

# *Tanfield Parish Council*

## MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

**DATE:** Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2012  
**TIME:** 19.30 hrs  
**LOCATION:** West Tanfield Memorial Hall  
**PRESENT:** Councillors David Parkinson (Chairman), Brian Smith (Vice-Chairman), Peter Almack (until 20.50 hrs), Jim Beadle and Richard Middleton.  
**IN ATTENDANCE:** Iona Taylor (Clerk)  
District Councillor David Webster  
Alan Coe, John Moxon, Chris Pennock and Bob Trehwitt.

**1. WELCOME FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**

Councillor Parkinson welcomed all those present to the meeting.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

Councillor Parkinson declared a prejudicial interest in agenda item 9.6 as there is now a budgetary allowance for his lawnmower expenses.

**3. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received and accepted from County Councillor John Weighell.

**4. QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC – None.**

**5. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETINGS**

The minutes of the last meetings held on 3<sup>rd</sup> October and 9<sup>th</sup> November 2011 were agreed and signed.

**6. ITEMS CARRIED FORWARD FROM THE LAST MEETING**

**6.1 Report from Clerk's Performance Management Assessment.**

Councillor Parkinson reported that he and Councillor Middleton had successfully carried out the Clerk's assessment which he felt had been a useful exercise. Targets for both sides have been agreed and a further assessment will be carried out in twelve months.

**6.2 Update on restoration works at West Tanfield tip.**

North Yorkshire County Council had recently written to advise that Yorwaste was about to commence the final site restoration works. These have now been undertaken and new hedges are evident.

As yet it does not appear that any works to the roadside section of dead hedgerow have taken place, however the initial phase of remediation was monitoring of water in the area to determine the cause of the plants' failure.

**6.3 Dog fouling in Thornborough.**

This issue will be highlighted in the Council's forthcoming newsletter.

**7. PLAY AREAS**

It was noted that Wicksteed have carried out the annual inspections of the play areas in West Tanfield, Nosterfield and Thornborough at a cost of £162.

Some minor monitoring / maintenance issues at Nosterfield and Thornborough have been included on the caretaker's task list.

The report for West Tanfield play area advised that the springer had been damaged beyond repair and recommended its immediate removal. This was undertaken by the caretaker. It was agreed that the cost of replacing this item should be sought through the Council's insurance; otherwise it will be replaced if funds become available through housing developer contributions. It was also agreed that the worn access ramp panel on the multiplay unit in West Tanfield should be replaced. The Clerk will try to reduce Wicksteed's quote of £366.43 by obtaining the part directly from the manufacturer for fitting by a local contractor.

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### 8. REPORT FROM BONFIRE AND FIREWORKS EVENT

It was agreed that this event had once again been a success.

The finances for the event were noted as being as follows:

	<i>Receipts</i>	<i>Payments</i>
Freemasons' Arms	£250.00	
Tarmac	£600.00	
Parish Council	£81.71	
Takings On Night	£507.43	
Cash & Carry		£101.65
Morrisons		£30.06
Fireworks		800.00
Donation		£507.43
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,439.14</b>	<b>£1,439.14</b>

The Memorial Hall Management Committee's offer of reimbursing the Parish Council's expenses (£81.71) from the takings was accepted. It was agreed that any costs incurred by the Parish Council in relation to future bonfire events should be immediately deducted in this way.

### 9. FINANCIALS

#### *Day-to-Day Financials*

#### 9.1 Bank balances as at 9<sup>th</sup> January 2012.

- Santander Current a/c.....£3110.03
- Santander Savings a/c .....£50.00
- Natwest current a/c ..... £0.00
- Natwest savings a/c..... £0.10

#### 9.2 Payments made prior to, or at this meeting.

The following payments were approved and recorded:

- West Tanfield Memorial Hall (Hire on 9/1/12) .....£14.00
- Iona Taylor (Clerk, October to December 2011) .....£593.27
- Brian Porteus (West Tanfield Grasscutting 2011) .....£375.00
- Walled Garden Scheme (Parish Caretaker, August 2011 – Invoice 588) .....£144.00
- Walled Garden Scheme (Parish Caretaker, October 2011 – Invoice 662).....£144.00
- Walled Garden Scheme (Parish Caretaker, November & December 2011 – Invoice 666)....£316.80
- Wicksteed Leisure Ltd (Annual Playground Inspection).....£162.00
- Hambleton District Council (Election Charge).....£100.00
- Wensleydale Garage (Petrol)..... £5.60
- Wensleydale Garage (Petrol).....£16.27

#### 9.3 Monies received prior to, or at this meeting.

- North Yorkshire County Council (LEADER Grant).....£185.48
- HM Revenue & Customs (VAT Reimbursement, 1/7/11 – 30/9/11) .....£142.69
- HM Revenue & Customs (VAT Reimbursement, 1/10/11 – 30/11/11).....£112.06

#### 9.4 Donation to Hambleton Citizens' Advice Bureau.

It was agreed to make a donation of £50 to this organisation.

#### *Annual Accounts*

#### 9.5 Mid-Year Balance Analysis and Monitoring Against Budget.

The monitoring against budget report showed that 8 months into the 2011/12 financial year the Parish Council was operating approximately £200 over budget, although the Clerk stressed that, for a number of reasons, this position would change before 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012.

The mid-year balance analysis report showed that the Council currently has £718.26 of unallocated funds. These reserves are on the low side and so caution must be exercised when considering expenditure.

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9.6 Grasscutting costs for 2012.

The Clerk reported on three quotations that were received for grasscutting in Nosterfield, Thornborough and West Tanfield. The cheapest of these was The Walled Garden Scheme who quoted a total of £980 (based on 14 cuts during the season).

It was agreed that the Parish Council's current arrangements still represent good value and should be continued for 2012, but that budgetary provision, of £245, should be made for contracting The Walled Garden Scheme to cut Nosterfield Village Green in case Councillor Parkinson moves house.

9.7 2012/13 budget.

The draft budget was considered and amended (see items 8 and 9.6 above).

9.8 2012/13 precept.

A 5% increase in the precept was unanimously agreed, and a sum of £6300 will be requested.

**10. HIGHWAYS**

10.1 Accident at West Tanfield bus shelter.

A recent accident when a car collided with the railings outside West Tanfield bus shelter was noted.

Highways North Yorkshire has temporarily secured the site and has advised that a permanent repair will be made if the cost can be recovered from the driver that caused the damage.

10.2 Results of speed monitoring exercises in West Tanfield and Nosterfield.

<i>Location</i>	<i>Speed at which 85% of vehicles were travelling at, or below.</i>
Nosterfield Road, West Tanfield	West (nearside) – 36mph East (farside) – 35mph
Main Street (A6108), West Tanfield	East (nearside) – 33mph West (farside) – 38mph
Mowbray Terrace, West Tanfield	Heading out of village – 30mph Heading in to village - 33mph
Nosterfield (within the 40mph speed limit).	East (nearside) – 39mph West (farside) – 41mph

It was noted that perceived speeds are often higher than the actual recorded speeds and that this appears to be the case in these locations. The speeds recorded at all the locations are commensurate with the expected results within the relevant limits and so the Hambleton and Richmondshire Community Safety Partnership has therefore concluded that no further action is required.

10.3 Speeding through Thornborough.

It was noted that this problem has not been evident recently and has been reduced by parked vehicles on the main street, which act as traffic calming features.

**11. REVIEW OF DISTRICT COUNCIL ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS**

Proposals to reduce the number of Councillors in the Hambleton District were considered. If accepted, these would see Tanfield merged with a larger area including Bedale. This new area would be served by only two Councillors, instead of the current four.

Councillor Webster agreed to forward this Council's comments about maintaining equal representation for rural and urban areas by ensuring that wards are kept separate, for example a Bedale Town ward and a Rural Bedale ward.

**12. QUARRY LIAISON AND AFTERUSE COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

John Moxon reported on recent meetings, held in October 2011.

Some staff have been moved from the Nosterfield Quarry which is still experiencing low sales, especially compared to other quarries in the area. It is expected that there is a further 250,000 tonnes of material to extract from the Ladybridge site. The North East corner of the site has begun to be stripped, while restoration has begun in the South East corner.

Some woodland management has been undertaken within the main area of restored quarry.

The planning application for the Langwith Farm extension

will probably be considered by North Yorkshire County Council's planning committee in March as it is unlikely to be ready for the January meeting. Discussions are ongoing about Tarmac's offer of gifting land as part of any planning permission as this is an issue that was raised by a number of respondents to the recent consultation.

A possible merger between Lafarge and Tarmac in spring 2012 was noted.

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### 13. PARISH CARETAKER

#### 13.1 Rural Payments Agenda monitoring and compliance inspection.

The Clerk reported that in accordance with the terms and conditions of the LEADER grant funding, this Parish Council had been randomly selected for an inspection by the Rural Payments Agency.

A *very* thorough inspection of all records pertaining to the parish caretaker and LEADER funding was carried out and they were found to be in good order.

The Inspector suggested that further promotion of the LEADER funding was required within the parish and so the Clerk has arranged for notices to be displayed on the boards in West Tanfield, Nosterfield and Thornborough.

#### 13.2 Tasks to be undertaken.

- Marmion Tower steps – Caretaker to be asked to contact Councillor Smith regarding this task.
- Painting of goal post in West Tanfield - Caretaker to contact Councillor Beadle for access to this field.
- Ongoing collection of rubbish on Green Lane.

### 14. CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk reported on items received, including:

#### 14.1 CPRE – Planning Explained.

A copy of this booklet was given to each Councillor.

#### 14.2 Non-emergency phone number for police.

It was noted that the new non-emergency phone number for contacting the police is '101'.

#### 14.3 Naming of new premises.

It was noted that the new holiday park in West Tanfield has been formally named as West Tanfield Luxury Lodges.

#### 14.4 Bedale Area Forum.

It was noted that the next meeting will be held on 25<sup>th</sup> January at Chantry Hall, Bedale.

### 15. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

#### 15.1 Consultations on applications.

It was agreed that the Parish Council has no objections to application 11/02676/FUL – alterations and extensions to existing dwelling and change of use of agricultural land to domestic at Mire Barf Cottage, Mire Barf, East Tanfield.

#### 15.2 Decisions on applications received from Hambleton District Council since the last meeting.

It was noted that the appeal against refusal of planning permission for the erection of mushroom growing shed and staff building with associated infrastructure and landscaping and installation of new package treatment plant at New Mill House, Wath had been dismissed.

Concern about the clear felling of trees near the application site was noted and it was agreed that a letter should be sent to the Forestry Commission enquiring as to whether a licence for these works (which are believed to be in the East Tanfield ward of the parish) was granted.

#### 15.3 Application for an extension to Hanson's Ripon Quarry.

Although these proposals were noted, it was agreed not to submit any comments as they move the quarry's operations further away from this Parish.

### 16. NEXT MEETINGS

The next meetings were confirmed as being on 13<sup>th</sup> February (planning), 12<sup>th</sup> March (planning) and 16<sup>th</sup> April (ordinary). All the meetings will start at 19.40 hrs and are held in West Tanfield Memorial Hall.

### 17. COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

- Councillor Smith questioned why water levels at Nosterfield Nature Reserve still seem low, even after recent rainfall. It was generally agreed that significantly more rainfall will be required to compensate for the recent, prolonged dry spell.
- District Councillor Webster advised that there was still no progress to be reported in relation to the development of the Station Yard site for housing. The soon to be enacted Localism Act may require the developer to carry out further consultation with the Parish Council.

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

- Ongoing concerns about land usage and the tipping of materials at The Long Acre, Fore Lane, Thornborough were raised. These will be dealt with in accordance with the Council's fault reporting protocol and forwarded to Hambleton District Council.

Meeting closed at 21.11 hrs.

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

**SIGNED:** ..... (Chairman)

**DATE:** .....