

Tanfield Parish Council

MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

DATE: Tuesday 1st October 2013
TIME: 19.00 hrs
LOCATION: West Tanfield Memorial Hall
PRESENT: Councillors Peter Hull (Chairman), David Parkinson (Vice-Chairman), Steven Houston and Chris Pennock.
IN ATTENDANCE: Iona Taylor (Clerk)
Ambrose Almack, Bob Trehitt and Stephen Bennett

1. WELCOME FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Councillor Hull welcomed all those present to the meeting.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA – none.

3. APOLOGIES – none.

4. QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC – none.

5. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last meetings held on 10th July 2013 were agreed and signed as a true record.

6. ITEMS CARRIED FORWARD FROM THE LAST MEETING

6.1 Sewerage issues.

No further information has been received from Yorkshire Water or Julian Smith MP.

The following information has been received from Nosterfield resident, Ms Bailey:

“[Yorkshire Water] arranged all the tests. I believe a blockage was found and the drains were cleared. The only on-going problem is the awful smell coming from the traps, the drain is clear it’s just the traps. Various advised solutions have been tried. I also brought to Yorkshire Water’s attention the noise coming from the pumping station during some nights ... this sounds like machinery under pressure.”

These comments have already been forwarded to Yorkshire Water and will also be passed to Hambleton District Council’s Environmental Health department.

6.2 Insurance review.

As the Clerk has been unable to obtain an accurate replacement value on the bus shelters in West Tanfield and Nosterfield, premium quotations have been obtained based on assumed increased valuations. To fully insure the buildings for £20,000 would cost an additional £82 per year.

It was agreed, provided that all liability is covered under the current terms of the policy, not to proceed to change the levels of cover. Investigations will be made in to the possibility of local businesses sponsoring the bus shelters to meet this increased cost in return for advertising opportunities.

7. BONFIRE AND FIREWORKS EVENT

After considering the responses to a recent survey of public opinion it was agreed to proceed with a 2013 event.

This will take place on 1st November 2013, from 6.30pm at Lafarge Tarmac’s Nosterfield Quarry visitor centre.

It was agreed that £750 will be spent on fireworks. The costs of the event should be covered by sponsorship and takings on the night. It was agreed that any profits will be donated to West Tanfield Memorial Hall.

The Clerk and Councillors Houston and Pennock will liaise to confirm all other arrangements including publicity, sponsorship, catering, safety, insurance etc.

The potential for another body, possibly the West Tanfield Tour de France legacy group, to take over the event’s organisation from 2014 was discussed and it was felt that this would be welcomed by the Parish Council.

8. TOUR DE FRANCE PREPARATIONS

8.1 Future links with the Mayor of Fontenay-le-Marmion.

It was resolved that the Parish Council should send a letter to the Mayor of Fontenay-le-Marmion in France with a view to forging future links.

The West Tanfield Tour de France organising committee will provide the wording for the letter.

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8.2 Other issues relating to the Tour de France.

Stephen Bennett reported that plans for July 2014 are being finalised. The organising committee's meetings are open to the public and a Parish Council representative is welcome to attend.
Councillor Hull enquired as to whether planning permission is required for the sunflowers being displayed around West Tanfield.

8.3 West Tanfield website.

The new village website www.west-tanfield.com was noted.

It was agreed that the Council's Facebook and Twitter hub pages should be wound down as a result of the duplication with the new site.

9. **2014/15 BUDGET**

It was noted that it will soon be time for the Parish Council to set its budget and agree the precept requirement for the 2014/15 financial year.

It was agreed that a consultation of residents should be carried out to help determine the Council's budget priorities for this period.

10. **MAINTENANCE**

10.1 Street cleaning on Main Street, West Tanfield.

Correspondence with Nicola Bennett, a resident of Main Street, about her concerns of inadequate street cleaning and adverse conditions in this area was noted.

It was noted that the Clerk continues to request that Hambleton District Council attend to clean the pavements and gutters on a six weekly cycle. In line with previous information it was noted that the District Council's resources are scarce and the Parish Council can only expect them to visit each area once a year.

Ms Bennett has been urged, in line with the Parish Council's fault protocol, to contact Hambleton District Council directly. Information has also been provided to Ms Bennett as to how groups of local residents can carry out minor works, such as sweeping pavements, safely. The Parish Caretaker has also been asked to sweep up leaves during the peak autumn period later this month, but it was noted that they are only contracted for five hours per month.

It was agreed that the Parish Council should go out to tender to obtain quotations for regular street cleaning. This information will then be used to consult with residents (see item 9).

10.2 Grasscutting specification for 2014.

It was resolved that the Clerk and Councillor Houston should draw up a draft specification and tender documentation for approval via e-mail by other Councillors. It was agreed that this should include a variety of options for future consideration by the parish public and be based upon accurate location plans.

10.3 Common areas of land.

Consideration of this item was deferred pending the receipt of a legal opinion from the National Association of Local Councils.

10.4 Sale of Billy Goat mower.

It was noted that the mower is not yet back in the Parish Council's possession and is now thought to be broken.

The Clerk had been able to speak to Brian Porteus prior to the meeting. Mr Porteus has advised that he will deliver to the mower to Joblings from where it can be picked by Councillor Houston for inspection.

10.5 Caretaker's task list.

It was noted that the caretaker is currently being asked to overhaul Becca's Bench in West Tanfield play area, sweep the pavements along Main Street in West Tanfield, clear Burnt Lane next to St. Nicholas' church and cut the verge on Nosterfield Road.

11. **HIGHWAYS**

11.1 Speeding on Main Street, West Tanfield.

In view of ongoing comments and complaints from members of the public it was agreed that the Hambleton Community Safety Partnership should be asked to carry out new checks through the Speed Matrix Group's process.

11.2 Condition of B6267.

A lacklustre response to the Parish Council's complaint through William Hague MP has been received. The following points, contained in the response, were noted:

- The B6267 through Tanfield Parish is a Category 3b road.

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- All the surfaced roads in the County are surveyed at least every two years.
- In addition to the £50,000 works specifically identified in the capital programme for this road, there is a two kilometre section of this road (between Sutton Howgrave and Thornborough) which is also planned to receive substantial structural patching this year (2013/14) using monies from the patching allocation, which at the time was not finalised. This structural patching work is in advance of a surface treatment which is likely in two years' time. The B6267 west of the A1 has received in the region of £450,000 worth of resurfacing works in the last five years.
- The County Council does seek to obtain appropriate and proportionate contributions to the maintenance of roads from developers who will increase the HCV use of a route.

It was agreed that whilst the Parish Council does not disagree with any of the above points, the County Council's position does little to tackle the generally poor and deteriorating condition of the whole road between Masham and A1.

It was agreed that investigations should be made in to having the road reclassified, perhaps as an A road, giving it a status befitting the volume of traffic using it. This would be in line with its gritting priority and may help the road to attract increased further funding for repairs.

11.3 Memorial bench in Thornborough.

A request has been received from a Thornborough resident wishing to site a memorial bench on the pavement near the noticeboard. The procedure for doing this would mean that an application to the Highways department would need to be made by the Parish Council, who would remain responsible for the bench and its future maintenance. It was agreed that this is an unsuitable location for a bench, due to the narrow pavement, and that Councillor Houston should speak to the resident concerned about alternative sites and mechanisms for covering any future costs.

11.4 Highways fault sheet.

The following points were noted:

<i>Ref:</i>	<i>Fault</i>	<i>Status / Update</i>
TPC 6-12	Demolished village sign, Nosterfield.	24.7.13 – To be installed within 3-4 weeks. Not yet done, being pursued with Highways North Yorkshire.
TPC 7-12	Bend warning sign - Main Street, West Tanfield.	10.7.13 – To be escalated and repaired without delay.
TPC 3-13	Flooding / drainage issues at Fore Lane, Thornborough.	22.7.13 – Still awaiting funding. Unable to give date as to when works to be undertaken. Will not progress until funding available. To follow up 1.4.14.

12. **BUS SERVICES**

Proposed changes to the 159 service were noted. It was agreed that these should be publicised in the Council's newsletter to enable service users to consider and respond to the consultation.

It was agreed that the Council should also respond to the consultation by requesting that a 9-5 service be provided to facilitate transport for anyone wanting to use the bus service to get to and from work.

13. **PLAY AREAS**

13.1 Weekly inspection sheets.

July, August and September weekly inspection sheets were received for the West Tanfield and Nosterfield play areas.

13.2 Annual inspections.

It was resolved that Wicksteed should be commissioned to carry out the annual inspections at the West Tanfield, Nosterfield and Thornborough sites at a cost of £40 + VAT per playground.

14. **CORRESPONDENCE**

The Clerk reported on items received, including:

14.1 North Yorkshire County Council's Hambleton Area Committee.

The Clerk will forward the agenda for these meetings to Councillors.

14.2 Healthwatch North Yorkshire.

Information about the new *independent* champion for health and social care services will be included in the Parish Council's next newsletter.

14.3 Fire at Low Park Farm, Snape.

Information has been received about the recent fire at this local farm. The cause of the fire, in which 2 barns and about 100 animals were destroyed, is not yet known but is being investigated by North Yorkshire Police.

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15. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

15.1 Consultations on applications – none.

15.2 Updates and decisions on applications received from Hambleton District Council since the last meeting.

<i>Application No.</i>	<i>Proposal</i>	<i>Decision</i>
13/01310/FUL	Formation of wildlife pond, adjoining viewing area with retaining wall, regrading of adjoining bank and disabled access ramp. Regrading of existing footpath and adjoining bank to improve disabled access. Change of use of former mineral extraction site to form part of nature reserve at Nosterfield Nature Reserve.	Passed

15.3 Consultation period on application 13/01310/FUL.

It was noted that the above application at Nosterfield Nature Reserve had been determined by Hambleton District Council before the Parish Council had submitted its response to the usual consultation.

This was because the Clerk's request to extend the consultation period had not been correctly registered or processed by the District Council.

The local planning officer has apologised for this oversight, but has recommended that in future he is directly copied in to such requests. The matter has also been raised at one of the District Council's regular planning team meetings.

16. FINANCIALS

16.1 Financial report.

It was resolved that the following report be approved and recorded:

<i>Bank Balances as at 26/9/13:</i>	
Santander Business Current a/c - ****4380	£3,668.88
Santander Business Reserve a/c - ****7222	£50.00
NatWest Current a/c - ****4884	£63.47
NatWest Business Reserve a/c - ****2668	£0.10
TOTAL	£3,782.45

<i>Payments to be approved and recorded:</i>		
<i>Payee</i>	<i>Details</i>	
Came & Company Insurance	Insurance Policy	£265.00
Iona Taylor	Clerk, July 2013	£224.35
Iona Taylor	Clerk, August 2013	£202.60
Iona Taylor	Clerk, September 2013	£148.26
Iona Taylor	Contribution to Planning Training	£23.00
HMRC	PAYE, July 2013	£39.40
RCL Walled Garden	Invoice 1213, West Tanfield Grasscutting (May)	£84.00
RCL Walled Garden	Invoice 1214, Thornborough Grasscutting (May)	£63.00
RCL Walled Garden	Invoice 1212, Nosterfield Grasscutting (May)	£63.00
RCL Walled Garden	Invoice 1309, Thornborough Grasscutting (July)	£42.00
RCL Walled Garden	Invoice 1307, Nosterfield Grasscutting (July)	£42.00
RCL Walled Garden	Invoice 1308, West Tanfield Grasscutting (July)	£84.00
RCL Walled Garden	Invoice 1290, West Tanfield Grasscutting (June)	£126.00
RCL Walled Garden	Invoice 1292, Nosterfield Grasscutting (June)	£63.00
RCL Walled Garden	Invoice 1291, Thornborough Grasscutting (June)	£63.00
West Tanfield Memorial Hall	Invoice AS/188 (Hall Hire on 10.7.13)	£14.00
TOTAL		£1,546.61

<i>Receipts to be recorded:</i>		
<i>Received From</i>	<i>Details</i>	
Yorkshire Water	Goodwill Payment	£100.00
Hambleton District Council	Precept, 2nd Part	£3,150.00
TOTAL		£3,250.00

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16.2 External auditor's opinion on the 2012/13 accounts.

The report from the Annual Return is 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.”

A copy of the fully completed Annual Return has been sent to Councillors and is now being displayed on the Council's website.

16.3 Account at Wensleydale Garage.

It was noted that the Council's account at Wensleydale Garage has recently been used to purchase £16 of petrol. It was agreed that the Council should write to Wensleydale Garage advising that the purchase was not made by either of its formerly authorised representatives and was therefore an unauthorised and potentially fraudulent use of the account. It will be suggested that they consider reporting the matter to North Yorkshire Police. The Parish Council will co-operate with any resulting investigation.

The account has now been closed and it is not believed that there are any other accounts which could be used in a similar manner.

16.4 Transfer of bank account to NatWest.

All Councillors are now signatories on the NatWest accounts.

Santander has written to request additional identification for Councillor Houston prior to closing the accounts held there.

It was agreed that the money in the Santander current account should be transferred to NatWest by cheque to facilitate the Council's day-to-day banking.

17. NEXT MEETINGS

The next meetings, for planning and budgeting purposes, may be called on 5th November and 3rd December at 7.30pm.

The Clerk will draw up a draft schedule of meetings on the second Tuesday of each month in 2014.

18. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

- Councillor Pennock reported that he and the Clerk had recently attended a seminar hosted by Hambleton District Council who are looking to review the LDF. It is likely that this will be a selective review of certain policies, rather than a replacement of the whole framework.

The review is likely to affect this parish as it is likely that the moratorium on all development in small villages (such as Thornborough and Nosterfield) is likely to be reviewed and probably relaxed.

- Councillor Parkinson commented on the number of potholes in the parish.

19. ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE NEXT MEETING

- Flies in West Tanfield – following renewed reports of an on-going problem the Clerk will obtain information from Hambleton District Council for consideration at the next meeting.

Meeting closed at 20.51 hrs.

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

SIGNED: (Chairman)

DATE: