

Tanfield Parish Council

MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

DATE: Wednesday 30th May 2012
TIME: 19.30 hrs
LOCATION: West Tanfield Memorial Hall
PRESENT: Councillors David Parkinson (Chairman), Richard Middleton (Vice-Chairman), Jim Beadle and Derek Padgett
IN ATTENDANCE: Iona Taylor (Clerk)
District Councillor David Webster
Steven Houston and 11 Nosterfield residents.

1. WELCOME FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Councillor Parkinson welcomed all those present to the meeting and noted that it was good to see so many people attending.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Councillor Parkinson declared a prejudicial interest in agenda item 5.2 (reimbursement of his lawnmower expenses).

3. APOLOGIES – None.

4. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

4.1 Consultations on applications.

The following responses were agreed in relation to consultations being carried out by Hambleton District Council:

- *12/00943/FUL - Retrospective application for a change of use of agricultural land to mixed use of agricultural and the storage of trailers and equipment for grounds maintenance company and the construction of a boundary fence and retention of a shed and ancillary hardstanding to store equipment and chemicals at The Long Acres Fore Lane Thornborough North Yorkshire DL8 2PQ* – it was agreed that the Parish Council has no objections to this application.
- *12/01003/FUL - Retrospective application for a change of use of domestic garage to a joinery workshop at Garage At Rear Of Roselea Thornborough North Yorkshire DL8 2RE* – It was agreed that the Parish Council has no comments to submit in relation to this application but asks that neighbours' concerns and views be taken into account and that Hambleton District Council's planning committee determines this application after the benefit of a site visit.
- *12/01139/CAT - Proposed felling of tree at Bramley House, Main Street, West Tanfield* – It was agreed that the Parish Council has no objections to this application.

4.2 Planning Enforcement issue behind Stonehaven, Nosterfield.

It was noted that within the last four days 2 mobile homes have been sited on land behind Stonehaven, possibly in connection with the development of the barn attached to the bungalow which has the benefit of planning permission for conversion as an annex to the main dwelling.

It was noted that this has been reported to Hambleton District Council (in their role as the relevant planning authority) and an officer has already carried out a site visit. The Parish Council will ask to be kept informed of progress in relation to this case.

5. GRASSCUTTING

5.1 Issues regarding cutting in West Tanfield.

Further to the April Parish Council meeting, it was reported that a ride-on lawnmower has now been provided for, and is being used by, Brian Porteus when cutting the grass in West Tanfield on behalf of the Parish Council.

The following advice from the Council's insurance provider was noted:

“Concerning the equipment being used on Parish Council business, you have a duty of care as the 'Employer' to ensure that the equipment is safely maintained, that protective equipment is supplied i.e. safety shoes etc. and the users of the machines have adequate training.”

After lengthy discussion it was agreed, with regret, that the safety, training and insurance issues which the gift of the lawnmower has raised are so great as to be prohibitive and that it should be returned to Steve Walker who had purchased it for the parish. Brian Porteus will be asked to stop using it with immediate effect.

It was further agreed that Brian Porteus should be offered the opportunity of attending a LANTRA training course which would accredit him for using the Billy Goat push-along mower. The cost of this to the Parish Council would be a maximum of £447.87, but could hopefully be reduced to at least £132.87. Safety clothing and shoes would also need to be purchased for Brian Porteus to use.

It was agreed that the Parish Council is disappointed with this situation but feels that it has no alternative.

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5.2 Lawnmower expenses incurred by Councillor Parkinson.

A receipt for lawnmower expenses totalling £350.65 has been submitted for consideration by Councillor Parkinson. In view of the fact that Councillor Parkinson is about to move out of Nosterfield and will cease to cut the grass there it was agreed that half the 2012/13 budget allocation should be given at this time. A payment of £123 will therefore be made.

6. INSURANCE

The Clerk's recommendation of renewing with Came & Company on a three year deal of £269.38 p.a. was accepted. The purpose of a 3-year binding agreement is so that the Parish Council knows that for the period of the agreement the premiums will only increase slightly (due to any property sums insured being index linked). The rates applied by Aviva at the start of the agreement will be maintained at the same level throughout the period. The annual premium will increase slightly but not because of a rate increase. If Aviva breaks the agreement and increases its rates the Parish Council is free to seek alternative insurance.

It was noted that the play equipment is not covered on an all risks basis and that only liability is covered.

7. JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

It was agreed that the Parish Council will pay for the cost of insuring the parish celebrations, expected to be in the region of £100.

This will be on an entirely separate policy to the Parish Council's.

8. LOCALISM ACT

It was agreed that the Clerk and Councillor Middleton should attend training being provided by Hambleton District Council on 3rd July 2012.

9. CODE OF CONDUCT

It was agreed to continue with the existing Code of Conduct until such time as further, comprehensive guidance is received on changes as required by the Localism Act.

10. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was confirmed as being on 9th July 2012 at 19.40 hrs in West Tanfield Memorial Hall. Councillor Padgett tendered his apologies for this meeting.

11. ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE NEXT MEETING

- Co-option of a Parish Councillor.

Meeting closed at 21.22 hrs.

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

SIGNED: (Chairman)

DATE: