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

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DATE: Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2014  
TIME: 19.30 hrs  
LOCATION: Sawley Village Hall  
PRESENT: Councillors John Scannell (Chairman), Martin Kirbitson (Vice-Chairman), Stuart Green, Trevor Kitchen, June Learoyd, Mike Lumb and Martin Soley.  
IN ATTENDANCE: Iona Taylor (Clerk)  
District and County Councillor Margaret Atkinson  
Ben Robinson and Mal Smart (Galphay broadband team) – until after item 6.1.  
Howard Mountain and Janet Watson

**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 from Ted Flexman.

**5. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the last meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2014 were approved and signed.

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

**6.1 Superfast broadband.**

Mal Smart and Ben Robinson, from the team who brought superfast broadband to the nearby village of Galphay, spoke to the meeting about the availability of superfast broadband for rural areas, supplied using radio waves transmitted from Sutton Bank.

An information sheet from LN Comms (the company who supply the radio broadband service) indicates that interested communities need to determine the level of interest from potential customers and check that the village has a clear line of sight to the White Horse at Sutton Bank. Once 15 potential users have been identified the company can be contacted. They will then arrange a survey visit to check on the viability of the project. Assuming that it is technically possible to deliver the service and there is sufficient interest, rollout will then begin. Galphay was able to bring the service on line within a matter of weeks.

It was agreed that this appears to be an attractive solution for Grantley as Superfast North Yorkshire currently advises that this village: “is not in our current plans to upgrade to fibre and even if it was then as the last part of the fibre journey is over copper wires then this distance (from cabinet to property) can be no more than 1.2kms. It looks like Grantley is approx. 1.83kms away from the cabinet and thus deemed too far to benefit from fibre.”

Councillor Lumb agreed to act as a co-ordinator for generating interest in the radio service and liaising with LN Comms.

It is understood that Sawley’s broadband is about to be upgraded by BT OpenReach and should not need an alternative service.

**6.2 Parish consultation meeting with Harrogate Borough Council.**

Councillors with any questions about functions undertaken by Harrogate Borough Council or Highways North Yorkshire should contact the Clerk before 24<sup>th</sup> October.

**6.3 Review of common land – not yet undertaken.**

**7. MAINTENANCE**

**7.1 2015 grasscutting contract.**

It was agreed that the Council should go out to tender based on the same specification used in recent years.

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7.2 Picking Gill boundary wall.

The Clerk reported that the Nidderdale AONB's walling group are willing to consider repairing the boundary wall, although their schedule is full until Spring 2015. Contact has not yet been made with the landowner.

7.3 Tasks to be undertaken by the Parish Caretaker.

- Repair of gate, Grantley Playing Field.
- Installation of dog fouling signs, Grantley Playing Field.
- Soiling and seeding around new BT cabinet near church in Sawley.
- Sanding and treating bench on Grantley Playing Field.
- Soiling and seeding behind pin kerbs on Sawley Village Green (weather dependent upon grass seed taking). It was agreed that a temporary fence should be erected to prevent vehicles driving over the newly seeded areas.

7.4 Annual playground inspections.

It was agreed that Wicksteed Leisure Ltd should be appointed to carry out the annual playground inspections at a cost of £120 + VAT.

**8. PARISH ROOM PROCEEDS**

8.1 Application to Small Grants Scheme.

It was agreed that Eleanor Warren should be given a grant of £196.70 towards travel costs during a year abroad as part of her university course.

**9. CORRESPONDENCE**

The Clerk reported on items received, including:

9.1 Individual Elector Registration (IER).

The introduction of IER in Great Britain will modernise the way people register to vote, help to tackle electoral fraud and improve confidence in the electoral register. Harrogate Borough Council has written to the Parish Council advising on its progress towards transferring to the new system.

9.2 Implementation of Part 1 of the Commons Act 2006.

North Yorkshire County Council has written with information about how it will be implementing Part 1 of the Commons Act 2006. Further details will be forwarded to Councillors in due course.

9.3 Temporary prohibition of vehicles – Low Gate Lane, Sawley.

Notification has been received from North Yorkshire County Council of a traffic order to close Low Gate Lane to vehicles to allow the removal of overgrown vegetation encroaching on overhead power lines. It is expected that the road would be closed from 16<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> September 2014.

9.4 Nidderdale AONB's Countryside Fund

Information has been received about Nidderdale AONB's new funding source which can provide cash grants of up to £2,000 for work that helps to deliver the AONB's aim of conserving and enhancing the area's landscape. For example this could be wildlife projects, tree planting, conserving heritage features or helping local people and visitors find out more about why the area is so special.

The information will be forwarded to interested local groups.

9.5 Ripon & District Citizens Advice Bureau.

It was noted that the Ripon bureau is going to merge with the ones in Craven and Harrogate. The office in Community House in Ripon will remain open.

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**10. FINANCIALS**

**10.1 Financial report.**

The following report was considered and approved:

<i>Bank Balances as at 10/9/14:</i>		
HSBC Current a/c ****9716		£1,505.60
HSBC Savings a/c ****9208		£11,465.66
HSBC Parish Room Proceeds Current a/c ****1839		£1,548.21
HSBC Parish Room Proceeds Savings a/c ****1847		£12,721.45
HSBC Sawley Small Grants Scheme a/c ****2224		£3,447.88
Co-operative Business Fixed Rate Deposit Account		£50,000.00
Skipton Building Society - Interest Accrued on Bond		£2,239.60
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>£82,928.40</b>
<i>Payments to be approved and recorded:</i>		
<i>Payee</i>	<i>Details</i>	
Farm & Land Services Ltd	Grasscutting, Invoice 4112	£450.00
Farm & Land Services Ltd	Grasscutting, Invoice 4134	£240.00
DTMS Ltd	Parish Caretaker, July 2014 (Invoice 6410)	£315.60
Iona Taylor	Clerk Expenses, July 2014	£71.26
Iona Taylor	Clerk Salary, July 2014	£261.10
Iona Taylor	Clerk Salary, August 2014	£35.90
Iona Taylor	Clerk Expenses, August 2014	£11.64
HMRC	PAYE, July 2014	£19.80
Grantley Village Hall	Hall Hire on 15/7/14	£35.00
DTMS Ltd	Invoice 6346	£234.00
Sawley Village Hall	Hire on 18/9/14	£20.00
PKF Littlejohn	External Auditor	£120.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>£1,130.30</b>

**10.2 External auditor's opinion on the 2013/14 Annual Return.**

The following comments have been received from the External Auditor on the Council's annual return:

"Section 1 Box 9: Information from the Council indicates that the assets have been revalued to current insurance value. Please note that proper practice, as specified in the Practitioner's Guide, only requires that assets are recorded at their original cost and no adjustment is required until disposal. Where original cost is not known a proxy such as insurance value may be used but this value should remain constant throughout the period of ownership and not be revised to reflect current values.

Section 1, Box 2, the annual precept, does not agree to the figure notified to us by the precepting authority. The figures in Boxes 2 and 3 should read £6,159 and £8,625 respectively. All grants, including Council Tax Support Grant, should be shown in Box 3, as per the guidance notes on the Annual Return."

The following responses to these points were noted:

*Asset Register*

The Council carried out a one-off review of the value of its assets in May 2013. This meant that the value of some items was increased to bring them in line with their insurance value. This was in accordance with advice received from the Yorkshire Local Councils Associations. This situation will not recur in future years.

*Precept / Council Tax Support Grant*

The Parish Council was not advised that it had received any Council Tax Support Grant by Harrogate Borough Council. The remittance advices received had merely stated that the 'precept' was being paid by the authority. The Clerk is in the process of seeking advice on how to proceed in this matter from the Yorkshire Local Councils Associations.

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It was agreed that this information should be forwarded to the External Auditor.

**11. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

**11.1 Consultations on applications.**

- 6.51.92.D.FUL 14/03329/FUL – Erection of single storey extension at Ashfield Farm, Sawley. It was agreed that the Parish Council has no objections to this application.

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

Reference	Proposal	Update / Decision
6.51.91.G.FUL 14/03140/FUL	Retention of extension to domestic curtilage at Watsons Farm, Risplith.	Comments submitted about precedent of allowing development in open countryside of AONB.
6.42.5.B.FUL 14/02993/FUL	Conversion of barn to form dwelling at Park View, Grantley.	No objections.
14/03214/FUL 6.51.31.N.FUL	Erection of first floor extension to public house at The Sawley Arms, Sawley.	No objections.

**11.3 Decisions and updates on applications, appeals and enforcement investigations.**

Reference	Proposal	Update / Decision
Enforcement: 13/00292/PR15	Extension of domestic curtilage into paddock and erection of large items of play equipment at Watsons Farm, Risplith.	Action on hold pending outcome of appeal against refusal of application 14/03140/FUL.
6.51.91.G.FUL 14/03140/FUL	Retention of extension to domestic curtilage at Watsons Farm, Risplith.	Refused.
6.42.68.FUL 14/01620/FUL	Erection of porch to front at White Rose Cottage, Low Grantley.	Refused.
6.41.10.B.FUL 14/02204/FUL	Retention of an outbuilding at High Skelding Farm, Skelding.	Refused.
6.42.31.G.PDUCCO 14/02473/PDUCCO	Installation of flue at Hencliffe Fold, Grantley.	Passed.
6.42.26.G.FUL 14/02410/FUL	Erection of two storey extension at High Barn, Grantley.	Passed.
6.51.74.B.FUL 14/02192/FUL	Erection of a single storey extension at Hungate Farm, Risplith.	Passed.
Enforcement: 14/00376/PR15	Unauthorised engineering and excavation works at Land comprising Field OS 2736, Eavestone.	Notification received.

*'Plan the Future' Local Plan newsletter from Harrogate Borough Council.*

The Borough Council's latest newsletter containing information about the preparation of the Local Plan was noted. It is available online at: <http://www.harrogate.gov.uk/plan/Documents/Planning%20Policy/newsletter/2014-09-newsletter-plan-the-future-with-us.pdf>

The following key points were noted:

- Following the withdrawal of the Sites and Policies Development Plan Document (DPD) work is already underway towards the new Local Plan.
- The first public consultation on the Plan is not likely to take place until 2015.
- Whilst the Sites and Policies DPD has been withdrawn the council will continue to use the Harrogate District Local Plan (2001), the Core Strategy (2009) and local planning guidance to determine planning applications, alongside national planning guidance set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).
- The council has announced a 'call for sites'. This is an early opportunity for individuals and organisations to suggest sites within the district for housing and economic development. Whilst it would expect sites already considered as part of the work on the previous draft Local Plan to be submitted, it is also intended to be a call for new approaches to development that might not previously have been suggested. The window for proposing sites will close on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2014.

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**12. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting was confirmed as being on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2014 at 19.30 hrs in Grantley Village Hall.

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

- Condition of road to Smaden Head Farm.

**14. ACCESS OVER AND USE OF SAWLEY VILLAGE GREEN**

**14.1 Green Farm.**

It was noted that the owners of Green Farm have acknowledged receipt of the Council's letter of 16<sup>th</sup> July 2014. They have requested copies of previous correspondence, which have been provided by the Clerk. They have also invited the Parish Council to contact them if they can help with any further information or data collection.

**14.2 Village Hall.**

It was noted that the Village Hall Management Committee has written to the Parish Council. The following extract from that letter was noted:

"We note that the Parish Council 'acknowledges that the Village Hall undoubtedly has the right to use the access track across the Village Green'. As to any previous deeds we do not know of any."

Land Registry has already confirmed to the Parish Council that the Village Hall plot is unregistered. It is therefore unlikely that the reference to the 'existing rights' in the Hall's deeds will be able to be clarified. There does not appear to be any formalised maintenance agreement, however the Parish Council has received legal advice that those who enjoy the benefit of an access track also have to share the burden of its maintenance.

This will be revisited in due course, however the Council's first priority is to regularise the situation at Glebe Cottage (item 14.4).

**14.3 Exclusion of the press and public for item 14.4**

It was resolved that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for consideration of item 14.4.

**14.4 Glebe Cottage.**

Meeting closed at 20.45 hrs.

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

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

**DATE:** .....