised other than the imposition of the LNO conditions that are normally applied to major refurbishments and extensions to property.

Sunday School Cottage appeal to Planning Inspectorate on refusal of RDC to remove the LNO conditions. Councillors were asked by email if they wanted to add to what we had already said but the feeling was that we had put our case forward adequately.

With regard to the Vellco proposal there had been correspondence from the manager of the site to the Clerk and Chairman, which clearly displayed that the manager did not understand how the Parish Council operated.

A meeting was held between the Chairman and the manager on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2021 and following are the agreed notes of that meeting;

“You introduced Tom and advised that he is acting as your PA and should be the first point of contact if we have a need to discuss anything regarding our relationship. (Can I have his contact details please?)

I outlined Mr House’s role as Clerk to the PC, explaining that he is a professional advisor to the council, ensuring that we operate within our scope as a PC and that we don’t try to do things that are the realm of the district or county council or even central government. He does not influence any of our decisions but acts on them. All correspondence is issued by him but is approved by the councillors prior to being sent.

We talked about the fence and gate Mr House has installed on the boundary of his property. I assured you that he has no intention of using the gate to observe the work being undertaken on your site but purely to allow him to access the other side of the fence for maintenance purposes only. Prior to the wooden fence being erected there was a hedge line with an iron gate, he has removed the hedge and iron gate and replaced them with the wooden version.

We discussed the concerns the PC has over the Construction Management Plan. We understand that the construction is going ahead and that negotiations are underway with potential contractors. The PC's primary concern is not focussed on the activity on the site but how the plan will deal with the construction vehicle movements through the village, how the drivers of these vehicles will respect the speed limits, narrow roads and the possibility of children playing in the lane leading to the site. You advised that due to budget constraints that you would build the new sheds in phases and the first phase would likely be the North Western corner of the C shaped shed. You were likely to only store truck tyres in Weaverthorpe with car tyres being stored and processed elsewhere with the effect of reducing vehicle movements. These are both operational concerns and are subject to business requirements.

We moved on to the play equipment on the village green. I advised that the PC is not blocking the request to add equipment rather that more information was required in particular the PC has asked for a plan of the village green showing the new and existing equipment as well as the proposed fence, until this is provided the PC is not able to make a decision. I explained that my personal opinion was that I would not support a fence as this would close a section of the green off from other users. The village green is for the whole village and not just those aged 0 – 11. Tom brought up the possibility of putting a gate close to the Star Inn to prevent people from running into the road when moving from there to the green.

Finally we moved outside where you and Tom took me on a tour of the construction site, we met the landscaper and discussed the possibility of planting trees on the Northern boundary (parallel to Main Road) at the same interval as those on the Eastern boundary (parallel to Rarey Drive), namely every 4 (or possibly 8) meters, the centres would be offset. You advised that there would be a controlled burn of the garden waste collected and that you would try to choose a day when the wind was blowing from the North, and that you would contact the PC to advise residents of the proposed date.”

Update from RDC Planning to say that all conditions are met and the files closed. This is not correct as the CMP has still not been submitted until today, and the letter from the planning officer dated 13 July 2020 that the applicant was aware that a detailed CMP should be submitted to the Planning Authority once a contractor is in place and the before the work commences. The note enclosing the CMP when sent to the Chairman states that it is not as in depth as we might like but it is the best they can do for the moment.

Also condition 16 which is the detail of external lighting does not appear to have been discharged according to information on RDC's website.

The Clerk will provide an update to Cllr Middleton.

It was noted that on several occasions lately, HGVs entering Ropery lane have reversed back onto and across Main Road, to allow another HGV to exit, without any assistance from a banksman. The Chairman will contact Vellco regarding this very unsafe practice.

## **9. Police Matters**

There was nothing to report

## **10. Grass cutting**

We only received one application to tender for the Grass cutting so the Clerk extended the date for applications till the end of July, as our standing orders say we should have three quotes as a minimum. Indications are now that there will be three quotes.

The tender document was circulated to members before the meeting and it was discussed. In particular the number and frequency of the cuts, which will obviously affect the overall cost. The Councillors will feed back any comments to the Clerk in order that he can finalise it by the end of the month.

Estimated costs will be in the region of £3K pa

#### **11. VAS**

Order progress awaiting delivery of the batteries. They were scheduled to arrive in the UK yesterday and will be subject to clearance by customs etc.

Post to be installed by the end of the month.

Both aspects are late on original quoted dates.

The post is not urgent as the first location will be on the lighting column on East Bank where the battery will charge. On site training will be carried out there when it is installed.

#### **12. Phone box**

Cllr Middleton has provided an update which has not changed the position. Tracy Chapman got the same update and has gone back to her asking how we can get RDC to change their minds as we have a stalemate situation.

We discussed if there was any way around this bureaucracy created by RDC but there is not. RDC are blocking the adoption of the box and furthermore are not being committed to working with WPC on this issue, as was stated in the Gazette & Herald, as we have to make all the contact , but never get any change of position.

It was agreed that perhaps an official complaint by the residents is required as this would go to the Local Government Ombudsman if it gets rejected again.

#### **13. Accessibility regs**

The Audit is now complete and the auditor has updated The Accessibility Statement which will be loaded onto the website. His invoice was approved earlier in the meeting. .

Luttons have paid half the cost of the whole exercise.

#### **14. Parking on footways**

The Clerk has received a couple of complaints from residents about vehicles parked on the pavement.

It was agreed that parking on footways is not what they are intended for and impedes not only pedestrians but parents with buggies and wheel chair users. In the past when we have had discussions with the police they have encouraged parking on the road, as that is where vehicles should be for properties without driveway parking, and it does help to slow vehicles down.

It was agreed that the Clerk would provide an article for the Warbler.

The meeting closed at 21:05

Next Meeting 13<sup>th</sup> September 2021