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

DATE: Tuesday 15th July 2014
TIME: 19.30 hrs
LOCATION: Grantley Village Hall
PRESENT: Councillors John Scannell (Chairman), Stuart Green, Trevor Kitchen and Martin Soley.
IN ATTENDANCE: Iona Taylor (Clerk)
District and County Councillor Margaret Atkinson
Rachel Mountain
Mr and Mrs R Harrison and Ms A Harrison

1. WELCOME

Councillor Scannell welcomed all those present to the meeting.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Councillor Green advised that he is a member of Sawley Village Hall's management committee.

3. PUBLIC QUESTIONS OR STATEMENTS – none.

4. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor Kirbitson, due to work commitments, and Councillor Lumb due to family commitments.

5. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETINGS

The minutes of the 2014 Annual Parish Council meeting and last Parish Council meeting held on 15th May 2014 were approved and signed.

6. ITEMS CARRIED FORWARD FROM THE LAST MEETING

6.1 Maintenance of trees on Grantley playing field.

It was noted that Farm & Land Services Ltd, whilst cutting the grass on Grantley Playing Field, had noted that there was dead wood on a tree overhanging an item of play equipment.

After discussions with Guy Smalley, who is on Grantley Village Hall's management committee, the Clerk had instructed Farm & Land Services Ltd to remove the dead wood and ensure that users of the play equipment were safe. There may be a charge for this having been carried out.

It is understood that the Village Hall Committee are looking in to having other tree maintenance works carried out by David Blakey.

6.2 2014 Parish Consultation Meeting.

This item will be included on the agenda of the next meeting.

6.3 Review of common land – not yet undertaken.

6.4 Superfast North Yorkshire.

Presentation to be received at September meeting.

7. PICKING GILL

7.1 Himalayan Balsam picking party.

It was noted that a successful party comprising of 14 volunteers from BT, Dan Clarke from DTMS and the Clerk had been held on 27th June 2014. A dozen dumpy bags of the weed had been picked. Some has been left in a heap on site to rot down, the rest was disposed of by DTMS.

It was resolved that a letter expressing the Council's thanks be sent to BT and DTMS.

7.2 Control of bracken.

It was agreed that a trial of controlling the bracken on the site should be undertaken. This will be carried out on two areas of about 10m x 10m on the highest points of the site, using a selective weed killer.

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7.3 Boundary wall.

The poor condition of the boundary wall between Picking Gill and the grass field on the eastern side of the site was noted. This is due to damage by horses.

It was agreed that the owner and tenant of the field should be contacted and asked to prevent further and future damage by installing a fence. The Nidderdale AONB's walling group will also be contacted to see if they would be willing and able to repair the wall.

8. PARISH ROOM PROCEEDS

8.1 Asset register.

It was resolved that an updated asset register be approved. This takes account of the new, two year investment of £34,920.69 held in a bond with Cambridge Building Society.

8.2 Interest from Santander bond.

It was noted that the Santander bond account has now been closed and the funds repaid to the Council's HSBC Parish Room account. The repayment comprised of the original £50,000 investment and interest of £1,639.47. It was agreed that the interest should be allocated for the payment of any future administration costs associated with the parish room proceeds.

8.3 Investment bonds.

It was noted that the 2 Year Fixed Rate Council Saver account with Cambridge Building Society has been opened with an investment of £34,920.69. The investment will mature on 26th June 2016 and pays 1.5% interest.

The Co-operative Bank has received the Council's application but there is a delay in processing it due to a backlog of applications.

9. HARROGATE BOROUGH COUNCIL'S CONSULTATION ON FUTURE ACCOMMODATION STRATEGY

The Council considered proposals put forward by Harrogate Borough Council for its future office accommodation strategy.

It was resolved that the Parish Council prefers the second option put forward which involves selling two sites and refurbishing Crescent Gardens, Springfield House and Scottsdale House.

10. HIGHWAYS

10.1 Cessation of North Yorkshire County Council's verge cutting programme.

It was noted that, in an effort to save money, the County Council is stopping its grasscutting reimbursement scheme with effect from 2015. This means that they will no longer pay for, or carry out, verge cutting in villages, unless there is an associated safety issue at junctions. This Parish Council currently receives about £703.45 of funding from this scheme which contributes to the cost of cutting the verges in Grantley and Sawley.

As the Council will need to consider the impact of this news when it sets its 2015/16 budget it was agreed that Councillors should review the areas and frequency in the grasscutting contract. The Council will then go out to tender for the 2015 contract.

10.2 Update on previously reported faults.

<i>Ref.</i>	<i>Fault</i>	<i>Update / Outcome</i>
G&S 4-13	Potholes on Hebden Bank.	Temporary repairs carried out, but already failing.
G&S 5-13	Condition of road from B6265 to Smaden Head Farm.	2 new cattle grids installed. Condition of road surface is poor and failing.
G&S 8-13	Faded signage in Grantley.	No action to be taken as alternative signage acceptable.
G&S 2-14	Pothole near entrance to Lee Mires Farm, Sawley.	Temporary repair carried out.

The Clerk reported that North Yorkshire County Council is unhappy with the performance of its highways maintenance contractor, Ringway. It has therefore convened a meeting with Ringway's senior executives to discuss the poor performance. The contract has already been reduced by a year.

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It was also noted that the County Council has recently secured an additional £25million of funding from central government for road repairs. This has been secured on the basis of the County's extensive, rural road network although it is not yet known exactly how it will be allocated.

11. PARISH CARETAKER

It was agreed that the caretaker be asked to carry out the following tasks:

- Repair to gate on Grantley Playing Field.
- Trial control of bracken at Picking Gill.
- Picking of Himalayan Balsam on Moor Lane in Sawley.
- Soiling and seeding behind pin kerbs of track across Sawley Village Green.

12. CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk reported on items received, including:

12.1 Yorkshire Local Councils Associations (YLCA) Training Programme 2014/15.

The training programme was noted and Councillors were encouraged to consider attending a session.

12.2 Police crime update.

It was noted that a black Nissan Navaro motor car was stolen from an address in Grantley overnight on 10th – 11th July.

12.3 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.

12.4 Renewal of contracts for bus services in Harrogate area.

The contracts for commercial bus services in this area come to an end in March 2015. The County Council is therefore carrying out an Area Transport Review. The renewal of contracts may mean that there will be some changes to operators, routes and timings. It is hoped that changes will be minimised, but where a significant change is proposed, detailed consultation will be carried out with stakeholders, including the Parish Council.

13. FINANCIALS

13.1 Financial report.

The following report was considered and approved.

<i>Bank Balances as at 9/7/14:</i>		
HSBC Current a/c ****9716		£693.25
HSBC Savings a/c ****9208		£13,329.09
HSBC Parish Room Proceeds Current a/c ****1839		£51,548.21
HSBC Parish Room Proceeds Savings a/c ****1847		£12,719.97
HSBC Sawley Small Grants Scheme a/c ****2224		£3,447.40
Skipton Building Society - Interest Accrued on Bond		£2,239.60
TOTAL		£83,977.52
<i>Payments to be approved and recorded:</i>		
<i>Payee</i>	<i>Details</i>	
DTMS Limited	Caretaker, April / May 2014 (Invoice 6294)	£258.00
G&T's Ice Cream Parlour	Refreshments on Picking Gill Day	£25.00
Chadwick Lawrence	Payment on Account, Village Green Legal Advice	£500.00
Chadwick Lawrence	Part Payment for Village Green Legal Advice	£100.00
Iona Taylor	Clerk's Expenses, May 2014	£63.16
Iona Taylor	Clerk's Time, May 2014	£294.15
Iona Taylor	Clerk's Expenses, June 2014 (less bank charges)	£19.75

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Iona Taylor	Clerk's Time, June 2014	£280.70
HMRC	PAYE, June 2014	£10.80
Sawley Village Hall	Hall Hire on 15/5/14	£20.00
HSBC	Bank charges	£75.00
DTMS Limited	Caretaker, June 2014 (Invoice 6346)	£234.00
Grantley Village Hall	Hall Hire on 15/7/14	£35.00
TOTAL		£1,646.76
Receipts to be recorded:		
<i>Received From</i>	<i>Details</i>	
Cambridge Building Society	Interest on Bond	£538.81
Santander	Interest on Bond	£1,639.47
Chadwick Lawrence	Repayment of Historic Balance on Account	£8.74
TOTAL		£2,187.02

13.2 Internal Auditor's opinion on the 2013/14 accounts.

Mrs Angela Barrand's full opinion on the 2013/14 accounts had been circulated to Councillors prior to this meeting. The following points were noted:

- The Clerk does not propose to reclaim £3.40 of mileage which was underpaid in December 2013.
- It was agreed that from now on Councillors will consider and approve two bank reconciliations per year; one to the end of September and one at the end of the financial year in March.
- The Clerk has begun to separate her expenses from her salary and is now paid by two cheques each month. Staffing costs in future budgets and on the annual return will now only include salary and tax.
- It was resolved that, following advice from YLCA the Clerk should continue to account for financial transactions using the date shown on the invoice or receipt, rather than the date which it passes through the Council's bank account.

14. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

14.1 Consultations on applications.

The following applications were considered and responses to the consultations being carried out by Harrogate Borough Council agreed:

<i>Reference</i>	<i>Proposal</i>	<i>Response to Consultation</i>
6.41.10.B.FUL 14/02204/FUL	Retention of an outbuilding at High Skelding Barn, Skelding.	No comments to be submitted.
6.42.31.G.PDUCCO 14/02473/PDUCCO	Installation of flue at Hencliffe Fold, Grantley.	No objections.
6.42.26.G.FUL 14/02410/FUL	Erection of two storey extension at High Barn, Grantley.	Concern re. height and visual impact of proposed extension.
6.51.110.A.FUL 14/02732/FUL	Erection of a single storey extension at Hollin Hill Farm, Risplith.	No objections.
6.51.74.B.FUL 14/02192/FUL	Conversion of barn and erection of 2 storey extension to form agricultural workers dwelling and installation of package treatment plant at Hungate Farm, Risplith.	Support for application.

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

<i>Reference</i>	<i>Proposal</i>	<i>Response to Consultation</i>
6.42.68.FUL 14/01620/FUL	Erection of porch to front of White Rose Cottage, Low Grantley.	Objections as design not felt to be in keeping.

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

<i>Reference</i>	<i>Proposal</i>	<i>Update / Outcome</i>
NY/2013/0390/FUL	Installation of modular classroom building on land at Fountains C of E Primary School, Grantley.	Passed.
14/00739/FUL	Installation of stone cladding and 3 garage doors, alterations to existing opening and re-roofing of garage at Hollin Hill Farm, Risplith.	Passed
6.51.13.I.FUL 14/01124/FUL	Formation of new access track and hard standing at Ruffe House, Sawley.	Passed

15. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was confirmed as being on 18th September 2014 at 19.30hrs in Sawley Village Hall.

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

17. PARKING ON AND ACCESS OVER SAWLEY VILLAGE GREEN

17.1 Exclusion of press and public.

It was resolved that the press and public be excluded for the consideration of item 17.2

17.2 Legal advice from Chadwick Lawrence.

Advice relating to the access, parking and maintenance issues on Sawley Village Green was received and considered.

Meeting closed at 21.30 hrs.

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

SIGNED: (Chairman)

DATE: