
GRANTLEY, SAWLEY, SKELDING AND EAVESTONE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

DATE: Tuesday 24th July 2012
TIME: 19.30 hrs
LOCATION: Sawley Village Hall
PRESENT: Councillors John Scannell (Chairman), Martin Kirbitson (Vice-Chairman), June Learoyd, Martin Soley and Rachel Wigginton.
IN ATTENDANCE: Iona Taylor (Clerk)
District Councillor Margaret Atkinson and County Councillor Margaret Atkinson
Lindsay Hitchen and Eric Broadwith

1. WELCOME

Councillor Scannell welcomed all those present to the meeting.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Councillor Wigginton declared a prejudicial interest in the Sawley Small Grants Scheme payment to Eleanor Scatchard as she is her daughter.

3. PUBLIC QUESTIONS OR STATEMENTS – none.

4. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Lumb and Kitchen due to work commitments.

5. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the following meetings were approved and signed:

- 2012 Annual Parish Meeting
- 17th May 2012
- 28th June 2012

6. ITEMS CARRIED FORWARD FROM THE LAST MEETING

6.1 Broadband provision in rural areas.

It was reported that the County Council has signed a £54 million contract to bring broadband to rural areas of the county.

90% of the county will be able to achieve speeds of 25 MB/second, a further 8% will be able to achieve 5 – 25 MB/second and the remaining 2% (in very remote areas) will be able to achieve at least 2 MB/second. 80% of this will be done using existing copper and fibre-optic networks, with the remaining 20% via wireless connections.

The project will begin to be rolled out, starting with more highly populated areas, in January 2013 and be completed within 2 years. It is expected that, because it is a priority for Harrogate Borough Council, this district will be one of the first to be upgraded. This news was welcomed by the Parish Council.

6.2 Fence at Picking Gill.

Ted Flexman has advised that he no longer considers a fence to be necessary as motorcyclists using the site are not a current problem. It was agreed to review the situation if the problem recurs.

6.3 Grantley noticeboard.

No feedback to be reported from Grantley Village Hall Management Committee.

7. HIGHWAYS

7.1 Parking in Grantley.

The Parish Council listened to concerns expressed by the owner of the Grantley Arms about cars (belong to people visiting Fountains Primary School) parking in front of their property during the school day. Vehicles frequently park on the kerb or block access to the front steps.

It was agreed that the Parish Council should include an article in the next newsletter asking for people to show common sense and courtesy in this matter and will send a letter to this effect to Fountains Primary School. The matter will be brought to P.C. Gareth Jones' attention as it is thought that it is an offence to park on pavements.

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7.2 Update on previously reported faults.

The Clerk reported that she is continuing to pursue resolutions to a number of faults, including road resurfacing near the junction in Grantley. County Councillor Paul Richardson advised that he is inclined to use funding that he has been allocated for this task. This was welcomed by Councillors and the suggestion will be pursued by the Clerk.

7.3 New faults to be reported to Highways North Yorkshire – none.

7.4 Temporary repairs to potholes.

Correspondence with North Yorkshire County Council about inadequate temporary repairs being a false economy was noted. Although some repairs are carried out to make an area temporarily safe, they should not be of such poor quality as to only last a few days.

It was agreed that the Parish Council should continue to report faults and inadequate repairs to the Highways Authority.

7.5 Sawley bus bay scheme.

Councillor Richardson reported that the works order for this scheme has now been placed. The Clerk will find out when the works are likely to start.

7.6 Proposal for a temporary Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) protocol.

The Clerk reported that she had recently attended a meeting at County Hall. This had been an information gathering exercise for County Councillors looking to review the position regarding the provision of Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS's) in the County. It did not appear that the County Council would be looking to significantly alter their current permanent VAS protocol but the Working Group indicated that the County Council is looking to implement a temporary VAS scheme whereby groups of parishes could rotate a VAS sign within their areas. No details were given of how this scheme may operate, but Councillors agreed that this parish would be interested in participating in the scheme.

8. OIL CLUB

It was agreed that the Clerk should circulate information about the North Stainley oil club to Councillors and find out how long it took their co-ordinator to set up the scheme and to administer each order.

9. GRASSCUTTING

It was noted that Grantley residents had been unhappy with the grasscutting in their village earlier this year, although the problems have now been resolved. It was noted that the same frequency of cuts have been carried out as in previous years and that they have been timed to within a few days of previous years.

Sawley residents have remained happy with the standard of cutting in their village.

10. PARISH ROOM PROCEEDS

10.1 Issues with use of proceeds.

Councillor Soley raised a query about the terms contained in the conveyance of the parish room to the Council, which could have had the effect of restricting how the Parish Council can utilise the sale proceeds.

It was agreed that a resolution to vary the conveyance so as to allow the Parish Council to continue to use the proceeds in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding be prepared for agreement at the September meeting.

10.2 Provision of a trim trail in Sawley.

It was agreed that the results of the recent survey should be considered at the September meeting.

10.3 Works to Sawley Church Clock.

It was noted that a faculty to allow the proposed renovation of the clock to be carried out has now been issued.

It was agreed that the Parish Council should now instruct the preferred contractor (Time Assured) to proceed with the works. The cost will be covered by the Parish Room Proceeds.

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11. COMMUTED SUMS

11.1 New equipment in Sawley play area.

It was noted that the order for the new equipment (Post Office role play panels comprising of a shop window, van and letterbox) has been placed with Fawns. The cost was £728.16. £732.88 has already been reimbursed from the commuted sums system. This will help to cover the cost of installation by the Walled Garden Scheme, which is expected to take place in the next couple of weeks.

11.2 Meeting with Sean Wright, Harrogate Borough Council's Systems and Information Officer.

The Clerk reported that she had recently met Mr Wright. This had provided an opportunity to review the Commuted Sums which are available in this parish and more importantly ensure that the maps upon which funding is allocated are correct and fully up to date.

11.3 Training on Commuted Sums policy.

It was noted that Harrogate Borough Council is providing training on this subject on 1st August 2012 in the Council Chambers at 7pm.

11.4 Expired Commuted Sums.

Harrogate Borough Council has written advising that it intends to return commuted sums that are past their expiry date to the developer. They require acknowledgment of this proposal from Parish Councils.

Whilst it was agreed that expired sums should be returned to developers it was agreed that an enquiry should be made about the Borough Council's position for dealing with situations where a developer is no longer in business or cannot be contacted.

12. PARISH CARETAKER

A number of tasks were agreed for the caretaker to undertake, including:

- Varnishing of seat in Sawley.
- Pulling of Himalayan Balsam on Moor Lane in Sawley.

It was noted that attempts to eradicate Himalayan Balsam from Picking Gill have been successful as it is much less prolific this year.

13. RIVER LAVER PROJECT

The Clerk reported that she had attended the inaugural steering group meeting for this meeting held on 28th June 2012.

The Nidderdale AONB has secured grant funding to work in partnership with the Environment Agency and Yorkshire Dales River Trust to address problems on the River Laver which have been identified as fish barriers and elevated phosphate levels.

The AONB is looking to give grant funding for projects such as riverside fencing, tree planting and coppicing, track improvements and creation of hard-standing areas for animal feeding.

The Parish Council may be able to help this project by raising awareness with local residents and inputting local knowledge such as sites which are infested with Himalayan Balsam.

It was agreed that the minutes of the steering group meeting should be circulated to Councillors once they are published.

14. CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk reported on items received, including:

14.1 YLCA training programme.

The Parish Council agreed to pay £35 for Councillor Wigginton to attend a 'What Councillors Need to Know' course.

14.2 Dales Integrated Transport Alliance (DITA).

It was agreed that the Parish Council should offer its support for DITA whose vision is to ensure that a sustainable transport network underpins and promotes prosperity throughout the Dales and AONB area.

DITA has been awarded £1.1 million of government funding and is in the process of setting up 8 hubs across the region where residents and visitors can access information and advice about local transport options. DITA will also

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use some of the money for pilot transport projects such as car share schemes or cycling initiatives. The Parish Council will enquire as to whether funding is available to enhance existing services.

14.3 Highways works – Eavestone.

It was noted that Highways North Yorkshire has recently carried out road patching prior to surface dressing works in Eavestone.

14.4 County Council Highways & Transportation Service.

North Yorkshire County Council has written to all Parish Councils advising them of the current position and developments and challenges facing the Highways and Transportation Service.

The letter can be summarised as being an explanation of how the Service is trying to maintain service levels with limited funding.

15. FINANCIALS

15.1 Bank balances as at 24th July 2012.

| | |
|--|-----------|
| • HSBC Current a/c | £1428.28 |
| • HSBC Savings a/c..... | £9357.45 |
| • HSBC Special Projects a/c..... | £505.79 |
| • HSBC Parish Room Current a/c..... | £43.58 |
| • HSBC Parish Room Savings a/c | £32335.66 |
| • HSBC Sawley Small Grants Scheme a/c..... | £2944.05 |
| • Standard Life Bond..... | £32750.00 |
| • Santander High Interest Bond | £50000.00 |
| • Skipton Bond..... | £32876.26 |

15.2 Payments made prior to or at this meeting.

The following payments were approved and recorded:

| | |
|--|---------|
| • Farm & Land Services (Grasscutting, Invoice 3654) | £255.60 |
| • Farm & Land Services (Grasscutting, Invoice 3699) | £285.60 |
| • Walled Garden Scheme (Caretaker – April 2012, Invoice 805)..... | £144.00 |
| • Walled Garden Scheme (Caretaker – May 2012, Invoice 832) | £144.00 |
| • Walled Garden Scheme (Caretaker – June 2012, Invoice 891)..... | £144.00 |
| • Leaving Presents for Ted Dodsworth & Ken Walmsley (Reimbursed to Iona Taylor)..... | £64.90 |
| • Iona Taylor (Administration of Parish Room Proceeds, April, May & June 2012) | £43.58 |
| • Iona Taylor (Clerk, May & June 2012) | £572.40 |

15.3 Monies received prior to or at this meeting.

The following receipts were recorded:

| | |
|---|---------|
| • HM Revenue & Customs (VAT Reimbursement, 1/4/12 – 31/5/12) | £195.40 |
| • North Yorkshire County Council (Instalment of LEADER Grant) | £104.35 |

15.4 2011/12 Annual Return.

It was noted that the Annual Return has been returned to the Parish Council to allow an amendment to be made. This is due to the fact that the Parish Council now has investment bonds, the period of which is sufficiently long to mean that they are considered as long-term investments rather than cash or a short-term investment.

The amendments were approved and signed by the Clerk and Chair.

16. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

16.1 Consultations on applications.

It was agreed that the Parish Council has no objections to application 6.42.12.N.FUL 12/00789/FUL – Retention of extension to lake with use for fly-fishing and erection of club house and fishing platforms at Old Home Farm, Grantley.

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16.2 Comments on applications sent to Harrogate Borough Council since the last meeting.

| Reference | Proposal | Comments Sent |
|-------------------------------|--|--|
| 6.51.16.B.FUL 12/01692/FUL | Conversion of outbuildings to form 1 dwelling at Yaudhouse Head Farm, Eavestone. | No objections provided the new dwelling is subject to an agricultural tie. |

16.3 Decisions and updates on applications, appeals and enforcement investigations.

| Reference | Proposal | Update / Decision |
|-------------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| 6.51.109.FUL 12/01649/FUL | Erection of two storey extension at 8 Church Close, Sawley. | Passed. |
| 12/01546/PNF 6.51.95.A.PNF | Erection of storage building at Land at Grid Reference 423755 466666, Sawley. | Prior approval not required. |
| 6.51.16.B.FUL 12/01692/FUL | Conversion of outbuildings to form 1 dwelling at Yaudhouse Head Farm, Eavestone. | Passed. |

16.4 Response to letter sent to Harrogate Borough Council re. settlement growth.

It was agreed that this should be circulated to Councillors and considered at the next meeting.

16.5 Report on Localism Act training provided by Hambleton District Council.

The Clerk reported that she had recently attended training on the Localism Act and the following key points were noted:

- The Standards Board is to be abolished and a new local regime is to be implemented. Further details to be given by Harrogate Borough Council in future training sessions.
- The 'Community Right to Challenge' will give communities the right to express an interest in taking over services (for example recycling). If the challenge is accepted by the authority currently providing the service then the community / Parish Council will be able to take part in a resulting procurement process. It should be noted that the process will be open to all providers as well as the community which will not necessarily be appointed to take over the service even though they may have instigated the change.
- There will be a 'Community Right to Bid'. Harrogate Borough Council will be required to compile and maintain a register of 'community assets' (e.g. pubs, shops, libraries). When these assets come up for sale or a change of ownership, community groups (including Parish Councils), after expressing an initial interest, will be given time to develop a bid or raise finance.
- The Localism Act also introduces a number of planning reforms including Neighbourhood Plans (see minutes of meeting on 16th April 2012) and Neighbourhood Development Orders which can confer automatic planning permission for certain developments which have been identified by communities. It was noted although these changes are meant to introduce a 'lighter touch' to planning there are statutory processes which must be worked through by any community undertaking them.
- 'Neighbourhood Funds' will mean that a percentage of funds from developers of new houses, paid under the Community Infrastructure Levy, will be given directly to the community in which the development has taken place.
- There will be a right to veto excessive Council Tax rises.

17. **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting was confirmed as being on 20th September 2012 at 19.30 hrs in Sawley Village Hall.

18. **ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE NEXT MEETING – none.**

Meeting closed at 20.58 hrs.

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

SIGNED: (Chairman)

DATE: