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

DATE: Thursday 19th September 2013
TIME: 19.30 hrs
LOCATION: Sawley Village Hall
PRESENT: Councillors John Scannell (Chairman), Martin Kirbitson (Vice-Chairman), Trevor Kitchen and June Learoyd.
IN ATTENDANCE: Iona Taylor (Clerk)
Howard Mountain

1. WELCOME

Councillor Scannell welcomed all those present to the meeting.

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

3. PUBLIC QUESTIONS OR STATEMENTS – none.

4. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Lumb and Soley. Apologies were also received from District and County Councillor Margaret Atkinson.

5. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting held on 9th July 2013 were approved and signed.

6. ITEMS CARRIED FORWARD FROM THE LAST MEETING

6.1 Maintenance of trees on Sawley Village Green and Grantley Playing Field.

Advice from Farm & Land Services about works required to the trees on the above areas was received. The cost of works to trees on Sawley Village Green is estimated as being £320. The cost of works to the trees on Grantley Playing Field is estimated as being £640.

It was resolved that their quotation be accepted, subject to confirmation that Grantley Village Hall will pay for the cost of works to the trees on Grantley Playing Field.

6.2 Insurance valuations / insurance policy ref. Grantley bus shelter.

The Clerk reported that she has still not been able to find a building contractor willing to price up the replacement cost of Grantley Bus Shelter. It was therefore agreed that the Clerk should obtain premium costs of insuring the building for £5,000, £7,500 and £10,000.

6.3 Consultation on proposed bus subsidies.

The Council considered a proposal from North Yorkshire County Council to reduce the frequency of bus service 139 so that from April 2014 it would run on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturdays only.

It was agreed that the Council should publicise this proposal so that those most affected have the opportunity to respond directly to the consultation.

7. PLAY EQUIPMENT ON SAWLEY VILLAGE GREEN

It was noted that the project to provide play equipment on Sawley Village Green has now been successfully completed and officially opened. Thanks were expressed to Ted Flexman, Janet Watson and Karen Horn for all their help with the project.

The final cost of the equipment, supplied by Playforce, was £13,654.90. This has been taken from the Parish Room funds allocated to capital projects.

8. PARKING ON SAWLEY VILLAGE GREEN

A lengthy discussion was held about the history behind the area of hard-standing in front of the current village hall and its use as a car park for the village hall.

It was noted that an application to amend the Village Green Register would cost £4900 and is not guaranteed to be successful whether or not the initial registration was flawed. The Clerk was asked to make enquiries as to what information would be required for such an application to be submitted.

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Councillor Scannell agreed to review the map accompanying the official Village Green Register to determine whether the area of hard-standing outside of the Green boundary accords with the current situation. Councillor Kirbitson will also provide a current scaled map to facilitate this.

The Clerk was also asked to check with the Parish Council's insurers that it's liability under the current arrangements is covered.

9. PARISH ROOM PROCEEDS

9.1 Santander bond.

It was noted that the Council's one-year bond with Santander is due to mature at the end of September.

It was resolved that a 1 year business saver fixed rate bond with Nationwide Building Society be opened. The interest rate being offered is 1.8% fixed over the one-year term.

It was further resolved that the signatories on this new account should be the Clerk and Councillors Scannell and Kirbitson.

9.2 Other items relating to administration of parish room proceeds.

The Clerk noted that the 2012/13 audit cost of £200 + VAT was caused by transactions relating to the Parish Room proceeds. Had the Council's 'normal' expenditure only been taken into account then there would have been no charge for the external audit. It was agreed that £200 should be transferred from the Parish Room Savings account to the Parish Council's day-to-day savings account.

10. HIGHWAYS

10.1 Installation of Sawley bus bay and shelter.

It was noted that installation of the bus bay and shelter is now completed. Ownership of the shelter will remain with North Yorkshire County Council. The bus stop will be transferred to this location with the new bus service contract in April 2014 when it is anticipated that a sign will also be installed.

It was noted that a series of contractors had attended the location to paint the bus bay lines on the road. A mistake meant that they were first painted in the wrong location, had to then be burned off and re-painted in the proper position. It was agreed that the Parish Council should question who pays for correcting these errors at the forthcoming Parish Consultation meeting with North Yorkshire Highways representatives.

10.2 Prioritisation of Low Grantley road in highways capital programme – no new information to be reported.

11. PARISH CARETAKER

11.1 Tasks to be undertaken.

It was noted that a copy of the current task list is displayed on the Council's website: www.gssepc.btck.co.uk/parishcaretaker

It was agreed that the caretaker should be asked to advise on the control of, and tackle the himalyan balsam on Sawley Moor Lane.

12. CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk reported on items received, including:

12.1 2013 Consultation meeting with Harrogate Borough Council.

It was noted that this meeting will take place on Monday 11th November at 6pm in Ripon Town Hall.

It was agreed that the following questions be submitted for inclusion on the agenda:

Question 1 - Highway Repairs Generally

The Parish Council is concerned about the efficiency of the highways repairs programme, particularly in light of the recent appointment of a new contractor whose personnel were unfamiliar with their area of work.

It seems that time and money is wasted on using outside contractors who have to familiarise themselves with an area and indeed spend time looking for each job that they are sent to.

It also seems that inadequate temporary repairs are carried out which quickly fail. The whole combination of circumstances leaves a bad taste in taxpayers' mouths.

How does the County Council ensure that value for money is achieved?

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Question 2 - Sawley Bus Bay

After nearly 10 years of planning the Parish Council is very pleased that the Sawley bus bay has now been constructed.

Who has met the cost of removing and re-painting the yellow bus bay lines which were mistakenly painted on the highway carriageway by one set of contractors, removed by another and finally repainted in the correct location by a third team?

If not the contractor, why not?

Question 3 - Longate Lane, Sawley.

The Parish Council is very concerned about the condition of Longate Lane in Sawley which has already caused damage to residents' cars. Despite reports from the Parish Council and several local residents there does not seem to have been any action taken to carry out remedial works.

Where is this road on the prioritisation list?

When can the Parish Council and residents expect repair works to take place? What works can reasonably be expected to be carried out?

12.2 Consultation on Harrogate Borough Council corporate priorities and 2014/15 budget.

It was agreed that District Councillor Margaret Atkinson should be asked for input on this item.

12.3 Harrogate Borough Council's District Panel.

Harrogate Borough Council is setting up a District Panel of local residents, over the age of 18. All members have to do is agree to be consulted on a number of issues.

This consultation usually takes the form of an online survey but members may also be invited to attend focus groups or become a mystery shopper. Out of pocket expenses would be covered.

Members of the district panel will be asked for their opinions about the services provided by Harrogate Borough Council and how they can be improved. This may include such things as waste collection, leisure activities and community safety and the council's budget.

More information is available at <http://www.harrogate.gov.uk/pages/Join-our-District-Panel.aspx>

12.4 Yorkshire Local Councils Associations – Branch Meetings

The Clerk informed members of the system of branch meetings which offer Councillors from local parishes the opportunity to meet and discuss issues of common interest. Guest speakers are sometimes invited to meetings and it was noted that the Leader and Chief Executive of Harrogate Borough Council will be attending the next Harrogate Branch Meeting on 7th October 2013.

13. FINANCIALS

13.1 Financial report.

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

<i>Bank Balances as at 16/9/13:</i>		
HSBC Current a/c - ****9716		£500.00
HSBC Savings a/c - ****9208		£11,096.08
HSBC Special Projects a/c - ****4933		£0.00
HSBC Parish Room Proceeds Current a/c - ****1839		£0.00
HSBC Parish Room Proceeds Savings a/c - ****1847		£14,455.50
HSBC Sawley Small Grants Scheme a/c - ****2224		£2,480.94
Santander Bond		£50,000.00
Skipton Interest on Bond		£1,101.35
Cambridge Building Society - Interest on Bond		£549.64
TOTAL		£80,183.51

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<i>Payments to be approved and recorded:</i>		
<i>Payee</i>	<i>Details</i>	
Iona Taylor	Clerk, July 2013	£141.66
HMRC	PAYE, July 2013	£27.40
Farm & Land Services Ltd	Grasscutting, Invoice 3899	£435.60
Farm & Land Services Ltd	Grasscutting, Invoice 3904	£102.00
Iona Taylor	Clerk, August 2013	£151.77
Iona Taylor	Contribution to Planning Training	£23.00
Playforce Limited	Final Instalment (Invoice 12125)	£8,193.54
PKF Littlejohn	External Auditor	£240.00
Ted Flexman	Opening ceremony expenses.	£61.17
Farm & Land Services Ltd	Grasscutting, Invoice 3948	£303.60
TOTAL		£9,538.08

Receipts to be recorded: none.

It was further noted that the external audit for 2012/13 has now been completed, but will be considered in detail at the next meeting of the Parish Council.

13.2 Bank mandate.

It was resolved that the mandate for all the Council's accounts with HSBC be updated so that all current serving Councillors are signatories and that the Council's contact address be moved to Morningside, Grewelthorpe, RIPON, HG4 3BT.

14. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

14.1 Consultations on applications – none.

14.2 Comments on applications sent to Harrogate Borough Council since the last meeting – none.

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

Reference	Proposal	Update / Decision
6.42.34.B.CLEUD 12/00360/CLEUD	Application for certificate of Lawfulness for the existing use of land as domestic garden at 3, Town Cottages, Grantley.	Certificate granted.
6.51.12.M.FUL 12/03964/FUL	Erection of 1 detached dwelling and installation of package treatment plant at the Coal Stock Yard, Risplith.	Appeal dismissed.
6.51.110.FUL 12/04881/FUL	Erection of replacement dwelling at Hollin Hill Farm, Risplith.	Passed.
6.51.91.E.FUL 13/01555/FUL	Formation of riding arena at Watsons Farm, Risplith.	Passed
6.42.26.F.FUL 13/00931/FUL	Erection of single storey extension at High Barn, Grantley.	Passed
6.51.11.I.FUL 13/00824/FUL	Erection of agricultural building (revised scheme) at The Old Stables, Risplith.	Passed

14.4 Progress with application for the erection of a wind turbine at Lumley Farm.

It was noted that this application has been withdrawn.

15. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was confirmed as being on 12th November 2013 at 19.30 hrs in Grantley Village Hall.

16. ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE NEXT MEETING – none.

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Meeting closed at 20.27 hrs.

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

SIGNED: (Chairman)

DATE: