

DRAFT

Minutes of the meeting of Hovingham with Scackleton Parish Council held at 7.00pm in Hovingham Village Hall on Tuesday 19th January 2010.

Present: Councillors Messer I. Battersby (Chairman), K. Harrison, M. Wilson, P. Chapman, A. James, R. Wainwright, Mrs W. Swann.

Clerk: Mrs S. Wainwright

Electors: Mr L. Hickes, Mr D. Richardson, Mrs G. Green, and Mr R. Thompson.

Apologies: There were apologies from District Councillor Mr J. Bailey.

Minutes: The draft minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 4th November 2009 in Hovingham Village Hall had been circulated and displayed. Councillor R. Wainwright proposed and Councillor P. Chapman seconded and it was unanimously agreed that they be signed as true record of the meeting.

In response to a letter from Mr D. Sumner the Chairman read the following statement to be recorded in the minutes.

FUTURE ORGANISATION - Clarification: The Parish Council as the statutory body for the village communities of Hovingham and Scackleton is also the Custodian Trustee for the Village Hall i.e. it is the signatory for the lease. As such it is responsible for ensuring that the village hall is managed by its management committee in accordance with the terms of the lease and in the best interests of the community. The Custodian Trustee does not and should not seek to manage the village hall. The same applies to the playground and the Playground Committee. Although it does not have the same contractual relationship with the Action Group and its sub groups the proposal agreed at the last meeting envisages a similar "arms length" responsibility of ensuring the best interest of the Hovingham and Scackleton communities, but not the management and for this reason will expect regular up-dates on its activities and financial position.

Matters Arising.

Hovingham Street Signs. Ryedale District Council had replaced a number of signs in poor condition.

Hovingham Village sign. The clerk had been contacted by the AONB offering to replace the sign on York Hill at no cost to the Parish Council. The offer had been accepted gratefully.

Hovingham Sign North. The Area Committee has awarded a grant of £200 towards the refurbishment of the sign in addition to the grant of £400 from the AONB. The Parish Council will need to contribute a further £200. Councillor A. James proposed and Councillor M. Wilson seconded that this work be authorised and the proposal was carried unanimously.

Pathway between Hovingham and Wath. Councillor M. Wilson had spoken with Graham Ward (North Yorkshire Highways) and more work had been done to clear the pathway but it is in a very poor state. Trees alongside the pathway had also been cut back.

Hovingham and Scackleton village seats. The majority of the seats had been collected in and Councillor R. Wainwright asked if any maintenance was to be done on them. It was agreed to ask Mr J. Anderson if he would treat all the seats with oil including the two at the cemetery and the one in the churchyard. Councillor A. James volunteered to take care of the one on York Hill.

Dog-waste bins. The clerk reported that due to the deployment of staff to clear snow there was a delay in erection of the dog waste bins but once the snow goes they will start the work.

Telephone Kiosk at Scackleton. After some discussion as to the value of keeping and maintaining the kiosk the Councillors were divided in their views. An elector at Scackleton is prepared to maintain the kiosk and if required funds could be raised towards the cost. Councillor R Wainwright proposed, Councillor K. Harrison seconded and it was agreed that the clerk make further investigation as to the additional cost involved in removing the power supply to the kiosk as well as the possibility of obtaining a grant. It had been agreed to purchase the kiosk at the cost of £1.

Precept. The current Precept is £2750. An application had been submitted to increase the Precept by £336 i.e. £3086 per annum.

Playground and Kick About Area Update. The old playground had been cleared and most of the new equipment has been installed though adjustments need to be made before it can be used. Councillor M. Wilson and Mrs M. Wilson have removed most of the barbed wire on top of the fence and once the weather improves the hedge planting will take place. The application for a grant of £500 from the Area Committee had been successful and funds had been raised through the market café and the 50% share in the sale of a recipe book. The clerk reported that the additional cost of insuring the equipment, estimated value of £20,00, with the current company would be £100.99 until the policy is renewed in June when the annual increase would be £277. If this amount included hedges, fences and soft landing surface then it

would be less. It was agreed that other insurance quotations should be obtained for the renewal in June but that in the interim the additional premium be taken out with the current provider.

NYCC Budget Consultation. Councillor P. Chapman had attended the Area Committee Meeting and reported there was considerable concern about the budget since there would be a reduction of £27 million from Central Government next year, making an overall decrease in spending of 5%. The snow had brought its own problems and though there was plenty of grit the Government cap would not permit it to be used. This meant that the amount of gritting carried out was below the service level pledged by the County Council. The cost of road repairs, especially potholes, will also be high.

Correspondence.

Mr D. Sumner. Councillors had all received a copy of Mr D. Sumner's letter. The Chairman had spoken to Mr D. Sumner with regard to his letter expressing concern about the minutes of the meeting held on 4th November 2009 with reference to the role of the Parish Council in relation to the Village Hall. (See Matters Arising) The issue regarding the responsibility of the car park was discussed and that it needed to be clarified. It was proposed that there should be an informal meeting between the Parish Council and the Village Hall management Committee to discuss the matter and a proposal brought to the next Parish Council Meeting. Councillor P Chapman proposed that the status quo continue until the meeting takes place. This was agreed.

Mr R. Firby. Councillors had all received a copy of Mr R. Firby's letter. The Parish Councillors representing Scackleton pointed out that although the area covered by the Parish of Scackleton was larger than Mr R. Firby indicated they were happy with current position and provision of services. Money had been provided for grass cutting as requested and the shared facilities were always available to the residents of Scackleton i.e. the loan of chairs and tables, use of the children's playground, bowling green and tennis court in the same way as they are for the residents of Hovingham.

Mr and Mrs M. McAndrew. The letter from Mr and Mrs M. McAndrew was noted. It concerned a private parking arrangement between Mr and Mrs M. McAndrew and the proprietor of McConnell Thomas. It was not considered a matter for the Parish Council.

Barclays Bank. The clerk reported that finally Barclays Bank had confirmed the new mandate and that the cheque signatories were Mr I. Battersby (Chairman) Mr A. James (Vice Chairman) and Mrs S. Wainwright (Clerk).

Finance.

Update. Councillors had copies of the accounts and budget forecast to date as drawn up by Councillor P. Chapman (attached to the minutes). He went through the detail and answered questions from Councillors. Another VAT claim had been submitted and approximately £1,800 is being held on behalf of the Action Group and £100 on behalf of HandS. Councillor A. James proposed and Councillor M. Wilson seconded that in future invoices for the Action Group could be paid from funds held by the Parish Council provided the signatories agreed that there were sufficient funds held on behalf of the Action Group to cover the invoice.

Underwriting HandS. The Chairman thanked Mrs G. Green and Mr R. Thompson for their work on the publication and congratulated them on its success. It is currently covering its costs but Mrs G. Green agreed it would be easier if the financial year comes in line with that of the Parish Council. She was concerned that it may result in a temporary deficit until advertising rates had been set and the money collected. It was felt this could be managed quite easily. Councillor A. James proposed, Councillor M. Wilson seconded and all agreed that the Parish Council should continue to underwrite the HandS.

Authority to transfer Action Group Funds. Councillor P. Chapman reported the Action Group has opened its own account with the Co-operative Bank and suggested that their funds held by the Parish Council should be transferred to this account. Councillor R. Wainwright proposed and Councillor M. Wilson seconded and all agreed that the monies should be transferred to the Action Group Account. The clerk requested authority to pay the current invoices from the Action Group Funds held by the Parish Council. Councillor A. James proposed Councillor M. Wilson seconded and all agreed that the invoices be paid.

Proposed Management of Funds. In light of the current financial situation and low interest rates it was proposed to close the NS&I account and transfer the funds to the Barclays Current Account. It was also proposed to transfer all but a nominal amount from the Business Premium Account (renamed Business Saver Account) into the same account.

Councillor A James proposed and Councillor K Harrison seconded the proposal and all approved.

Insurance. This had been discussed under the Playground Update

Auditor's Report. The clerk had received the report from the auditor. The notice and copies of the report will be displayed in the notice boards as required. It was agreed that a charge of £5 should be made should anyone require a copy. It was noted that each asset should be given the minimum value of £1.00.

The clerk would begin to draw up a list of the Parish Council's assets.

Appointment of Auditor. The Chairman explained that the Council is looking for someone to inspect the accounts prior to them being sent to the Auditor, Mazars. He had approached Mr P. Hobkinson who had declined. It was agreed to ask Mr J. Davies.

Planning Applications.

Spa House, Hovingham. This had been given approval.

Deer Keepers Lodge (Former Park House Farm) Hovingham. The Parish Council had not registered an objection to this retrospective application but was informed that there were residents who were concerned about the application. However the Council was disappointed that even if they had objected it would have been unlikely that any action would have been taken against the applicant.

Scackleton.

Councillor Mrs W. Swann put in a request for grit bins in Scackleton. The piles of grit that had been supplied had been removed and not used on the main road through Scackleton. The provision of bins may prevent any such occurrence in the future. The clerk was asked to deal with the matter

Elector's questions.

There were no questions from the electors that did not appear as items on the agenda.

Matters the Chairman wishes to draw to the attention of the Council.

The Chairman had met with Mr W. Worsley who was in the process of drawing up the final draft of the Development Plan for Hovingham Estate. This will be a long-term strategic plan and will come to the Parish Council for their comments. Mr W. Worsley is aware that not everyone will approve of the plan but believes it is important that the Parish Council is consulted on behalf of the village.

District Councillor Wainwright's Report.

District Councillor R. Wainwright reported that the timetable for the Local Development Framework had slipped and that it would not be completed until 2011. RDC proposed a 0% increase in Council Tax but since there would be a need to make further savings next year the officers were not happy that there would be no where they could make cuts. Car parking charges were still an issue and if they were waived in Malton then Helmsley and Pickering etc would also require the same treatment. There are seven firm offers of interest on the land at Wentworth Street car park. At this stage the RDC cannot stipulate how the land should be used. There is currently discussion with the Fitzwilliam Estate and it is hoped there will be a joint approach but understandably the Estate want to maximise their assets, which is their right. The Estate taking back the car park in the town centre has been of benefit to RDC.

The Chairman asked that District Councillor Wainwright let the Parish Councillors know when and if it would be appropriate for them to comment on the proposed developments in Malton.

Any other business

Clearing of snow from footpaths. Elector, Mr D. Richardson a member of the Housekeeping Group was concerned about the snow on the footpaths in the village and that a number of elderly residents had not been able to get out. He suggested that a plan should be drawn up to deal with any future snowfall. Volunteers could clear paths where tractors are unable to get and those who are fit enough be asked to clear in front of their property. A list could be drawn up of those who need help and those people who have equipment. It may be possible for the Parish Council to include the purchase of salt within its budget. A meeting between the Action Group/Housekeeping and the Parish Council is to be arranged to draw up a plan for dealing with heavy snowfall.

Flood Warden. Residents had been concerned that the early warning system was not working but it was working perfectly and a warning would only be issued if property were in danger of flooding. Mr Jon Knight from the Environment Agency would be willing to speak to anyone who is unhappy about the situation. Councillor K. Harrison had been to look at the early warning system and the diversion channel and he confirmed that they were in 100% working order.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.05 pm.

Date of the next meeting. Wednesday 3rd March 2010 at 7:00pm