

NORTH STAINLEY WITH SLENINGFORD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

DATE: Tuesday 18th September 2012
TIME: 19.30 hrs
LOCATION: North Stainley Village Hall
PRESENT: Councillors Margaret Goddard (Vice-Chair), Ian Alston, Carolyn Mahan and James Stuart-Mills.
IN ATTENDANCE: Iona Taylor (Clerk)
District Councillor Margaret Atkinson and County Councillor Paul Richardson
Richard Plummer (Chair of Governors, North Stainley C of E Primary School) and James
Staveley (North Stainley Estates)
19 members of the public.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Alston declared an interest in agenda item 9 as he is a member of North Stainley Sport & Recreation Trust.

Councillor Stuart-Mills declared an interest in discussions regarding the provision of a new school as he is a parent of a child attending the existing facility.

County Councillor Richardson asked that it be noted that he is a member the governing body of North Stainley C of E Primary School.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Bailey and Tordoff as they were on holiday.

3. VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT

Richard Plummer and James Staveley attended to update the Parish Council on proposals for development in the village, primarily the provision of a new school. The purpose of their report was to not only update the Parish Council but to try and correct various rumours circulating around North Stainley.

Richard Plummer and the Headteacher, Mrs Watts, have recently met with representatives of North Yorkshire County Council's Education Department. The following points, arising from that meeting, were reported by Mr Plummer:

- That the school is projected to have a capacity problem within 2 years. But that there are other primary schools within North Yorkshire with a greater capacity problem at present.
- That the school has a "not fit for purpose" problem that cannot be solved on the current site. The expansion of the school was explored in 2006 by NYCC and it was decided that any building on current site would impact too greatly on the outside space.
- That the combination of the above factors and that we are not asking for 100% NYCC funding means we have a compelling case for a new school.
- That a 90 place, 3 class, school was the correct size for the North Stainley
- That there is a general shortage of primary school places in the area
- The amount of funding for NYCC school building projects at present is on a 1 year allocation. The next allocation of funding will be known in December 2012.

NYCC has agreed that it will commission and fund a desk top feasibility study to establish an accurate and agreed cost to build a school for North Stainley including examining any planning issues with their planning department. The study will use a combination of the building specification developed with Builtoffsites and the standard NYCC primary school model.

The results of this study will determine how and where the project proceeds. Mr Plummer was therefore invited to the November meeting to update the Parish Council, with a view to moving towards a full public consultation on proposals for a new school. Mr Staveley indicated that Front Field (behind Lavender Lane) remains his preferred site, although others are being considered.

Mr Plummer has a meeting scheduled with North Stainley Sport & Recreation Trust to discuss the facilities that will be proposed to be included in the new school and any impact that it may have on the Village Hall.

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James Staveley also indicated that there are presently **no** proposals for further housing in North Stainley, or to fund the new school through housing development, due to a combination of market forces and Harrogate Borough Council's unwillingness to allow further development in the village during the current LDF plan period.

It was agreed that the allotment project needs to continue to be deferred pending the outcome of the County Council's study.

Mr Staveley also advised that he is working with an architect on a scheme for the redevelopment of the village shop.

4. OWNERSHIP OF COMMUNAL AREAS IN NORTH STAINLEY

4.1 Revised wording for letter of guarantee re. crassula helmsii removal.

A revised letter was received, amended to reflect item 4.2 below.

4.2 Management of future fishing of ponds.

James Staveley indicated his desire to ensure that the ponds continue to be available for informal fishing by children. The Parish Council agreed that it is minded to allow this arrangement to continue.

Allan Cooper, of Roseberry Green, agreed to continue his stewardship of this arrangement. James Staveley indicated that he would be willing to take over this role if required in due course.

4.3 Transfer documentation.

James Staveley handed copies of the transfer documentation (comprising two TP1 documents, accompanying maps and letter of guarantee) to the Parish Council which will be circulated to Councillors for their consideration.

It was agreed that the Parish Council should proceed to sign and complete the land transactions, subject to detailed examination by Councillors not uncovering any unexpected issues.

4.4 Other issues relating to this item.

It was noted that the verge outside 20 Watermill Lane will not be transferred to the Parish Council as the development company which owned it has gone in to receivership. This will not make any practical difference as it is included on the County Council's schedule and the Parish Council is therefore reimbursed for cutting it.

5. MINUTES FROM THE LAST MEETINGS

The minutes of the meetings held on 17th July and 21st August 2012 were agreed and signed.

6. ITEMS CARRIED FORWARD FROM THE LAST MEETINGS

6.1 Clerk's appraisal.

It was noted that due to insufficient time to complete the appraisal at the first session this item is to be deferred until the November meeting.

6.2 Parish magazine – to be continued to next meeting.

6.3 Code of Conduct.

It was noted that this item is to be deferred to the next meeting as no training sessions are being offered yet.

6.4 Lightwater Valley postcode.

It was noted that Lightwater Valley are investigating the possibility of changing the theme park's postcode and that the Clerk has supplied a letter of support from the Parish Council to assist with this process.

6.5 Website provision.

It was agreed that the Clerk should proceed to set up a dedicated website for the Parish Council using a service provided by BT. The website is free to set up and to maintain, the only cost to the Parish Council being the Clerk's time. The new site will be linked to the existing North Stainley website by an address only and the Clerk will ask that all other information about the Parish Council be removed.

The website address will be www.northstainleyparishcouncil.btck.co.uk

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7. HIGHWAYS

7.1 Report from VAS Working Group.

It was noted that the Working Group is recommending, as expected, that the County Council's permanent VAS protocol be left unchanged. Its report will be considered and, probably, ratified by the Executive next week.

It is however recommending that a temporary VAS protocol be implemented, whereby each Area Committee will have two mobile devices (14 across the County) that can be sited in areas with perceived speeding problems at the request of Parish Councils. Although the capital cost of purchasing these devices will be covered by the County Council, the cost of running, siting and maintaining them will be passed on to the Parish Council's participating in the scheme.

Concerns about the potential efficiency of this scheme, which will be administered by the local Community Safety Partnerships, were noted but County Councillor Richardson recommended that it be given a chance as a possibly effective mechanism of calming traffic.

It was agreed that the Parish Council should request further information about the reasons for limiting the number of devices to 14 and whether they were driven by financial constraints or a desire to avoid over-proliferation. This is important as the policy does not seem to allow for parishes, or groups of parishes, who are willing and able to do so to purchase their own devices.

7.2 Progress with highways faults.

<i>Ref.</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Progress</i>
NS 1/12	Overhanging vegetation on Watermill Lane.	A number of owners have now pruned back the vegetation near their properties. Highways North Yorkshire has advised that they will crown lift the trees on Watermill Lane within the next three months.
NS 2/12	Potholes at junction of Watermill Lane with A6108.	To be repaired within 2 months.
NS 3/12	Potholes in 40mph zone of A6108.	To be reported to Highways North Yorkshire.

7.3 Traffic near Village Square.

Harrogate Community Safety Partnership has advised that the experts for car park layouts and the safety of users is the Area Highways Office, however it was noted that the top end of Watermill Lane and the Village Square are not adopted roads.

It was agreed that the Parish Council has acted reasonably by drawing attention to this problem in the newsletter and that no further action should be taken.

8. PLAY AREA

It was agreed that the Parish Council should use Digley Associates (recommended by the Council's insurers) to carry out the annual inspection of the play area. The cost of this service will be £50, but includes preparation of an updated risk assessment of the site.

9. NORTH STAINLEY SPORT & RECREATION TRUST

The following report was considered:

- The Trust is in the final stages of taking over ownership of the Village Square from the Staveley family.
- The Trust is seeking to recruit a new volunteer to manage the North Stainley community website.
- The Trust confirmed, and reinforced, its position that dogs are not allowed **anywhere** on the Recreation Ground or in the Village Hall. This includes dogs on a lead, on the path, the Village Hall side garden or any other areas of the Recreation Ground, but excludes assistance dogs.
- The Trust is to meet with Richard Plummer (Chair of Governors at North Stainley C of E Primary School) to discuss proposals for a new school in the village and how this might impact on the Village Hall.
- The Trust is still proposing to carry out a survey of residents about their usage of the hall.
- The Trust is working to have a water supply installed to the community garden and to have the cracks in the maze repaired by the contractor who installed it.
- After a quiet August period the running of the hall is now continuing as normal.

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10. PARISH CARETAKER

- It was agreed to review the Parish Council's position re. Himalayan Balsam in Spring 2013.
- The painted stones near the play area are acceptable now that the grass around them is being cut.
- The gate at the play area requires adjusting so that it cannot be wedged open.
- Ragwort to be pulled around the village.

11. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

11.1 Consultations on planning applications – none.

11.2 Decisions and updates on applications, appeals and enforcement investigations.

<i>Reference</i>	<i>Proposal</i>	<i>Outcome</i>
6.12.37.AO.FUL 12/01874/FUL	Installation of 36 ground mounted solar photovoltaic panels at 9, The Old Palace.	Passed
6.12.89.A.FUL 12/02895/FUL	Erection of detached garage at The Grange, Sutton Grange.	Passed

11.3 Extension proposals at Potgate Quarry.

It was noted that a slightly revised non-technical summary detailing proposals for an extension at Potgate Quarry have been received. The changes are of a presentation nature and do not change the extraction area.

12. CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk reported on items received, including:

12.1 County Council Highways & Transportation Service.

North Yorkshire County Council has written to all Parish Councils advising them of the current position and developments and challenges facing the Highways and Transportation Service.

The letter can be summarised as being an explanation of how the Service is trying to maintain service levels with limited funding. This Parish will not benefit from £25,000 of funding given to each County Councillor to allocate to areas most in need of highways maintenance in their ward.

12.2 Register of Interests Forms.

Register of Interests forms were given to Councillors, who are asked to complete and return them to Harrogate Borough Council as soon as possible.

12.3 External Auditor – 2013 onwards.

The Audit Commission has confirmed that Littlejohns LLP has been appointed as the Council's external auditor from 2013.

13. FINANCIALS

13.1 Bank balances as at 18th September 2012.

- Santander (Day-to-Day) Current a/c..... £4357.56
- Santander Savings a/c..... £50.00
- HSBC Current (Allotment) a/c..... £100.00
- HSBC Savings (Walk Leaflet) a/c..... £250.06

13.2 Payments made prior to, or at this meeting.

The following payments were approved and recorded:

- Iona Taylor (Clerk, July and August 2012) £323.44
- Walled Garden Scheme (Invoice 892 – Caretaker, June 2012)..... £213.00
- Walled Garden Scheme (Invoice 916 – Caretaker, July 2012) £162.00
- Walled Garden Scheme (Invoice 953 – Caretaker, August 2012) £162.00
- Came & Company (Insurance) £246.34
- Farm & Land Services Ltd (Invoice 3711) £198.00
- Mazars (External Auditor) £162.00

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13.3 Monies received prior to, or at this meeting.

The following receipts were recorded:

- HM Revenue & Customs (VAT Reimbursement, 1/6/12 – 31/8/12) £183.70
- North Yorkshire County Council (Instalment of LEADER Grant)..... £185.73

13.4 External auditor's opinion on the 2011/12 accounts.

The External Auditor's opinion was that:

"On the basis of our review, in our opinion the information contained in the Annual Return is in accordance with the Audit Commission's requirements and no matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met."

14. **NEXT MEETINGS**

The next meetings were confirmed as being on 16th October (planning) and 20th November 2012 (ordinary). Meetings are held at 19.30hrs in North Stainley Village Hall.

15. **ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE NEXT MEETING**

- Mid-Year Financial Reports & 2013/14 budget.
- Improvement of recycling area.
- Questions for consultation meeting with Harrogate Borough Council (3rd December 2012, 6pm in Ripon Town Hall).
- Signage required as a result of increased proximity of Potgate Quarry workings to public footpath (to be raised with Potgate Quarry as soon as possible).

16. **QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

- Gill Hall thanked the Parish Council for the work that it carries out.

Meeting closed at 21.27 hrs.

These minutes were recorded and prepared by Iona Taylor, Clerk to the Parish Council.

SIGNED: (Chairman)

DATE: