

## MINUTES OF THE EAST WITTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 11 September 2019 IN THE PARISH ROOM

### Present

Mrs Mary Fawbert	Chairman
Mrs Michele De Vaal	Vice Chairman
Mr Richard Wells	Councillor
Mrs Christine Dent	Councillor
Mr Alan Fullerton	Councillor
Ms Sarah Sayer	Clerk to the Council
Members of the public (2)	

### Item 1 - Introduction and Apologies

Apologies received from Sue Fairhurst.

### Item 2 Public Questions

#### Road Closure

A query was raised about the nature of the road closure in early October. Residents advised that there were no details on the NYCC website. **Clerk to investigate.** If closure was to affect the whole of the village, residents would need to make alternative parking arrangements to leaving the car on the highway. PC happy for the village green to be used on those days if no other options were available, subject to ground conditions.

#### Grass Cutting

The issue of sub-standard grass cutting was raised by those members of the public attending the meeting. PC aware of the issues. PC went out to tender before the current season and decided to stay with Farm & Land Services due to cost implications of changing to another provider. The current cost per cut is £60 + Vat/cut, but alternative providers were quoting £145 and £120 +Vat per cut. This would have significant implications for the precept.

We currently have up to 13 cuts a year pencilled in, but as and when they are done is left up to the contractor. R Wells suggested we negotiate a contract with the current provider to ensure that the grass is cut more frequently. **The details of the contract to be discussed at the November meeting of the Parish Council.**

#### Broadband Speeds

A query was raised regarding broadband speeds. It was thought that the new exchange cabinet had improved the situation for the majority but if residents had any problems or issues then they should contact their internet service provider.

#### Benches

The condition of the benches was raised, again something the Parish Council are aware of and have been looking into repairs. A Fullerton and R Wells have carried out localised repairs over the years, but more needs to be done. The round seat needed some attention which A Fullerton had assessed and was hoping to undertake. However due to a variety of factors, the work has not been started yet. **Clerk to investigate Community Grants for repairs/replacement.** The PC is grateful of the offer for one of the benches to be refurbished by the husband of the resident attending the meeting.

#### Richmondshire District Council Bins

The bins, especially the mixed waste bin on the village green are not very attractive and are in a poor state of repair. Could they be replaced? **Clerk to contact RDC to ask.**

### Broken glass near to footpath

The matter of broken glass down by the river was discussed. The footpath lies within Middleham TC parish and it was not something that EWPC could pursue.

### Parish Council Website

This was not up to date with the minutes and it would be useful for the date of the next meeting to be put on the events section of the website. **Clerk to ensure that the PC is compliant with the Transparency Code.**

### Item 3 – Minutes of the last meeting

Minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed.

### Item 4 - Matters arising from Minutes

#### Traffic on Lowthorpe

The PC still have concerns about the type and speed of vehicles travelling on Lowthorpe despite NYCC advising that the highway is adequate for the traffic. The cost of carrying out a traffic survey is quite high, and it was decided that this would not be the best way to spend the precept this year. However, the PC would like to partially reimburse a resident on Lowthorpe who has paid to have the grips along the verge cleared to aid drainage of water. We will do so once the invoice has been received. It was also noted that land beneath the hedge was the responsibility of the landowner, and NYCC only had a responsibility for the verge up to a certain distance from the highway.

Lowthorpe is on the NYCC schedule of works 2020/21 for resurfacing.

Propose: That the PC continues to monitor traffic on Lowthorpe and assess the scope of the works due to be carried out by NYCC, and that partial reimbursement of the costs to rectify the standing water issue is met.

Resolved: Agreed as above.

#### Defibrillator

Money is required for training, replacement batteries and paddles. Is any funding available? **Clerk to look and let M Fawbert know of any funding streams.**

### Item 5 – Correspondence

- RDC – UCI Event Fund circular.
- RDC – Funding consultation for football and outdoor spaces – no comments.
- RDC – Notice of Review of Polling Stations. Clerk has completed the on line form and fed into Middleham TC response.
- Strutt & Parker – letter dated 29 Aug 2019 reiterating the terms of the permissive footpath agreement and raising issues of potential breach. Agreed that Strutt & Parker should deal with the situation according to the wishes of the Estate. R Wells has responded to Catherine Greenwood.
- Tony Hunt, Council for British Archaeology – Invitation to 1 day workshop.
- YLCA – Election of Parish Representative for YDNPA. No strong opinion from Cllrs. No vote proposed.
- YDNPA – Ranger response about the tree across the stepping stones. NYCC is responsible for these rather than YDNPA. This has been passed on to NYCC.
- Julian Sutcliffe – Police Reports circulated. Noted.
- Auditor – Receipt of Exemption Notice confirmed.
- Harrogate Council – Invitation to apply to be a representative for Nidderdale AONB. No response.

## **Item 6 – Planning**

### **Consultations:**

#### **RDC**

- 19/00355 Change of use of agricultural building to office at Hammer Farm, Jervaulx. No comments.
- 19/00227 Full PP for erection of rear lean-to extension at Keepers Cottage, Ellingstring. No comments.
- 19/00500 Full PP for alterations to arched entrance, garden walls and new greenhouse at Jervaulx Hall. No comments.
- 19/00501 LBC for alterations to arched entrance, garden walls and new greenhouse at Jervaulx Hall. No comments.
- 19/00565 Application for extensions to Harkerbeck, Jervaulx. No comments.
- 19/00593 Application for erection of extension to create wet room at The Old School, East Witton. No comments.
- 19/00594 LBC for erection of extension to create wet room at The Old School, East Witton. No comments.

#### **YDNPA**

- R/89/129A Full PP for erection of farm office at East Witton Lodge, East Witton. No comments.

### **Decisions:**

- 19/00142 Full PP to remove existing cattle shed and replace with new cattle shed at Angram Cote Farm, Ellingstring. CA 18/06/19.
- 19/00185 Variation of Condition 1 of 17/00729 at High Jervaulx Farm. CA 22/05/19
- 18/00894 Lawful development certificate for continued use of barn as a dwelling at barn south of Fleets Farm House, East Witton. Granted 17/05/19

## **Item 7 – Accounts**

The Statement of Account was read, approved and signed by The Chairman.

### **Expenditure (Since May Meeting)**

S L Sayer	£266.59
HMRC	£ 66.60
Farm & Land Services	£312.00

### **Receipts**

NYCC Grass Cutting	£173.91
BBQ – R Wells	£ 72.50
BBQ – R Wells	£ 45.00

The balance stood at **£3,100.55**

## **Item 7a – Setting the Precept**

RDC have asked Parish Councils to set the precept as early as possible, so that the financial arrangements can be put in place as smoothly as possible.

Proposed - To increase the Parish Precept by 3% (cost of living) = £100 extra per annum.

Resolved - To increase the Parish Precept by 3% (cost of living) = £100 extra per annum.

The precept sum is therefore increased to £3450.00 for 2010/21. **Clerk to contact RDC.**

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**Item 8 – Lease of the Village Green**

The 20-year lease expires in 2020. **Clerk to contact Strutt & Parker to discuss.**

**Item 9 -Review of Polling Stations**

The review proposed to remove the Polling station provision from East Witton. This would not be considered acceptable for most residents of the village. **Clerk to respond to the consultation.**

**Item 10 – Yorkshire Village of the Year 2019**

Discussed this as being a positive thing to do as a village and it might help the community come together in a joint venture. However due to the limited time to enter (end of September), it was proposed that we look at entering the local Rotary club “Best Village” competition next year.

**Item 11 – Any Other Business**

**BT Kiosk**

M de Vaal – apologies for not cleaning/maintaining the display of information in the kiosk. This was due to ill health. It has now been done and regular tidying has recommenced. Thanks expressed for the work put in to the kiosk to provide a good range of leaflets, walks, local info. and a book exchange.

**Slurry Spreading**

C Dent advised that slurry tankers would be driving through the village over the next few days. Noted.

**Footpath off Braithwaite Lane**

A Fullerton advised that the field containing the footpath had again been ploughed right up to the wall; taking out the footpath. Could temporary fencing posts be put in to protect the strip of land next to the wall for the length of the field in question? This would prevent contractors from ploughing up to footpath. C Dent advised that the land has now been re-seeded and would not be ploughed again for 3 years. It was resolved to bear this in mind for next time.

**Swaledale and Wensleydale Flood Recovery Fund**

The Parish Council agreed to support the recovery fund by sending a donation of £100.

**Two Ridings Community Foundation**

Pavilion 2000, Amy Johnson Way, York, YO30 4XT

**Clerk to issue a cheque.**

**Item 9 – Date of the next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 20 November 2019, commencing at 7.30pm in the Parish Room.

MF will book this. **Clerk to put date on the website and the Noticeboard.**

PLEASE NOTE THAT ANY PUBLIC QUESTIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO THE CLERK AT LEAST 3 WORKING DAYS BEFORE THE MEETING.

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**Signature.....**

**Date.....**