

NORTH STAINLEY WITH SLENGFORD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

DATE: Tuesday 22nd May 2018
TIME: 8.15pm (following the Annual Parish Council Meeting)
LOCATION: North Stainley Village Hall
PRESENT: Councillors Glenys Bailey (Chair), Ian Alston, Margaret Goddard, Mike Porter
CLERK: Nick Reed (minutes)
IN ATTENDANCE: Three Members of the Public (MoP)

18.09	Declarations of interest Cllr Goddard declared a pecuniary and ownership interest in item 18.18 Cllrs Alston and Bailey declared in interest in item 18.22 as trustees of NSSRT.
18.10	Apologies Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Bryant.
18.11	Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 10th April 2018 These were AGREED as a true record of the meeting, and signed as such by Cllr Bailey.
18.12	Ordinary Vacancies There being two ordinary vacancies resulting from the elections of May 3 rd , the Council RESOLVED to co-opt Elizabeth Falkingham to one of those positions. <i>Action: Clerk to inform Harrogate BC accordingly</i>
18.13 18.131	Ongoing issue from the minutes for updating Dog fouling: There was some confusion as to whether Harrogate BC had indeed put up new signage near the three silver birch trees on Watermill Lane. <i>Action: Clerk to investigate</i>
18.132	Signage: The Cockpit Close sign has been reinstated satisfactorily.
18.14	Questions or comments from members of the public A MoP raised the topic of a semi-mature lime tree (<i>tilia cordata</i>), about 3m in height, which had been felled on Watermill Lane [ref Item 18.17], making the following points: that a neighbour had discussed felling the tree but that this MoP had made their objections clear; that the neighbour had then sought and obtained permission from North Stainley Estates, believing them to still be the owners of the land in question which was in fact passed to this parish council in 2011; that the loss of the tree has had a significant detrimental effect to the character of the immediate area and the village in general. Finally, for the benefit of the parish in general, they wished to ensure that this situation – of a tree planted on community land being inappropriately felled – does not occur again.
18.17 (taken early)	Felled tree on Watermill Lane Following on from the above comments, the council considered the matter of the felled tree, concluding the following: That the tree and the land it stood on are Parish Council property and therefore the felling without consultation was in error; That in all probability, even without a Tree Preservation order, the tree would have been part of the landscaping scheme approved by Harrogate BC when the relevant part of Watermill Lane was planned and built; That the resident responsible acted in good faith and was given permission via North Stainley Estates which was not theirs to give;

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	<p>That the felling of the tree has seriously affected the visual amenity of the Watermill Lane area, and that the replacement tree is wholly inadequate to remedy this;</p> <p>That the Parish Council should assert its ownership and right over the land.</p> <p>Accordingly the council RESOLVED to purchase a semi-mature lime tree of similar size and type and plant it as near as practical to the site of the felled tree, and further RESOLVED to write to Watermill Lane residents explaining this decision and emphasising the council's ownership of this and similar verges on Watermill Lane..</p> <p>It was suggested that Harrogate BC's Arboricultural Officer be asked for their advice on the purchase, placement and planting of the new tree. (The Clerk noted that they had noted their concern about the tree's removal and had offered to provide and plant a suitable specimen at cost price.)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Action: Clerk to progress all of the above</p>
18.15	<p>Financial Statement and Approvals for Payment</p> <p>The Council's cash book balance was noted as being £16,525.95</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to approve the following payments:</p> <p>MHS Countryside Management (grass cutting) £720.00; Cam & Co (2018-19 Insurance) £442.67; DTMS Ltd (caretaking) £181.44; Spectrum Futures CIC (Internal Audit) £160.10; Wicksteed Ltd (annual playground inspection) £72.00; Parish Clerk (salary – May);</p>
18.16	<p>Planning applications and decisions</p> <p>Applications: there were none to report</p> <p>Decisions: the Council NOTED the approval subject to standard conditions of application 18/01218/FUL for an extension and garage conversion at 3 Roseberry Green.</p>
18.17	[see above]
18.18	<p>Watercourse Leading Out from Ponds</p> <p>It was noted that the council had received a letter from a parishioner raising concerns about the clearance of the culvert / beck leading out from the large pond, claiming that this had not been cleared in some time, causing issues with pond levels and erosion of gardens belonging to pondside properties. The council noted that these allegations were on their face without merit, with photographic evidence available from the parish caretakers of work undertaken, and with the beck flowing freely without congestion even through this exceptionally wet spring. The council also noted that the water table around the village was particularly high for this reason, and that the burden of proof for such allegations lay with the complainant to provide evidence that erosion was happening and that there was a causal connection between the state of the beck and any such erosion.</p> <p>Having established the above, the council also noted that Cllr Porter and a parishioner with a surveying background had examined the beck in mid-May and found 6-8cm of silt accumulated in the bed. This is lower than when the beck was last surveyed in 2016, and lower than the weir, but still a situation which merited continued observation.</p> <p>The council RESOLVED as a gesture of goodwill to ask the parish caretakers to clear the beck once again and on a regular basis, and to obtain a quote for the dredging of the beck.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Action: Clerk to contact the parishioners who had written the letter Clerk to ensure that DTMS clear the beck on a regular basis as part of their caretaking duties Clerk to obtain quote/s for dredging of silt, and seek council opinion "in principle" by email on receipt</p>
18.19	<p>Play Area</p> <p>The Council considered the annual report and RESOLVED to rectify the two items which were of "Medium" concern. It was noted that the play area is now over 15 years old and that it would be prudent to consider funding options for a medium-term replacement, notably via community funds which local quarries may manage.</p>

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	<i>Action: Clerk to seek quotes for the work, and obtain in-principle approval from Councillors via email</i>
18.20	Parking on verges The council noted that a car has been parked continually on the verge of the A6108 between The Shepherdis and Beatswell Lawn. The Clerk has investigated and NY Police report that no offence is being committed but that it could be seen as either abandoned, thus justifying Harrogate BC Environmental Health action, or obstructing the highway, thus justifying NYCC Highways intervention. <i>Action: Clerk to progress</i>
18.21	North Stainley Sport and Recreation Trust Cllr Alston noted that there was nothing of significance to report. After a brief discussion it was AGREED that a report from NSSRT was no longer needed as a standing item on the parish council agenda.
18.22	Correspondence
18.221	Harrogate BC Members Service: noting the next Parish Concutation meeting as being on Thursday 28 June at 6pm at Darley Memorial Hall.
18.222	Harrogate BC Elections: reminding councillors that declarations of election expenses must be submitted by 31 st May even if no expenses were incurred.
18.223	YLCA: noting a 2% cost of living increase for local/parish council employees effective from 1 April for all staff on NALC/SLCC national contract scales, including NSSPC staff.
18.224	Post Office Network Operations: noting that the mobile post office would now only stop in North Stainley on Mondays between 11am – 12 noon

The meeting closed at 9.40pm.

SIGNED: (Chair)

DATE: