

**Minutes of the meeting of Weaverthorpe Parish Council held at 7pm on 19th September
2023 in Weaverthorpe Village Hall**

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

There was one member of the public present

1. **Apologies for Absence:** There were no apologies for absence
2. **Matters to be raised by members of the public:** Cllr Taylor stated that whilst the working party on the village green were there, they noticed a child on an electric scooter. Electric scooters are illegal in public spaces. The Chair stated that the Parish Council have no powers on this subject and asked the Clerk to raise the matter via our Neighbourhood Police.
3. **To approve the minutes of the meeting of Weaverthorpe Parish Council held on 17th July 2023:** The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record of the meeting.
4. **Matters arising from the above minutes:** There were no matters arising.
5. **Finance & Governance:** One payment was made since the last meeting to the Clerk for materials for erecting the fencing: £259.86. This figure was approved by the council by email.

Payments to be made:

ROSPA invoice for inspection of play area £90

HMRC tax deducted from Clerk's wages £75.20

The Council approved the above payments.

After the above sum has been deducted the balances at the bank are as follows:

Current account: £3403.01

Reserve account: 2096.60

There is the second half of the precept (£2750) to be paid on 1st October. There is just under £1500 to be paid out until the year end in March 2024. The Clerk recommends that once the precept is received that £2750 be transferred to the reserve account. This was agreed by the Council.

The fence post driller which was purchased for the erection of the birdmouth fencing on the village green at a purchase price of £189.99, has been sold second-hand at a price of £125.

The Council had previously discussed the replacement of the internal auditor with an auditor from YLCA, the cost of this service will be in the region of £250. On investigation we do not need a qualified accountant to do the audit, the advice from YLCA on their Advice note 36 states: "There is no requirement for a person providing the internal audit to be professionally qualified". It was agreed that the Clerk would make enquiries in the village and offer a payment of circa £100 for the audit of the accounts in April 2024.

6. To receive details of any correspondence:

A message from Councillor Keane on a new approach to speeding in North Yorkshire.

Annual report from Age UK North Yorkshire Coast and Moors

email from S Thompson who lives at Butterwick on the new fencing and other issues at the village green. The council agreed that a response to that email be drafted pointing out that the height of the new fencing has not changed and that if the complainant was referring to the

higher-level fencing across the Gypsy Race, that has not changed it has just been painted. With regard to the hedge on the paddock adjacent to the green, the Clerk has spoken to the owner and he will be trimming the hedge in the near future. The comments about children crossing the road were noted but drivers approaching the junction, should already be preparing to stop as they pass the end of the hedge.

email from YLCA regarding a revised guide to the 80th anniversary of D Day on 6th June 2024 which was sent to all Councillors for information.

email from the PFCC on new funding to help prevent and tackle serious crime and violence in North Yorkshire

email from the PFCC who is making the work of her office more valuable to the public stating her team of employees provide huge value

7. Details of any planning applications:

**ZE23/01597/FUL: Change of use and alterations to school and outbuildings to form 2no. three-bedroom residential dwellings/ holiday cottages with associated landscaping, parking and store area following the removal of a mobile classroom
Location: C Of E Primary School Weaverthorpe**

There were no objections raised.

ZE23/03767/HOUSE | Extension of dropped kerb to extend crossing to full width of driveway | The Old Tailors Main Road Weaverthorpe North Yorkshire YO17 8EY

There were no objections raised.

A discussion took place on recent activity at Carvill's Pit, where concrete panels have been erected around the back edge and sides. The Chairman will speak with the owner.

8. **Police Matters** : None

9. **VAS data**: The VAS sign was located at the east end of the village on 29th June until 30th August when it was moved to the location at the Blue Bell. Whilst at the east end it was measuring traffic coming into the village from the Butterwick direction.

The average speed was 30.1 mph, which is higher than our recent averages, but unfortunately the traffic does not seem to slow down at the east end as well as it does at the west end. There were a total of 50,562 vehicles going through the village in the period and the top speeder was 60 mph at 05:40 on 30th June.

The sign was moved on 30th August to outside the Blue Bell. We encountered a battery problem in this location yet again, with the battery discharging firstly over 5 to 6 days, then over 3 days.

On 11th September, the Clerk raised the matter with the manufacturer and got an email back giving the engineer a date of 13th September to visit. The Clerk then told them that he was charging the battery again, that the postcode they had given was incorrect and asked that the engineer contact the Clerk so he could give the battery to the engineer to check. The Clerk received an email on 12th September to say the engineer had been, the battery was not in the sign, had it been stolen, and that was the reason the sign was not working! The Clerk telephoned the manufacturer and asked for the Customer Service Manager to call. No call was received so a complaint was sent by email to point out that if they had read the email that had been sent on 11th September they would have known that the battery was being charged again, so that was why it was not in the sign! On 13th the Clerk received a call from the Customer Service Manager, to say that they were sending out a new battery and charger with the engineer, which happened.

10. **Village Green:** The fencing was installed over two weekends in August and September and was completed on 10th September 2023. The working parties were well attended and apart from the installation of the fencing, we were able to paint the higher birdmouth sections on the entrance to Ropery Lane, trim back the lower growth on the horse chestnut tree and have a general tidy up.

Our thanks are extended to both Councillors and volunteers from the community without whose help we could not have carried out the project in such a short timescale.

The final sum for the purchase of materials is £7697.49 (including the purchase and sale of the fence post borer). It is worth noting in the minutes that is we had hired a post borer, the lowest quote we received for a minimum of one week's hire was £340. We would have incurred that twice for the two working parties. Purchase of the hole borer was £189.99 and we sold it for £125, therefore the cost of the hole borer was £64.99 as opposed to £680.

Total raised in donations is now £7475. We recently received a donation from Scoradale Limited of £150.

The whole purchase and installation cost the Parish £222.49, but in view of the savings on the post borer it has really cost us nothing.

We should however remember that doing the work ourselves has saved at least £3000, and also buying the fencing in April has saved a further £750 as the cost of the plastic posts has risen by over £12 each.

We also have spare post and horizontals which could be used to extend a couple of sections or kept as spares in the event of any damage. These are stored at the Village Hall. Thank you letters and emails have been sent to all those who helped or facilitated us in installing the fencing. Additionally, the Clerk will write a piece for the October Warbler thanking all the volunteers.

We have received the play equipment inspection report and almost all the areas have a low risk except for the ground beneath the three climbing frames which require an EN rated protection surface. Also, ten caps on the tunnel crawler need replacing. The report only came today so the Clerk has not had time to do any detailed research but early indications are that these will not be an expensive purchase.

One other subject on the village green is a no dogs allowed sign. This was a requirement of ROSPA after a playground inspection a few years ago. When we moved the equipment in 2021 a sign was put up according to ROSPA's recommendations. The sign says "Children's Play Area, No dogs allowed, An explanation of why the sign is there, that dog faeces can harm children, and details of the ownership by WPC." The first sign was removed after a few months so an additional phrase was added saying "please do not remove or tamper with this sign". In total the Clerk has replaced the laminated sign 5 times since its installation in 2021, The last time it was not only stapled but glued to the wooden post and it has been removed again.

With the permission of the Council the Clerk will put an article in the Warbler to point out that although one or more dog owners do not like the sign, it is there for a reason, and any further destruction of the sign will result in us taking it further. An aluminium sign screwed onto the post with security screws will cost less than £25, this sum was approved by the Council.

The meeting close at 19:50.

Next meeting 20th November 2023