

**Minutes of the Meeting of Weaverthorpe Parish Council held on 5th December 2022 at 19:00 in
Weaverthorpe Village Hall**

Present: M Rowland, S Taylor, J Mason, G Downes, T Thomson, F Shellard (Chairman), J House (Clerk)

Apologies: N Carter

There was one member of the public in attendance.

1. **To receive apologies for absence:** Apologies and the reason were accepted from the above.
2. **Matters to be raised by members of the public:** Members of the public had raised with a Councillor the unsightliness of the phone box. It was noted that BT had installed new equipment in the box but seemed unwilling to renovate the box and RDC have objected to its removal. It was agreed that we should table this subject for discussion at our March 2023 meeting with a view to contacting the new planning department which will be in place from 1st April 2023 as part of the new North Yorkshire Council.
3. **Minutes of the meeting of WPC held on 3rd October 2022:** The minutes were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true record of the meeting.
4. **Matters arising from those minutes:** The dead tree adjacent to the War Memorial was cut back with the permission of the owner of the adjacent land. Thanks to Ian and John Carter for carrying out that work.

On the subject of the sale of the school, it had been suggested by members of the public that the VH committee should look at purchasing the school, the Clerk had therefore asked the Diocese what the purchase price would be. The diocese replied to say they did not know at that time but would communicate further once a decision had been made. It was suggested that the land might be given back to whoever was the funder when the school was built.

Following the request from the PCC that a dog bin be installed outside the entrance to the Church, RDC have come back with a cost of £250. RDC have also suggested that as the existing bin opposite the Village Hall is always overflowing that a full-size waste bin be placed in that position. The cost of this would be £260. It was suggested that the waste bin opposite the VH be used for dog waste and the dog waste bin at that location be relocated to outside the Church.

5. **Finance and Governance:** There were four payments to be made:

Clerk's expenses for printing, postage and materials for painting the village green fencing - £165.52

Invoice for tree survey from Waites Trees and Gardens £540

The Clerk asked C Howe for his invoice for the cost of grass cutting and the cost of his Public Liability Insurance. He has asked that the Parish Council pay the £255.04 for grass cutting to St Andrews PCC. The Clerk will write to the PCC and explain where the money has come from. He has also asked that the cost of his insurance, which is £365.03 be donated to Parish Council funds. The Clerk suggested that we might put that money towards the money for the Village Green fencing and he was in agreement with that. The Council asked the Clerk to write to C Howe and thank him for his donation. That sum will be transferred to the Reserve account.

Village Hall hire for 2022 £76.50

After these invoices had been paid the balance at the bank are:

Current Account: £2125.28

Reserve Account: £6257.64

We have been notified that PKF Littlejohn have been appointed as External Auditors for the period 2023 to 2028.

We have been notified by NYCC that our Street Lighting invoice for the current year will be £343.28 + VAT. This is an increase of 60%.

The precept has to be set for 2023 to 2024 and will be paid by the new North Yorkshire Council by 29 April 2023 and 29 September 2023.

This year we have spent to date £5400, with a precept of £5000. We spent £430 on the website development which is a one-off charge.

For the remainder of this year and into next year we will have additional expenditure on top of that of:

£510 for dog waste bins

Estimated sum of £1000 for tree surgery

£150 extra electricity costs, plus an extra £250 contingency because of expected price rises in 2023.

That is a total of £1910. It was proposed that we should add that to next year's precept making a suggested precept for 23 to 24 of £6900. Which would be a substantial increase to residents. Discussion ensued and it was agreed that the cost of the dog bins would be substantially reduced. Further it was questioned whether it a good use of the precept to fund what could be substantial future works to the Horse Chestnut tree, and we should seek advice on having it removed. Therefore, an increase to the Precept of £500 would be requested, which is a 10% increase on a Band D property which the Council thought acceptable in the current financial climate.

6. Correspondence:

Received a certificate which recognises our commitment to the Civility and Respect Pledge. The Chairman signed this, and we will display it on our website.

The model Councillor / Officer Protocol, adherence to which, will help us to achieve an effective working relationship between Councillors and the Officer. The protocol was forwarded to all Councillors to read before the meeting, and it was agreed that we should adopt it.

Letter from a resident asking for financial support towards the cost of a Christmas Tree and lights on the village green for the upcoming festive period and for a Carol Service on 16th December. This was discussed and rejected for the following reasons:

The resident was present whilst a discussion took place on next year's Precept, we are already overspent on our budget for this year, and do not consider in this period of increasing costs that this is appropriate expenditure, extra insurance would have to be arranged for such a request and the cost is not warranted because of the above, the Council felt that insufficient costings had been provided, even though discussion on the subject was delayed due to the postponement of this meeting, we would have expected more notice to be given. The Clerk was asked to draft a letter for agreement by the Council to deliver to the resident.

Paper received from the North Yorkshire Council on Double Devolution, which was not relevant to WPC.

7. Planning

The Boythorpe application was for repowering the existing 31.5metre hub height turbines to 45m hub height and relocating one of the turbines into an adjacent field. Due to the postponement of the scheduled meeting, consultation took place and there were no objections raised. One Councillor objected to the increase in height, but that was not reported to RDC as that objection was not quorate.

No further correspondence has been received from Planning

The Chairman had finally received a reply from Vellco and he is anticipating that the proposed inspection would take place in mid-January.

- 8. Police Matters:** Nothing to report.
- 9. VAS data:** The sign was returned on 21st September 2022, during the remainder of September the 85th percentile speed was 32.2mph, with an average speed of 28.3mph. This data is for vehicles travelling in an easterly direction.
For the period 1st October to 17th November the 85th percentile speed was 34.2mph, with an average speed of 28.3mph. This data is mainly for incoming traffic at the east end of the village, travelling in a westerly direction.
In both periods the maximum speed was 60 mph.
- 10. Village Green:** The Clerk has been corresponding with Cllr Sanderson and she has given us a grant of £3000 towards the cost of the fencing on the village green. This will cover the shortfall for the basic cost of the fencing, excluding VAT which we can claim back.
A piece went into the December Warbler to ask residents to shop at Tesco in Driffield to increase our chance of getting the maximum amount of money from Tesco. It was noted that currently one of the other potential recipients is a foodbank, so it may be difficult to get more votes than them.
NYCC have sent through a summary of which of the fencing is considered to be on the highway, and it is only a short section on the north west corner of the actual green, which we have to use one of their approved contractors for. We also have to apply for a structures licence which the Clerk will do. How we treat the subject of the approved contractor will need some negotiation.
A resident had put forward some alternative proposals which were discussed and the Council concluded that our position would not be changed and we should continue to plan for replacing all the existing fencing with recycled plastic white birdmouth fencing.
- 11. Defibrillator:** S Taylor reported that the defibrillator had been serviced and returned to possible use. A recommendation was made by the servicing company that the battery be replaced at a cost of £230 plus carriage. The battery has a life of 5 years. This was expenditure was approved by the Council.
- 12. Tree survey:** We have received the tree survey which highlights a few problems. The Horse Chestnut tree needs removal of dead wood above 25mm in diameter and a further inspection in the summer. The Oak tree needs trimming back to ensure a clearance of 1 metre from the road sign adjacent to it. A Silver Birch adjacent to the Star has light fittings attached to it.
It is interesting that the contractor says another general survey in three years, but our insurers are asking for an annual inspection. The Clerk will talk to our insurers regarding this.
- 13. Increases to Salary Scales:** YLCA have informed us that the LGA have reached agreement on new salary scales which are effective from 1st April 2022. The clerk's hourly rate will be increased to £14.48 effective from 1st April 2022.

The meeting closed at 20:40.

Next meeting is scheduled for 16th January 2023