

NORTH STAINLEY WITH SLENINGFORD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

DATE: Tuesday 20th March 2012
TIME: 19.30 hrs
LOCATION: North Stainley Village Hall
PRESENT: Councillors Glenys Bailey (Chair), Margaret Goddard (Vice-Chair), Ian Alston, David Bryant, Jackie Donaldson, James Stuart-Mills and Steve Tordoff.
IN ATTENDANCE: Iona Taylor (Clerk)
District Councillor Margaret Atkinson
James Staveley, Giles Rickards and Kevin Parker (North Stainley Estates)
Chris Grundy and Emma Griffiths (Allotment Working Group)

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Bailey and Alston declared personal interests in agenda item 9 as they are members of North Stainley Sport & Recreation Trust.

Councillor Alston also declared a personal interest in agenda item 4.1 (ownership / maintenance of communal areas in North Stainley) as he could be required to pay a contribution to the future upkeeps costs.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from County Councillor Paul Richardson.

3. MINUTES

The minutes of the last meetings held on 17th January and 21st February 2012 were approved and signed.

4. ITEMS CARRIED FORWARD FROM THE LAST MEETINGS

4.1 Ownership / maintenance of communal areas in North Stainley.

Giles Rickards reported that identifying the individual clauses relating to the maintenance of communal areas in the deeds of houses on Watermill Lane is proving to be a laborious and difficult task. North Stainley Estates' solicitor is therefore concentrating on whether and how it would be possible to rescind the clauses, on the basis that if they no longer exist the Parish Council would not need to enforce them when it takes over ownership of the communal areas.

Preparations are underway to tackle the crassula helmsii weed problem in the small pond. A licence to remove the fish is being applied for from the Environment Agency. This would be carried out prior to a membrane being spread over the pond. It is hoped that the work will be carried out in the first two weeks of April.

4.2 Car parking scheme in Ripon.

Full responses to this Parish Council's enquiries have now been received from the Ripon Chamber of Trade and Commerce and Ripon City Council.

The former refund scheme near Sainsbury's car park has now ceased completely and signage has been removed. The scheme operating near Booths is in the process of being expanded to include other retailers.

The policy of charging to park on the Market Square is for a trial period and comments from this Parish Council will be fed in to the review process.

5. POTGATE QUARRY

Prior to considering proposals for Potgate Quarry, James Staveley spoke to the meeting about the relationship between the quarry as a source of revenue for North Stainley Estates and his ambitions to improve facilities in North Stainley – such as the pub and redevelopment of the shop / garage site. There is however no immediate prospect of the shop / garage site redevelopment being undertaken.

Kevin Parker, manager at Potgate Quarry, was introduced to the meeting and provided an overview of the current extraction areas and proposals for a small scale extension to the quarry. The extension, in a north westerly direction between Musterfield Farm and Musterfield Lane, would generate an estimated 1.5 million tonnes of material. This would be blended with the lower grade material that is currently being extracted. It is expected that the material in the extension would be extracted within the same timeframe as that under the existing permission (approximately another 15 years). The same quarry access route, working hours and equipment would be used.

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It was noted that the Parish Council was consulted on these proposals by North Yorkshire County Council in 2010 when it raised concerns about the proximity of the proposed works to Musterfield Lane and arrangements for the permanent diversion of the nearby Public Right of Way. Councillors agreed that these concerns had been addressed as follows:

- The Public Right of Way will eventually be reinstated on its original line with an additional route around the proposed extension also being dedicated.
- The proposals include a stand-off zone from Musterfield Lane to ensure that the structural integrity of the road is not compromised.

In view of recent concerns about the low water table it was noted that there would be no need for any de-watering to take place during the extraction of material from the extension area.

It is expected that a planning application will be submitted to North Yorkshire County Council in the next few weeks. It is proposed that stakeholder partnership, including liaison with the Parish Council, will play an important role in the future of the quarry as it seeks to become a 'model operator'.

6. ALLOTMENTS

Updated terms of reference for the Allotment Working Group were approved.

The meeting considered a suite of documents relating to the provision of allotments, comprising:

- Proposal document for the provision of allotments in North Stainley.
- A draft lease between the Parish Council and James Staveley t/a North Stainley Estates.
- A draft tenancy agreement between the Parish Council and allotment holders.

Chris Grundy was thanked for all the work that he has put in to preparing these documents.

It was agreed that it will not be necessary to form an Allotment Association as the Parish Council will be capable of directly overseeing the management of the allotments.

Both the Parish Council and James Staveley indicated their general support for these documents, subject to the points below.

- The Working Group will review the boundary of the proposed site to ensure that is optimally positioned aesthetically and for plot layout purposes.
- Information will be sought from the Yorkshire Local Councils Associations (YLCA) about whether the Parish Council is a municipal authority and if it can restrict the keeping of chickens, bees and rabbits on the allotments.
- The Working Group will proceed to draw up a specification for the site, including details of the buildings that will be allowed and how they will be controlled.
- Mr Staveley will advise of the rent that he would want for the site, expected to be in the region of £70 / acre / year.

7. OIL CO-OPERATIVE

It was noted that Linda Robinson, who lives on Roseberry Green, has volunteered to be the co-ordinator for this scheme and, following a meeting with Rural Action Yorkshire, has begun to prepare the necessary documentation for the North Stainley Oil Club. Mrs Robinson was thanked for taking on this role.

The Parish Council considered the documentation and agreed its support for the Oil Club, to include covering any start-up costs such as stationery or advertising (not expected to exceed £30). It was also agreed that it would be appropriate to use the Annual Parish Meeting as an opportunity to 'kick-start' the Oil Club.

8. HIGHWAYS

It was noted that information from Julian Smith MP and the Harrogate Borough Council Consultation Meeting suggests that the drawing up of a Mobile Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) protocol will play a major part of the County Council's review, although further details about the process have not yet been released.

9. NORTH STAINLEY SPORT & RECREATION TRUST

A report on the recent work of the Trust was submitted to Councillors, including guidance from the Charity Commission about the role of a Custodian Trustee. Councillors affirmed their view that the Parish Council's role as Custodian Trustee for North Stainley Sport & Recreation Trust does not put it at any risk of financial liability relating to the Trust's assets in the future (for example if the Village Square were to require resurfacing once in the Trust's ownership).

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10. JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

It was noted that the Sport & Recreation Trust is leading the organisation of North Stainley Jubilee celebrations in partnership with the Church and other village groups, centering around a 'big lunch' on 3rd June 2012.

It is proposed that the community garden will be formally opened as part of the Jubilee celebrations and will be known as the Jubilee Garden. A grant has been secured through Harrogate Borough Council to pay for plaques and an interpretation panel.

The Trust is looking into purchasing a commemorative item for each child in the village.

11. PARISH CARETAKER

It was agreed that the caretaker should be asked to check the play area fencing to ensure that it is robust, rodent and rabbit proof and to clear rubbish from in and around the stream behind the playground.

12. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

12.1 Consultations on applications – none.

12.2 Updates and decisions on applications, appeals and enforcement investigations – none.

12.3 Training on Localism Act.

Arrangements for training about the planning aspects of the Localism Act on 31st March were noted. Councillors are encouraged to attend if possible. The Clerk will provide background information prior to this event.

Other sessions on the Act generally and the changes to the Standards regime are also expected to be arranged by YLCA and Harrogate Borough Council in the next few weeks.

13. CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk reported on items received, including details of changes to the opening times of Ripon Library which will be implemented from w/c 4th June 2012. The new times will be Mondays 10am to 6pm, Tuesdays to Fridays 10am to 5pm and Saturdays 10am to 2pm.

14. FINANCIALS

14.1 Bank balances as at 20th March 2012.

- Santander Current a/c £4864.79
- Santander Savings a/c £50.00
- HSBC Current a/c..... £0.00
- HSBC Savings a/c..... £250.00

Confirmation is awaited of the closure of the Council's two former Alliance & Leicester accounts.

14.2 Payments made prior to, or at this meeting.

The following payments were approved and recorded:

- The Walled Garden Scheme (Caretaker, January 2012 – Invoice 734..... £162.00
- The Walled Garden Scheme (Caretaker, February 2012 – Invoice 752..... £162.00
- Iona Taylor (Clerk, January & February 2012) £403.16
- North Stainley Sport & Recreation Trust (Hall Hire, January – March 2012) .. £22.40

It was agreed that information about the continuation of the parish news should be sought prior to making a donation for the 2012/13 financial year.

14.3 Monies received prior to, or at this meeting – none.

14.4 Internal auditor for the 2011/12 financial year.

It was agreed that Mr Place of Mallorie Court, Ripon be appointed as the Council's Internal Auditor for the 2011/12 financial year at a cost of £40.

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14.5 Membership of YLCA.

It was agreed that the Council should renew its membership of this organisation for the 2012/13 financial year, at a cost of £230.

15. **NEXT MEETINGS**

The next meetings were confirmed as being:

- The Annual Parish Meeting and a planning meeting on 17th April.
- The Annual Parish Council Meeting and an ordinary Parish Council meeting on 15th May.

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

- Consultation on the Minerals and Waste Development Framework.

17. **QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC – none.**

18. **DISTRIBUTION OF ELECTION NOMINATION FORMS**

The Clerk provided those Councillors wishing to stand for re-election with a nomination form.

Jackie Donaldson has announced her decision not to stand for re-election and so was presented with flowers as a token of the Council's appreciation of the time that she has served as a Councillor.

Meeting closed at 21.39 hrs.

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

SIGNED: (Chairman)

DATE: