

# *Tanfield Parish Council*

## MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

**DATE:** Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2014  
**TIME:** 19.30 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)

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

Councillor Hull welcomed those present to the meeting.

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

**3. APOLOGIES - none.**

**4. MAINTENANCE OF COMMON LAND**

**4.1 Report from meeting with Christopher Bourne-Arton.**

Councillor Hull and the Clerk reported that they had met with Christopher Bourne-Arton on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2014.

The extent of common land in the parish was confirmed at that meeting, using the register maps provided by North Yorkshire County Council. All the areas are registered as being owned by the Bourne-Arton estate and this was confirmed by Mr Bourne-Arton.

Mr Bourne-Arton has also confirmed that the Estate will meet its statutory obligations as a landowner, which includes inspecting any trees as part of its regular programme. It was noted that the Clerk has forwarded to the Estate a copy of the inspection report carried out on the horse chestnut tree on Nosterfield Green in 2008.

**4.2 License agreements for playgrounds in Nosterfield and Thornborough.**

It was agreed that the Parish Council should enter in to license agreements for the siting of the play equipment on Nosterfield Village Green and in Thornborough. Draft documents, based upon the one used at West Tanfield, will be circulated to interested parties for consideration.

**4.3 Maintenance arrangements for Nosterfield Village Green and Thornborough play area.**

It was agreed that the Council's scope of responsibility for maintenance works on Nosterfield Village Green and Thornborough play area should be clarified and recorded with Tanfield Estate.

It was agreed that this should also be done for the areas of grasscutting undertaken around West Tanfield Memorial Hall. This will be done by an exchange of letters which will be passed by the Parish Council's insurers prior to sending.

**4.4 Maintenance works on riverside common land in West Tanfield.**

The Parish Council considered the following legal advice received from solicitors at the National Association of Local Councils: "The land is not ownerless and maintenance and upkeep for the commons lies with the landowner." It was noted that similar advice has also been received from the Council's insurers who are concerned that accepting responsibility for the steps could make the Parish Council responsible for the other areas accessed from them, including the riverbank.

It was therefore resolved not to undertake maintenance works on the steps.

**5. FINANCIALS**

**5.1 2015/16 budget.**

The 2015/16 budget was considered and agreed.

**5.2 2015/16 precept.**

It was resolved that a precept of £7688 be requested.

**6. PLANNING APPLICATIONS – none.**

**7. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting was confirmed as being on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2015. A meeting will be convened in December if necessary.

Meeting closed at 19.42 hrs.

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

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

**DATE:** .....